

Kiyotaka Akasaka, President of Foreign Press Center/Japan

Mr. Kiyotaka Akasaka was born in 1948 in Osaka Prefecture. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April 1971 immediately after graduating from Kyoto University, where he obtained a B.A. degree in Law. After obtaining a B.A. and M.A. in Economics at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the UK, Mr. Akasaka has been consistently working in the front line of Japanese diplomacy.

He has long been working in, in particular, international organizations; he worked at the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT - the precursor of the World Trade Organization) from 1988 to 1991, and at the World Health Organization (WHO) from 1993 to 1997.

After serving as Deputy Director-General of the Foreign Ministry's Multilateral Cooperation Department, he was Japan's Ambassador to the UN in 2000 and 2001. From 2003 to 2007, Mr. Akasaka held the position of Deputy Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). At the OECD, he was responsible for issues on development, the environment, sustainable development, and partnerships with other international organizations.

Mr. Akasaka has rich experience in public relations; besides being Deputy Director of the Press Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was for a long time in charge of public relations on climate change issues. As Deputy Secretary General of the OECD, he played an important role in strengthening OECD's PR activities.

From April 2007 to March 2012, Mr. Akasaka served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information. As the head of the UN Department of Public Information, he did his best to strengthen UN public relations, making use of the United Nations International Centres, the conventional media and new social media all over the world.

On August 1, 2012, Mr. Akasaka became President of the FPCJ.