

## **SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION USA**

March 25, 2015  
Washington, D.C.

### **The United States and Japan: Assisting Myanmar's Development**

#### **Purpose**

To identify actionable projects and activities for governmental and non-governmental groups in Japan and the United States, working individually and together, to assist Myanmar's development. The event will focus on current conditions in Myanmar, ongoing Japanese and U.S. programs in the country, and the primary remaining challenges in Myanmar's transition to a prosperous, democratic state.

#### **Outcomes**

- A conference report summarizing relevant discussions and papers from the conference with recommendations for action on U.S.-Japan collaborative projects to assist Myanmar.
- Publication of select papers either in a separate volume or as individual essays in appropriate journals.
- Increased understanding in the Washington policy community of the importance of Myanmar's development and the potential for U.S.-Japan joint cooperation to assist.
- Greater general public awareness of Myanmar and the potential for U.S.-Japan cooperation.

#### **Background**

Myanmar is in the midst of significant socio-political and economic change, and in 2015 will hold national elections, which could lead to greater democratic evolution. There has been a flow of foreign aid and investment into the country since Myanmar began its transition from decades of military rule. Japan has been a leader for many years in assisting the country, while the United States began to assist following the partial lifting of sanctions. International financial institutions and many other donors have been active. China continues as a strong influence, and Indian interests have expanded.

Although positive changes are apparent, overall progress has been uneven and many challenges remain. Myanmar is attempting to solve decades-long conflicts among ethnic tribes and with the national government, raise the living standards of its people through economic development and move toward greater democratic governance. The needs are substantial, and it is crucial for outside assistance to achieve the greatest possible results.

#### **Conference Venue**

The Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C.

## Outline

March 25<sup>th</sup>

- 8:30 Registration**
- 9:00 Welcome**
- 9:05 Keynote Address**  
Admiral **Dennis Blair**, USN (ret.), Chairman and CEO, Sasakawa USA
- 9:30 Panel I Socio-Economic Conditions in Myanmar**  
Chair: **Daniel Bob**, Senior Fellow and Director of Programs, Sasakawa USA  
Presentation: **Dr. Zaw Oo**, Executive Director of Myanmar Development Resource Institute's Center for Economic and Social Development  
Presentation: **Dr. Toshihiro Kudo**, Director-General, Research Planning Department, Institute for Developing Economies  
Presentation: **Vikram Nehru**, Senior Associate, Asia Program Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- 10:45 Coffee Break**
- 11:00 Panel II Japanese and U.S. Assistance Programs in Myanmar**  
Chair: **Dr. Donald Seekins**, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, Meio University  
Presentation: **H.E. U Set Aung**, Deputy Governor Central Bank of Myanmar  
Presentation: **Takehiro Yasui**, Director in charge of Myanmar Operations at JICA  
Presentation: **Jason Foley**, Deputy Assistant Administrator for East Asia, USAID  
Presentation: **Yun Sun**, Fellow, East Asia Program, Henry E. Stimson Center
- 12:15 Luncheon**
- 12:30 Luncheon Address**  
**Hon. Derek Mitchell**, U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar  
Moderator: **H.E. U Kyaw Myo Htut**, Myanmar Ambassador to the U.S.
- 1:15 Panel III Civil-Military Relations in Myanmar**  
Chair: **Adm. Dennis Blair**, USN (ret.), Chairman and CEO, Sasakawa USA

Presentation: **Dr. Aung Myoe**, Professor, Graduate School of International Relations, International University of Japan

Presentation: **Dr. Mary Callahan**, Associate Professor, University of Washington

Presentation: **Lt. Gen. Noboru Yamaguchi**, JGSDF National Defense Academy of Japan

**2:30 Coffee Break**

**2:45 Panel IV Democratization and Multi-Ethnic Issues**

Chair: **Dr. David Steinberg**, Visiting Scholar, Southeast Asia Studies Program Johns Hopkins

Presentation: **Priscilla Clapp**, former Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Burma

Presentation: **Min Zaw Oo**, Director of Cease Fire Negotiation and Implementation, Myanmar Peace Center of Burma

Presentation: **Frank Jannuzi**, President and CEO, Mansfield Foundation

**4:00 Panel V Next Steps for U.S.-Japan Cooperation in Myanmar**

Chair: **Adm. Dennis Blair**, USN (ret.), Chairman and CEO, Sasakawa USA

Presentation: **Kanji Yamanouchi**, Economic Minister, Embassy of Japan

Presentation: **Dr. David Steinberg**, Visiting Scholar, Southeast Asia Studies Program, Johns Hopkins University

Presentation: **James Schoff**, Senior Associate, Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

**4:45 Keynote Address: Sen. Jim Webb**

**5:30 Cocktails and Reception** (all attendees, including audience)

**6:30 Informal dinner** for speakers/organizers only to begin discussion on specific recommendations for Sasakawa Peace Foundation and other potential donors

### **Substantive Topics by Panel**

Potential specific topics for discussion and recommendations will be sent in advance to all panel members.

#### **Panel I      Socio-Economic Conditions in Myanmar**

This panel will cover the current state of Myanmar's economic and social development and efforts to bring about change. Topics will include economic reforms, poverty, rural issues and agriculture, economic institutional infrastructure including banking, internal private sector expansion and foreign investment.

#### **Panel II      Japanese and U.S. Assistance Programs in Myanmar**

This panel will include the experience and perspectives on Japanese and U.S. interactions with Myanmar; realistic appraisals of the goals, objectives and progress of their assistance programs; the bureaucratic-political aspects of possible collaboration; the unmet needs of Myanmar society and internal political obstacles to change and progress.

#### **Panel III      Civil-Military Relations in Myanmar**

Topics will include the military's role in contemporary Myanmar, attitudes toward power and authority and toward civilian political leaders, national unity and ethnic minority issues, the military in the legislature, the military in the economy including land ownership and the role of the military "zaibatsus," social mobility, views on internal and external security, narcotics, police and military relations, military intelligence, the military within the bureaucracies, cronyism and civil society.

#### **Panel IV      Democratization and Multi-Ethnic Issues**

Topics will include the problems of ethnicity, religious harmony, Muslim questions and the Rohingya, the peace process, human rights, constitutional change, the legal structure, the roles of civil society, the political opposition and political parties.

#### **Panel V      Next Steps for U.S.-Japan Cooperation in Myanmar**

A panel of experts will sum up the day's presentations and provide commentary. They will also give an outline for possible future courses of action to increase US-Japan cooperation in Myanmar's development based upon the day's discussions.