SASAKAWA USA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA
米国笹川平和財団

Press Release

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Mr. Brian Harding Joins Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA as a Senior Fellow (Non-Resident)

WASHINGTON, DC – Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA (Sasakawa USA), a leading U.S.-Japan think tank, has named **Mr. Brian Harding** a senior fellow (non-resident).

Purpose

Mr. Brian Harding has dedicated his career to advancing U.S. foreign policy in Southeast Asia, prioritizing working with allies, including Japan. He has also led programs on the Pacific Islands, advocating for the importance of this region to the interests of the United States and its allies. Upon his appointment as a senior fellow (non-resident), Sasakawa USA expects to launch a project focused on opportunities for the U.S. and Japan to jointly strengthen relations with partners in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

Biography

Brian Harding is a leading expert on Southeast Asia with nearly twenty years of experience in U.S.-Southeast Asia relations at top institutions in Washington, DC. From 2020 to 2025, he led a major expansion of programming in Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands at the U.S. Institute of Peace, including new initiatives in the Philippines, Vietnam, and Papua New Guinea.

Previously, Brian was deputy director of the Southeast Asia Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and director for Asia policy at the Center for American Progress (CAP). From 2009 to 2013, he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as country director for Asian and Pacific security affairs, managing defense relations with key U.S. partners in Southeast Asia and Oceania.

In 2023, he participated in Sasakawa USA's U.S.-Japan Research Exchange, conducting research on Japan's relations with the Philippines and outlining an agenda for U.S.-Japan-Philippines trilateral cooperation. In 2015, he helped organize the inaugural Sasakawa USA Emerging Experts Delegation (SEED) in his role at CAP.

Brian holds degrees from Middlebury College and The George Washington University, has studied in Indonesia and Japan, and was a Fulbright research fellow in Indonesia. He is concurrently an advisor to the U.S.-Philippines Society and a Research Fellow at the Southeast Asia Peace Institute.

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About Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

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 U.S. and Japan for the benefit of a free and open international community. Its activities focus on security and diplomacy, through exchanges, dialogue, analysis, publications, and networking. Follow us on X @SasakawaUSA, Instagram @sasakawausa, and visit our website at Sasakawa USA.