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Dr. Harayama is the co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Association for the Advancement of Science (JAAS), a Japanese non-profit organization established in 2022. Until March 2022, she was RIKEN's Executive Director for international affairs. Prior to joining RIKEN, she served in the Cabinet Office of Japan as an Executive Member of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, and at the OECD as Deputy Director of the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry. Dr. Harayama was Professor at the Graduate School of Engineering of Tohoku University for 10 years. Her experience prior to Tohoku University includes being a Fellow at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI) in Japan and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Economy at the University of Geneva.

Dr. Harayama holds a Ph.D. in Education Sciences and a Ph.D. in Economics both from the University of Geneva. She has received Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur in 2011. She is an International Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and a Foundation Fellow of the International Science Council.