



## **HASHIMOTO, Ryutaro**

**Chairman of UN Secretary-General's  
Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation,  
Former Prime Minister of Japan**

Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto was Japanese Prime Minister from January 1996 to July 1998. During his 42 year long political career, Mr. Hashimoto has assumed key posts both in government and in the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). In 1970 Mr. Hashimoto became Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Health and Welfare, and from 1972 to 1974 he served as Director of the Social Affairs Division of the LDP Policy Research Council. Mr. Hashimoto also served as Deputy Chairman of the LDP Policy Research Council from 1974 to 1976. At the age of 41, he became Minister of Health and Welfare. From 1980 to 1986, he served as Chairman of the LDP Research Commission on Public Administration and Finance, and from 1984 to 1986, he served as Chairman of the LDP Research Commission on Fundamental Policies for Medical Care. In 1986 Mr. Hashimoto became Minister of Transport. He subsequently held several important party positions, including Acting Secretary-General from 1987 to 1989 and Secretary-General in 1989. From 1989 to 1991, Mr. Hashimoto held the post of Minister of Finance. Then from 1993 to 1994, he was Chairman of the Research Commission on Fundamental Environmental Issues and Chairman of the LDP Policy Research Council. In 1994 Mr. Hashimoto was appointed Minister of International Trade and Industry. During his tenure in the cabinet, he was elected President of the LDP in 1995. Then in 1996 he became Deputy Prime Minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Murayama. From 1998 to 2001 he served as Senior Foreign Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister, and in 2000 was appointed Minister of State for Administrative Reform and Minister of State and Director-General of the Okinawa Development Agency. In April 2001 he was also appointed Minister of State for Regulatory Reform. Until recently he has served as Senior Advisor for Administrative Reform Promotion Headquarters of the LDP and Chairman of Okinawa Promotion Committee in the LDP.

In 2004, he was presented with a Special UNEP award in recognition of his 30 year long contribution to environment preservation. He has been Chairman of Globe Japan, which was established in 1989 to construct international cooperative relationship and has been Chairman of UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB) since 2004." Currently, he is a leader of many cultural and environmental institutions including Chairman of UNSGAB and President of Japan Water Forum.