



Ministry of Justice is closely connected to every member of the community



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
OF JAPAN**

2024

Happiness Protected by Laws

In order to live in this community, rules and regulations are necessary. Such rules ensure that family relationships with parents and children or brothers and sisters are accurately registered, that people can live safely within the community, and that ordered materials can be obtained without fail.

Furthermore, to maintain peace and order in society, it is also essential that persons who harm others or commit crimes are appropriately punished.

The Ministry of Justice not only establishes the basic rules applicable to society but also creates the basic judicial framework to ensure that these rules are complied. The Ministry also assumes responsibility for a broad range of legal issues under which those who have been punished are supported in the rehabilitation processes.

In addition, the Ministry oversees the management of a system that helps citizens exercise their personal rights, such as the registration of real estate and notarization.

Other important duties of the Ministry of Justice are to ensure appropriate immigration control of those entering and departing from Japan, that the basic human rights of individuals are respected, and that intelligence activities are carried out for the purpose of public security.



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About the Ministry of Justice

Structure, Historical Background, Number of Personnel of budget base, and Budget

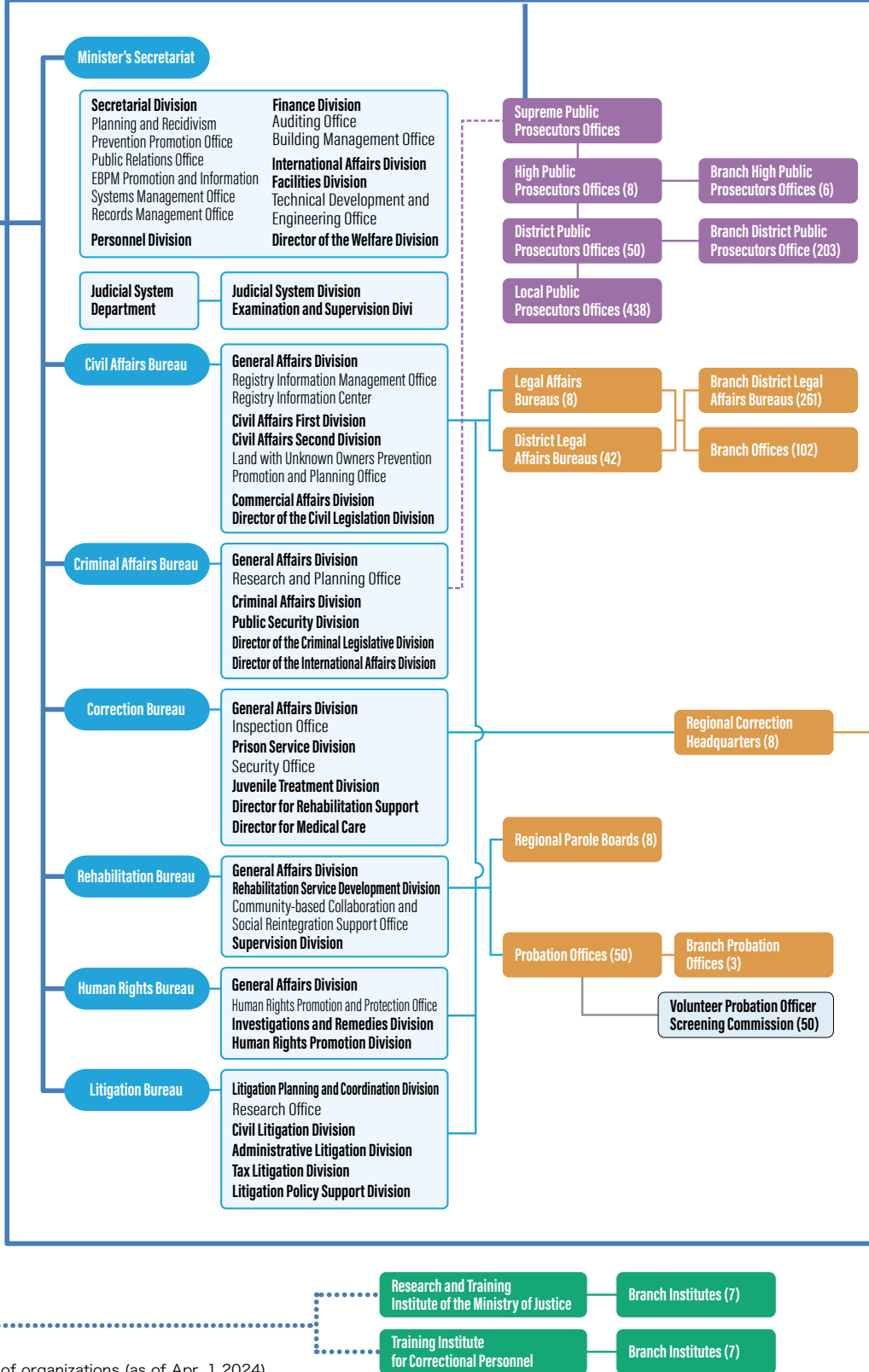
ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Minister of Justice

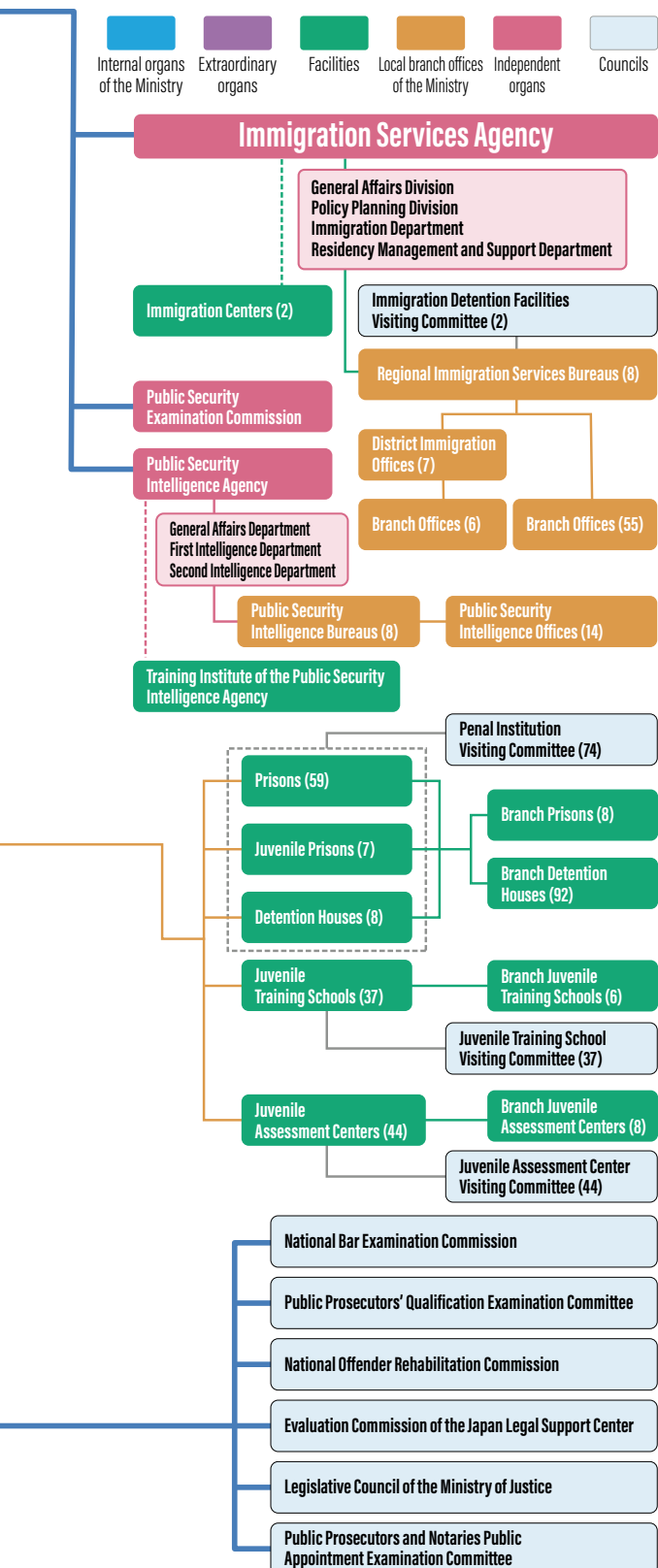
State Minister of Justice

Vice-Minister of Justice

Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Justice



Figures in parentheses show the number of organizations (as of Apr. 1 2024)



Historical Background

- 1871 ● Shihosho established
- 1947 ● Separated from Shihosho, came under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court
- 1948 ● Ministry of Justice
- 1949 ● Renamed Homufu (with 3 director-generals and 11 bureaus)
- 1952 ● Renamed the Ministry of Justice (with Minister's Secretariat and 7 bureaus)
- 2001 ● Reorganization of the central government (with Minister's Secretariat and 6 bureaus)
- 2015 ● Litigation Bureau established (with Minister's Secretariat and 7 bureaus)
- 2019 ● New Establishment of Immigration Services Agency (Minister's Secretariat, 6 Bureaus)

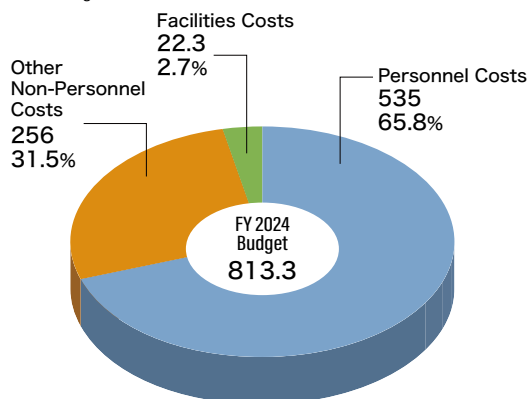
Number of Personnel of budget base (FY 2024)

Organization Name	Personnel
Ministry of Justice	860
Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice	84
Legal Affairs Bureaus	9,081
Public Prosecutors Offices	11,862
Correctional Institutions	23,653
Probation Offices and Regional Parole Boards	1,841
Immigration Services Agency	6,358
Public Security Examination Commission	4
Public Security Intelligence Agency	1,799
Total	55,542

Note: Special officers are included in the Ministry of Justice.

Budget (FY 2024)

The MOJ FY 2024 Budget comprises a general budget of 813.3 billion yen and 50 million yen for the "Special Account for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake". Personnel costs comprise 65.8% of the general budget.





For the achievement of a society without recidivism nor any new victims of crime

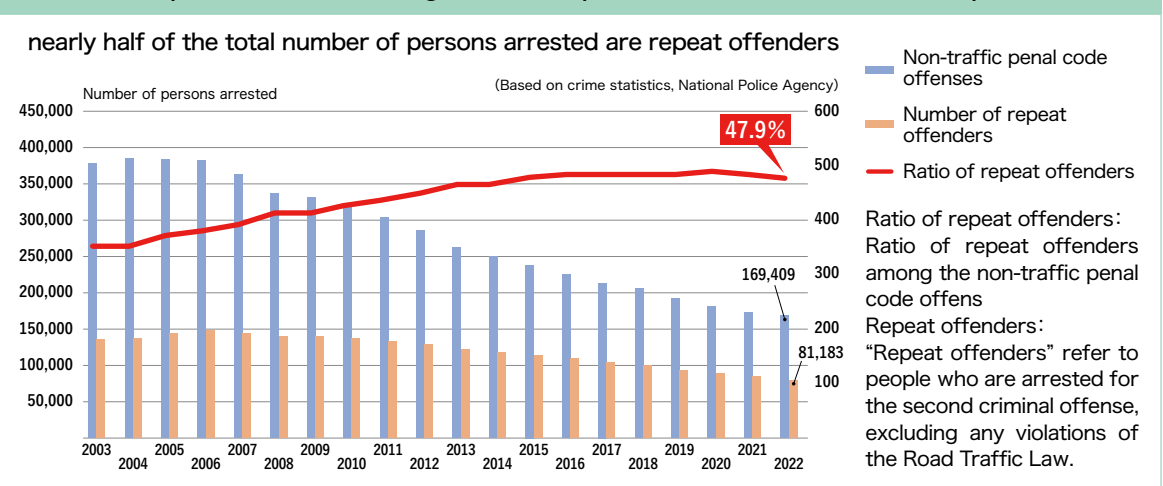
The Ministry of Justice promotes measures to prevent recidivism so that citizens do not become the victims of crimes. The Ministry also aims to realize a society where citizens can live safely and securely so that persons who have committed crimes or juvenile delinquents will smoothly reintegrate into society without committing additional crimes.



Why is it necessary to prevent Recidivism?

The number of reported crimes has decreased for 20 consecutive years since the initial decline in 2003; however, the ratio of repeat offenders has not decreased—it has remained at nearly one-half of the total number of persons arrested. In other words, approximately one in two people who committed a crime are repeat offenders. Implementing measures against repeat offenders is very effective in order to reduce the crime rate.

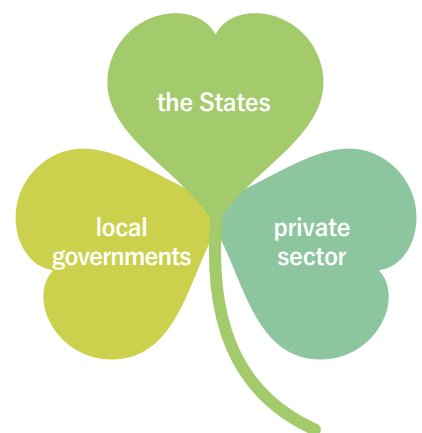
Number of repeat offenders among non-traffic penal code offenses / ratio of repeat offenders



Never committing a crime or acts of delinquency

In order to prevent offenders and juvenile delinquents from committing a new crime or engaging additional acts of delinquency, criminal justice agencies must provide guidance and education. However, some people who have repeatedly committed crimes or acts of delinquency have problems with work, housing, old age, poverty, mental well-being, or disabilities. These factors affect offenders, and as a result, they may commit additional crimes or acts of delinquency.

Therefore, in addition to guidance and education from organizations within the criminal justice system, a variety of other kinds of support are required to prevent recidivism. In implementing the support, it is important that private-sector organizations and other relevant parties engaged in the prevention of recidivism should come together to provide long-term support with an eye toward not only organizations within the criminal justice system but also the time after the criminal justice processes.





The Act for the Prevention of Recidivism and Recidivism Prevention Plan

With regard to measures related to recidivism prevention, in addition to the formulation of fundamental principles and clear stipulation of the responsibilities of both the national government and local governments, in December 2016 the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism was established and put into force, prescribing provisions to form the basis of recidivism prevention measures. Furthermore, the Recidivism Prevention Plan (1st Prevention Plan) was formulated for the purpose of comprehensively and systematically implementing measures related to recidivism prevention based on the Recidivism Prevention prevention Act, and was approved by the Cabinet in December 2017. With the period of the 1st Plan concluding at the end of FY2022, the 2nd Recidivism Prevention Plan (2nd Prevention Plan) was approved by the Cabinet in March 2023. Under the 2nd Prevention Plan, the following three basic directions and seven important matters have been identified, and concrete measures that are to be implemented in accordance with these are described.

Basic Policies

- ① Respecting the autonomy of individuals and realizing support that addresses the challenges they each face
- ② Building counselling bases and support networks for increasing support effectiveness
- ③ Promote independent and active efforts by local governments based on sharing roles between the state and local governments and strengthen the connections among the state, local governments, and cooperating members of the private sector.

Major Challenges

- ① Securing Employment and Housing
- ② Promote the access to health, medical and welfare services
- ③ Implementing school attendance aid in cooperation with schools, etc.
- ④ Implement effective guidance matching the traits of the persons who committed a crime and others
- ⑤ Promoting activities of cooperating members of the private sector
- ⑥ Promote regional inclusion
- ⑦ Develop a foundation for preventing recidivism

※Under the 1st Prevention Plan, Item (6) is “Strengthening cooperation with local governments authorities.” However, in consideration of the importance of people who have committed crimes or delinquency returning to local communities as members of society, “Promoting regional inclusion” was newly positioned as a priority issue under the 2nd Prevention Plan.

Under the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism, recidivism prevention measures implemented by the government are reported annually in the White Paper on Recidivism on Prevention.

