

## Media Release

### **Lecture by Middle East Experts Visiting Japan, Featuring Dr. Ibrahim Kalin, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey (Private Interviews Available)**

[Tokyo, 24 January 2011] The Sasakawa Middle East Islam Fund of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation is hosting a visit to Japan by Dr. Ibrahim Kalin, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey, from January 22 to 28, 2011. This is his first visit to Japan. As a policy advisor directly under current Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Dr. Kalin is said to have considerable influence on Turkish foreign policy. It is no exaggeration to say that Dr. Kalin is a key person if one seeks to understand the dynamics of Turkish foreign affairs as the country promotes its “Look East” policies.

**Profile: Dr. Ibrahim Kalin is currently Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey and a special research fellow at Georgetown University. After obtaining a masters degree at the Malaysia International Islamic University (1995), and doctoral degree at Georgetown University (2002), he taught at Holy Cross University (U.S.), Georgetown University, Bilkent Üniversitesi (Turkey), and more. From 2005 through 2009, he was chair of Foundation for Politics/Economics/Society (SETA), a renowned Turkish think tank.**

Timed with Dr. Kalin visit, Dr. Kim Beng PHAR, Director of Research and Strategy at Foreign Economic Policy Consultancy (FEPC), is also visiting Japan. Mr. Phar is a specialist on development issues in the ASEAN region and also serves as the Asia Fellow with SETA.

Media desiring a private interview with Dr. Kalin or Dr. Pang are invited to contact our office as indicated below for scheduling.

#### **For further information and contacts**

**Ms. Megumi Kato, The Sasakawa Middle East Islam Fund**

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(Please note that no interpretation will be provided, and that interviews will be conducted in English.)

**Dr. Kalin and Mr. Pang will be presenting a lecture entitled “Turkey's Look East Policies: Ideal and Reality,” from 16:00 to 18:00 at the Hotel New Otani, on January 26, 2011 (Wednesday). To attend, please contact the staff concerned, which is notified above.**

**Sasakawa Middle East Islam Fund:** Established in April 2009, the Sasakawa Middle East Islam Fund aims to contribute to stability and sustainable development in the Middle East, by complementing efforts to promote relations between Japan and the Middle East, and by incorporating Japanese approaches and methods, as well as pluralistic Asian values that promote mutually beneficial relationships. The Fund promotes the expansion and deepening of relations between Japan and the Middle East, and supports and implements programs in the areas of (1) information dissemination from Japan, (2) personnel exchanges, (3) capacity building, and (4) research relating to maritime security.

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