

The UNITAR Hiroshima Office and the Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University present the 90<sup>th</sup> UNITAR Public Session

# Inspiring Transformation in Afghanistan: The Current and Future Role of Japan's Support

Japan has been deeply supporting the reconstruction of Afghanistan for many years. Keynote speaker, H.E. Mitsuji Suzuka, Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan, will explore the current situation in Afghanistan, as well as future prospects, from the Japanese perspective.

This public session, co-sponsored by the Institute for Peace Science at Hiroshima University, coincides with the *UNITAR Afghanistan Fellowship Programme: Inspiring Transformation Hiroshima workshop*.

Established in 2003, the annual six-month-long Fellowship is a post-conflict training programme that builds the capacity, and enhances the leadership, management, and professional skills of a core group of senior government officials, academics, and practitioners from Afghanistan.

## Keynote Speaker

- H.E. Mitsuji Suzuka  
Japanese Ambassador to Afghanistan

## Special Guest

- Mr. Ahmad Bashir Ghafoori, First Secretary and Consul, Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo

## Hosts

- Dr. Noriyuki Kawano, Director, Institute for Peace Science, Hiroshima University
- Ms. Mihoko Kumamoto, Head, UNITAR Hiroshima Office



**Date:** Thursday, 27 April 2017  
**Time:** 18:30 – 20:00  
**Location:** International Conference Center, Dalia Room  
1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima  
**Language:** English, Japanese (with simultaneous translation)  
**Cost:** Free  
**Register:** Please register your attendance in advance. Please contact us and include your name, affiliation, and contact details.

Email: [hiroshima@unitar.org](mailto:hiroshima@unitar.org)  
Tel: 082-511-2424 / Fax: 082-211-0511



# Profiles

## Keynote Speaker



**H.E. Mitsuji Suzuka** is currently Japan's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, an appointment he has held since 2016. Prior to this appointment, Ambassador Suzuka served as Minister-Counsellor in the Embassy of Japan in Afghanistan, as well as Director of the Foreign Affairs Division, International Affairs Department, Japan House of Representatives. He first joined the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1980, and has served in Iran, Myanmar, and the United States, in addition to Afghanistan. He speaks Japanese, English, and Persian.

## Special Guest

**Mr. Ahmad Bashir Ghafoori** is First Secretary and Consul of the Embassy of Afghanistan in Tokyo, an appointment he has held since 2015. Prior to this post, Mr. Ghafoori served in several capacities with the Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including, as General Manager of Employees, and, more recently, Deputy of the Human Resources Department. He also served as Third Secretary of the Afghan Embassy in Pakistan. Mr. Ghafoori holds a Bachelor of Arts from the Faculty of Law and Political Science at Alberoni University, as well as several certificates from diplomatic and language institutes, such as Seoul National University. He speaks Dari, Pashto, English, and conversational Korean.



## Hosts



**Dr. Noriyuki Kawano** is currently the Director of the Institute for Peace Science at Hiroshima University. Dr. Kawano's research focuses on peace studies and global nuclear disasters, particularly in Chernobyl, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Semipalatinsk. Prior to joining the faculty of Hiroshima University, he served as a research associate at the International Radiation Information Center, Research Institute for Radiation Biology and Medicine and as a lecturer at Yasuda Women's College. He holds a Master of Arts from the Division of International Cooperation and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Applied Biomedicine from Hiroshima University.

**Ms. Mihoko Kumamoto** is currently Head of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) Hiroshima Office. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Kumamoto served with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in its New York, Indonesia, Samoa, and Vietnam offices. She has over 18 years of professional experience in the development cooperation field, including 13 years with the United Nations. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from West Virginia University and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from Columbia University.