For those who have committed crimes or acts of delinquency, cooperation from local people other than national and local governments is essential for rehabilitation and recovery.

We appreciate your continued understanding and cooperation in the measures to prevent recidivism.



For more information on the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism, visit here.



For more information on the Recidivism Prevention Plan, visit here.



For more information on the White Paper on Recidivism Prevention, visit here.



Sexual offenses are heinous crimes that damage the dignity of victims, causing them serious mental and physical suffering lasting for many years.

In 2023, to enable such crimes to be dealt with more appropriately, not only were the Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure revised, but also a new law, the Act for Punishment of Photographing or Filming Sexually Explicit Images, was enacted.

From “Forcible sexual offense” to “Non-consensual sexual offense”

The term “Forcible sexual offense” has been replaced with “Non-consensual sexual offense”

In situations where it is difficult for the victim to form, express, or carry out the will to not consent

Think “No”

Say “No”

Stick to “No”

due to factors such as “assault”, “threat”, “impairment”, “alcohol”, “drugs”, “freezing”, “abuse”, or “influential position (of the perpetrator)”, engaging in sexual or indecent acts is punishable as a “**Penetrative sexual assault**” or “**Indecent assault**”.

Sexual acts should be performed voluntarily in accordance with the individual’s own free will. Sexual offenses are sexual acts that are performed under circumstances where it is difficult for the individual to freely choose to participate.

In order to state this point more clearly, provisions were changed under amendments to the law to stipulate that sexual acts performed under circumstances where it is difficult for the victim to form, express, or carry out the will to not consent are punishable as “Penetrative sexual assault” or “Indecent assault”.

Furthermore, in addition to “assault” and “threat”, various other factors regarded as causing such circumstances were given as concrete examples, including “impairment”, “alcohol”, and “influential position (of the perpetrator)”.

Protecting young people from sexual victimization

Under these law revisions, provisions for deterring sexual offenses that take advantage of young people’s immaturity have been established.

One of these measures is raising the so-called age of consent.

Under the Penal Code prior to these revisions, performing sexual acts on a child under 13 years old, even if there was no “force” or “threat” and the child appears to have been consenting, was uniformly punished as a sexual offense, but under these amendments, the age of consent was raised to “under 16 years old”. While under these provisions, performing sexual acts on a child between 13 and 15 years old is punishable when the perpetrator is 5 or more years older than the child, the perpetrator who is 4 or less years older than the child can be punished when the act meets the requirements for “Penetrative sexual assault” or “Indecent assault”.

Requesting to meet with a child under 16 years old for the purpose of performing an indecent act is a crime.

Performing the following acts on a **child under 16 years old** is punishable.(※)

- 1 Requesting to meet with a child under 16 years of age for the purpose of performing an indecent act by such means as lying to or saying that they will give money to the child.
- 2 Meeting with a child for the purpose of performing an indecent act as a result of 1 above.
- 3 Requesting a child take and send sexually explicit images of themselves.

(※)When the child is between 13 and 15 years old, these acts are punishable if the perpetrator is 5 or more years older than the child.

Furthermore, in order to protect young people from sexual victimization, new provisions have been established to punish acts against children under 16 years old such as using unfair means to request a meeting with the child for the purpose of performing an indecent act or requesting the child to take and send sexually explicit images of themselves.

Non-consensual photography and other acts are punishable under new laws.

Taking sexually explicit photographs or videos without consent is a “voyeurism offense”.

Performing the following acts is punishable as a **“Voyeurism offense”** or **“Supply offense”**.(※)

- 1 Secretly photographing or filming a person’s sexual parts or underwear without justifiable grounds.
- 2 Photographing or filming the sexual parts or underwear of a child under 16 years old without justifiable grounds.
- 3 Supplying the photographs/videos taken in 1 or 2 above to a third party.

(※)When the child is between 13 and 15 years old, these acts are punishable if the perpetrator is 5 or more years older than the child.

Recently, there has been a large number of voyeurism cases in which photographs or videos were taken using smartphones and other devices, and these acts are causing serious harm.

To ensure that these acts are dealt with strictly, provisions have been established under the newly established Act for the Punishment of Photographing or Filming Sexually Explicit Images to punish acts such as secretly photographing or filming a person’s sexual parts or underwear without justifiable grounds, or photographing or filming the sexual parts or underwear of a child aged under 16 years old.

This revision includes various other amendments such as the extension of the statute of limitations for sexual offenses.

See here for details of the amendments.



Three leaflet types—for elementary school, junior high school/high school, and university students—are also available.



Leaflet for junior high school/high school students



What is Unclaimed Land?

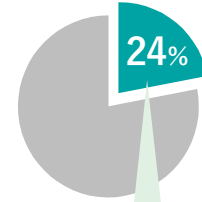
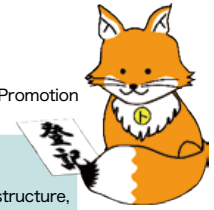
Unclaimed land refers to land that falls under any of the following due to the lack of registration of an inheritance and other reasons.

- ① Land whose owner cannot be immediately identified from the real property register
- ② Land whose owner cannot be contacted because their whereabouts are unknown

Over 20% of the land in Japan (equivalent to the area of the main island of Kyushu) is unclaimed land, which results in a major social problem.

Real Property Registration Promotion
Mascot Registration Fox

Ration of Unclaimed land
(Research conducted
by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism in 2022)



Causes

No Inheritance
registration

61%

No registration of a
change of address

35%



What problems are caused by land with unknown owners?



Because searching for the owners of land is time consuming and costly, land with unknown owners causes various problems such as obstructing the smooth progress of public works and recovery/reconstruction projects, thereby hindering private transactions and land use; and land being abandoned because it cannot be managed properly, negatively impacting adjacent land. As Japan's population continues to age and decline, addressing these problems is an urgent issue.



Measures to prevent land with unknown owners

○Mandatory application for inheritance registration (starting April 1, 2024)

Under amendments to the Real Property Registration Act, applying for inheritance registration, which heretofore had been optional, will become mandatory.



Details of mandatory application for inheritance registration

Inheritors will be legally required to register their inheritance within 3 years from the day that they learn that they have inherited property (land/building).

If the inheritor fails to register their inheritance without justifiable grounds, a fine of up to 100,000 yen may be imposed.

In a case where the inheritor acquires property through the division of inherited property (discussion among inheritors), they are required to separately register their inheritance within 3 years from the day of the property division in accordance with the details of the property division. Property inherited prior to April 1, 2024 that has not been registered as inheritance must be registered by March 31, 2027.

Application for inheritance registration (starting on April 1, 2024)

A new system, the "Inheritor Application Registry", will also be introduced as a simple means for inheritors to fulfill their obligation to register their inheritance.

Under this system, inheritors are able to individually and simply submit a notification of their inheritance even in cases where it is difficult for them to register the inheritance due to disagreement among inheritors regarding the inheritance.

However, it must be kept in mind that it is not possible for inheritors to fulfill their obligation under the law to register their inheritance through the "Inheritor Application Registry" once the division of inherited property has been concluded; and that the efficacy of the system is limited as rights related to the property are not made public.

Unclaimed Land

○Establishment of a system for certifying the registered real property a person owns (starting on February 2, 2026)

A new system has been established whereby the registrar creates and certifies a complete list of the properties for which a specific inheritee (deceased parent, etc.) is registered as the owner in the registry.

○Mandatory application for registration of a change of address (starting on April 1, 2026)

Applying for registration of a change of address, which heretofore had been optional, will also become mandatory. The change of address must be registered within 2 years from the day of the change of address due to relocation or other reasons.

The following measures will also be introduced alongside mandatory application for registration of change of address.



Because address information for natural persons (individuals) can be found in the Basic Resident Register, a new system is being established that digitally connects the Legal Affairs Bureau's Property Register and the Basic Resident Register network, enabling the registrar to update property addresses with official authority without having to wait for the owners to apply for a change of address.

In the case of corporations, a new system is being prepared whereby the registrar is able to update property addresses with official authority by notifying information regarding changes to the names or addresses of corporations from the Commercial Corporation Register system to the Property Register system.

This is expected to alleviate the burden of applying for the registration of a change in address.



An easy-to-understand manga explaining the new systems is available on the Ministry of Justice website, so please be sure to take a look.

Learn
more



○Revision of the Rules in Civil Laws (starting April 1, 2023)

Since the use of land is hindered by the fact that some landowners are unknown or unlocatable, civil laws were revised, and a new system was established to facilitate the use of the land.

<Example>

- Preparation of mechanisms for enabling the exclusion of co-owners whose whereabouts are unknown and managing common property.
- Establishment of mechanisms to enable an owner who co-owns a property to acquire the interests of a co-owner whose whereabouts is unknown.
- Establishment of a system for managing land/property with unknown owners and a system for managing mismanaged land/property to deal with cases in which the owner or their whereabouts are unknown, or cases when not properly managed.
- Establishment of mechanisms to ensure that any division of inherited property taking place more than 10 years after inheritance has begun is carried out uniformly according to the legal share of the inheritance.
- Preparation of mechanisms to enable the use of other land within the scope necessary for landowners to install lifeline utilities such as water and gas on their land.



Learn
more





Promote measures to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals

On April 1, 2019, the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice reorganized into the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, an external bureau of the Ministry of Justice, with the novel mission of improving the environment to receive foreign residents for the realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, in addition to addressing the issues of smooth and strict immigration examinations, proper management of foreign residents, and prompt and protection of refugees.

On January, 2021, the “Ministerial Conference on the Acceptance and Coexistence of Foreign Nationals” (referred to below as “Ministerial Conference”) decided to convene the “Advisory Panel of Experts for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” to study the ideal form of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, assess the medium- to long-term issues to address toward the realization of such a society, and provide recommendations to the Ministerial Conference. The opinion compiled by the Advisory Panel was submitted to the Minister of Justice, co-chair of the Ministerial Conference, on November 29 of the same year. Based on this report, at a meeting of relevant ministers in June 2022, the “Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” was adopted (and partially revised in June 2023), outlining Japan’s vision for a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals as well as medium- and long-term issues that need to be addressed in order to realize such as society. It was also decided that the government would work as one to further promote the creation of an environment for realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.



Counselling for foreign residents



Consultation counter at Foreign Residents Support Center

Learn more 

Main measures being implemented by the Immigration Services Agency

○LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH

In order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, it is important that all people living in Japan deepen their interest in and understanding of the necessity and meaningfulness of creating such a society. Starting from 2024, the Ministry of Justice has designated January as “Life in Harmony Promotion Month”, an awareness month related to harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals. During this period, various promotional and educational activities and events are held to foster awareness aimed at realizing a society of harmonious coexistence, including the month’s central event, the “All Together Festival”.



ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL



Learn more 

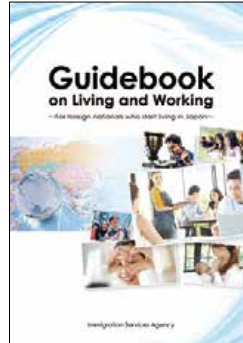
Promotion of Measures for Realizing a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals - Amending the Immigration Control Act in order to Resolve the Issues of Deportation Avoidance and Long-term Detention

Coexistence with Foreign Nationals/ the Issues of Deportation Evasion and Long-term Detention

OGuidebook on Living and Working

The Immigration Services Agency, with cooperation from a wide range of sections of the government, compiled the *Guidebook on Living and Working*, which provides the basic information (residency procedures, labor-related laws, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) necessary for safe and secure daily life and for the employment of foreign residents in Japan.

※The guidebook can be seen on the “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” page on the agency’s website in 16 languages (Japanese [including plain Japanese], English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Nepalese, Thai, Indonesian, Burmese [Myanmar language], Khmer [Cambodian], Filipino, Mongolian, Turkish, and Ukrainian)

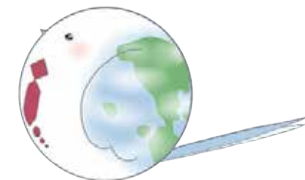


https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/guidebook_all.html

OSpreading the use of plain Japanese

In order to promote the use of plain Japanese by the national government, local government, and other entities, the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Resident Support” were created in 2020 with a focus on plain Japanese written language; “Spoken Language Points” were created in 2022 with a focus on plain Japanese spoken language; and the “Guideline for Plain Japanese Training” was created in 2023 as a compilation of methodologies for carrying out plain Japanese training. These guidelines are available on “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” on the website of the Immigration Services Agency.

Training for employees of local government and other entities is being implemented based on these guidelines with the aim of promoting the spread and usage of plain Japanese.



Plain Japanese Promotion Mascot
Kotorin



https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/support/portal/plainjapanese_guideline.html



Amendments to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act to resolve the Issues of the Deportation Evasion and Long-Term Detention

The Bill for Amendment of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (the Amendment Bill) was passed on June 9, 2023 at the 211st ordinary session of the Diet. Under the current system, foreign nationals whose deportation has been conclusively determined by administration can unrestrictedly suspend their deportation by repeating application for recognition of refugee status, regardless of the reason and the number of application. This has made it difficult for the Immigration Services Agency to promptly and appropriately deport these deportation evaders.

The Amendment Bill aims to resolve these issues of deportation evasion and long-term detention of deportation evaders and also create a system for providing foreign nationals who need international protection on humanitarian grounds, such as displaced persons from conflict, with the status for protection equivalent to refugee.

The Amendment Bill lays out certain measures, including the creation of (a) exceptions to suspension of deportation of applicants for refugee status and a deportation order for deportation evaders with penalties; (b) a new alternative to detention for those under deportation proceedings; and (c) recognition system of complimentary protection for foreign nationals who need international protection and application procedure of special permission to stay in Japan for those who need protection on humanitarian consideration.

The goal of these measures is to resolve in a comprehensive manner the above-mentioned issues under the current system and also lay foundations for realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.



What is “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”?

The Ministry of Justice is promoting “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”, an initiative to promote across the globe the values such as the rule of law and respect for human rights that are the foundations for creating safe, secure societies where all people are protected by laws.

The promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” contributes to the development of the legal infrastructure that supports economic growth and sustainable development. The initiative also strengthens cooperation between countries that share the values such as the rule of law and contributes to the realization of an international order based on the rule of law.

As the international community faces unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force, the importance of promoting “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”- which seeks to share the values such as the rule of law that serve as the foundation of peace and security within the international community - is ever more prevalent and pressing.



The “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum

In 2023, Japan celebrated the 50th Year of Friendship and Cooperation with ASEAN and held the seat of the G7 Presidency. During this special year, the Ministry of Justice convened the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum on 6 and 7 July in Tokyo with the aim of strengthening mutual cooperation with both ASEAN and the G7, as well as further promoting “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”. During the Forum, three ministerial-level meetings were convened with the attendance of the Justice Ministers, Attorneys General, and other representatives from 23 countries and organizations: the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers, the G7 Justice Ministers’ Meeting, and the ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers’ Interface.

Photo at the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum



See here for a summary of the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum results.



See here for a video of the highlights of the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum.



Follow-up to the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum



● Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine (ACT for Ukraine)

The G7 Justice Ministers’ Meeting discussed an agenda item of “assisting Ukraine’s rebuilding efforts in the field of law and justice”, and the G7 Justice Ministers and Attorneys General came together as one to pledge support for Ukraine’s efforts in fighting corruption. Furthermore, based on Japan’s proposal, the meeting agreed to establish the Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine (ACT for Ukraine), as reflected in its outcome document, the G7 Justice Ministers’ Communiqué (The Tokyo Declaration). Supporting Ukraine in its fight against corruption is an extremely important issue that not only contributes to building a better nation but will also use reconstruction aid from countries around the world, including Japan, in a fair and equitable manner in the post-war period.

At the First Expert Meeting held in December 2023, five anti-corruption experts from Ukraine were invited to Japan and participated in the meeting. Anti-corruption experts from the G7 and international organizations also participated online to discuss and share a common understanding of the current anti-corruption measures in Ukraine as well as effective support.

In 2024, the Task Force will continue to hold expert meetings and support Ukraine’s rebuilding efforts through anti-corruption assistance.



● ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum

At the ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers' Interface, the first-ever meeting of Justice Ministers from both ASEAN and the G7 members, participants expressed their willingness to continue holding such dialogues in the field of law and justice and supported the proposal by Japan to establish the ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum.



