



SASAKAWA USA  
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA



PIIE PETERSON INSTITUTE FOR  
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS



EAST - WEST CENTER  
IN WASHINGTON



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
of Philadelphia

# Japan Matters for the United States, Japan Matters for Pennsylvania

*Re-evaluating the benefits and importance of U.S.-Japan relations to the United States*

Thursday, October 20 | 11:30-14:00  
The World Affairs Council of Philadelphia  
One South Broad Street, Suite 2M  
Philadelphia, PA 19107

## Program Agenda

The 2016 U.S. Presidential Election has ignited renewed interest among the Washington policy community to reinstate the benefits and importance of U.S. engagement in Asia. How does Asia serve U.S. security and economic interests? What are the costs and benefits of U.S. security alliances in Asia, including the U.S.-Japan alliance? What does Pennsylvania have at stake in Asia and in the U.S.-Japan relationship? To answer these questions and present important data and facts about U.S. relations with Asia and Japan, Sasakawa USA has brought together security and economics experts from the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) and the East-West Center in Washington (EWCW).

11:30-12:00 Registration & Lunch (30 minutes)

12:00-12:05 Welcome and Introduction (5 minutes)

12:05-12:45 Opening Remarks (10 minutes each)

12:45-13:10 Panel Discussion (25 minutes)

\*Facilitated by **Craig Snyder**, President and CEO, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

“The Strategic Importance of U.S.-Japan Relations”

**Admiral Dennis C. Blair (USN, ret.)**, Chairman and CEO, Sasakawa USA

\*moderator

“U.S. Economic Interests in Asia and Japan”

**Fred Bergsten**, Senior Fellow and Director Emeritus, Peterson Institute for International Economics

“Japan Matters for America and Pennsylvania”

**Satu Limaye**, Director, East-West Center in Washington

“Japan’s Footprint in Pennsylvania”

**Ronn Cort**, President and COO, Sekisui SPI

13:10-13:30 Audience Q&A (20 minutes)

\*Facilitated by **Craig Snyder**, President and CEO, World Affairs Council of Philadelphia

13:30 Program Concludes



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## About the Speakers



**Admiral Dennis Blair**, Chairman of the Board and CEO of Sasakawa USA, has long experience in Japan and Asia issues. He also serves as a member of the Energy Security Leadership Council, and he is on the boards of Freedom House, the National Bureau of Asian Research, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the Atlantic Council.

As Director of National Intelligence, from January 2009 to May 2010, Blair led sixteen national intelligence agencies, managed a budget of \$50 billion and provided integrated intelligence support to the President, Congress, and operations in the field.

Blair was president and chief executive officer of the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), a federally funded research and development center, that supports the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland

Security, and the Intelligence Community, from 2003 to 2006.

During his 34-year Navy career, Blair served on guided missile destroyers in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets and commanded the Kitty Hawk Battle Group. Ashore, he served as Director of the Joint Staff and held budget and policy positions on the National Security Council and several major Navy staffs. Prior to retiring from the Navy in 2002, Blair served as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, the largest of the combatant commands.

Blair has served as a director of both public and private corporations, including Tyco International, EDO Corporation (now part of L-3, Inc.), and Iridium LLC (now a public corporation). He resigned from all board positions when he re-entered government in 2009. He currently chairs an advisory committee for Lockheed Martin Space Systems.

Blair co-chaired the Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property and published a series of recommendations in May 2013. He is the author of *Military Engagement: Influencing Armed Forces Worldwide to Support Democratic Transitions*, published in June 2013.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Blair earned a master's degree in history and languages from Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar, and was a White House fellow at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He has been awarded four Defense Distinguished Service medals, three National Intelligence Distinguished Service medals, and has received decorations from the governments of Japan, Thailand, Korea, Australia, the Philippines, and Taiwan.



