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  
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
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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