The objective of this forum is to foster longstanding mutual understanding and trust between ASEAN and the G7 by bringing together young government officials to discuss topics or issues of common interest in the field of law and justice that transcend national borders, cultural differences, and areas of expertise. In addition, this forum will establish an alumni network to facilitate networking among ASEAN and the G7 across generations. The first forum will be held from the end of June to early July 2024 in Tokyo in an in-person format.



14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (The Kyoto Congress)

The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (The Kyoto Congress), held in Kyoto over six days from 7-12 March 2021, drew a record attendance of more than 5,000 participants from 152 countries with Ministers from 90 countries delivering statements. The UN Crime Congress, held once every five years, is the largest conference of the UN in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The overall theme of the Kyoto Congress was "Advancing crime prevention, criminal justice, and the rule of law: towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda." As its outcome document, the "Kyoto Declaration" was adopted, which serves as a guidance for the UN and the Member States in creating policies and actions to take in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

The Ministry of Justice is taking a lead in the implementation of the "Kyoto Declaration" by actively implementing the following three initiatives that expand on the results of the Kyoto Congress.

- ① Leading the formulation of the "United Nations Standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending"
- ② Regular holding of the "Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness"(Col-YF)
- ③ Regular holding of the "Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific" (Crim-AP)



Promoting Legal Technical Assistance

For many years, the Ministry of Justice has contributed to the spread of the rule of law and the strengthening of good governance by providing assistance for improving legal systems in developing countries. In the field of civil and commercial law, we have assisted developing countries, mainly in Asia, for around 30 years by providing assistance in drafting basic laws, developing judicial systems that administer the enacted laws and regulations, and building the capacity of legal professionals in response to the actual situation and needs of each country. Furthermore, in the field of criminal justice, we have provided international training for the last 60 years for criminal justice practitioners with a focus on crime prevention and the treatment of offenders mainly in Asian and African countries.

Legal technical assistance contributes to the development of judicial systems in developing countries and the spread of the rule of law. Furthermore, legal technical assistance also leads to strengthening the relationship between Japan and the partner countries as a means of face-to-face international cooperation with the relevant persons concerned in these countries. It is an important initiative for promoting "Justice Affairs Diplomacy".

The importance of our initiatives in providing legal technical assistance was also confirmed at the "Justice Affairs Diplomacy" Ministerial Forum in July 2023. The Joint Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers calls for strengthening and promoting such initiatives between Japan and the ASEAN region. Moving forward, we will further promote legal technical assistance, including cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary assistance based on our long-standing experience and the increasingly complex and advanced needs of partner countries.





Minister's Secretariat

Mission

The Minister's Secretariat is an organization established in all ministries responsible for general administrative duties such as secretarial, personnel, and finance, as well as overall coordination of policy planning and formulation. The Minister's Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice houses the Judicial System Department, Secretarial Division, Personnel Division, Finance Division, International Affairs Division, Facilities Division, and Director of the Welfare Division (see page 17 onwards for the duties of the Judicial System Division, International Affairs Division and Facilities Division).

Steering and overall coordination within the Ministry

The Ministry of Justice is tasked with a wide range of policies relevant to the lives of people, such as maintaining and improving the basic legal system, maintaining law and order, protecting the rights of the people, ensuring the unified and proper handling of disputes related to the interests of the country, and fairly managing immigration and foreign nationals' residency.

In order to accomplish these missions, the affairs under its jurisdiction have been specifically subdivided, and the departments with jurisdiction have been defined. However, for diversified and complicated social situations, many of the policies involve multiple departments and policy issues that must be considered by the Ministry of Justice as a whole. Therefore, it is extremely important to play the role of "steering the Ministry of Justice" by coordinating the planning and drafting process of the various policies and formulating and implementing the Ministry of Justice's response policies within the Ministry and with related ministries and agencies.

The Minister's Secretariat is responsible for the overall coordination among the various bureaus and departments to ensure the smooth operation of these legal administrations.

To smoothly carry out legal administration by the people for the people

One of the characteristics of the Ministry of Justice is the large number of local institutions (Legal Affairs Bureau, Public Prosecutor's Office, prisons, probation offices, Immigration Services Bureau, etc.) and the fact that more than 55,000 employees work throughout the country. The content of its work is also closely linked to the lives of individual citizens, including the operation of the registration system to help citizens realize their rights, human rights protection activities, and rehabilitation support for those who have committed crimes and delinquencies. Because of these characteristics the legal administration is called "administration by the people for the people."

Since creating an environment in which not only the Ministry but also local institutions are properly maintained and operated and in which each employee is able to perform assigned duties with vitality will eventually lead to the *realization of a fair and just society in which everyone can live safely and securely*, the Minister's Secretariat plays an important role in matters related to the overall structure and capacity of the Ministry of Justice, budget requests for implementing policies, and the maintenance of government buildings and other facilities.

What is "Houmu SHOW"?

The "Houmu SHOW" Editorial Office is a voluntary public relation team that was established in April 2021 with the aim of transmitting information from a new point of view in order to widely inform both domestic and overseas of the Ministry of Justice and its measures.

As of January 2024, a team of 13 members is collaborating across departments and engaging in various activities to spread the appeal of the Ministry of Justice both internally and externally, such as posting information on social media, creating a mascot character, and conducting interviews with staff.



Staff interview



▲ Houmu SHOW's official mascot MOMOJAN



▲ Making video with the Ministry of Justice mascots



Official website



Official X account



Official Instagram account



Official YouTube account



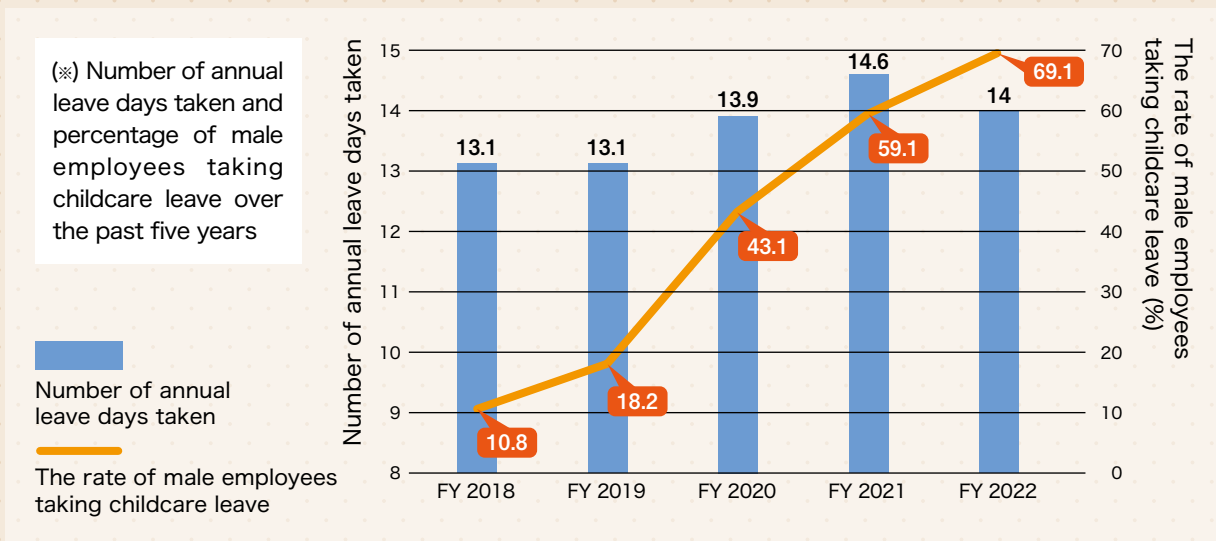
At Home Plan - plus one - : Aiming to achieve diversity and inclusion

In order to promote women's activities in their professional lives and work-life balance for all employees, the Ministry of Justice has formulated the "At Home Plan - Plus One -" and is implementing the "Plus One" initiative as the Ministry of Justice with its own initiative and originality, in addition to government-wide efforts.

As part of the "Plus One" initiative, the Ministry is working to encourage male employees to take childcare leave, promote the use of annual leave, foster an atmosphere in which taking leave is normal, and introduce a childcare mentor system to ease the concerns of employees returning from childcare leave. In addition, the Ministry is planning to further promote an appropriate work-life balance and women employees activities.

The number of days of annual leave taken and the percentage of male employees taking childcare leave over the past five years (*) show that these figures are on an upward trend, which is an indication of the results of the above initiatives.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to further develop the above initiatives to create an attractive workplace where all employees can work with vigor and enthusiasm.



Note: The number of annual leave days taken (days) is calculated in the calendar year.

EBPM initiatives by the Ministry of Justice

As seen in the rapid progress of digitalization and the COVID-19 pandemic, the environment is changing rapidly, and social issues are becoming increasingly more complex and difficult, making it difficult to predict the future. Even under these circumstances, the government must respond firmly to and resolve a variety of social issues.

Against this backdrop, it has been pointed out that there exists the so-called "myth of infallibility", which is the tendency of the Japanese public administration to believe *that the administration cannot be wrong* and that *the current system is not wrong*. If you are caught up in infallibility, even if the environment changes and our policies do not adequately address social issues, you will easily continue to follow precedents, claiming that they have been right up until now.

In order to break free from this infallibility and respond to increasingly more complex social issues, it is necessary to establish a policy planning and evaluation system that allows us to learn and search for effective policies based on the premise that social conditions are constantly changing.

Consequently, the Ministry of Justice has been working on *evidence-based policymaking* (EBPM), which clarifies the logical linkage between policy objectives and measures as the basic policy framework. By clarifying the policy framework, it will be possible for the government and the various stakeholders to collaborate on increasingly more complex social issues with shared objectives and to verify and improve them after the fact. EBPM is an activity that will be the basis of policymaking in the future.



Mission

The International Affairs Division of the Minister's Secretariat was established on April 1, 2018 for the purpose of promoting "Justice Affairs Diplomacy", which is an effort to promote such values as the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights internationally. The Division is responsible for planning and overall coordination of basic policies regarding international affairs of the Ministry of Justice, organizing international conferences, and providing courtesy calls by foreign government officials and others. On a daily basis, the International Affairs Division responds to the various inquiries from relevant ministries, international organizations, embassies, and related organizations regarding the international affairs of the Ministry of Justice, and conducts comprehensive planning for international measures or implementation by the Ministry of Justice, which must be based on a cross-ministry strategy.

Implementing the Kyoto Declaration

The Ministry of Justice is taking a leading role in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration adopted at the Kyoto Congress by actively implementing the following three pillars (for an overview of the Kyoto Congress, see page 13-14 on the "Promotion of Justice Affairs Diplomacy.")

1 Leading the formulation of the United Nations Standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending

The Kyoto Declaration includes detailed text on reducing reoffending, reflecting the strong interest expressed by different countries on this issue. In this context, Japan formulated the Recidivism Prevention Plan and has a history of implementing recidivism prevention efforts through public-private partnerships, including the Hogoshi system—a volunteer probation officer system that has been in operation for more than 130 years—as well as employment support provided by cooperating employers and private businesses that hire released prisoners who cannot easily find stable jobs because of their criminal history or past delinquencies. Building on such experiences, the Ministry of Justice is leading the formulation of the UN Standards and Norms on Reducing Reoffending in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The UN Standards and Norms play an important role in enhancing national policies by serving as a reference when drafting legislation and policies in each country.

Ministry of Justice aims to also support the implementation of these UN Standards and Norms in developing countries, thereby contributing to measures designed to reduce recidivism in each country.



The Kyoto Congress

2 Regular holding of the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness

The Kyoto Declaration highlighted the importance of youth empowerment. Against this background, the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has convened the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness for youth from around the world on a regular basis. The first two forums were held in October 2021 in Tokyo, and December 2022 in Kyoto, respectively.

A culture of lawfulness refers to a culture in which the public, in general, respects the law and its enforcement, trusting that laws are just and fair. Through this forum, the Ministry of Justice aims to promote youth empowerment, an important element in fostering a culture of lawfulness, and to establish the rule of law in the international community.

3 Regular holding of the "Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific"

The Kyoto Declaration also confirmed the importance of establishing regional cooperation networks for law enforcement and other agencies in order to strengthen international cooperation to combat crimes and promote coordination among criminal justice practitioners. To implement this idea, the Ministry of Justice has been holding the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific on a regular basis as a platform for information sharing among criminal justice practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region. The forum was held in February 2022, and in February 2023.

The Ministry of Justice will promote mutual understanding through the exchange of views and the sharing of knowledge among criminal justice practitioners and, therefore, promote further international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region.



The Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific

Promoting the Rule of Law through the promotion of International Arbitration

As part of the promotion of "Justice Affairs diplomacy" the Ministry of Justice demonstrates global leadership in developing and maintaining a robust cross-border legal framework regarding the resolution of international disputes arising from commercial transactions by recognizing the initiatives to promote international arbitration as an important government policy and is vigorously engaged in a variety of activities.

1 Contribution to leading the development of rules in the field of international civil and commercial law

Japan aims to take the lead in rulemaking to realize a rule-based international order backed by such values as the rule of law.

The Ministry of Justice actively contributes to rulemaking in the field of international civil and commercial law to ensure that rules are formed that are compatible with Japan's legal system and operation.

As part of the effort, at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), which was established under the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of promoting harmonization and modernization of laws governing international trade, Japan proposed a project to investigate and analyze trends in international arbitration, mediation, and other legal dispute resolution mechanisms in order to examine measures to address issues arising from digitalization. The proposal was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2021. Japan supports the implementation of this project in a variety of ways, including by expanding financial contributions, dispatching personnel to the UNCITRAL Secretariat, and hosting forums in Tokyo. The project is currently underway.



UNCITRAL commission 56th session

2 The promotion of international arbitration

International arbitration is a dispute resolution mechanism where the disputing parties appoint third-party arbitrators and agree to be bound by the decision by the arbitrators. International arbitration is the global standard for resolving disputes over cross-border commercial transactions. International arbitration has many advantages, for example:

- ease of enforcement of arbitration awards in foreign countries under treaties.
- confidential proceedings that do not harm the confidentiality of trade secrets in principle the parties may appoint specialized and neutral arbitrators

In order to make international arbitration more accessible and easier to use as a means of international dispute resolution, the Ministry of Justice works in collaboration with arbitration-related organizations, including foreign arbitration institutions, to raise awareness of arbitration procedures among users and to develop human resource capacity for arbitration cases.

Column

Active engagement of officials of the Ministry of Justice in the international arena

The Ministry of Justice actively dispatches its officials overseas with a view to promoting values, which contributes to the development of international order based on the rule of law and effectively addresses international legal disputes.

A number of officials from the Ministry serve as diplomats in other countries, mainly in Asia, North America, and Europe, and staff members of international organizations as well as long-term JICA experts who provide legal technical assistance to developing countries.

In addition, in order to develop the officials' capacity to address law and justice issues in the international arena, one of the important duties of the Ministry is to build the capacities of the officials, such as high linguistic ability, strong understanding of relevant international contexts, and legal literacy.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to develop experts who can play active and significant roles in the fields of law and justice internationally. Also, the Ministry will continue to second officials to other countries, reflecting the requests and expectations from the international community.



G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting in Berlin, Germany

Go to page 13-14 for special feature for more about Justice Affairs Diplomacy



Mission

In order to efficiently provide facilities and services that meet the objectives of the Ministry of Justice, the Facilities Division of the Minister's Secretariat conducts administrative work related to the development and management of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, and provides international cooperation in the development of correctional facilities in foreign countries.

With a view to ensuring the smooth execution of the entire range of administrative work of the Ministry of Justice, and in order to keep the Ministry's buildings where such work should be performed in optimal condition, the Facilities Division carries out facility management based on the key concepts of security, humanity, and harmony, while mobilizing all of the technical and creative abilities that has been accumulated over the years.

Facility Development and Management

The Facilities Division is responsible for the development of the facilities of the Ministry of Justice and undertakes the construction (including planning, designing, and construction supervision) of detention facilities (e.g., prisons, detention houses, and juvenile training schools) and office buildings (e.g., legal affairs bureaus, public prosecutors offices, and immigration bureaus). The Division also conducts all operations related to the ministry's facilities, from management to maintenance of the constructed facilities as government assets.

