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Kenichiro Sasae joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan after graduating from The University of Tokyo in 1974. His distinguished and illustrious diplomatic career includes prestigious assignments as Executive Assistant to the Prime Minister, Director-General of the Economic Affairs Bureau, Director-General of the Asian & Oceania Affairs Bureau, and Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs. During his period of service in Tokyo, he represented the Government of Japan in the Six-Party Talks on North Korean issues. He also worked as Political Director for the G-8 Summit. From 2012-2018, he served as Ambassador of Japan to the United States. In June 2018, Ambassador Sasae was appointed to his present post as President of The Japan Institute of International Affairs to head Japan's premier foreign affairs think tank. He has subsequently also chaired the Cabinet Secretariat's Expert Panel on Comprehensive Consideration of Defense Capabilities as National Power, and Expert Panel toward Improving Response Capabilities in the Field of Cybersecurity.