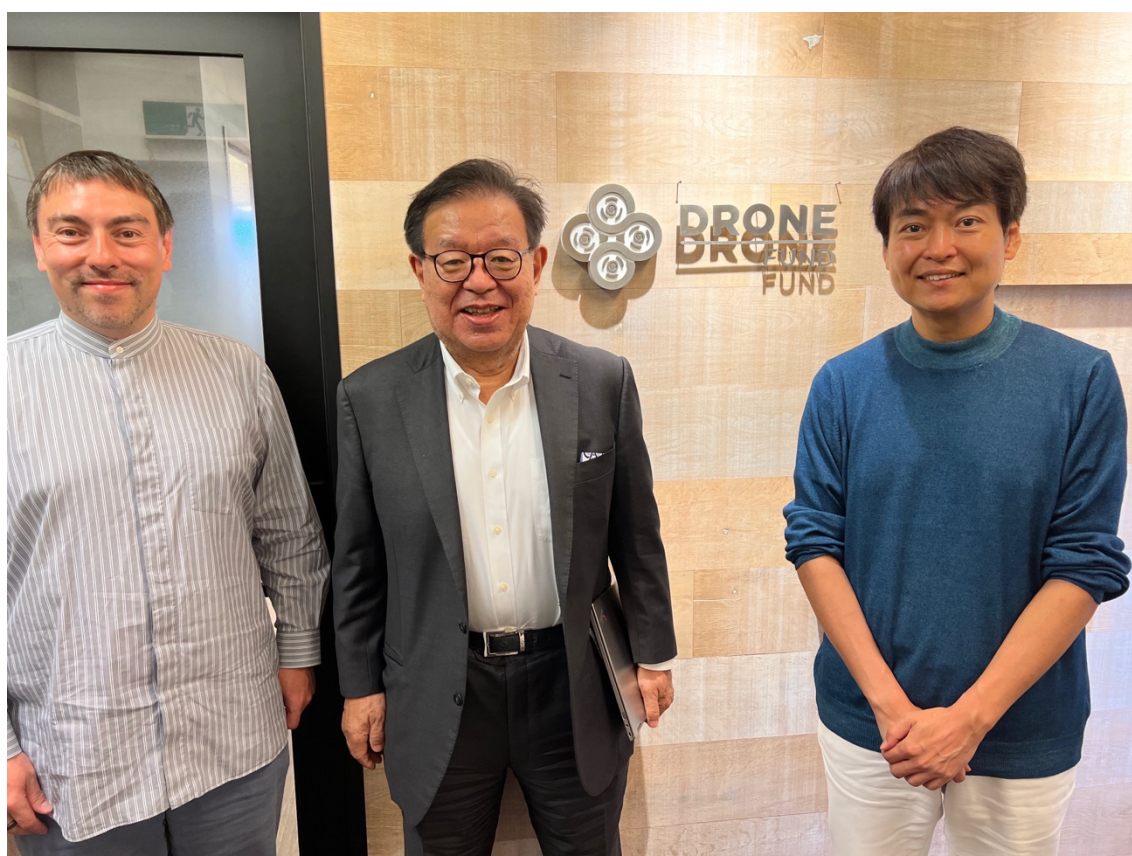


April 20, 2022
DRONE FUND

Jun Murai, Professor at Keio University, Appointed as Executive Advisor to DRONE FUND—Japan's First VC Specializing in Drone and Air Mobility

DRONE FUND (Headquarters: Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan; Representatives: Kotaro Chiba and Soki Ohmae) has appointed Jun Murai, Professor at Keio University, as Executive Advisor. The company will continue to accelerate efforts to realize a 'drone and air-mobility based society'.



■ Realization of a 'drone and air-mobility based society'

In June 2017, DRONE FUND was launched as Japan's first fund dedicated to investment in drone startups and became committed to promoting investment in—and support of—activities at the dawn of the drone industry, working toward the realization of a "drone-based society." The second fund, established in August 2018, added "the realization of an air-mobility based society" to its vision.