Planning	Formulating construction plans for new facilities and renovations through coordination with other divisions of the Ministry of Justice and other ministries and agencies
Budget request	Estimating the necessary costs based on the construction plan and requesting a budget
Designing	Working out a design while taking into consideration the budget, site conditions, required facility performance, related laws and surrounding environment
Cost estimation	Estimating the appropriate amount of construction costs based on the design drawings
Contracts	Selecting contractors through the bidding procedure that involves technical examination, and concluding construction contracts
Construction supervision	Supervising construction work and giving instructions to ensure that the buildings are being constructed as ordered based on the design drawings
Government asset management	Managing government assets such as lands and buildings under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice
Facility maintenance	Giving guidance to maintain the buildings in proper conditions at all times



Detention facility (Kokura branch detention house)



Office building (Sasebo ministry of justice office complex)

Initiatives on Facilities

The total number of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice is 786 (as of April 1, 2023) and the total area of all buildings is larger than that of other ministries and agencies. The Division works to reconstruct and preserve the facilities, as well as to introduce wooden structures and wooden interior decorations to ensure that these facilities can be used in a sound condition.

Introduction of wooden structure and wooden interior decoration

In line with the enforcement of the "Act for Promotion of the Use of Wood in Buildings, etc. to contribute the Realization of a Decarbonized Society" on October 1, 2021, the Ministry of Justice also formulated the "Plan for Promotion of the Use of Wood in Public Buildings" in the same year and has promoted the introduction of wooden structures and wooden interior decoration in the facilities (excluding some detention facilities) developed by the Ministry.



Official residence of Konan juvenile school (Introduction of the wooden structure (CLT structure))

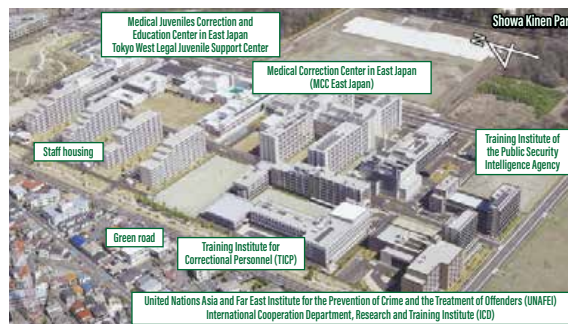


Administration building entrance of Kumamoto prison (Introduction of the wooden interior decoration(ceiling))

Facility integration

In the event of reconstruction, the Division tries to integrate the facilities of several agencies into one facility. By reducing the number of buildings and promoting the joint use of common spaces and facilities, the Division can save on the costs for facility management and maintenance.

The International Justice Center has been developed for facility integration by relocating the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice from many places across Japan and bringing them together on the government-owned land located in Akishima City, Tokyo (the Akishima District of the former site of Tachikawa Air Base), in an area of approx. 126,000 m². As a result, a new community of facilities of the Ministry of Justice was created.



The International Justice Center(Completed in 2019)



Consideration to the local environment

In the International Justice Center, a greenway is provided on the west side of the premises so that the center blends with the scenery of the Musashino District surrounded by greenery and Showa Kinen Park. In the process of making this design, workshops were held to hear the opinions of local residents.

Green road blending into the local landscape

International Cooperation

As the only organization well-versed in design and construction of correctional facilities, the Division carries out initiatives for international cooperation in the development of correctional facilities.

Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities, Architects, and Planners (ACCFA)

ACCFA allows participants to present and discuss issues faced by each country to share the latest information on correctional architecture. As a coordinator, Japan has

taken a leadership role in the management of the ACCFA. The eighth conference was held in Japan with the participation of four organizations and 13 countries. The next one will be held in Thailand.



The 8th ACCFA 2019 (Japan)

Technical cooperation with the Kingdom of Thailand

The Division participated in the grants-in-aid project for constructing the Sirindhorn Vocational Training School led by the Japanese government, from the initial stages of field survey and basic design, and thus made a

great contribution to the construction of this school. The Division also dispatched personnel to Thailand as JICA experts, and provided advice on the construction of correctional facilities, such as juvenile training schools and prisons, nation-wide.



Sirindhorn Vocational Training School

Various Training

Engineers belong to the Facilities Division as technical and engineering officials. In order to improve the technical skills of Division personnel, a substantial system is in place to support learning about the construction of correctional and public facilities where its staff participate in training inside and outside of the Facilities Division.

Entering the ministry - 2nd year : First year development

2nd year - 5th year : Practical training for young staff (internal training), short-term external training (Japan Construction Training Center, etc.)

6th year - 10th year : Long-term external training (College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, etc.)

Topics

Official mascot character



Name:

SHISETSU KAME

Title:

Public Relations
(Facilities Division official character)

Habitat:

Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice
(16th floor, Building A, Central Common Government Building No. 6)

Facilities Division





Mission

The Judicial System Department of the Minister's Secretariat is responsible for matters related to laws and regulations, which are the foundation of the country. In particular, the Department is responsible for conducting research and studies, as well as the drafting of laws and regulations on the judicial system; clerical work related to collecting, filing, compiling, and publishing of data on laws and regulations, court precedents, and legal affairs; the administration of the Legislative Council of the Ministry of Justice; the compilation of statistics on the work handled by the Ministry; matters concerning comprehensive legal support; matters concerning law-related education; matters concerning the translation of Japanese laws and regulations; matters concerning the qualification of attorneys-at-law (*bengoshi*) certified by the Minister of Justice; matters concerning foreign lawyers registered as *Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi* (Gaiben); matters concerning the examination of license and authorization and the supervision of claim management and collection companies (servicers); and matters concerning the certification and supervision of private dispute resolution services.

Training in Legal Professions to Support Japan's Judicial Foundation

With the reform of the judicial system in 2001, the "processes" of legal training were established with graduate school of law at its core, in order to train a large number of quality people in the legal professions. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and other relevant organizations, is implementing the necessary measures that reflect on the current state of all systems of legal training in the legal professions, and the expansion of activities in relevant legal professions, to make legal services more accessible to the various fields of society.

Promotion of Law-Related Education

Law-related education aims to enable citizens who are not legal professionals to understand the laws, the judicial system, and the values that underlie the legal system, such as respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. In a modern society where values are becoming more diverse and complex, it is important to cultivate the ability to live together as members of society while maintaining a firm grasp on one's own ideas and respecting the ideas of others through law-related education. The Ministry of Justice is taking a wide range of actions to further promote law-related education.

◆**Fostering Leaders in Law-Related Education** / By sponsoring law-related education seminars for teachers and dispatching instructors to the various teacher training programs, the Ministry of Justice conveys the significance of law-related education and how to implement it, as well as cultivating leaders in law-related education.

◆**Support for making it easier to implement Law-Related Education** / The Ministry of Justice prepared law-related education materials for each developmental stage, which has been made available on the Ministry of Justice website (including examples of model classes and explanatory videos). Personnel of the Ministry of Justice are sent to schools to offer special classes in response to requests.

◆**Public Relations and Awareness-raising of Law-Related Education** / Hourisu-kun, a mascot for law-related education, made law-related education more familiar to the general public.



For elementary and junior high school

For high school



Law-Related Education mascot, "Hourisu-kun"



Promotion of Translation of Japanese Laws

In order to ensure that Japanese laws are widely and accurately understood, the Ministry of Justice is actively translating Japanese laws into foreign languages and making them available on the Ministry's website. Over 900 English translations of the laws, including the Civil Law and Companies Act, are published on the Japanese Law Translation website, along with English translations of the outlines of amended laws in an easy-to-follow and timely manner.

Attorney Certification System

In order to obtain the attorney qualification, a person is required to complete a legal apprentice training course after passing the national bar examination in principle. However, as an exception to this, the attorney qualification through the Attorney Certification System with the approval of the Minister of Justice shall be given to those who have passed the national bar examination and have acquired a certain level of actual legal practice experience in a corporation, etc. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the certification of the attorney qualification.

Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi (Registered Foreign Lawyers)

The Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi system is designed to permit a person qualified as a lawyer in a foreign jurisdiction to handle specific legal services in Japan as a registered foreign lawyer without the qualification examinations. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the approval of qualifications for registered foreign lawyers.

Claim Management and Collection Companies (Servicers)

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for reviewing the approvals of claim management and collection, as well as for supervising servicers to ensure appropriate practices through on-site inspections.

System of Certified Dispute Resolution

In order to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the Ministry of Justice certifies private dispute resolution services (such as those for conciliation and mediation of civil disputes conducted by private businesses) that are deemed appropriate and that meet the standards and requirements set forth in laws and regulations.

◆**Promotion of Online Dispute Resolution** / In March 2022, the Ministry of Justice formulated the Basic Policy for Promoting Online Dispute Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Policy”) in order to promote online dispute resolution (ODR), which uses digital technology for private dispute resolution online. In addition to ODR with the features of ADR (such as flexibility of procedures, simplicity, speed, nonpublic nature, and the use of specialists in the field of the dispute), it also brings the additional advantages of not requiring face-to-face meetings and not being limited by time and location. In recent years, an increasing number of certified dispute resolution business operators have adopted online meetings for conciliation and mediation.



<https://www.adr.go.jp/>



The Ministry of Justice is implementing a wide range of initiatives, including those in line with the Basic Policy, to make private dispute resolution by certified dispute resolution business operators more accessible to the general public.

Comprehensive legal support centering on Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

Houterasu was established under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice in April 2006 for the purpose of promptly and appropriately rendering a comprehensive legal support service. While working to build and strengthen networks with a variety of different organizations, Houterasu provides the following five services as stipulated in Article 30, Paragraph 1, of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act. Houterasu also provides aid services entrusted to the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

1. **Information Service** / Provision of free information on legal systems and consultation services for the settlement of legal problems
2. **Civil Legal Aid** / Free legal consultations for persons of limited means or people with a low income or to make an advance payment of fees for the services of an attorney or judicial scrivener
3. **Services Related to Court-Appointed Attorneys** / Notification of prospective court-appointed defense counsel to courts, and the calculation and payment of the fees to court-appointed defense counsel
4. **Measures for Areas with Limited Legal Services** / Establishment of regional offices and regular placement of staff attorneys to offer general legal services in areas where legal services are hard to access
5. **Services Related to Crime Victim Support** / Provision of supportive information for crime victims, introduction of attorneys who are well-versed in assisting victims and their families, implementation of legal consultations for the victims of specific acts of trespass against the person (meaning spousal violence, stalking and child abuse), and notification of prospective court-appointed attorneys-at-law for victims to courts.





Mission

The Civil Affairs Bureau is responsible for handling affairs related to registration systems for companies and real estate, family registration, nationality (citizenship), deposit services, storage of wills, the Inherited Land Treasury Return System, notarizations, judicial scriveners, land and house investigators, and the planning and drafting of civil legislation, such as the Civil Code, the Commercial Code, and the Code of Civil procedure, with the aim of protecting the rights and property of citizens.

Efforts to Solve the Issue of Unclaimed Land

Unclaimed land is difficult to use and manage, which impedes public works projects and disaster recovery. New systems to solve these unclaimed land problems have come into effect sequentially from 2023. For details, please refer to “Promoting Measures against Unclaimed Land” (page 9).

Establishment of the Inherited Land Treasury Return System (starting from April 27, 2023)

There is a growing need to let go of inherited land for reasons, such as “I live far away and have no plans to use the land” or “My land need to be managed, but it would get costly.” In order to prevent difficult-to-manage land from being left uncontrolled and becoming unclaimed land, the Inherited Land Treasury Return System was established where any land acquired through inheritance or by bequest can be returned to the national treasury after payment of a certain burden when the land satisfies certain requirements. The number of applications in the six months since the system started exceeded 1,000.

This system is limited to inherited land and does not apply to land acquired through sales. Furthermore, the law specifies that land that cannot be taken over by the state includes land on which a building exists, land that contains roads, and land that is planned for use by others.

In the application for approval, the applicant must submit an application and attaching documents and are required to pay a fee of 14,000 yen for each parcel of land. Applications for approval should be submitted to the headquarters of the Legal Affairs Bureau within their jurisdiction over the location of the land.

If, as a result of the examination, the land is recognized as land that can be taken over by the state, the ownership of the land is vested in the national treasury at the time the applicant for approval pays the dues (basically 200,000 yen).

In the future, it will be important to operate this system appropriately so that it becomes established in society as a new option for disposing of inherited land. The Ministry of Justice and the Legal Affairs Bureaus will continue to ensure the smooth operation of the system, which aims to prevent land where the ownership is unknown.

Establishment of the Inherited Land Treasury Return System poster



For more information, please check the “Ministry of Justice website”.



Procedure image

Procedure image of the Inherited Land Treasury Return System

1 Request for approval

[Person with the right to request]
Person who acquires land by inheritance or bequest (limited to bequest to an heir)



2 Examination and approval by the minister of Justice (Legal Affairs Bureau)

- The Minister has the right to implement the onsite survey
- The Minister can ask for survey cooperation from the responsible authority in charge of state-owned asset management.
- The Minister can request municipal government to provide documents and information.
- The Minister ensures the opportunity to receive donation of land and make use of it in the community by informing the relevant national and municipal governments of the request for approval.



3 The applicant pays a fee equivalent to 10 year land management cost.

4 The land goes into the national treasury.



Efforts to resolve the problem of people without a family register

If a woman gives birth to a child during marriage or within 300 days of a divorce, since the husband or ex-husband is presumed to be the father of the child (presumption of children born in wedlock), the birth of the child may not be reported, and the child may not be entered in the family register due to the existence of another father related by blood, etc. People without family registration may experience disadvantages in life, such as the inability to access administrative services, and it is necessary to resolve any disadvantages as soon as possible. Therefore, the System for the presumption of children born in wedlock has been revised after the partial revision of the Civil Code, which will come into effect on April 1, 2024. Please refer to the Ministry of Justice website for details of the revision.

For more information, please check the "Ministry of Justice website".



Responsibilities of the Legal Affairs Bureau



Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau

As a regional organization of the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Affairs Bureau is responsible for civil administrative affairs that protect the property and identity of citizens, such as registration, family register, nationality, deposit and storage of wills, Inherited Land Treasury Return System, and the litigation work relevant to the interests of the state and the human rights affairs that protect basic human rights.

For more information, please check the "Legal Affairs Bureau website".



Organization of the Legal Affairs Bureau



State of the Legal Affairs Bureau

The Legal Affairs Bureaus are divided into eight blocks nationwide, with a Legal Affairs Bureau in charge of each block (8 bureaus), and placed under these Legal Affairs Bureaus are the District Legal Affairs Bureaus, which are generally responsible for prefectural units (42 bureaus).

Moreover, Branch District Legal Affairs Bureaus and Branch Offices have been placed under the Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus. The Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus and Branch District Legal Affairs Bureaus are responsible for registration, family register, nationality, office deposits, storage of wills, Inherited Land Treasury Return System, litigation, and human rights affairs, while Branch Offices are mainly responsible for registration.

Deposit your Holographic Will with the Legal Affairs Bureau for Safekeeping!

In the storage of wills system, the Legal Affairs Bureau stores a holographic will and resolves the problems of being lost or not being discovered by the heirs as well as keeping the benefits of a holographic will that it is easy and flexible.

The mascot below, Igonsho-Hokangaroo, is based on a kangaroo motif keeping the will carefully in a pocket with a lock. With Igonsho-Hokangaroo, the Legal Affairs Bureau provides information in a variety of different ways on the storage of will system, which is safe, easy, and kind.

Igonsho-Hokangaroo





Mission

The Criminal Affairs Bureau is responsible for the planning and drafting of criminal legislation, such as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure; affairs regarding prosecution; and affairs regarding the extradition of criminals and fugitives as well as mutual international legal assistance. The Criminal Affairs Bureau comprises the General Affairs Division, Criminal Affairs Division, Public Security Division, Criminal Legislative Division, and International Affairs Division, which are responsible for operations and measures related to the affairs under their respective jurisdictions. The Criminal Affairs Bureau is committed to its daily work of achieving social justice by ensuring that those who should be punished are appropriately penalized.

