



SASAKAWA USA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

Media Advisory

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The U.S.-Japan Alliance: New Security Challenges

Sasakawa USA hosts its Sixth Annual Security Forum on April 24

Washington, D.C. -- As one of the U.S.' closest allies, Japan plays an increasingly pivotal role throughout the Indo-Pacific region where threats from China, North Korea, and other nations are a constant challenge to global security. Please join Sasakawa USA at its Sixth Annual Security Forum to hear insights and commentary from current and former government officials from the U.S. and Japan, and policy experts on the role the U.S. will play in dealing with China and its militarization of the South China Sea, ongoing trade negotiations between the U.S and Japan, economic competition in the region, the implementation of Japan's National Defense Program, and other critical geopolitical issues.

Current and former senior policy, diplomatic, and military officials will participate in the forum, including:

- Ambassador of Japan to the U.S. – Ambassador Shinsuke J. Sugiyama
- Ambassador of the U.S. to Japan – Ambassador William “Bill” Hagerty IV (video message)
- Former Director of National Intelligence – Admiral Dennis Blair (Ret.)
- Chairman of the Asia Pacific Initiative—Dr. Yoichi Funabashi

The event will be [live-streamed](#) in English and Japanese, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Follow [@SasakawaUSA](#) for updates throughout the day, using the hashtag #USJapanSecurity.

Members of the media must [REGISTER HERE](#). Limited camera riser space available. Camera crews may set up before 8 a.m.

AGENDA

8:30 Welcome and Introduction

INTRODUCTION: **Amb. James Zumwalt (Ret.)**, CEO, Sasakawa USA

REMARKS: **Amb. Shinsuke J. Sugiyama**, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

VIDEO REMARKS: **Amb. William “Bill” Hagerty IV**, Ambassador of the U.S. to Japan

8:45 Opening Keynote Speech

INTRODUCTION: **Adm. Dennis Blair (Ret.)**, Chairman, Sasakawa USA

SPEAKER: **Gen. Ryoichi Oriki (Ret.)**, Special Advisor, Japan's National Security Secretariat

9:30 Indo-Pacific Grand Strategy: Is It More than Countering China?

MODERATOR: **Dr. Michael J. Green**, Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Director of Asian Studies, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University

PANELISTS: **Dr. Evan A. Feigenbaum**, Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Mr. Masanori Nishi, Former Japanese Vice Minister of Defense
Ms. Yuki Tatsumi, Co-Director, East-Asia Program, and Director, Japan Program, Stimson Center

10:45 Break

11:00 Economic Influence and Competition in the Indo-Pacific Region

MODERATOR: **Mr. Matthew P. Goodman**, Senior Vice President, Senior Adviser for Economics, and Simon Chair in Political Economy, Center for Strategic and International Studies

PANELISTS: **Mr. Tobias Harris**, Fellow for Economy, Trade, and Business, Sasakawa USA
Amb. David Shear (Ret.), Senior Advisor, McLarty Associates
Dr. Mireya Solís, Director, Center for East Asia Policy Studies; Philip Knight Chair in Japan Studies; and Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Program, Brookings Institution
Mr. Tsuneo Watanabe, Senior Research Fellow, Sasakawa Peace Foundation

12:15 Lunch starts (provided)

12:30 Salon-style Conversation with Special Guest

INTERVIEWER: **Adm. Dennis Blair (Ret.)**, Chairman, Sasakawa USA

GUEST: **Dr. Yoichi Funabashi**, Chairman, Asia Pacific Initiative

1:15 Break

1:30 Japan's National Defense Program Guidelines: Pacing the Threat?

MODERATOR: **Dr. Sayuri Romei**, Fellow for Security and Foreign Affairs, Sasakawa USA

PANELISTS: **Dr. Eric Heginbotham**, Principal Research Scientist, MIT Center for International Studies
Dr. Kathleen Hicks, Senior Vice President, Henry A. Kissinger Chair, and Director of International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Gen. Koichi Isobe (Ret.), Resident Fellow, Harvard Asia Center

2:45 Japanese Society and Security: The Role of the SDF

MODERATOR: **Mr. James L. Schoff**, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

PANELISTS: **Prof. Takako Hikotani**, Gerald L. Curtis Associate Professor of Modern Japanese Politics and Foreign Policy, Columbia University
Lt. Gen. Masayuki Hironaka (Ret.), Japan Air Self-Defense Force
Prof. Andrew Oros, Professor of Political Science and International Studies, Washington College

3:55 Break

4:00 Conversation with United States and Japanese Government Officials

MODERATOR: **Amb. James Zumwalt (Ret.)**, CEO, Sasakawa USA

PANELISTS: **Mr. David Helvey**, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs
Minister Keiichi Ichikawa, Political Minister, Embassy of Japan in the United States

5:00 Concluding Remarks

SPEAKER: **Adm. Dennis Blair (Ret.)**, Chairman, Sasakawa USA



Join the conversation on April 24:
@Sasakawa USA #USJapanSecurity

About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

[Sasakawa 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. Follow us on Twitter, [@SasakawaUSA](#).

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