

H.E. HISAHICO OKAZAKI

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
to
Thailand

Arton Fungtammasan*

His Excellency HISAHICO OKAZAKI, Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Thailand was born on 8 April 1930. At the age of 22 in 1952, Mr. Okazaki passed the examination for Japanese Foreign Service as a junior of the Law Faculty, Tokyo University and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Later Mr. Okazaki had the chance to further his studies in England and graduated from the Faculty of Economics, Cambridge University and was appointed an attache in the Japanese Embassy in London. Thus he began his diplomatic career eversince.

In 1971 Mr. Okazaki was dispatched as a First Secretary to the Japanese Embassy

in Washington, D.C. and was promoted to the rank of Counsellor in the following year. In 1973 Mr. Okazaki was appointed a Counsellor in the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Three years later in 1976, Mr. Okazaki returned to Tokyo, holding a post of a counsellor in the Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 1978 Mr. Okazaki was appointed a Director-General for Foreign Relation in the Self-Defense Agency. From 1981 to 1982 Mr. Okazaki spent two fruitful years as a diplomat as well as a scholar in the United States. First, he was sent to The

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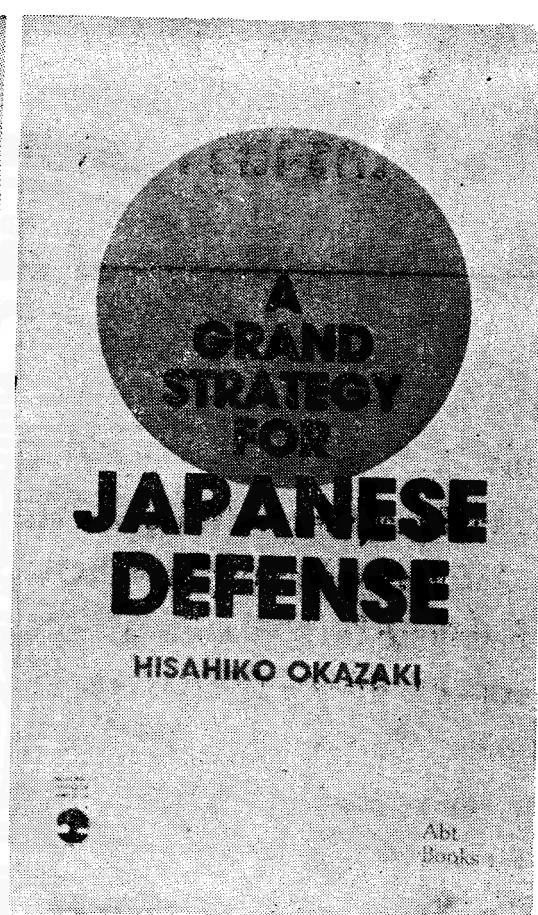
Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. as a Minister, and also became a visiting fellow at the CSIS of Georgetown University, later a visiting fellow at the Rand Corporation and also a visiting scholar at Harvard University. After his stay in the United States, Mr. Okazaki returned to Japan and was appointed Director-General of the Research and Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1984 H.E. Okazaki was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Saudi Arabia. After four successful years in Riyadh, he was appointed Ambassador to Thailand in 1988.

Eversince being appointed as Japanese Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Thailand, H.E. Okazaki has been very active diplomatically and academically. Besides the diplomatic task which keeps him busy all the time, H.E. Okazaki has been frequently invited by many academic institutes in Thailand to give the lectures on many topics including Thai-Japanese relations and Japanese Foreign Policy etc., or to be asked to comment in the symposium.

Busy as he is, H.E. Okazaki is always willing to accept the invitation if the time allows. In March 1989 he attended the International Conference on "Japan, the United States and ASEAN in the Next Decade" organized by Japanese Studies Center, Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University. This conference was jointly

sponsored by the Japan Foundation, U.S.-Japan Relations Program of Harvard University, and Resource System Institute of East-West Center. In August 1989, H.E. Okazaki visited Japanese Studies Center at the Rangsit Campus of Thammasat University and presented a perceptive lecture on "Thailand-Japan Relations in the Next Decade".

H.E. Okazaki's knowledge and interest are not confined in things about Japan, but he also takes a keen interest in Chinese classics as well. In September 1989, H.E. Okazaki, who had made a careful reading on "The Romance of Three Kingdoms" since his childhood, kindly accepted the invitation of The Institute of East Asian Studies Thammasat University to give a special lecture on "Japanese Point of Views on The Romance of Three Kingdoms". H.E. Okazaki's talk focussed on "Commentary on Texts of Letters : The first and the second letter". These two letters had been addressed to the Young Emperor by Chu Ke Liang, a famous Chinese strategist, analysing the situation of that time and the necessity of the campaigns to unify the divided country. With his diplomatic background and perceptive strategic thinking, H.E. Okazaki's comment was analytical, insightful and convincing as well. H.E. Okazaki's participations in various academic activities have been much appreciated by Thai Scholars at Thammasat University as well as other universities.



Besides being a successful diplomat, H.E. Okazaki is also a distinguished scholar and essayist, and has published several scholarly articles in the journals like "Bungei-shunju", and has written many book :

1. **A Japanese View of Detente**, Lexington Book. D.C. Heath 1974

2. **Essays on Korea** (in Japanese), awarded the Japan Essayist Club Prize in 1978

3. **State and Intelligence** (in Japanese), awarded the Suntory Academic Prize in 1981

4. **Strategic Thinking** (in Japanese) 1983

5. **A Grand Strategy for Japanese Defense**, Abt Book 1986

6. **Mutsu Munemitsu**** (in Japanese) 1987

** *Mutsu Munemitsu* (1844-97) was a diplomat and politician in the Meiji period, who wrote "Kenkenroku" (The Memoir of the Author). He was also the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Prime Minister Ito's second cabinet.