Improvement of the criminal legal system in line with the times

The Criminal Affairs Bureau conducts the necessary studies and reviews of criminal laws and regulations such as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in order to develop a criminal legal system that responds to changes in social conditions and public awareness in line with the times. In recent years, in light of the actual status of the defamation of individuals, in addition to raising the statutory penalty for contempt, in order to improve the treatment of those who have committed crimes for rehabilitation and prevention of recidivism, amendments were made to the Penal Code, and other laws to abolish imprisonment with or without work and to impose imprisonment instead.

In 2023, in order to prevent the escape of defendants on bail or those who have been sentenced, to ensure their appearance at trial dates and the execution of their sentences, to protect the names and other information of crime victims throughout the criminal process, and to develop laws to deal with sex crimes, amendments were made to the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedures. For details about the sex crimes amendment, please refer to "Revision of criminal laws relating to sexual offences"(page 7).

Utilization of ICT in Criminal Procedures

Utilization of ICT in Criminal Procedures aims to reduce the burden on the public involved in the procedures and to facilitate and expedite the procedures by utilizing information and communication technology, such as the preparation of documents used in investigations and trials by electronic means, transmission and receipt of documents online, and the expansion of procedures that can be carried out through the transmission of images and sound. The Criminal Affairs Bureau is currently studying ways to realize this goal in terms of legislation and systems.

International Cooperation in Criminal

In order to accurately respond to the internationalization of crimes associated with the international trafficking of people and goods and advances in information and communication technology, and to strictly address such crimes, it is necessary to more effectively gather evidence from abroad and strengthen cooperation between foreign investigative authorities and those of Japan.

Examples of such enhancement of cooperation include the treaties and agreements between Japan and the United States of America (entered into force on July 2006), the Republic of Korea (entered into force on January 2007), the People's Republic of China (entered into force on November 2008), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (entered into force on September 2009), the European Union (entered into force on January 2011), the Russian Federation (entered into force on February 2011), and the socialist Republic of Viet Nam (entered into force on August 2022), as well as the Convention on Cybercrime (entered into force on November 2012), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (entered into force on August 2017) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (entered into force on August 2017). These treaties, agreements, and conventions enable communication for the collection of evidence directly between the Ministry of Justice or the National Police Agency and the judicial authorities of the respective countries or regions, which expedites the process as opposed through diplomatic channels. The Ministry of Justice is committed to further strengthening international cooperation.

Public Prosecutors Office

The Public Prosecutors Office consists of Supreme Public Prosecutors Offices, High Public Prosecutors Offices, District Public Prosecutors Offices, and Local Public Prosecutors Offices, which correspond to their respective courts. In the Public Prosecutors Office, public prosecutors and assistant public prosecutors are proud to perform their duties of realizing social justice and protecting law and order, which is the foundation of civil life and the social economy.



The Public Prosecutors Office offers on-demand lessons and study camps. The details of the lessons can be arranged depending on the purpose. Feel free to contact your nearest Public Prosecutors Office to apply for the lessons.



Public
Prosecutors
Office website



Public Prosecutors Office's PR character **Saiban Inko**

Public Prosecutors

A public prosecutor investigates cases referred by the police and decides whether the case should be prosecuted in court. In addition, a public prosecutor attends trials for prosecuted cases to prove that the accused (prosecuted person) committed the crime. After the conclusion of the examination of evidence, public prosecutors present their opinions to the court regarding the punishment that should be imposed on the accused. After the accused is found guilty, public prosecutors command the execution. As a representative of the public interest, the public prosecutor further completes the administrative duties specified by laws and regulations.



Assistant Public Prosecutors

Assistant public prosecutors are involved in criminal procedures from the criminal investigation to the court proceeding and punishment execution by giving assistance to or receiving direction from public prosecutors. They are also involved in clerical work for general and personnel affairs and accounting.



Support for the Efforts of the Public Prosecutors Office

The Ministry of Justice supports the various efforts of the Public Prosecutors Office in recent years.

(1) Support for Crime Victims

To protect and support victims of crimes, a variety of support systems are in place for each stage of the investigation and trial. For more details, please access the Ministry of Justice website via the two-dimensional code on the right.

Brochure and videos for victims of crime are available here.



(2) Recidivism Prevention in the Public Prosecutors Office

The Public Prosecutors Office, in cooperation with the Probation Office, bar associations, welfare agencies, and medical institutions, implements efforts to bridge social services upon release from custody entrance support. In addition, in order to ensure the smooth implementation of support, a department in charge has been established in each prosecutor's office, with public prosecutors and public prosecutors' assistant officers in charge, and initiatives have been promoted by hiring social workers as social welfare advisors and obtaining their advice as needed.

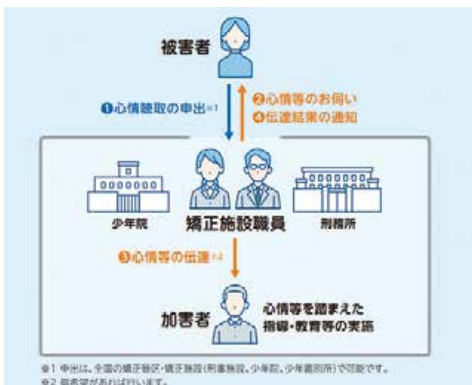
https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/keiji1/keiji_keiji11.html



Mission

The Corrections Bureau conducts administrative work related to the operation of correctional facilities for the purpose of preventing recidivism and reoffending by providing guidance according to age, disability, and problems caused by the crime so that people who have committed crimes or delinquent acts can reflect on their crimes and smoothly re-entry society.

Launching of the Hearing and Communication System about the Feelings of Victims in the Sentence Execution Stage



The Act for Partial Revision of the Penal Code was enacted in June 2022 and introduced a new system in penal institutions and juvenile training schools that came into operation on December 1, 2023. The new system involves gathering feedback from victims or bereaved families who have submitted requests and thus reflects their feelings in the resulting correctional treatment and education and conveys their feelings to inmates.

The system aims to hear from victims in person in order to understand their feelings and situations and to reflect more directly those feelings in the resulting correctional treatment and education with the aim of enhancing inmates' consideration of the victims' positions and feelings, as well as deepening their remorse and repentance, thereby effectively contributing to reformation and rehabilitation. The system is available for use in all Regional Correction Headquarters, penal institutions, juvenile training schools, and juvenile assessment centers across Japan. Upon receiving a request, the staff in charge at the facilities housing inmates will hear from victims or their families. With the permission of the victims or families, a written record will be prepared.

If the victims or families so request, their feelings can be conveyed to the inmates, and the inmates' responses can then be reported in writing to the victims or families. Typically, the conveying of feelings is done by reading them to the inmates. The feelings gathered through this system will be reflected in the correctional treatment of inmates. For example, specific goals related to the understanding of the victims' feelings and restitution for the damage caused could be part of the treatment plans of the inmates. Thereby the guidance for reformation will be provided throughout the term of imprisonment, encouraging inmates to face the reality of their victims' situations and deepen their remorse.

The Correction Bureau of the Ministry of Justice is also working on public relations for the new system and building better relationships with related organizations and victim support groups by striving to operate in a manner that is considerate of victims and their families.



Visit website
for more details
and inquiries



Towards Achieving the SDGs at Kitsuregawa Rehabilitation Program Center

The Kitsuregawa Rehabilitation Program Center (hereinafter referred to as the "Center") came into operation in October 2007 as a public-private partnership facility that was partly outsourced to the private sector. The Center has undertaken initiatives of incorporating unique ideas and expertise specific to the private sector.

Since April 2022, in its second phase of operations, the Center collaborated with private enterprises, local public organizations, and nature conservation groups, where the center incorporates initiatives that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the international goals to be achieved by 2030, into its various programs for the inmates.

Specifically, these efforts include SDG education programs, production of an online store for local specialty products with environmental consideration cultivation of vegetables through sustainable agriculture, production of plant-based foods, and activities to preserve native species (including the cultivation of native plants and their food sources) as well as turf research and observations. Through these initiatives, the Center aims to foster in the inmates an awareness of protecting the environment and being helpful to others. This approach is intended to enhance self-efficacy and self-esteem, which will lead to effective reformation and rehabilitation. Moreover, these efforts are expected to contribute to local community development by promoting local production for external sale.



Introduction of Correctional Institutions

Penal institutions

Penal institutions consist of prisons that confine inmates sentenced to imprisonment with or without work; juvenile prisons that confine juvenile inmates sentenced to imprisonment; and detention centers that confine defendants or suspects whose innocence or guilt has not been determined or whose criminal sentences have not been confirmed.



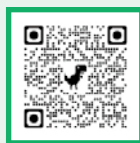
Juvenile Assessment Centers

Juvenile assessment centers confine juveniles who have been referred by a family court when the court orders protective measures and conduct assessments of these juveniles. They also provide consultation services to the general public, school-teachers, and other concerned parties on delinquency, bullying, domestic violence, and other issues to prevent acts of delinquency and crimes in the community.



Juvenile Training Schools

Juvenile Training Schools confine juveniles who have been sent from a family court as protective measures that provide correctional education and reintegration support.



Training Institute for Correctional Personnel

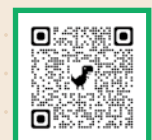
The Training Institute for Correctional Personnel of the Ministry of Justice provides the necessary work training programs for personnel engaged in correctional services, as well as evidence-based research on correctional treatment.



Contents of the Juvenile Training School Video

Many people are familiar with the term “juvenile training school” but may not know what specifically goes on there.

In 2023, Japan’s first juvenile training schools, the Tama Juvenile Training School and the Naniwa Juvenile Training School, celebrated their 100th anniversaries. As part of the centenary commemoration, the Ministry of Justice website has videos that clearly introduce the daily life and activities of the juvenile training schools and the flow from admission to release. Additionally, there are interview videos with individuals who have been released from juvenile training schools. Please take a moment to explore the life inside juvenile training schools.





Mission

The Rehabilitation Bureau is responsible for enhancing the reintegration of persons who have committed offenses through supervision and other assistance within the community to prevent recidivism and thereby build a safe, secure community. Such treatment of offenders in the community is carried out by probation officers who implement supervision and provide guidance in cooperation with *hogoshi* (volunteer probation officers) and other community volunteers, who also offer local residents counseling regarding crime and delinquency in collaboration with local governments and other organizations. Furthermore, the Bureau implements a wide range of measures to achieve its purpose, for instance, parole, coordination of the social circumstances for inmates, crime prevention activities that include the Campaign to Give Society a Brighter Future (i.e., the Yellow Feather Campaign for short), pardons, measures for crime victims, and treatment in the local community under the Medical Treatment and Supervision for persons who have committed a designated serious harmful act under the state of insanity or diminished capacity.

Providing Community-based Treatment

In order to effectively issue instructions and provide other measures to prevent recidivism, the Ministry of Justice strives to accurately understand the characteristics of each probationer or parolee (supervisees) and enhance treatment. Since January 2021, the Ministry of Justice has introduced an assessment tool (Case Formulation in Probation/Parole; CFP) to comprehensively collect and analyze the factors that lead to recidivism as well as the matters that are useful for improvement and rehabilitation. Based on the results of this analysis and statistical evaluation of the degree of risk of recidivism, probation has been implemented. In addition, the Ministry of Justice develops specialized treatment programs based on the theoretical foundation of cognitive behavioral therapy for drug offenders, etc., and is actively engaged in providing welfare support, employment, and housing support tailored to the needs of supervisees. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice implements the Redemption Guidance Program in order for supervisees to fully understand and take responsibility for the crimes they committed, as well as the impacts on crime victims and relations, and faithfully compensate for the damage and apologize to the victims.



Group Session(image)

Contribution for Local Community

In order to provide long-lasting support to those who have committed offences, the Ministry of Justice develops further cooperation with community volunteers and local governments in support of recidivism prevention measures.

- The Ministry of Justice responds to consultations from local residents and related organizations, including from those who have committed offence, and provides information, advice, and other assistance using its expertise in offender rehabilitation.
- For those who left offender rehabilitation facilities and now live in the community, the offender rehabilitation facilities personnel provide ongoing support until they get their lives back on track, such as visiting them for consultation and accompanying them through the various procedures necessary for life in society.
- In some areas, probation offices have commissioned the private sector with specialized expertise to promote the establishment of support networks that consist of the private sector and volunteers who provide local support to those who have completed their sentences. These activities encourage the Ministry of Justice to play a significant role in improving the welfare of the community and contribute to building an inclusive society where no one is left behind.

Mobilizing Eligible Persons for Hogoshi

In recent years, the circumstances to mobilize eligible persons for *hogoshi* has been changed and is difficult because of the aging of society. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice implemented the councils for examining *hogoshi* candidates to identify suitable candidates from among local residents of all ages, including young people, and from diverse occupations. The internship for *hogoshi* activities gives local residents experience in *hogoshi* activities. The Ministry established Offender Rehabilitation Support Centers across Japan to serve as bases for *hogoshi* activities.

The Ministry of Justice has disseminated the value and worth of *hogoshi* to the public in such opportunities as the Campaign to Give Society a Brighter Future and international conferences. Through these opportunities, the Ministry of Justice is improving recognition and enhancing the evaluation of *hogoshi* both domestically and internationally, thereby fostering a sense of fulfillment and pride among *hogoshi*.

Learn more about
the Rehabilitation Bureau



Organizations and Stakeholders for Offender Rehabilitation

National institutions, etc.

Regional Parole Boards

Regional Parole Boards are located in the eight regions across Japan that corresponds to the jurisdictional areas of the high courts. The major functions of the boards are to parole and revoking parole when parolees fail to observe the conditions.

Probation Offices

Probation Offices are located in 50 locations nationwide and implement supervision of adult/juvenile supervisees, coordination of social circumstances for inmates, urgent aftercare of discharged offenders and medical treatment and supervision.

Probation Officers

Probation officers are government officers of the Ministry of Justice who work at the Secretariat of the Regional Parole Board or the Probation Office. With expertise in medicine, psychology, pedagogy, sociology, and other areas, they work with *hogoshi* to conduct supervision and coordination of the social circumstances.

Rehabilitation Coordinators

Rehabilitation coordinators are government officers with qualifications as mental health social workers who work in the probation offices. They provide mental health supervision, social circumstance investigations, and social circumstance coordination in cooperation with relevant local institutions for subjects with regard to the system of medical treatment and supervision for persons who have committed a designated serious harmful act under the state of insanity or diminished capacity.

National Centers for Offender Rehabilitation

The National Center for Offender Rehabilitation is established and operated to provide persons discharged from correctional facilities who cannot secure the necessary social surroundings for smooth reintegration into society from relatives or Offender Rehabilitation Facilities with lodging at state-established facilities where probation officers provide direct, intensive supervision and generous employment assistance, thereby encouraging their rehabilitation and preventing them from committing further offenses.

Private contributor/ Entrepreneur

Hogoshi (Volunteer Probation Officers)

Hogoshi are private citizens commissioned by the Minister of Justice to support people who have committed crimes or delinquencies in the community in their efforts to rehabilitate. *Hogoshi* have the status of part-time government officers but do not receive a salary, except for all or part of the expenses needed in the performance of their duties.

Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid

Women's Associations for Rehabilitation Aid are engaged in a wide range of activities for crime prevention, youth development, childcare support, and support for offender rehabilitation facilities.

BBS Association

Big Brothers and Sisters Associations are youth volunteer organizations that provide support for the healthy growth of juveniles by interacting with them as friendly older brothers or sisters.

Cooperating Employer

Cooperating employers are private business owners who are willing to, or actually do, employ offenders to help them return to society and live independent lives.

Offender Rehabilitation Facility

There are approximately 100 facilities nationwide that provide accommodations, meals, and the assistance necessary for independence to those who have committed offences with no residence and no one to rely on, as well as ongoing support to help them settle into community life after leaving the facility.

Rehabilitation Aid Association

Rehabilitation Aid Associations contribute to the building of networks of support and connections to the local community, as well as subsidize and provide training programs to the organizations for offender rehabilitation. Moreover, the Associations implement their duties to raise public awareness of offender rehabilitation within the local community.

Column



Mascot characters of Offender Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation penguins, "Hogo-chan" & "Sara-chan"

Learn more



The Yellow Feather

The Yellow Feather is the symbol mark of the "Campaign to Give Society a Brighter Future", which hopes for a bright society free from crime and delinquency.

