



Provisional Program  
Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan  
47<sup>th</sup> Seminar  
**Online ZOOM**

October 31st, 2020  
18:00-20:00 (JPT)

“The UN role in Afghanistan since 2002”  
HE Ambassador Youssof Ghafoorzai

18:05 Opening by the moderator, Arbenita Sopaj

18:10 Presentation

“The UN role in Afghanistan since 2002”

Ambassador Youssof Ghafoorzai (Ambassador of Afghanistan in Oslo, Norway)

Ambassador Tadamichi Yamamoto (Former Special Representative of the Secretary- General of the United Nations for Afghanistan)

18:40 Comments by GPAJ members:

- Mr. Keiichi TANABE, Associate Professor at Tokai University
- Mr. Koji SAKANE, Senior Director at JICA

19:10 Open discussion for all GPAJ-members and other guests (Q&A)

19:50 Concluding remarks by the President of the Organization Dr. Sukehiro Hasegawa and Ms. Arbenita Sopaj

20:00 End of the Seminar

Additional topic:

Discussion on the occasion of the historical event of the peace talks between the Government of Afghanistan and the Taliban group that has taken place in Doha, Qatar on Sept. 12. 2020. HE Ambassador Ghafoorzai will discuss further the peace process talks.



## HE Ambassador Youssof GHAFLOORZAI



Youssof Ghafoorzai is a career diplomat with extensive expertise in international peace and security, post-conflict stabilization, and multilateral institutions. He spent a significant part of his 15-year long career as a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which includes ten years at the Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the United Nations in New York, as a Second Secretary (2006-2008): and Counselor (2010-2014; 2016-2019), where he has led Afghanistan's peace and security mandate, especially at the UN Security Council. He had also served as Senior Adviser on International Affairs to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. Working at a time characterized by Afghanistan's reconstruction and democratic transition, Ambassador Ghafoorzai has represented Afghanistan at various regional and international conferences on peace and stability in Afghanistan and its wider region. He has also led several bilateral and multilateral negotiations on these and other issues in deliberations at the UN and other international settings. His experience also includes policy coordination between state and non-state actors and working on pressing political, economic and social issues related to Afghanistan and beyond. Throughout his career, Mr. Ghafoorzai has worked adamantly to ensure the international community's steadfast support in helping to achieve and consolidate gains across various spectrums.

Mr. Ghafoorzai has recently been appointed as Afghanistan's Ambassador to Oslo, Norway with non-resident Ambassador status in Denmark and Iceland, as well.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Government from the Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY) with an emphasis in International Relations and a minor in History.

Photo by: Embassy of Afghanistan, Norway



## Ambassador Tadamichi YAMAMOTO



Tadamichi YAMAMOTO entered the diplomatic service in April 1974. In 1991 he became Director of the First Southeast Asia Division, Economic Cooperation Bureau. In April 1994 he was appointed as a Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Two years later in January 1996 he became Director of the Policy Planning Division. Same year in July he was appointed as a Director of the First North American Division, North American Affairs Bureau.

His career is characterized as a diverse where in 1998, he served as Minister of Political Affairs, Embassy of Japan, Republic of Korea. In 2000, he was designated as Consul General of Japan in Boston, Massachusetts. Two years later he was appointed as a Minister of Political Affairs, Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC. In 2005 Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Chief of Mission Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC. In August 2005 Ambassador in charge of International Counter-Terrorism and Reconstruction Assistance to Iraq.

Further in December 2005 he was appointed as Ambassador in charge of International Counter-Terrorism, Reconstruction Assistance to Iraq and North Korea's Nuclear Issue. A year later in August 2006 he became Director-General, Public Diplomacy Department. In July 2008 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Delegate of Japan to UNESCO. In 2010 he became Ambassador, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan November 2012 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Hungary. In October 2014 he was appointed Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) for UNAMA

Photo by: United Nations Press Conference

## Mr. Keiichi TANABE



Keiichi TANABE is Associate Professor, Department of International Studies, School of Humanities and Culture, Tokai University. Member, Japan Association for United Nations Studies; Member, Japan Association for Human Security Studies; Director for Program Operations, Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Tokyo Liaison Office; Advisor, Career Support & Development, Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center; Member, Washington State Board of Accountancy. Since 2020 he is Auditor of the GPAJ. He has been Civil Affairs Officer, United Nations Mission In South Sudan (UNMISS) (2013-2014); Development Coordination Officer,

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (2010-2013).