Part of the realization of a drone-based society is inspired by the concept of "Internet based society," which Professor Jun Murai set forth at the dawn of the Internet society. Just as the Internet has become the infrastructure that supports our society, we at DRONE FUND aim for drones and other field robotics to become the next, new infrastructure.

With the appointment of Professor Jun Murai as Executive Advisor, the DRONE FUND will continue to accelerate its collaborative activities to design concepts for the realization of a society based on drone and air mobility, to make recommendations on institutional design and rule formation, and to create an industrial ecosystem.

■ Comments from Prof. Jun Murai, Executive Advisor



We are finally entering the era of 'drone-based society'. As our society has aligned its various experiences, a concrete picture of the drone era is gradually becoming clear. The technology of drones themselves is developing rapidly and steadily. The increase in payloads of drones—moving freely in three-dimensional space—is phenomenal. Moreover, the quality of spatial perception, generated by all kinds of sensors available to drones, is at a level that has never been accomplished by mankind. The diversity of the payloads will give rise to ideas for service development. These values have also been firmly recognized. In addition to the technology of drones themselves, there is a completely new energy grid that supports the drone society, the Internet from the sky (NTN) formed by drones and low orbit satellites, and real-space infrastructure and

platforms such as accurate three-dimensional spatial map representation, which is a specialty of Japan. As a result, we find that the new social images that emerge one after another are expanding into endless possibilities. Through the DRONE FUND, which will pioneer the future with completely new creativity and power, we would like to share our great expectations and dreams.

Biography:

Distinguished Professor, Keio University

Doctor of Engineering, established Japan's first inter-network connection "JUNET" in 1984; launched the WIDE Project, a research consortium on the Internet in 1988; and has been instrumental in the development and diffusion of the Internet network. He led the early Internet to be multilingual, including Japanese. In 2013, he was inducted into the "Internet Hall of Fame (Pioneer Category)" by ISOC. He is known as the "Father of the Internet in Japan." Author of "Internet" (Iwanami Shinsho) and many other books.

■ Comments from DRONE FUND

<DRONE FUND General Partner Kotaro Chiba's Comment>



The year 2022 is an important milestone for the drone industry. The Roadmap for the Aerial Industrial Revolution will see the implementation of Level 4, and a new aircraft certification and licensing system will be launched by the end of the year. In the field of next-generation air mobility, an updated roadmap for the air mobility revolution was released in March. We, the DRONE FUND, announced the completion of the formation of our third fund.

When I was studying at Keio University Shonan Fujisawa Campus (SFC), it was the dawn of the Internet society.

Now is the time to usher in a new era toward the realization of a 'drone and air-mobility based society'. At this juncture, I am very pleased to welcome Professor Jun Murai as an Executive Advisor to the DRONE FUND.

<DRONE FUND General Partner Soki Ohmae's Comment>



We are very pleased and honored to have Professor Jun Murai, who created the concept of an 'Internet-based society' and has devoted himself to pioneering the market as the father of the Internet in Japan, as an Executive Advisor to our fund.

The fundamental challenge of the current digital revolution in Japan is how to rethink and improve the efficiency of existing business operations. We believe that this is one of the challenges facing the drone and air-mobility industry as well, and that it is an important

turning point for human society to continue to operate in a sustainable and efficient manner while also reducing its environmental impact. We will continue to make efforts to contribute to society by supporting startups in order to realize a "drone and air-mobility based society" that will bring about a similar revolution in our lives as the Internet did.

【DRONE FUND Overview】

Official name : Chiba Dojo Drone Fund I Investment Limited Partnership, Chiba Dojo Drone Fund II Investment Limited Partnership, DRONE FUND III Investment Limited Partnership

Managing company : DRONE FUND Inc.

Representative : Kotaro Chiba, Soki Ohmae

Headquarters : Tokyo, Japan

Established : June 2017 (I), August 2018 (II), May 2020 (III)

Business : Investment and support in drone and air mobility-related startups

Website : <http://dronefund.vc>

【Contact】

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