Learn more





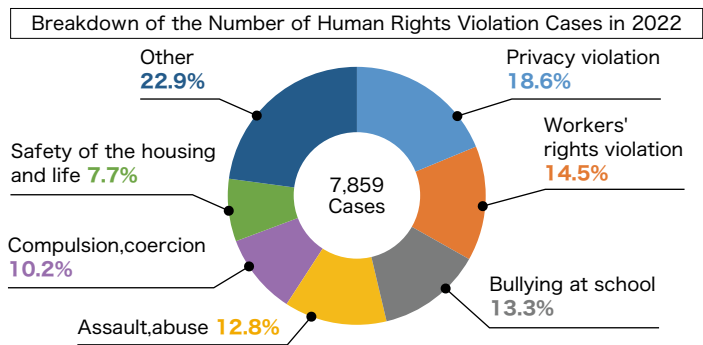
Human Rights Bureau

Mission

The Human Rights Bureau provides consultations on a variety of human rights issues and offers advice according to the details of the consultation, investigates and resolves human rights violations involving bullying or sexual harassment, and conducts a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities to improve each citizen's awareness and understanding of human rights.

Human Rights Counseling, Investigation and Resolution of Human Rights Violations

Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide offer human rights counseling by phone and via the Internet (including social media). Therefore, depending on the case, the Ministry of Justice may provide *assistance* in the form of legal advice, *coordination* in the form of mediation of discussions between the parties concerned, or *instructions* and *recommendations* to demand improvement from persons who committed the human rights violation in an effort to remedy and prevent further damage.



Children's Rights



The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice distribute the Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters (letter paper with a pre-stamped envelope for human rights counseling). In addition, a dedicated consultation phone, the Children's Rights Hotline (toll-free number 0120-007-110 [from anywhere in Japan]) has been set up, and Legal Affairs Bureau personnel and Human Rights Volunteers are available for consultations with children. In addition, the Ministry of Justice has established the Human Rights Counseling Service on the Internet (SOS-e mail) on its website and provides human rights counseling through social media (LINE), among other means, in an effort to detect human rights violations involving children at an early stage.

Children's rights SOS mini-letters (for elementary school students)

Countermeasures against Human Rights Violations on the Internet

Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide provide human rights counseling via the Internet regarding information on human rights violations. If they suspect a human rights violation during a consultation, they will conduct research based on the consulters' intentions. If the investigation finds a violation of human rights, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice will take measures, such as requesting that the providers delete the information.

Human Rights Counseling Services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Chinese Korean Filipino Portuguese Vietnamese Nepalese Spanish Indonesian Thai 	Human Rights Hotline	0570-003-110 (nationwide)
	Children's Rights Hotline	0120-007-110 (nationwide toll-free number)
	Women's Rights Hotline	0570-070-810 (nationwide)
	Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline	0570-090-911 (nationwide)

PC Smartphone Mobile

Human Rights Counseling service on the Internet

<https://www.jinken.go.jp>

Human Rights Awareness-Raising

In order to convey the importance of mutual respect for human rights, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities, such as sponsoring symposiums, providing human rights lectures and various forms of training, publishing awareness-raising materials, and distributing advertisements via the Internet.

1. The Priority Goal of Awareness-Raising Activities "It's not someone else's problem."

In Japan, a variety of human rights problems are related to children and women, Buraku discrimination (Dowa Issue), and human rights violations on the Internet. These are never someone else's problems nor are they unrelated to your life. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities by setting "It's not someone else's problem" as a priority goal of the awareness-raising activities so that everyone is aware of these human rights problems, recognize the importance of mutual respect for human rights, and take action with consideration for the human rights of others.

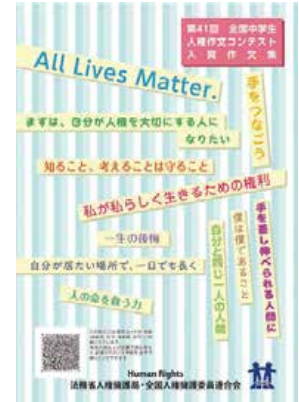
2. National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students has been held since 1981 for the purpose of enabling junior high school students, an important future generation, to deepen their understanding of the importance and necessity of human rights and to foster an awareness of human rights by writing essays on human rights issues.

"The Priority Goal of Awareness-Raising Activities 2023" poster



Winning essays collections in the 41st National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students



Human Rights Lecture

Who are Human Rights Volunteers?

Human rights volunteers are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice. Currently, approximately 14,000 human rights volunteers are assigned to each municipality in Japan. The Human Rights Volunteer System was established in 1948 based on the concept that it is desirable for people from different fields to share the importance and to protect human rights in the local communities. Human rights volunteers, together with Legal Affairs Bureau and District Legal Affairs Bureau officials, have taken advantage of each other's strengths and carried out human rights counseling and activities to raise the awareness of human rights.

Column

What is Hate Speech?

Hate speech is discriminatory speech and behavior intended to exclude people of certain ethnic groups or nationalities. Hate speech not only causes anxiety or repugnance in people but could also violate human dignity or generate discrimination. Such speech and behavior will not be tolerated in seeking to realize a mature, inclusive society where diversity is respected and there is no unfair discrimination or prejudice. Let us work together to build a society that recognizes differences in ethnicity and nationality and one that respects each other's human rights.





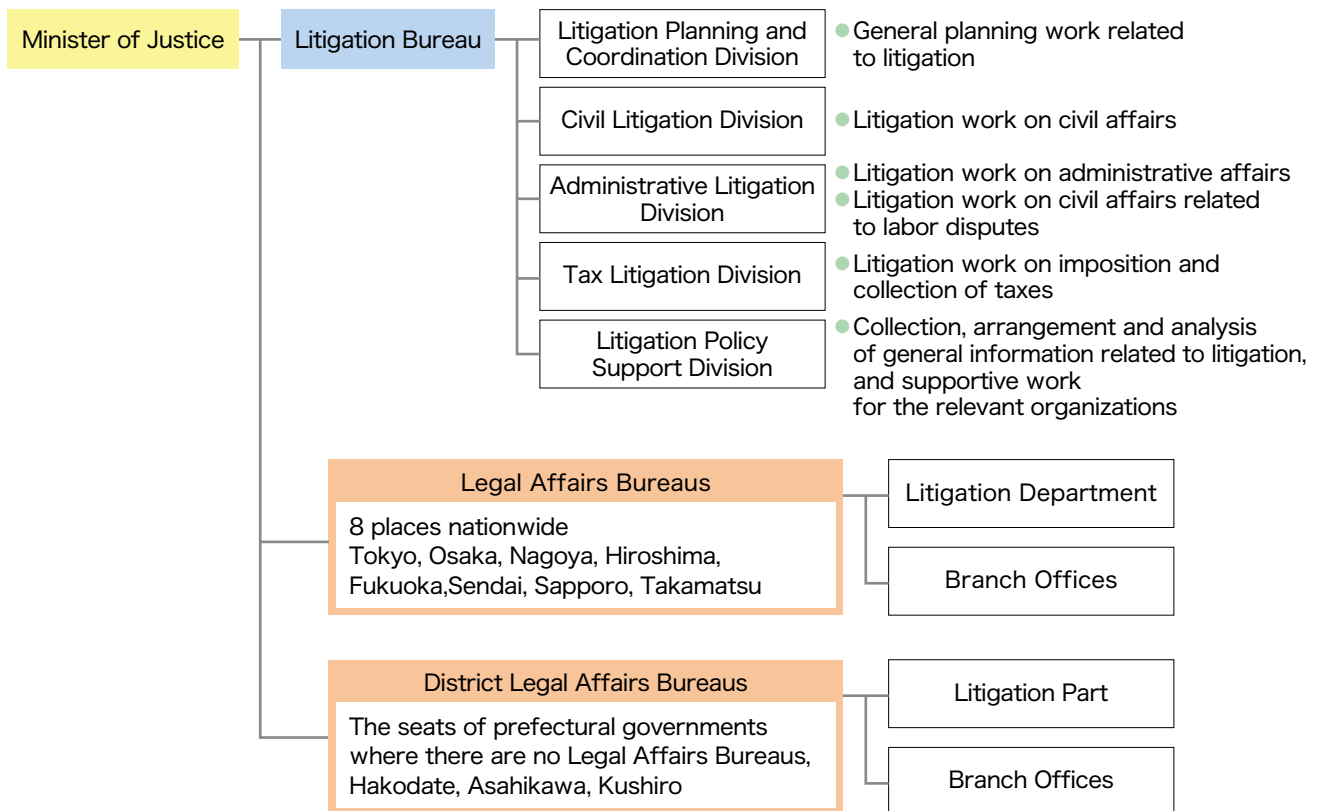
Litigation Bureau

Mission

For the purpose of the unified and appropriate handling of national litigation, the Litigation Bureau handles civil and administrative lawsuits in which the state is a party and is also responsible for providing legal advice at the request of government ministries and agencies concerning cases that may lead to legal disputes (so-called Preventive Legal Support System). Among lawsuits involving local governments, incorporated administrative agencies, and other public corporations specified by cabinet order as a party to the lawsuits, those where the state has a deemed interest shall also be handled by the Bureau upon request.

Litigation organization

The litigation organization from the Minister of Justice on down consists of the Litigation Bureau located within the Ministry of Justice, and the Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus as local implementation organizations.



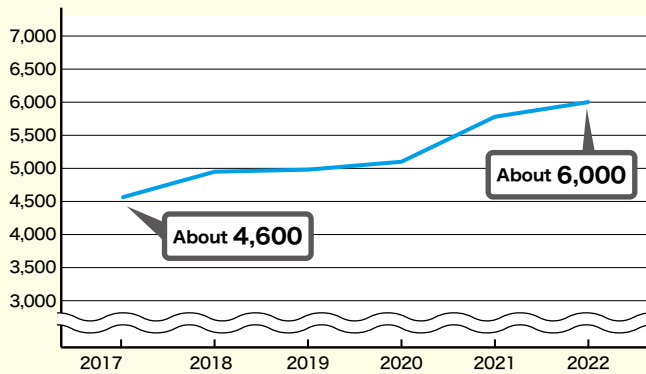
※Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus are in charge of processing the cases that the courts within their jurisdiction handle or should handle.

Pursuit of Lawsuits

Lawsuits in which the Japanese government is a party include civil lawsuits claiming damages against the state and administrative lawsuits seeking the cancellation or invalidation of administrative action. Among such lawsuits, the proportion of serious and large-scale cases that may potentially have a profound impact on the politics, administration, and economy of the state has increased and remained at a high level in recent years.

The Ministry of Justice, as an essential component of the justice system, contributes to the achievement of the appropriate resolution of disputes based on laws and the rules of evidence by producing evidence and constructing a unified and appropriate argument from the viewpoint of the state. This ensures that the interests of the people as a whole and those of individuals harmonize properly and thereby secures the administrative principles based on rule of law.

Change in Number of Major Large-Scale Lawsuits which are pending



Major Pending Lawsuits

- Lawsuit over asbestos damages
- Lawsuit over bases
- Lawsuit over Minamata diseases
- Lawsuit over hepatitis C
- Lawsuit over hepatitis B
- Lawsuit over atomic energy
- Lawsuit over reparation by the national government related to Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accidents
- Lawsuit over land reclamation in Isahaya Bay
- Lawsuit over Individual Number
- Lawsuit over reparation by the national government on the Japanese security legislation

Preventive Legal Support System

The Litigation Bureau operates the Preventive Legal Support System where the Litigation Bureau, as legal advisors within the Japanese government, provide advice to administrative bodies on the appropriate way to handle the various legal problems that they face. The Litigation Bureau's advice is based on expertise gained through the handling of past litigious matters. The purpose of the Preventive Legal Support System is to enable the Litigation Bureau to pre-assess the legitimacy of a policy or measures proposed by governmental administrative bodies from a legal perspective in order to prevent, where appropriate, any negative impact on the rights of Japanese citizens, including the rights related to life, body, and property, and the advent of legal disputes and trials. Thus, the Preventive Legal Support System is implemented to support the efficient realization of *administration based on the rule of law* and to protect the rights and interests of Japanese citizens.

Providing Support in dealing with International Legal Dispute

The progress of globalization in the political, economic, and other realms will likely increase the chances of the Japanese government becoming involved in legal disputes before foreign courts or the legal proceedings of international organizations. The Litigation Bureau, with its skills and expertise on legal strategies gained through domestic and foreign litigation practices, provides support in order to prevent such disputes in advance or to deal properly with those disputes in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant ministries and agencies.

Topics

Litigation Bureau Website

Additional information is posted on the Ministry of Justice website about lawsuits involving the Japanese government, including summaries of major pending lawsuits and major court decisions.

Summaries of Major Pending Lawsuits

https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00024.html



List of Major Court Decisions

https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00023.html



Database of Important Litigation Precedents

This database enables you to search and browse precedents contained in the Monthly Litigation Report (the information magazine issued by the Litigation Bureau).

https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00041.html





Mission

The Immigration Services Agency of Japan is responsible for fair management over all those who enter and depart from Japan, the residency of foreign nationals living in Japan, and procedures for refugee recognition based on the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. The Immigration Services Agency is also responsible for implementing planning, policy development, and general coordination regarding the development of an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals.

Smooth and strict immigration examination

■Fair immigration control for all persons

Whether or not to grant permission to foreign nationals to land and reside in Japan is determined by confirming the purpose of entry and length of stay, as well as by examining the possibility of risks to the livelihood of Japanese nationals in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. The administrative work by the Immigration Services Agency responsible for immigration control procedures becomes even more important as interactions between people become increasingly promoted. The Immigration Services Agency not only ensures that those who intend to visit Japan for a valid purpose enter Japan smoothly and stay without problems but works to protect the lives and safety of Japanese nationals, as well as the industrial interests and benefits to the lives of Japanese nationals, from foreign nationals who should not be permitted to stay in Japan.

■Facilitation of the immigration procedures (“Bio Carts”, Facial Recognition Automated Gate, Automated Gate)

In order to facilitate immigration procedures, the Immigration Services Agency operates the equipment commonly known as Bio Carts at 20 airports and seaports that provide fingerprints and facial photographs while waiting for landing examinations. This method speeds up the process of obtaining personal identification information from foreign nationals at landing examination sites. Furthermore, by using facial recognition technology to process Japanese nationals departing and returning to Japan, more immigration inspectors can be assigned to screen foreign nationals, further facilitating the process while maintaining the strictness of the screening process. Registering as a user in advance and using the automated gate (fingerprint recognition gate), Japanese nationals and foreign nationals who meet certain requirements can efficiently and quickly complete all immigration procedures.



Bio Carts



Facial Recognition Automated Gates

Proper and smooth acceptance of foreign nationals

■Residency management of foreign nationals

Foreign nationals staying in Japan can engage in activities freely without hindrance within the scope of their status of residence and period of stay, which were determined when they landed in Japan. Persons who desire to change their status of residence or extend their period of stay are required to obtain permission from the Immigration Services Agency in accordance with Japanese laws and regulations. While permitting the activities of foreign nationals and their stay in Japan by granting the status of residence and period of stay, as well as taking steps to protect the interests and security of Japanese citizens through the abovementioned examination process, Japan seeks to implement proper immigration control of foreign nationals.

■Online Residency Procedures

Online residency procedures via the Internet have been limited to staff members of organizations that satisfy certain criteria, as well as lawyers and administrative scriveners whom such organizations have commissioned. However, since March 2022, foreign nationals can apply online via the Internet by utilizing the personal authentication function that includes the My Number Card. (Prior application must be made by registering user information online or by mail.) Moreover, with the addition of residence status, such as Spouse or Child of Japanese National, to the scope of online application, many procedures, except for permanent residence permit applications, are now eligible for online application.



PR character "Rasppi" for online residence procedures

Promotion of measures against illegal residents to realize a safe, secure society

Among the foreign nationals residing in Japan are some who are regarded as unfavorable to Japanese society. These include individuals who entered or landed in Japan illegally, individuals who overstayed their authorized period of stay or are engaged in unauthorized activities, or individuals who have been punished for certain crimes.

