

Press Release:

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation



Wednesday October 25th, 2011

Members of the media:

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF)

Symposium

“Third-country Resettlement: The Australian Perspective and Re-thinking Refugee Protection and Integration in Japan”

SPF will hold a symposium by inviting guest speakers from Australia, Dr Melika Yassin Sheikh-Eldin (Manager, Settlement Delivery Support Services, Partnerships and Community Engagement Unit, AMES) and Mrs Sein Nanthu Kunoo, (Community Liaison Officer, Settlement Delivery Support Service Unit, AMES) who are prominent figures in refugee settlement assistance of Australia.

They will be joined by Mr. Daniel Alkhal (Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Japan), Mr. Kouji Abe, (Director, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan) and Mr. Brian Barbour (Asia Pacific refugee Rights Network) to discuss about Japan's Third-Country Resettlement Pilot Programme; its current challenges and future perspectives by looking at the experiences in Australia. (See attached program for further details.)

Time and Date: Friday November 4th, 2011: 14:30–17:00 (doors open at 14:00)

Location: Nippon Foundation Bldg 2F, Conference Room

Applications to SPF Press Officer: Ms. Mari Hyodo

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*** Admission free, simultaneous interpretation (Japanese⇔English) available**

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and 30th anniversary since Japan signed the Convention. It is also the 50th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

The Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF) is a private nonprofit organization established in September 1986. It seeks to contribute to the welfare of humanity and the sound development of international community, and thus to world peace, through activities that foster international interaction and cooperation.

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***P r o g r a m ***

14:30~15:15 Part 1: Opening Session

- 14:30 Opening Remarks: Junko Chano, Executive Director, The Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- 14:35 Speech: Mr. Daniel Alkhal, Senior Legal Officer, UNHCR Japan
- 14:45 Speech: “Global trend of Refugee Acceptance and Expectations on East Asia and Japan” Mr. Brian Barbour, External Relations Unit, Japan Association for Refugees (JAR) Chair, East Asia Working Group, Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN)
- 15:00 Speech: “Third Country Resettlement Programme in Japan”
Mr. Kouji Abe, Director, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

15:15~16:05 Part 2 : Integration at the Community Level and National Level in Australia

- 15:15 Report 1 “Outline of the Refugee Protection and Integration Policies of Australia” by Mr. Yasufumi Moritani (Associate Professor, Hokkaido Education University)
- 15:25 Report 2 “Features of the Australian Refugees Protection and Integration Policies” by Dr. Melika Y. Sheikh-Eldin
- 15:45 Report 3 “The Situation of Integration in Local Community in Australia by Ms. Sein Nanthu Kunoo

16:05~16:15 Break ▪ Collection of Question sheet

16:15~17:00 Part 3 : Panel Discussion

【Panelist】

- Dr. Melika Y. Sheikh-Eldin
- Ms. Sein Nanthu Kunoo
- Mr. Kouji Abe, Director, Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Saburo Takizawa, former U.N.High Commission for Refugees' representative in Japan
United Nations University, Professor Toyo Eiwa University, Professor

【Moderator】

- Mr. Hiroaki Ishii, Executive Director Japan Association for Refugees

17:00 End of the Meeting

17:00 - *There will be an extra Q&A time after the meeting for those who may have further questions and wish to discuss the issue with the panelists .