U.S.–Japan Alliance: Deepening Ties During Challenging Times

Sasakawa USA Opens its Fifth Annual Security Forum
Amidst Positive Regional Summit Diplomacy

Washington, D.C. – Today, Sasakawa USA opens its Fifth Annual Security Forum with a high-profile roster of speakers and invited guests to discuss critical international security topics affecting the U.S.-Japan alliance and other global security issues. This year’s forum, The U.S.-Japan Alliance: Deepening Ties while Confronting New Challenges, closely follows last week’s South Korea–North Korea Summit meeting and ahead of an anticipated face-to-face meeting between U.S. President Donald J. Trump and North Korea’s Supreme Leader Kim Jung-un.

Sasakawa USA CEO James Zumwalt set the stage for this year’s Security Forum: “Since the Sasakawa USA security forum last year, North Korean missile and nuclear tests, and its threatening and bellicose rhetoric, have created an unsettling and challenging security environment for the United States and our closest allies in the Asia Pacific region. Then, in February 2018, diplomacy replaced the coarse language and multiple summits are now being scheduled to address decades-old security agreements and policies. The strength and resilience of the U.S.–Japan alliance has undoubtedly contributed to this dramatic shift. We look forward to a robust discussion of what will happen next during the 2018 Sasakawa USA Annual Security Forum.”

The conference features leading policy and military experts discussing topics ranging from North Korea’s diplomatic strategy in 2018; Japan’s increased security role in Asia; the U.S. National Defense Strategy; Japan’s Nuclear Security Policy; Defense Industrial Cooperation; and Cybersecurity. Current and former senior policy, diplomatic, and military officials will participate including:

- Japanese Ambassador – Shinsuke Sugiyama
- Former Deputy Secretary of Defense – Robert Work
- Former Director of National Intelligence and Sasakawa USA Chairman – Dennis Blair

Speakers and Participants

- Amb. James Zumwalt, CEO, Sasakawa USA
- Amb. Shinsuke Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan to the United States
- Katrina Manson, U.S. Foreign Policy and Defense Correspondent, Financial Times
- Sue Mi Terry, Senior Fellow, Korea Chair, CSIS
- Wataru Sawamura, Washington D.C. Bureau Chief, Asahi Shimbun
- Amb. David Shear, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs, DoD
- Adm. Dennis Blair (Ret.), Chairman and Distinguished Senior Fellow, Sasakawa USA
- Gen. In-Bum Chun, ROKA (Ret.)
The event will be live-streamed in English and Japanese, beginning at 9 a.m., on the Sasakawa USA website.

Follow @SasakawaUSA for updates throughout the day, using the hashtag #USJapanSecurity.

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.

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