The Immigration Services Agency follows a series of procedures to deal with these individuals. The Agency carefully carries out procedures to ascertain the facts involved and to consider the circumstances of the foreign national in question by investigating and examining the violation, conducting hearings, making determinations on whether or not there are grounds for forcible deportation, and repatriating those individuals for which the results determine that forcible deportation overseas. However, this does not mean that all foreign nationals who come under the conditions for deportation stipulated in the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act will be deported from Japan. Some may be granted special permission to stay by the Minister of Justice in light of that person's history in Japan, their family situation, and other relevant factors.

Proper protection of refugees

Japan became a signatory to the Convention Related to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention) in 1981 and has established a system for the recognition of refugee status. The definition of a refugee is a "person who owing to the well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion is outside the country of his/her nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."

Upon the application for recognition of refugee status from a foreign national staying in Japan, the foreign national is examined to determine whether or not the person is a refugee. When the foreign national is recognized as a refugee, the person is provided protection as stipulated in the convention; for example, recognized refugees may be issued a refugee travel document to go abroad.

In addition, Japan accepts refugees through resettlement, and the Immigration Services Agency is primarily responsible for the selection and acceptance process for resettlement refugees. In consideration with the government's policies such as the decision in 2019 to expand the coverage and number of cases for accepting resettlement refugees, the Immigration Services Agency has continuously worked to accept refugees in cooperation with relevant organizations.

Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

In June 2022, the government decided on the Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals, which shows Japan's vision of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, the medium- to long-term issues, and the concrete measures to realize these visions by FY 2026. The government decided to work together to further promote the establishment of an environment aimed at realizing a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals. For more details, please see our dedicated article "Promote measures to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals."

To Promote Immigration Control and Residency Management Throughout the Nation

In addition to the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, an external bureau of the Ministry of Justice to deal with immigration control and residency management administration, there are Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (8 bureaus), District Immigration Services Offices (7 offices), Branch Offices (61 offices), and Immigration Centers (2 centers).

Furthermore, the Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) was opened on July 2020. At FRESC, which establishes a hub for supporting foreign residents, eight organizations from four ministries and agencies (including the Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau's Human Rights Department, and the *Houterasu* (Japan Legal Support Center)) have offices on one floor to cope with inquiries regarding the status of residence as well as legal problems, responds to inquiries from one-stop consulting counters at local government offices, and holds training sessions for administrative officers of local governments through close cooperation among them.



Mascot character
"Immigu" for
Immigration Services Agency.



Public Security Intelligence Agency

Mission

The Public Security Intelligence Agency (PSIA) assumes the duty of ensuring the public security of Japan under the Subversive Activities Prevention Act and the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (the Act on the Control of Organizations). Specifically, the PSIA conducts surveillance of the so-called Aum Shinrikyo and, as a core member of Japan's intelligence community, collects and analyzes information on domestic and international trends, including trends related to economic security, threats in cyberspace, international terrorism, situations in neighboring countries and regions (such as North Korea, China, and Russia), and movements of domestic organizations. By providing information (intelligence) to the relevant governmental agencies, the PSIA contributes to the policies and measures of the Japanese government.

Economic Security

Within the international community, it is becoming increasingly more important to tackle security challenges related to the economy and advanced technologies. In Japan as well, there have been cases in which attempts were made to acquire technologies, information, and products owned by Japanese entities such as companies and universities, under the guise of appropriate economic and research activities; therefore, prevention of leak of such technologies, information, and products is vital to the nation.

The Public Security Intelligence Agency collects and analyzes information on suspicious moves targeting technologies, information, and products owned by Japanese entities; movements of countries of concern to exert undue influence through economic activities; and movements of foreign capital to acquire real estate surrounding important facilities. In addition to providing information to the government and the relevant governmental agencies, the PSIA is working to raise public awareness through lectures to business organizations, companies, and other institutions, publishing educational videos and pamphlets, and other means.



Symposium on economic security



Ensuring Economic Security 2023



Overview of Threats in Cyberspace 2023

Collection and analysis of cyber-related information

As cyberattacks aimed at stealing confidential information and acquiring money have become common at home and abroad, moves by malicious actors in cyberspace pose a serious threat to the safety and security of people's lives. Advanced cyberattacks involving or sponsored by states are of particular concern. The Public Security Intelligence Agency investigates cyberspace activities involving or sponsored by countries of concern (or other malicious entities). In the investigations, the PSIA collects and analyzes information on the actual state of cyberattacks and the threat actors behind such attacks. By providing information to the relevant governmental agencies in a timely and appropriate manner, the PSIA contributes to the policies and measures of the Japanese government.

Strengthening efforts to prevent terrorism

The Public Security Intelligence Agency collects and analyzes information on the activities of international terrorist organizations in other countries, the presence or absence of individuals and organizations in Japan that may have relationships with international terrorist organizations, and suspicious moves by such individuals and organizations. In addition, with the intention of facilitating public-private information sharing on trends of international terrorism and situations at home and abroad, the PSIA publishes the *Handbook of International Terrorism*, a report compiling terrorism-related information around the world, and gives lectures to business organizations, companies, and other institutions.

Surveillance disposition on and other measures against Aum Shinrikyo

Aum Shinrikyo (organization) has split into three groups—Aleph, the group led by Yamada, and Hikari-no-Wa—and continues its activities. These groups retain their dangerous nature because they explicitly or implicitly maintain an absolute devotion to and are under the influence of Chizuo Matsumoto (also known as Shoko Asahara), who was the mastermind of the sarin gas attacks on the subway in Tokyo and other crimes.

Since 2000, the Public Security Intelligence Agency has conducted surveillance on Aum Shinrikyo (by receiving reports



On-site inspection

on the current status of the organization and its activities, conducting on-site inspections of its facilities, and other means) under the Act on the Control of Organizations and shared the results with the heads of relevant local governments. In addition, for the purpose of alleviating fears and anxieties among residents, the PSIA has held meetings to exchange opinions with residents to explain the current status of Aum Shinrikyo and the results of on-site inspections.

In addition, since Aleph has failed to report some of the matters required by the Act on the Control of Organizations and thereby made it difficult to assess the risk of the group engaging in acts of indiscriminate mass murder, the PSIA, since January 2023, has twice requested that the Public Security Examination Commission take a recurrence prevention action against the group. In response, the Commission decided to take the disposition, and thereby Aleph is prohibited from using all or a part of land or buildings it owns or manages and from receiving gifts of money, goods, or any other economic benefits.(as of January 2024)

The PSIA will continue conducting investigations and implementing regulatory measures under the Act on the Control of Organizations in an appropriate and strict manner, thereby ensuring the public security, including people's peaceful day-to-day lives.

**Aum Shinrikyo
Special Page**



Topics

Website of the Public Security Intelligence Agency

The website of the Public Security Intelligence Agency shows the relevant laws and regulations under its jurisdiction, its history, and its tasks and disseminates information on situations at home and abroad, including those related to Aum Shinrikyo and terrorist attacks. Digital pamphlets on the PSIA's aforementioned efforts and initiatives are available on the website.



Public Security Intelligence Agency Website



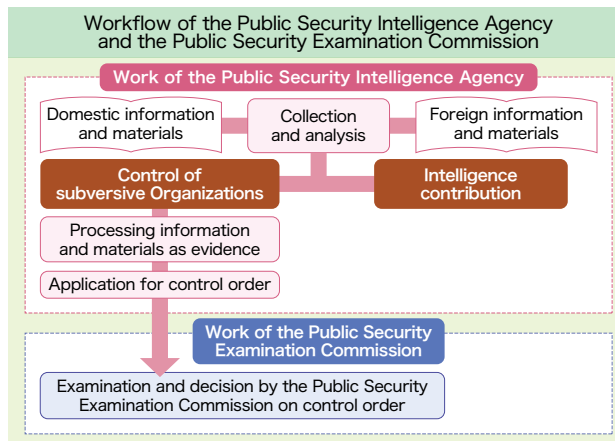
Published documents



Public Security Examination Commission

Mission

The Public Security Examination Commission has been established as an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Justice with the aim of ensuring public safety. Upon receiving an application from the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency for regulatory actions on subversive organizations as stipulated in the Subversive Activities Prevention Act or the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder, the Commission examines the application from an objective and neutral viewpoint and makes decisions on whether control measures are necessary, and if so, what control measures should be implemented.





Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice

Mission

The Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice conducts a wide range of activities, including (i) statistical research related to criminal justice policies in general, and publication of the *White Paper on Crime*, which summarizes crime trends, the actual status of offender treatment, and important current issues in Japan, as well as the *Research Department Reports* themed on individual issues, (ii) various kinds of training for Ministry of Justice officials (except for officials of correctional institutions, Immigration Services Agency, and Public Security Intelligence Agency) depending on their career experience and specialties, (iii) international cooperation such as international training for criminal justice practitioners in various countries and contributions to the United Nations on the activities of crime prevention and criminal justice, and (iv) legal technical assistance to developing countries, mainly in the Asian region (drafting legislation and regulations, improvement of legal and judicial systems, and capacity-building of legal practitioners).

Publication of the White Paper on Crime and English Version

The *White Paper on Crime* is published once a year. The report consists of a routine part and a special feature. The routine part covers general matters of criminal justice, such as crime trends and offender treatment of the previous year based on an analysis of the related statistics. The special feature covers themes according to current criminal policy issues.

Recent Special Feature	2023 Version	The Juvenile Delinquents and their Growing Environments
	2022 Version	(i) COVID-19 Pandemic and Criminal Justice (ii) Attitudes and Values of Offenders and Juvenile Delinquents
	2021 Version	Fraud Offenders



The *White Paper on Crime* considers readability by using many colored charts, and the Institute is continuing to work on improving its contents and resources. Both Japanese and English versions can be easily accessed on the Ministry of Justice website.

White Paper on Crime Website



White Paper on Crime (English version) Website



Promotion of International Cooperation

The Ministry of Justice provides legal technical assistance to developing countries with a view to establishing the rule of law to realize secure and peaceful societies in these countries. Promoting and enhancing good governance based on the rule of law in developing countries significantly contributes to the sound development of these countries and the stability of the region as well as the strengthening of countermeasures against transnational crime and the promotion of economic activities, which serves the national interests of Japan in the end.

The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established by an agreement with the United Nations and operated by the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice, has held training courses and seminars in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries around the world since 1962. Many UNAFEI alumni now play leading roles in the field of criminal justice in their respective countries and regions. UNAFEI's alumni network is the foundation of successful relationships among criminal justice practitioners in Japan and many other countries.

The International Cooperation Department (ICD) cooperates with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and academia in accordance with government policies. The ICD contributes to the establishment of the rule of law and the improvement of the business environment by providing legal technical assistance (such as drafting legislation and regulations, improvement of legal and judicial systems, and capacity-building of legal practitioners) mainly in Asian countries.

UNAFEI Website



ICD Website



UNAFEI alumni promoted to high-ranking positions

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 
China | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Justice, The Supreme People's Court Grand Justice of the Second Rank, The Supreme People's Court | 
Korea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Justice Prosecutor General |
| 
Indonesia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Chief Justice | 
Philippines | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Deputy State Prosecutor, Department of Justice Commissioner, National Police Commission Administrator, Parole and Probation Administration, Department of Justice |
| 
Singapore | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Senior State Counsel of the Criminal Justice Division, Attorney General's Chambers | 
Thailand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Justice President, Supreme Court Attorney General Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice |
| 
Nepal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Justice, Chairman, Council of Ministers Prime Minister Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Constituent Assembly Affairs Secretary, Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority | 
Timor-Leste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Director of Prison Services and Social Reintegration, Ministry of Justice |
| 
Pakistan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director General, National Police Bureau, Ministry of Interior | 
Sri Lanka | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary to the Ministry of Justice Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice |
| 
Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of International Cooperation Division, Federal Prosecution Service | 
Kenya | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Probation and Aftercare Services, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government Director of Children's Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection |
| 
Peru | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge of the International Criminal Court | 
Costa Rica | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costa Rican Ambassador to Japan |
| 
Samoa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Supreme Court Justice | 
Fiji | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President of the United Nations Human Rights Council Deputy Prosecutor, International Criminal Court |



International Training Course (UNAFEI)



Group Workshop for International Training Course (UNAFEI)



Seminar in Japan for Vietnamese officers (ICD)

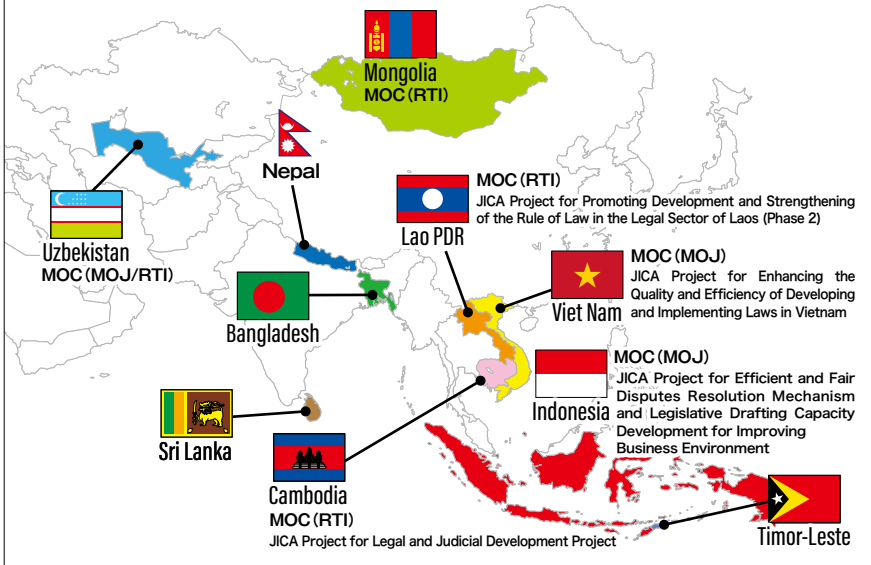


Seminar in Japan for Indonesian officers (ICD)



UNAFEI & ICD

Recipient countries assisted by ICD

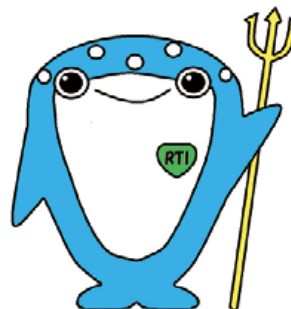


※The countries where a JICA project is being implemented or with which the Ministry of Justice or the Research and Training Institute has exchanged a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) are marked as such on the map.

Please refer to the following brochures for details of the work of the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice.

- Brochure of the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice
- Brochure of UNAFEI
- Brochure of ICD

Visit the MOJ website.



Official character of Research and Training Institute Jinbee-kun

Qualifications and Employment

Qualification Examinations

National Bar Examination

The national bar examination is designed to determine whether those who wish to become judges, public prosecutors, or attorneys have the necessary knowledge and practical abilities. The present national bar examination has been administered since 2006. Until 2022, in order to take the bar examination, a prerequisite was completion of law school or passing the preliminary bar examination. However, from the bar examination of 2023, students of law schools will be allowed to take the bar examination if they meet certain conditions (eligibility to take the examination while still in school). However, there is a time limit, and candidates can take the examination within a five-year period from the first day of April after gaining the appropriate qualifications. (Students of law schools who gain eligibility can take the examination until they complete or withdraw from law school, but the period until that day from the first day of April in the year when applicants first take the examination under the same eligibility should not exceed a five-year period.)

The examination consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions) and an essay test, and all candidates take both tests at the same time. Successful candidates will be qualified to enter the legal profession as judges, prosecutors, and attorneys after training at the legal training center of the Supreme Court. (For details on the training, please contact the Recruitment Division, Personnel Affairs Bureau, Supreme Court.)

Results of the National Bar Examination

	Candidates	Successful candidates	Average age of successful candidates	Successful percentage
2019	4,466	1,502 (366)	28.9	33.63%
2020	3,703	1,450 (367)	28.4	39.16%
2021	3,424	1,421 (395)	28.3	41.50%
2022	3,082	1,403 (389)	28.3	45.52%
2023	3,928	1,781 (524)	26.6	45.34%

Note) Numbers inside () mean female successful candidates.

