



## News Release

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### **Mr. Sam Baron Joins Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA as Non-Resident Scholar for the US-Japan NEXT Alliance Initiative**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA) is pleased to announce that Mr. Sam Baron has joined our team as a non-resident scholar for the US-Japan NEXT Alliance Initiative.



Mr. Baron is currently a visiting researcher with the Research Center for Sustainable Peace at the University of Tokyo, where he is examining how the Japanese government and private sector have adjusted engagement and investment strategies with Myanmar following its coup d'état in February 2021. His prior experience includes work at The Asia Group in Washington, D.C., as a State Department Policy Intern, and as a Human Rights Intern in 2019 with the Myanmar Country Team of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, based in Bangkok.

He will provide periodic analysis on US-Japan policy coordination in relation to Southeast Asia.

For inquiries, please contact Associate Communications Manager, Ms. Izumi Swarts, at [iswarts@spfusa.org](mailto:iswarts@spfusa.org).

#### **About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA**

Sasakawa USA is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to deepening the understanding of and strengthening the relationship between the United States and Japan for the benefit of a free and open international community. Its activities primarily focus on security and diplomacy, through exchanges, dialogue, analysis, publications, and networking.

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**Mr. Sam Baron** joined Sasakawa USA as a non-resident scholar for the US-Japan NEXT Alliance Initiative in June 2022. His primary focus will be providing research and analysis on US-Japan relations coordination vis-à-vis Southeast Asia. Alongside his contributions to the NEXT Alliance Initiative, he is currently a Visiting Researcher with the Research Center for Sustainable Peace (RCSP) at the University of Tokyo.

Mr. Baron's expertise is in US foreign policy toward Southeast Asia, specifically Myanmar, and he is currently researching how the Japanese government and private sector have adjusted their engagement and investment strategies with Myanmar in the aftermath of the country's *coup d'état* in February 2021. Prior to his research work at the University of Tokyo, he was a political risk analyst with the Southeast Asia practice of The Asia Group, an international strategic advisory firm based in Washington, D.C.

He also served as a Human Rights Intern in 2019 with the Myanmar Country Team of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (based in Bangkok, Thailand), where he helped spearhead the implementation of an inter-agency 'early-warning' system to aid in the prevention of armed conflict across the Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan states. He was also a Policy Intern at the US State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor in 2018.

He earned his M.Phil in International Relations with distinction from the University of Cambridge (St. John's College) and received his B.A. in Political Science and Asian Studies from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.