SPFUSA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Press Release

March 12th, 2015

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Sasakawa USA to Host Public Forum on U.S.-Japan Cooperation in Myanmar

WASHINGTON, D.C.: On March 25th, 2015, Sasakawa USA will host an open forum on the current state of development in Myanmar, bringing together leaders from across the globe to identify opportunities for greater U.S.-Japan cooperation in facilitating successful growth. The full-day workshop 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. The event will take place at the Cosmos Club at 2121 Massachusetts Ave NW from 8:30am-6:30pm.

"As partners in developmental assistance, the United States and Japan have the responsibility and resources to help Myanmar on its path towards becoming a democratic state. Increasing collaboration and identifying gaps between U.S. and Japan's programs in Myanmar will help to streamline our assistance and provide civil societies and government agencies with the resources they need for a successful outcome." said Admiral Dennis Blair, Chairman and CEO of Sasakawa USA.

The conference, "The United States and Japan: Assisting Myanmar's Development" will produce a report with recommendations for action on U.S.-Japan collaborative projects in Myanmar in the following weeks. At the forum, discussions and presentations will be made by five panels of experts including:

- **Admiral Dennis C. Blair, USN (ret.)**, Chairman and CEO, Sasakawa USA
- **Hon. Derek Mitchell,** U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar
- **Hon. Dianne Feinstein,** (Invited) U.S. Senator from California
- **H.E. U Set Aung,** Deputy Governor Central Bank of Myanmar
- **H.E U Kyaw Myo Htut, (**Invited**)** Myanmar Ambassador to the U.S.
- **Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing**, Myanmar Peace Center
- **Jason Foley**, Deputy Assistant Administrator for East Asia, USAID
- **Dr. Zaw Oo**, Executive Director of Myanmar Development Resource Institute's Center for Economic and Social Development
- **Lt. Gen. Noboru Yamaguchi**, National Defense Academy of Japan

- **Dr. Aung Myoe**, Professor, Graduate School of International Relations, International University of Japan
- **Kanji Yamanouchi**, Economic Minister, Embassy of Japan
- **Thant Myint-U** (Invited) Founder and Chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust
- **Takehiro Yasui,** Director in charge of Myanmar Operations at JICA
- **David Steinberg**, Visiting Scholar, Southeast Asia Studies Program Johns Hopkins
- **Priscilla Clapp**, Former Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy Burma
- **Dr. Toshihiro Kudo,** Director-General, Research Planning Department, Institute for Developing Economies
- **Dr. Mary Callahan**, Associate Professor, University of Washington
- **Dr. Donald Seekins**, Professor of Southeast Asian Studies, Meio University
- **Brian Joseph,** Senior Director for Asia and Global Programs, National Endowment for Democracy
- **Vikram Nehru**, Senior Associate, Asia Program Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- **Daniel Bob**, Senior Fellow and Director for Programs, Sasakawa USA
- **James Schoff**, Senior Associate**,** Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- **Yun Sun,** Fellow, East Asia Program, Henry E. Stimson Center

Discussion will cover: socio-economic conditions in Myanmar; Japanese and U.S. assistance programs in Myanmar; civil-military relations in Myanmar; democratization and multi-ethnic issues in Myanmar; and next steps for U.S.-Japan cooperation in Myanmar.