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Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan (GPAJ)

And

ACUNS Tokyo Office (ACUNS Tokyo)

In cooperation with

Association of Former International Civil Servants of Japan (AFICS-Japan)

Present

Present at the Closing:

A Personal Insight into the Last Days of the Soviet Union

By

Mr. David Chikvaidze

Chef de Cabinet

United Nations Office at Geneva

Friday, March 19, 2021

Time: 8 p.m. Tokyo; 12 noon Geneva; 7:00 a.m. New York

- 19:50 Opening of ZOOM
- 20:00 Introduction
- 20:05 Opening remarks by Yasushi Akashi, former Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General to Cambodia and the Former Yugoslavia
- 20:10 Keynote Speech (30 minutes)
“Present at the Closing: A Personal Insight into The Last Days of the Soviet Union”
David Chikvaidze
Chef de Cabinet, United Nations Office at Geneva
- 20:40 Panel Discussion
Discussants:
1. Tsuneo Nishida, Former Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations
 2. Lise Howard, Professor of Government, Georgetown University and President, Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS)
 3. Vesselin Popovski, Professor and Executive Director, Centre for the Study of United Nations at the Jindal Global University in India
- 21:00 Questions and Answers moderated by Sukehiro Hasegawa, President of GPAJ and Director of ACUNS Tokyo Liaison Office
- 21:45 Concluding remarks

21:55 Announcement for the next event

22:00 End of the Seminar

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

DAVID A. CHIKVAIDZE



Mr. David Chikvaidze has worked for over thirty-six years in the foreign service, in government and in the international civil service.

As Chef de Cabinet, he is currently providing political advice and support to his fifth Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and, before, as acting Senior Political Adviser. As Director of the UN Library and Head of the UNOG Cultural Diplomacy programme, Mr. Chikvaidze implemented a new strategic direction, created synergies with world libraries. He served Senior Adviser to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, in charge of Communications and NGO relations and spokesman for the Commission on Human Rights and other Human Rights Bodies.

At UN Headquarters and on field missions in 1993-2003, Mr. Chikvaidze performed a variety of politically sensitive roles negotiating humanitarian aid in Pyongyang with the DPRK government; assisting Sergio Vieira de Mello in negotiating with Yugoslav authorities humanitarian needs and access in FRY, including Kosovo; assisting James A. Baker III on his confidential missions to Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania on the Western Sahara issue; post-earthquake disaster assessment and coordination in Tajikistan and Afghanistan; three visits to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and to contaminated areas in efforts to assist victims; organizing the UN50 commemorative events in New York and San Francisco. Prior to joining the United Nations, Mr. Chikvaidze served as scheduler for President Gorbachev and as protocol officer for President Yeltsin. He also served as special assistant to the Soviet Ambassador and chief of protocol of the USSR Embassy in Washington, D.C. (1985-1990).

Mr. Chikvaidze holds a Ph.D. in political science, is author of occasional articles on international relations and has taught geopolitics and served as thesis advisor. He is vice president of the Swiss Forum for International Affairs and of the Geneva Diplomatic Club; Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science, founding member of the Georgian Association of Switzerland and of the Sergio Vieira de Mello Foundation.

Born in Tbilisi, Mr. Chikvaidze is a citizen of Georgia. He is married and has one son and three grandsons.

YASUSHI AKASHI



Mr. Akashi served as Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General to Cambodia and the former Yugoslavia as well as Under-Secretary-General (for public information, disarmament affairs and then humanitarian affairs) at UN Headquarters since 1979. He also worked for the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, first as a Counselor, a Minister and an Ambassador from 1974 to 79. Mr. Akashi graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1954 and studied at the University of

Virginia, The Fletcher School, and Columbia University. He is currently Chairman of the Kyoto International Conference Center. He is visiting professor of Kwansei Gakuin University.

TSUNEO NISHIDA



Mr. Tsuneo Nishida served as the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations in June 2010 to 2013. He was First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, as Counsellor at the Embassy of Japan in the United States of America and as Consul-General of Japan in Los Angeles. Furthermore, he served as Deputy Director General of the European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau and as Director General of the Economic Cooperation Bureau in Tokyo. In 2002, Ambassador Nishida was appointed Deputy Vice-Minister of Foreign Policy and Director-General of

the Foreign Policy Bureau. From 2005 to 2007, he was the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs. He served as Ambassador to Canada before his appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations. He is currently Special Advisor to the President of Kanagawa University and Honorary Director of the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University. He is member of the Board of Directors of the UN University, the East West Institute and UCLA Terasaki Center.

LISE MORJE HOWARD



Dr. Lise Morjé Howard is President of The Academic Council on the UN System (ACUNS), and Professor of Government and Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Howard earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley, and her A.B. in Soviet Studies from Barnard College, Columbia University. She also studied Law at Leningrad /St. Petersburg State University in Russia. A dual national of the U.S. and France, and fluent in French and Russian, she previously served as

founding director of the Master of Arts Program in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown; Assistant Professor of Government at Wesleyan University; and Acting Director of UN Affairs for the New York

City Commission for the United Nations. Howard is an award-winning scholar, and has published articles on UN peacekeeping, the UN Security Council, civil war termination, and American foreign policy in the top journals in her field, including *International Organization*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Foreign Affairs*, and *Global Governance*. Her most recent book is *Power in Peacekeeping* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

VESSELIN POPOVSKI



Dr. Vesselin Popovski is Professor & Vice Dean and Executive Director, Centre for the Study of United Nations at the Jindal Global University in India. From 2004 till 2014 he worked as Senior Academic Officer at the United Nations University in Tokyo. Prior to that was Senior Legal Expert for the EU project 'Legal Protection of Individual Rights in Russia' (2002-2004), Lecturer at the University of Exeter, UK (1999-2002), PhD student at King's College London (1996-1999), and Bulgarian diplomat (1988-1996) serving in Sofia, New York and London. Member of the Advisory Board of the 'Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies'; and the Editorial Boards of Journal 'International Studies Review' and 'Sustainability Science'. Contributed to the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and its Report 'Responsibility to Protect' (2001), and the Princeton Project on Universal Jurisdiction, producing 'The Princeton Principles of Universal Jurisdiction' (2001).

MODERATOR AND FACILITATOR

SUKEHIRO HASEGAWA



Dr. Sukehiro Hasegawa is former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Timor-Leste. He is currently President, Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan (GPAJ), and Director of ACUNS Tokyo Office, and Executive Director for Academic Exchange, United Nations Association of Japan (UNA-Japan). Dr. Hasegawa holds a Ph.D. in international relations from Washington University in St. Louis, USA. His publications include "Post-Conflict Leadership: Key to Building Sustainable Peace and Development" in *UN Chronicle*, 2018 and *Peacebuilding and National Ownership in Timor-Leste*, UN University Press and Routledge (2013 and 2020).

AI KIHARA-HUNT



Dr. Ai Kihara-Hunt is Secretary at ACUNS and Deputy at ACUNs Tokyo Liaison Office. She is also a board member of the Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan. She is Associate Professor at the Graduate Program on Human Security and Director of International Law Training and Research Hub, at the University of Tokyo. Her main area of research is UN Peace Operations, in particular the UN Police, accountability and human rights. She has PhD from the University of Essex with her research on individual criminal accountability of UN police personnel. She worked in Nepal, East Timor/Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Japan with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN-OHCHR), UN peace operations, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and in the academia. Her publications include *Holding UNPOL to Account: Individual Criminal Accountability of United Nations Police Personnel*, Martinus Nijhoff, 2017.