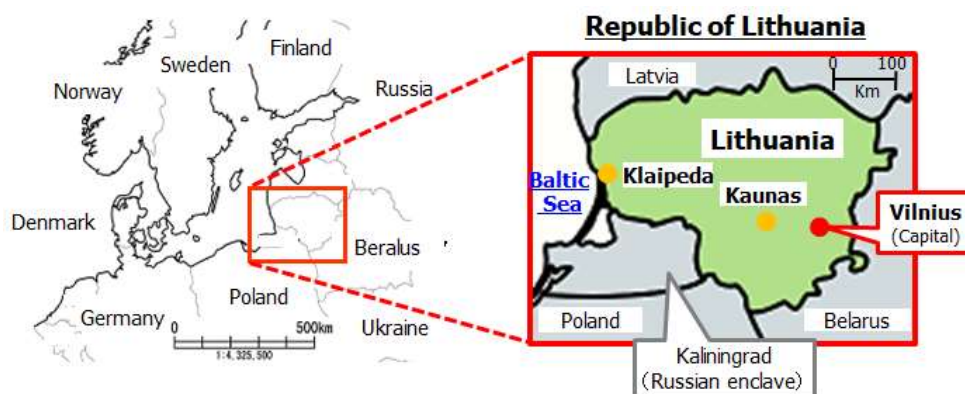


**Mr. Kenji Shinohara, Lead Researcher of INPEX Solutions, LTD., Joins Panel on  
"Lithuanian Innovation and Investment Seminar" hosted by  
Embassy of Lithuania in Japan and JETRO**

On October 3, 2023, the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Japan and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) hosted the "Lithuanian Innovation and Investment Seminar" at JETRO headquarters in Tokyo on the occasion of a visit by Lithuanian Minister of Economy and Innovation Aušrinė Armonaitė to Japan. Approximately 40 companies participated.



At the seminar, Minister Armonaitė delivered a keynote speech entitled "A sea of opportunities: Lithuania's innovation and business environment," and a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) was signed between JETRO and the Innovation Agency Lithuania.

During a panel discussion, INPEX Solutions Lead Researcher Kenji Shinohara, who is an expert on the economies of the Baltic states and participated in the "J-Stage Baltic DX Mission 2023" hosted by JETRO last month as "Special Advisor to the JETRO Baltic Mission 2023," took the stage.

In response to questions from the moderator, Shinohara stated that the keywords for expanding and strengthening business between Japan and Lithuania are "Ukraine" and the "Three Seas Initiative," (3SI\*) and that the possibility of inflation is an issue when doing business in Lithuania.

- \* 3SI is an international framework established in 2015 by 12 EU member states in eastern Europe including Lithuania to attract investment for infrastructure development and renovation in the transportation, digital, and energy fields. 3SI's most recent summit and business forum was held in Bucharest, Romania in September 2023, the latter attended by JBIC President Hayashi and representatives of Japanese companies. The next summit and business forum is scheduled to be held in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, on April 10-11, 2024.



Left photo: Minister Armonaitė is second from the left on the podium, Lead Researcher Shinohara is on the far right. Both photos provided by JETRO.