

The Peacebuilding Support Office is pleased to invite you to a Brownbag discussion on:

**Challenges of the Peace Process on Syria: Astana meetings for ceasefire and
Intra-Syrian talks in Geneva**

with

Dr. Daisaku Higashi, Associate Professor at Sophia University in Tokyo

on Thursday 2 November 2017, 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

in Room S-1523 of the UN Secretariat

Feel free to share the invitation with colleagues.

Daisaku Higashi will share the key findings of his field research in August and September 2017 on the challenges of the peace process for Syria. He spent two weeks in Lebanon to hear numerous voices of Syrian refugees and Syrian experts who examine Syrian conflicts. He also spent three weeks in Geneva to interview more than 20 officials of member states and UN institutions who are involved in Syrian conflicts and its peace processes, including Staffan de Mistura, UN Special Envoy for Syria.

Dr. Daisaku Higashi is currently an associate professor at Sophia University in Tokyo. From 1993 to 2004 he worked for NHK, Japan Public TV station as a program director and produced numerous TV documentaries, including "Rebuilding Iraq: Challenges of the United Nations," which received the silver medal from the UN Correspondents Association in 2004. He completed his MA and PhD in political sciences at the University of British Columbia in Canada. He consulted on Afghan policies with government officials in Japan and the United States. His recommendation to create a new reconciliation mechanism in Afghanistan was adopted by the Japanese government in its Afghan strategy announced in November 2009. He then worked for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) from December 2009 to December 2010 as a team leader for reconciliation and reintegration. In January 2011, he started working for the University of Tokyo as an associate professor. He also served as a Minister-Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN from August 2012 to August 2014, with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) in his portfolio. He returned to the University of Tokyo in August 2014. He transferred to the tenure position at Center for Global Education at Sophia University in April 2016. His publications include *Human Security and Peacebuilding* (Nihon Hyoronsha 2017), *Challenges of Constructing Legitimacy in Peacebuilding* (Routledge 2015), *Peacebuilding: Research in Afghanistan and East Timor* (Iwanami Press 2009), *Why did we go to the war: dialogue of former enemies in the Vietnam War* (Heibonsha Library 2010).