Donor Relations Officer, United Nations World Food Program, Rome HQ (2006-2007); Head of sub-office, United Nations World Food Program, Southern Shan State, Myanmar (2005-2006); Emergency Operation Coordinator & Reporting Officer, United Nations World Food Program, Myanmar (2004-2005); Chief Consultant, KPMG Corporate Finance (1999-2004). He earned his M.A. in International Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University (1998). B.A. Political Science, Department of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University (1992)



## Mr. Koji SAKANE



Koji SAKANE currently is Senior Director, Office for Peacebuilding, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). He was Deputy Chief Secretary at Office of the President (2014-2017); Director for Planning and ASEAN Coordination at Southeast Asia and the Pacific Department (2011-2014); Director for Cambodia at Southeast Asia and the Pacific Department (2010-2011); Indonesia Office (2006-2010); Aid Coordination Division (2003); Second Secretary at Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) (2001-2003); Secretariat of Japan Disaster Relief Team (1996-1999); Cambodia Office (1994-1996).

He has earned his Master's degree in Conflict Resolution (Bradford University, UK) (2000) and Bachelor's degree in Political Science (Waseda University, Japan) (1991).

His activities in the associations include: GPAJ 42nd Seminar "Prospect for Building Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan Global Peacebuilding"(by Ms. Lisa Leefke, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UNAMA) (1 Feb, 2020): Commentator Tokyo Peacebuilding Forum 2019 (2 November 2019): Presenter (Sessoins "Current Conflict and Fragility", Session 4 "How to Achieve "Sustaining Peace"?-Roles of UN and its Alternative Measures") Seminar "Is Peacebuilding dead? What's Next?" (by Professor Achim Wennmann, Director, Center on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding (CCDP), Geneva Institute of International Development Studies) (10 April 2019): Commentator Seminar "Triple Nexus and Sustaining Peace" (30 March 2019): Main Speaker Peacebuilding Forum Tokyo 2018 (8 December 2018): Presenter (Session 1-2).

## Mr. Sukehiro HASEGAWA



Sukehiro HASEGAWA has an extensive experience on the UN's work in different countries. His current affiliations are: President, Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan (GPAJ). Chair, Japan Commission on Global Governance. Executive Director for Academic Exchange, UN Association of Japan (UNA-Japan). Director, Academic Council on the United Nations (ACUNS), Tokyo Liaison Office Member of the Board of Directors, Earth Charter Japan Commission. Counsellor of the National Federation of UNESCO Associations of Japan. Chair, Council the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center Human Resource Training Program. Professor, Department of Global Politics, Faculty of Law, Hosei University (2006-2013) Visiting Professor, United Nations University, Tokyo (2006-2013) Director, Japan Association for United Nations Studies (JAUNS) (2007-2016). Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Timor-Leste (2004-2006). UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Timor-Leste, Rwanda, Samoa, Niue, Tokelau, Cook Islands (2006-2002, 1995-1996, 1985-1987). UNDP Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia and the Pacific (1996-1999). Director for Policy Planning (1994). Deputy Executive Coordinator, UN Volunteers Programme (1987-1993). UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Nepal, Indonesia (1979-80, 1981-84) He earned his Ph.D in International Relations and Development, Washing University, St. Louis. MA in International Public Administration, ICU, Tokyo. BA in Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



## Ms. Arbenita SOPAJ



Arbenita Sopaj is a Ph.D. candidate at Kobe University, Japan, and Teaching Assistant. Her experience involves projects focused on educational improvement, chair of various conferences focused on UN and EU work and decision-making process, business development manager, diplomatic intern, teaching assistant. She has completed double Bachelor on American Studies and European Studies. Double degree on master's focused on International Relations and Political Science. Recently she has joined Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS) Tokyo Liaison Office as an assistant. She is a regular GPAJ-member. She has participated on the book review entitled "Primordial Leadership" by Dr. Sukehiro Hasegawa where she compared "State Legitimacy between Timor-Leste and Kosovo after their independence.

Those who are interested in attending the seminar please send an email to Ms. Arbenita Sopaj with your name and surname.

Email: [arbenitasopaj@gmail.com](mailto:arbenitasopaj@gmail.com)

Readings for those interested:

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security. Report of the Secretary-General. 17 March 2020. Link: <https://undocs.org/S/2020/210>

Afghanistan: Near-record violence risks derailing imminent talks between Government and Taliban. UN News. 3 September 2020. Link <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1071652>