

Ichita Yamamoto

Governor of Gunma Prefecture

Ichita Yamamoto was born in 1958 in the Town of Kusatsu in the Agatsuma District of Gunma Prefecture. He received his undergraduate degree from the Faculty of Law at Chuo University before completing the Master of Science in Foreign Service (MSFS) Program at Georgetown University in the United States.

In 1986, he began working at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and he was assigned to the New York Headquarters of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 1991 to 1994.

After the sudden death of his father, Former Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Tomio Yamamoto, left a vacancy in the Gunma-at-large district in 1995, he ran in the regular House of Councillors election held that year and won his first successful election. Thanks to his wide recognizability from frequent television appearances, he was reelected in landslide victories in the following three House of Councillors elections. During his fourth campaign, he received the greatest number of votes of any candidate in Gunma Prefecture's history.

He was appointed Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1999, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense in 2003, Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2008, Minister of State in Charge of Okinawa and Northern Territories Affairs, Science and Technology Policy, Space Policy, Information Technology Policy, and Ocean Policy and Territorial Issues in 2012, and Chairman of the Committee on Budget of the House of Councillors in 2016.

In July 2019, he ran for Governor of Gunma Prefecture and was elected with more votes than any other gubernatorial candidate in Gunma history.

From September 2006, he was a visiting professor at the Graduate School of Public Policy and Social Governance at Chuo University for four years, and since October 2019, he has been a visiting professor at Gunma Prefectural Women's University.

In addition to posting nearly every day for the last 24 years on his public blog "In the Mood for Schuss," he has also hosted and produced more than 200 episodes of his online show "Ichita Yamamoto's Schuss Stream" since 2011, and he maintains an online presence unparalleled among Japanese politicians.

He enjoys music, and he has released six albums as a singer-songwriter. He also likes skiing, and his favorite expression "schuss" is a term meaning a straight, high-speed downhill run on skis.

山本 一太(やまもと いちた)
群馬県知事

群馬県吾妻郡草津町出身、1958年生まれ。中央大学法学部卒、米国ジョージタウン大学大学院国際政治学修士課程(MSFS)修了。
1986年から国際協力事業団(JICA)に勤務、1991年～1994年は国連開発計画(UNDP)ニューヨーク本部に出向。

1995年、急逝した父、山本富雄元農水相の後継として、参院通常選挙に群馬県選挙区から立候補し、初当選。TV出演等による高い知名度を生かし、過去4回の参院選挙は全て圧勝。4期目は群馬県史上最高得票。

1999年に外務政務次官、2003年に参議院外交防衛委員長、2008年に外務副大臣、2012年に内閣府特命担当大臣(沖縄及び北方対策・科学技術政策・宇宙政策・情報通信技術政策・海洋政策・領土問題担当)、2016年に参議院予算委員長を歴任。2019年7月群馬県知事選挙に立候補し、知事選史上最多得票で初当選を果たした。

2006年9月からの4年間は中央大学大学院公共政策研究科客員教授、2019年10月からは群馬県立女子大学客員教授も務める。

公式ブログ「気分はいつも直滑降」を18年にわたりほぼ毎日投稿し続けるほか、インターネットTV「山本一太の直滑降ストリーム」のキャスター兼プロデューサーとして、2011年から150回を超える放送を実施するなど、ネット発信力は政界随一。趣味は音楽とスキー。シンガーソングライターとしてこれまで6枚のCDをリリースしている。座右銘は「直滑降」。