

Digital Nation Summit Tokyo 2026 : ESG Roundtable

15 April 2026, JW Marriott Tokyo

ESG and Energy Resilience in Japan's Mobile Networks: Scaling AI and Connectivity for a Sustainable Future

1. Session Overview

- **Date & Time:** Wednesday, 15 April 2026 | 14:30-16:00 (90 Minutes)
- **Venue:** JW Marriott Tokyo, Tsuki Room
- **Format:** Invite-Only Roundtable
- **Governance:** Chatham House Rule
- **Chair:** Louise Easterbrook Chief Financial Officer, GSMA
- **Participants:** Senior Government Officials from Japan, Japan MNO Senior Leadership, GSMA (Approx. 20 delegates)

2. Synopsis

Japan has set a national objective to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, supported by energy transition policies that place increasing emphasis on renewable energy, efficiency and system resilience. As one of the world's most advanced digital markets, Japan's mobile networks will be central to driving this transition and strengthening resilience amid global supply chain uncertainties while also meeting rapidly growing demand for connectivity, cloud services and AI-enabled applications.

GSMA's latest sustainability and ESG benchmarking shows that mobile operators across APAC continue to improve network energy efficiency and are increasing renewable electricity procurement, but that further gains are becoming more challenging as networks densify and data traffic grows. At the same time, expectations around climate resilience, digital trust and ESG data quality are rising, with trust emerging as a leading ESG concern for the sector.

This closed-door roundtable brings together MIC, METI and senior leaders from Japan’s mobile operators to discuss how the sector can scale to meet AI and connectivity demand while continuing to improve energy efficiency and climate resilience, drawing on GSMA evidence and regional experience. The discussion will focus on practical, near-term priorities for 2026, rather than long-term visions or broad ESG strategies.

3. Detailed Agenda

14:30 – 16:00	ESG and Energy Resilience in Japan’s Mobile Networks: Scaling AI and Connectivity for a Sustainable Future
14:15 – 14:30	Arrival & Informal Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival of delegates and seating
14:30 – 14:40	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing the purpose and scope of the Roundtable: Louise Easterbrook, CFO, GSMA
14:40 – 14:55	Evidence-based Snapshot of Landscape: Energy, Emissions and Network Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing by GSMA on the key findings from ESG benchmarking on emissions, energy intensity and data trends, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress across APAC on network efficiency and renewable energy procurement ○ The impact of rising data traffic and AI workloads on network energy demand ○ Why further efficiency gains are becoming harder in advanced markets
14:55 – 15:15	Discussion 1: Japan’s Energy Transition and the Role of Mobile Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and Industry Dialogue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Japan’s 2050 carbon-neutrality objective and energy transition policy context ○ How expectations for digital infrastructure are evolving as part of national climate goals ○ Structural constraints faced by Japan’s mobile networks, including dense infrastructure and grid limitations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What meaningful contribution from the mobile sector looks like by 2026, rather than in the long term.
15:15 – 15:40	<p>Discussion 2: Scaling to Meet AI and Connectivity Demand Sustainably</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry-led Exchange: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Growth in AI services, automation and cloud-edge architectures and implications for networks ○ How operators are using network modernisation, automation and AI-enabled optimisation to improve energy efficiency ○ Balancing performance, latency and service quality with energy and climate considerations ○ Strengthening climate resilience to heat, extreme weather and power disruption while maintaining service continuity
15:40 – 15:55	<p>Discussion 3: Practical Takeaways for 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderated Synthesis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification of one or two priority focus areas for the coming year ○ Where GSMA tools, benchmarking or convening can support progress ○ Agreement on any immediate priorities and quick wins, without establishing rigid structures
15:55 – 16:00	Summary and Close: Recap of Agreed Priorities.
16:00	Close