**C. Fred Bergsten**, senior fellow and director emeritus, was the founding director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics (formerly the Institute for International Economics) from 1981 through 2012. He is serving his second term as a member of the President's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations and was co-chairman of the Private Sector Advisory Group to the United States-India Trade Policy Forum, comprising the trade ministers of those two countries, during 2007-14. Dr. Bergsten was assistant secretary for international affairs of the US Treasury during 1977-81. He also functioned as

undersecretary for monetary affairs during 1980-81, representing the United States on the G-5 Deputies and in preparing G-7 summits. During 1969-71, starting at age 27, Dr. Bergsten



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coordinated US foreign economic policy in the White House as assistant for international economic affairs to Dr. Henry Kissinger at the National Security Council. Dr. Bergsten was chairman of the Eminent Persons Group of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum from 1993 to 1995, authoring its three reports that recommended "free and open trade in the region" as adopted at the APEC Leaders' summits in 1993 and 1994 and now being pursued through the Trans-Pacific Partnership. He was chairman of the Competitiveness Policy Council created by the Congress from 1991 through 1995; its 12 members included corporate CEOs, labor union presidents and Cabinet officers who were appointed by the president and the congressional leadership. He chaired the "Shadow G-8," comprising top economic and foreign policy experts from the G-8 countries, which advised those governments on their annual summits during 2000–2005. Dr. Bergsten was the most widely quoted think-tank economist in the world during 1997–2005 (the latest period for which such data are available). He was cited as #37 of the top 50 "Who Really Moves the Markets?" (Fidelity Investment's *Worth*) and as "one of the ten people who can change your life" by *USA Today*.



**Dr. Satu Limaye** is Director of the East-West Center in Washington. He is also a Senior Advisor at the CNA Corporation, a non-profit research and analysis organization located in Arlington, VA. He is the creator and director of the [Asia Matters for America](#) initiative, an interactive resource for credible, non-partisan information, graphics, analysis and news on US-Asia Pacific relations and the national, state and local levels; Founding Editor of the [Asia-Pacific Bulletin](#) series, an editor of the journal *Global Asia* and on the international advisory council of the journal *Contemporary Southeast Asia*. Dr. Limaye publishes and speaks on U.S.-Asia relations and is a reviewer for numerous publications, foundations and fellowship programs. Previously, he

was a Research Staff Member of the Strategy and Resources Division at the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) and Director of Research and Publications at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS), a direct reporting unit of U.S. Pacific Command. He has been an Abe Fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy and a Henry Luce Scholar and Research Fellow at the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) in Tokyo. He is a magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Georgetown University and received his doctorate from Oxford University (Magdalen College) where he was a George C. Marshall Scholar.



**Ronn Cort** has been COO and President of SEKISUI SPI, a global leader in polymer manufacturing, located in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania since 2012. For over 25 years he has served in senior leadership positions for global manufacturing companies to help them develop and implement their international expansion strategies. Mr. Cort began his tenure at SEKISUI SPI in 1991 leading the customer service department until he joined Ohio-based PVC manufacturer RJF International as Sales Manager in 1994. He then spent five years as international Business Manager at FLM, a polyurethane technology company in Appenzell, Switzerland. During that time he developed the company's market expansion plan in, Japan, and later, China. In 2005 he was invited to return to SEKISUI SPI to grow the company globally, ultimately moving to the role of Vice President, Sales and Marketing. He was



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appointed President in 2012 and COO & President in 2014.

SEKISUI SPI exports to 33 countries and is owned by SEKISUI Chemical Co., Ltd., an \$11 billion global leader in plastics and chemicals. In 1962, SEKISUI Chemical Co. was the first Japanese manufacturer to establish operations in North America – prior to Toyota or Honda and before Sony came to the United States. In 1963 they made history by opening their first plant in America, in Hazleton, Pennsylvania, just 25 miles from SPI's present-day Bloomsburg headquarters.

In August, SEKISUI SPI celebrated the opening of its third manufacturing facility in North America. The second facility in Bloomsburg, PA is the new North American corporate headquarters of SEKISUI Chemical's global sheet business that includes businesses in Pennsylvania and Michigan. All locations operate 24/7 to support the ongoing growth of SPI's customers and markets.