

Potential of Digital Badges

for Equitable Learning Opportunities

Digital badges empower learner-centered education by enabling individuals to showcase their learning achievements and chart a personalized pathway toward further development. In recent years, they have attracted growing attention as a tool for certifying learning, particularly within higher education institutions engaged in lifelong learning and distance education.

Beyond simply visualizing achievements, digital badges are increasingly expected to address broader educational challenges. These include reducing learning disparities, enhancing the stackability of credentials to support continuous learning, and ensuring the international quality of education through mutual recognition and interoperability across borders.

This symposium will convene domestic and international experts to explore the current landscape of digital badges from diverse perspectives. Drawing on real-world case studies, participants will examine both the challenges and the transformative potential of digital badges, while discussing pathways for their broader adoption across society.

WED

Dec. 3

1:00-5:30pm

(Check in)
12:30 pm

Multi-purpose Lecture Room 1 OUJ Tokyo Bunkyo Study Center

- Format: Hybrid (In-person + Online Streaming)
- Languages: Japanese & English (with automatic translation subtitles)
- Participation Fee: Free (Pre-registration required)
- Registration Method: Check the website. https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wiqJIZ0RNytfgc3hw4nQQ



- Streaming: Live streaming via Zoom Webinar
- The symposium will be recorded and available for on-demand viewing later.

MC: Professor Kumiko Aoki

1:00 - 1:10 pm	Opening Remarks	Masaya Iwanaga/President, OUJ
1:15 - 2:00 pm	Keynote Speech 1	“Credential Transparency and Digital Badges: Unlocking Meaning and Opportunity”, Jeanne Kitchens/CTO, Credential Engine, USA
2:00 - 2:45 pm	Keynote Speech 2	“Open Recognition: Where [authentic] Open Education Begins”, Serge Ravet/President, Open Recognition Alliance, France
2:45 - 3:05 pm	Break	
3:05 - 3:50 pm	Invited Speech 1	“From Latecomer to Leader: Global and Japanese Developments in the Interoperability of Digital Learning Credentials”, Koichi Nakasaki/Chief Research Officer, Institute for Future Engineering Strategic Advisory Council Member, Groningen Declaration Network, Japan
3:50 - 4:35 pm	Invited Speech 2	“Micro-credentials in Japanese Higher Education: Institutional Development and Quality Assurance”, Ayaka Noda/Professor, National Institution for Academic Degrees and Quality Enhancement of Higher Education, Japan
4:35 - 4:45 pm	Break	
4:45 - 5:20 pm	Panel Discussion	“Expanding Learning Opportunities and their Credibility through Digital Badges”, Mod.: Kumiko Aoki/Informatics Professor, OUJ
5:20 - 5:30 pm	Closing Remarks	Emi Nishina/Library Director, OUJ



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