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## BIOGRAPHY

### **S. Ken Yamashita** Acting Assistant Administrator Europe and Eurasia



Since January 2009, Dr. S. Ken Yamashita has served as Acting Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (E&E), U.S. Agency for International Development.

In this capacity, Yamashita directs an estimated \$650 million annual budget which supports economic growth and fiscal reform, democracy-building, and social transition in the 15 European and Eurasian countries receiving U.S. foreign assistance. He represents USAID as the principal interlocutor with the National Security Council, the Department of State, and other U.S. government agencies regarding policy and programming in the region.

USAID's work in the E&E region has contributed significantly to the region's transition from Communism towards market-based democracy. To date, eleven countries in Central and Eastern Europe have graduated from United States economic assistance, have become full members of the European Union and are progressing from aid recipient to aid donor. The rise of active, civil societies and the growth of independent media have led to notable democratic breakthroughs elsewhere in the E&E region and progress on economic reforms has contributed to positive economic growth after years of contraction.

A Senior Executive Foreign Service Officer with a rank of Minister Counselor, Yamashita has served USAID for 16 years. He was the Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the E&E Bureau from March 2008 until assuming his current post. Since joining USAID in 1993, Yamashita has served as Director of the Office of Health for USAID/Ecuador, Chief of the Health Policy Division, Global Center for Health, Population, and Nutrition, USAID/Washington; and, Director of the Office of Health, USAID/South Africa. From 2001-2004, Yamashita served in Peru initially as Deputy Mission Director of USAID/Peru and subsequently as Interim Mission Director. In 2004, he was appointed USAID Mission Director for Kosovo. From 2006-2008, Yamashita was simultaneously the Director of Office of HIV/AIDS within USAID'S Bureau for Global Health and the USG Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, an appointment designated by the USAID Administrator through delegated authority of the U.S. Secretary of State.

Before joining USAID, Yamashita worked for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Futures Group, and the United Nations.

A native of Kobe, Japan, Yamashita received a B.A. in environmental engineering from the Johns Hopkins University in 1975, and a Ph.D. with a concentration of population and development economics from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health in 1980. He has received numerous awards and citations for his contributions to development, including the prestigious Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in 2009.

Yamashita is married and has two children.