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Japanese Diplomat to Eye Tokyo's Foreign Policy in Asia

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Japanese Diplomat to Eye Tokyo's Foreign Policy in Asia

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Japan's consul general based in Chicago will deliver an address about Tokyo's foreign policy in Asia at Illinois Wesleyan University on Jan. 20 (Thursday).

Mitoji Yabunaka's 4 p.m. speech, "An Overview of Japanese Foreign Policy Centering on the Asia Theatre," will take place in the Anderson Auditorium (C-101) of the Center for Natural Sciences, 201 E. Beecher St., Bloomington. The presentation is open to the public, free-of-charge.

Yabunaka, who entered Japan's diplomatic service in 1969, was named consul general of Japan at Chicago in 1998. Consular officials generally look after the commercial interests and the welfare of citizens in another country.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Yabunaka was posted to Japan's embassies in Korea and Indonesia. He also has served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a director in the Economic Affairs Bureau and the North American Affairs Bureau.

Yabunaka was a senior researcher at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London in 1990. He was named counsellor and later minister in Japan's permanent mission in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1991. Yabunaka was named director of the General Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1994.

He was a visiting professor at Osaka University in 1995. The following year, Yabunaka was named assistant vice-minister for parliamentary affairs in the Japanese Foreign Ministry and he was a lecturer at Waseda University.

In 1997, Yabunaka served as deputy director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His responsibilities in this role included helping to set the agenda for 1998 visits to Japan by Kim Dae Jung, president of the Republic of Korea, and Jiang Zemin, president of the People's Republic of China.

Yabunaka is the author of Japan-U.S. Economic Negotiations, In Search of a New World Order, and Japan-U.S. Structural Impediment Initiatives.

Yabunaka graduated from Osaka University, faculty of law, in 1969, and Cornell University in 1973.

He is married to Naomi Yabunaka and has two college-age children in Japan.

Yabunaka's IWU visit is sponsored by academic programs interested in Japanese studies and the President's office.

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$23-million library and a \$6-million student center. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the

nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's rank are Princeton and Dartmouth.