

KEYNOTE SPEECH: MR BILAHARI KAUSIKAN

MR BILAHARI KAUSIKAN RETIRED IN JUNE 2013 AND IS CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE AND POLICY ADVISOR IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FROM 2001 TO MAY 2013, MR KAUSIKAN WAS THE SECOND PERMANENT SECRETARY AND PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN A VARIETY OF APPOINTMENTS INCLUDING AS DIRECTOR FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA, DIRECTOR FOR EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND AS DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA. MR KAUSIKAN HAD ALSO SERVED AS THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK AND AS AMBASSADOR TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.



THE WORLD, AND EAST ASIA IN PARTICULAR, IS UNDERGOING A PROFOUND TRANSITION OF POWER AND IDEAS. FOR THE LAST 200 YEARS, THE WORLD WAS LARGELY SHAPED BY THE WEST. MORE SPECIFICALLY, POST-WWII EAST ASIA WAS AN AMERICAN CREATION. THE US IS STILL DOMINANT. BUT THERE IS A CONSENSUS ACROSS THE REGION THAT WHILE THE US PRESENCE IS STILL A NECESSARY — INDEED IRREPLACEABLE — CONDITION FOR THE STABILITY THAT THIS COMPLEX AND DIVERSE REGION NEEDS FOR CONTINUED GROWTH, IT IS NO LONGER A SUFFICIENT FACTOR AND NEEDS TO BE SUPPLEMENTED BY SOME NEW ARCHITECTURE. THE SEARCH FOR THIS NEW ARCHITECTURE IS THE CORE STRATEGIC ISSUE OF OUR TIMES AND WILL PREOCCUPY ALL EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES FOR DECADES. CHINA'S RE-EMERGENCE HAD CATALYSED THE CHANGES, AND CHINA MUST OBVIOUSLY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN ANY NEW ARCHITECTURE. YET CHINA'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE EXISTING ORDER IS AMBIGUOUS; NOT SURPRISING SINCE IT IS AN ORDER THAT BOTH LED TO WHAT THE CHINESE CALL 'A HUNDRED TEARS OF HUMILIATION' BUT ALSO OVER THE LAST THREE DECADES, FACILITATED ITS RE-EMERGENCE AS A MAJOR POWER. US-CHINA RELATIONS WILL BE A MAJOR DETERMINANT OF THE REGIONS FUTURE; SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS ARE A SERIOUS COMPLICATION, AS ARE TENSIONS IN JAPANESE-ROK RELATIONS. TO-DATE, THE MOST PROMISING EXPERIMENTS IN A NEW REGIONAL ARCHITECTURE HAVE BEEN LED BY ASEAN WHICH HAS PROVIDED A RELATIVELY NEUTRAL PLATFORM FOR SENSITIVE MAJOR POWER RELATIONS. BUT ASEAN'S ABILITY TO CONTINUE TO PLAY THIS ROLE IS NOT TO BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.



Moderator: Mr Yasushi Akashi

GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO IN 1954. AFTER THE GRADUATION, STUDIED AS A FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, AND LATER AT THE FLETCHER SCHOOL OF LAW AND DIPLOMACY. HE BECAME THE FIRST JAPANESE CITIZEN TO JOIN THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT IN 1957. HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR AT THE PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR CAMBODIA AND LATER FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA. WAS UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS UNTIL THE END OF 1997. CURRENTLY, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF JAPAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN ON PEACE-BUILDING, REHABILITATION, AND RECONSTRUCTION IN SRI LANKA, PRESIDENT OF THE JAPANESE ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN FAMILY PLANNING (JOICFP), AND VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN.

PROGRAM:

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