



SASAKAWA USA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

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First ‘Views of Japan’ event to explore perceptions of Japan in Africa

Event to focus on Japanese engagement in Africa, and common goals shared with U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Celebrating the beginning of a new season symbolized by the cherry blossoms, Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA is excited to launch a new “Views of Japan” event series that will explore perceptions of Japan from other regions around the world. The first of this new event series will be launched on April 4 as part of the 2017 National Cherry Blossom Festival.

“[Japan and Africa: Regional Views and U.S.-Japan Cooperation](#)” will explore topics including Africa’s political and economic significance to Japan and the United States under a new administration, the objectives behind Japan’s recent pledge to contribute \$30 billion in investment to the continent by 2018, and how those contributions are perceived within Africa. A distinguished panel of guests will discuss the issues and challenges facing the United States and Japan when working with Africa, and how that engagement is perceived among African countries.

Panelists:

- **Ambassador James P. Zumwalt**, CEO, Sasakawa USA
- **The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, Former Assistant Secretary for Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- **The Honorable Takashi Kitahara**, Former Japanese Ambassador to Senegal
- **Dr. J. Peter Pham**, Vice President for Research and Regional Initiatives and Director for the Africa Center, The Atlantic Council
- **The Honorable Ruth K. Oniang’o, Ph.D.**, Editor-in-Chief, African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) /Chairperson, Sasakawa Africa Association (SAA) and Sasakawa Africa Association for Extension (SAFE)
- **His Excellency Carlos Dos Santos**, Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique to the United States

The event runs from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Cosmos Club (2121 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, D.C.) and will include panel presentations, a moderated discussion, and audience Q&A. The event is free and open to the public, and lunch will be served. Pre-registration is required. For more information and to RSVP, visit spfusa.org/ncbf2017.

“I’m excited to be part of this conference, where thought leaders will come together and address how the United States and Japan can work together to advance our shared objectives in Africa,” said Ambassador James Zumwalt, CEO of Sasakawa USA, who earlier this year completed two years of service as Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and will be a featured guest at the event. “It is my hope that, through these discussions, we can develop policy ideas on how we might work together more to promote shared interests in regional security, countering violent extremism, promoting democratic values, and fostering economic growth and development.”

For more information on the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the nation's greatest springtime celebration featuring creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit, visit www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA is an independent American, non-profit, non-partisan, institution devoted to research, analysis, and better understanding of the U.S.-Japan relationship. Through research and education programs, Sasakawa USA facilitates people-to-people exchange and dialogue between American and Japanese policymakers, influential citizens, and the broader public.