Preliminary Bar Examination

The purpose of the preliminary bar examination is to judge whether a person who intends to take the national bar examination has the knowledge, practical ability, and a basic grounding in legal practices equal to those who have completed law school and consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions), an essay test, and an oral test. There are no qualification requirements for candidates.

Results of the Preliminary Bar Examination

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2019	11,780	476 (85)
2020	10,608	442 (75)
2021	11,717	467 (102)
2022	13,004	472 (73)
2023	13,372	479 (79)

Note) Numbers inside () mean female successful candidates

◆For further information, please contact the National Bar Examination Commission

Address: The Ministry of Justice, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8977 Tel: 03-3580-4111

Judicial Scrivener Examination and Land and House Investigator Examination

A judicial scrivener represents a client in procedures, such as an oral deposition, and with authorization from the Minister of Justice may also represent a client in a summary court trial. A land and house investigator performs investigations, surveying, and application procedures needed for registration of real estate. The Judicial Scrivener Examination and Land and House Investigator Examination are national examinations that determine whether candidates have the necessary knowledge and ability to enter into these professions and are administered by the

Minister of Justice. Both examinations consist of written and oral tests, and those who pass the written test are entitled to take the oral test. Successful candidates can start work immediately after registration as a judicial scrivener or a land and house investigator respectively.

◆For further information, please contact the Civil Affairs Second Division, Civil Affairs Bureau

Results of the National Examination for Judicial Scriveners

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2019	13,683	601
2020	11,494	595
2021	11,925	613
2022	12,727	660
2023	13,372	695

Results of the National Examination for Land and House Investigators

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2019	4,198	406
2020	3,785	392
2021	3,859	404
2022	4,404	424
2023	4,429	428

Employment Examination for Services

The Ministry of Justice employs officials who have passed the Examination for Comprehensive Service, Examination for General Service, Employment Examination for the Ministry of Justice Specialized Staff (Human Sciences), Prison Officer Employment Examination and Immigration Control Officer Employment Examination.

Examination for Comprehensive Service

◆Contact: [Ministry of Justice] Personal Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice [Immigration Services Agency] General Affairs Division, Immigration Services Agency [Public Security Intelligence Agency] Personnel Affairs Division, General Affairs Department, Public Security Intelligence Agency

Those employed in the category of public administration, judicial affairs, politics, international matters, humanities, law, economics, engineering, and culture are generally assigned to different departments of the Ministry and are involved in planning measures and policies. Those employed in the human sciences category are assigned to local offices to make the most of their specialized knowledge.

Examination for General Service

◆Contact: General Affairs Section, Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat (electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and architecture)
Local offices intending to employ officials (public administration)

Those employed in the public administration category, excluding in the Facilities Division of the Minister's Secretariat (electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and architecture), are generally assigned to local offices outside the Ministry.

Employment Examination for the Ministry of Justice Specialized Staff (Human Science)

Correctional Psychology Profession

◆Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Correctional psychologists work at juvenile assessment centers, penal institutions or juvenile training schools as professional staff (MOJ technical official [psychology]) make use of their specialized knowledge and skills to provide guidelines for the treatment of detained juveniles based on an analysis of the causes of delinquency or criminal acts through interviews and psychological tests, and carry out treatment programs in penal institutions and juvenile training schools.



Ministry of Justice Instructor

◆Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Ministry of Justice instructors work mainly at juvenile training schools or juvenile assessment centers to provide specialized education (correctional education), including lifestyle guidance and school course guidance, as well as observation of juveniles to develop the juveniles' individuality and abilities and ensure the smooth return to society based on the instructors' broad perspective and expertise. MOJ instructors also provide employment support instruction and course instruction in the prisons.

Probation Officers

◆Contact: General Affairs Divisions of Regional Parole Boards

Probation officers work at probation offices and regional parole boards to provide those who have committed crimes and juvenile delinquents with instruction through interviews and specialized treatment programs, as well as job assistance, based on expertise in psychology, pedagogy, welfare, and sociology and are responsible for preventing recidivism and supporting rehabilitation within society.

Recruitment Examination for Prison Officers

◆Contact: Correction District Official Division

Prison Officers generally work in prisons, juvenile prisons, or detention centers. Prisons and juvenile prisons give the inmates treatment through instruction to rehabilitate convicts and ensure a smooth return to society. Detention centers mainly house suspects and defendants in detention to prevent them from escaping or destroying evidence and to ensure that they receive fair trials.



Recruitment Examination for Immigration Control Officers

◆Contact: General Affairs Division, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (Personnel Division, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau and Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau) General Affairs Division, Immigration Centers

Immigration control officers are assigned to regional immigration services bureaus, district immigration offices, branch offices, and immigration centers. They are responsible for detecting and investigating violations related to illegal entrants or illegal overstayers and for treating and deporting detainees.



History of the red-brick building of the Ministry of Justice

The only surviving building from the Meiji government's construction plan to concentrate government offices



Red-Brick Building and Central Government Office No.6-A

The original red-brick building, designed by the two German architects W. Böckmann and H. Ende, was completed in December of 1895 (the 28th year of Meiji) after about seven years of construction to serve as the Ministry of Justice building. The roofs and floors of the building were destroyed by fire during World War II, but the red-brick walls remained intact. When the structure was renovated through the restoration work from 1948 to 1950, some alterations were made in the materials and the shape of the roof. The present red-brick building has, however, been restored completely to its original 1895 appearance after the restoration work of 1991, and its exterior was designated as a national important cultural property on December 27, 1994



Red brick building at the time of its founding



Building-construction techniques



German architects

Left : W. Böckmann Right : H. Ende

The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery

The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery inside the red-brick building of the Ministry consists of a room restored to its original appearance (formerly the dining hall of the Justice Minister's official residence), which retains the atmosphere of the Meiji era, and an adjacent room with brick walls, and exhibits various historical documents and data on the modernization of the judiciary and architectural modernization.

In addition, the Museum displays materials about major public relations that promote a deeper understanding of the judicial system and the Ministry of Justice among citizens, and currently exhibits materials relating to the Saiban-in (Lay Judge) System and the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu).

Judicial Legislation



Modernization of the Judiciary

The Museum exhibits materials concerning the activities of the old Ministry of Justice, including basic legislation requiring urgent enactment in the first half of the Meiji era, such as the laws on the organization of the judiciary and criminal laws, and records of the contributions of the foreign government advisors, in addition to displaying historical records of sensational cases in the Meiji era as well as those related to the administration of justice.



The Ministry of Justice Museum



G. Boissonade, a French jurist, and a draft of the old Japanese Penal Code



Dining hall of the old Justice Minister's official residence

The red-brick building is the only building that still exists among all the buildings constructed as part of the Central Government Building Concentration Project promoted by the Meiji government and exhibits materials concerning the establishment of the building, which has now been designated as a cultural asset symbolizing the modernization of Japanese architectural techniques, as well as the project to repair and restore it to its original appearance.

【 Tour Guide 】 The Ministry of Justice Museum

Location	3F Ministry of Justice Red-Brick Building, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo	Reservations	Please make a reservation by phone or email when arriving in a group of ten or more. Reservations will be accepted three months in advance.
Access	Please refer to Access on back cover page.		
Open days	From Monday to Friday (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays/Free admission)	Contact information	Direct Phone Number:81-3-3592-7911 Email:renga1@i.moj.go.jp
Open Hours	From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (No admission after 5:30 p.m.) *3rd Friday of the month opens from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (No admission after 3:30 p.m.)		

Ministry of Justice Website "The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery"

https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/tosho-tenji/housei06_00004.html



Visiting the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice provides tours on request from students and children to deepen their understanding of the role and the duties of the Ministry. You can hear an explanation of the duties of the Ministry, have your questions answered by officers, and take a look around the Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery located inside the red-brick building.

Requests for tours
can be done here.



Main anniversaries and weekly/monthly events of the Ministry of Justice

2024
2025.3



The kickoff event of 73rd "Yellow Feather Campaign"

Human Rights Volunteers System poster



Human Rights Volunteers' Day

June 1 was designated as Human Rights Volunteers' Day to commemorate the enforcement of the Human Rights Volunteers Act on June 1, 1949. Human Rights Volunteers provide counseling related to human rights to local residents as "Counseling Partners available in your town".

"Yellow Feather Campaign" Awareness Month

The "Yellow Feather Campaign" is a nationwide campaign aimed at deepening understanding among citizens of crime and delinquency prevention and the rehabilitation of criminal or delinquency offenders so as to build, through combined efforts in their various positions, a brighter society that is safe and secure without crime and delinquency. Centered on Awareness Week in July, promotional activities are carried out year-round in order to broadly disseminate knowledge and deepen people's understanding.

Nationwide Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are working to strengthen various consultation activities to protect children's human rights. The Bureau will hold "Nationwide Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week" during the period around the end of the summer vacation. During the week, the counseling hours are extended and consultations are available on Saturday and Sunday.



Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week poster

Kasumigaseki Open Day for Children

Events for elementary and junior high school students are held during the summer school holidays for the purpose of deepening children's understanding of the activities of the Ministry of Justice.

Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month

Under the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism, July is designated as "Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month". In order to broadly deepen Japanese citizen's interest in and understanding of preventing recidivism, during this period the Ministry of Justice actively holds various PR events and disseminates information to increase people's familiarity with and interest in the theme of "preventing recidivism", which they have little opportunity to experience in everyday life..

Constitution Week

The week from May 1 to 7, which includes Constitution Day (May 3), is designated as "Constitution Week". During this period, various programs and events aimed at thoroughly raising awareness of the spirit of the Constitution, functions of the justice system, and related matters are held nationwide.

2024

4

Houterasu Day (April 10)

Houterasu Day

The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) provides free legal consultation meetings throughout Japan around April 10, the anniversary of the center's establishment, in commemoration of "Houterasu Day".

5

Constitution Week (May 1-7)

6

Human Rights Volunteers' Day (June 1)

Month to Promote Proper Employment of Foreign Nationals for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence

Month to Promote Proper Employment of Foreign Nationals for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence

In order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence in which both Japanese and can live safely and securely, educational activities are carried out to raise awareness of not only measures to prevent illegal employment, but also important points to note when hiring foreign workers.

7

"Yellow Feather Campaign" Awareness Month

Offender Rehabilitation Day (July 1)
Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month

8

Kasumigaseki Open Day for Children

Nationwide Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week

9

● Human Rights Week

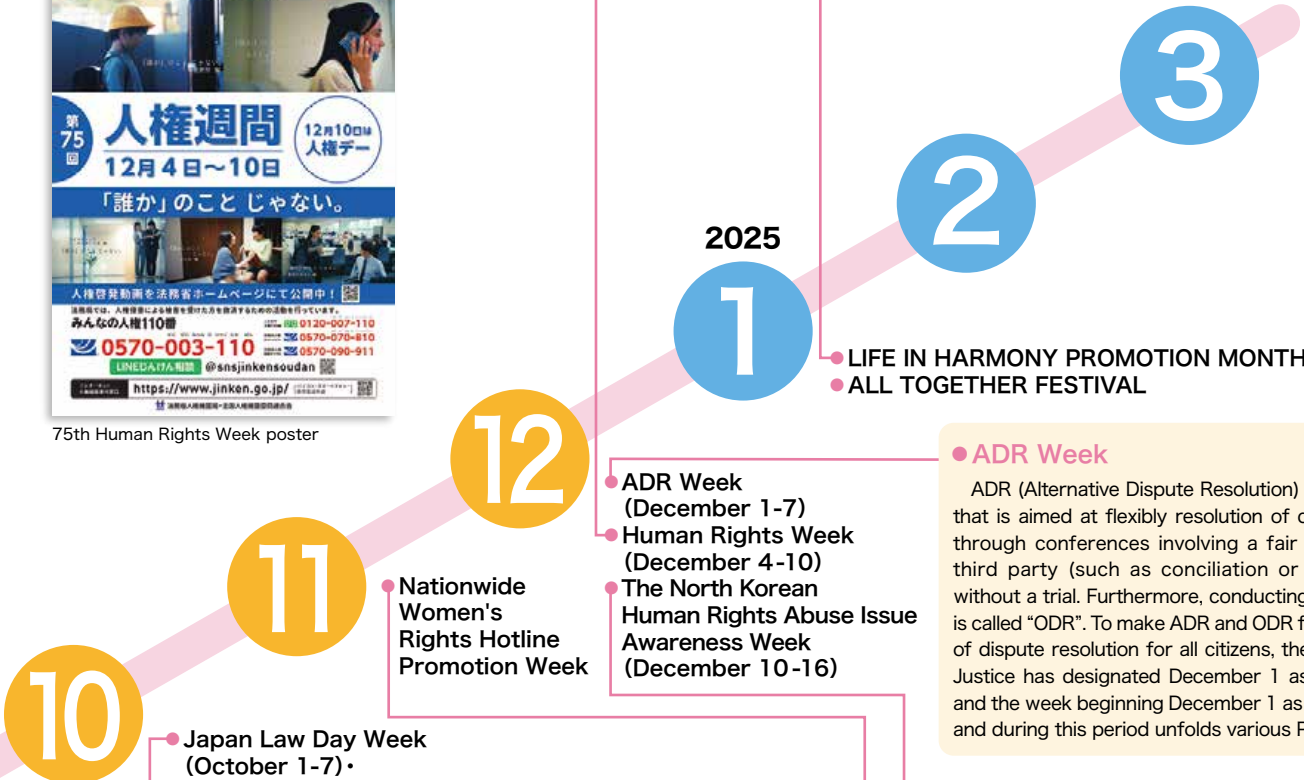
The United Nations designated December 10-the day on which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted-as "Human Rights Day" and recommended that member states further promote the development of human right. In Japan, the week ending on December 10 each year was designated as "Human Rights Week" and human rights awareness-raising activities have been carried out throughout the country .



75th Human Rights Week poster

● LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH

Starting from in 2024, January every year has been designated as "Life in Harmony Promotion Month" with the purpose of deepening interest in and understanding of society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals in order to realize such a society For the first time in 2024, various promotional and educational activities were carried out including the central event, the "All Together Festival", which took place on January 21 at the Tokyo International Exchange Center (TIEC) in Odaiba, Tokyo.



2025

1

● LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH
● ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL

2

3

12

● ADR Week (December 1-7)
● Human Rights Week (December 4-10)
● The North Korean Human Rights Abuse Issue Awareness Week (December 10-16)

11

● Nationwide Women's Rights Hotline Promotion Week

10

● Japan Law Day Week (October 1-7)・Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga (First Saturday in October)
● Notarization Week (October 1-7)

● Notarization Week

The purpose of the notarization system is to prevent problems in the future with important contracts involving the lending/borrowing of money, buying/selling of property, leases, or the creation of wills through notaries appointed by the Justice Minister preparing "notarized documents" that are recognized as having extremely strong evidential capacity in legal terms. With the support of the Ministry of Justice, the Japan National Notaries Association has designated the week beginning October 1 as "Notarization Week" and is endeavoring to spread awareness of the notarization system.

● Nationwide Women's Rights Hotline Promotion Week

In order to strengthen various consultation activities to protect women's human rights, The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, will hold a "Nationwide Women's Rights Hotline Promotion Week" in conjunction with the "Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women" by the Cabinet Office. During the week, the counseling hours are extended and consultations are available on Saturday and Sunday.

● Japan Law Day Week/Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga

Japan Law Day (October 1) was established with the aim of promoting respect for the law, protect fundamental human rights, and establish an orderly society through the rule of law. The week beginning October is designated as "Japan Law Day Week, and lectures, free counselling, and various other events are held nationwide during this period.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice hold the Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga, opening the ministry to the general public and conducting various programs.



Moot court at Law Day Festa

● ADR Week

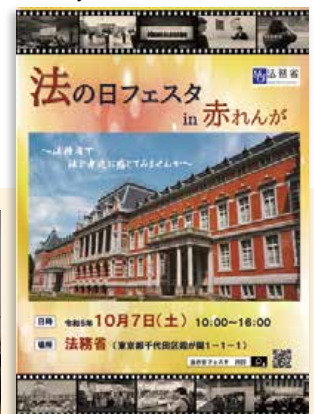
ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) is a process that is aimed at flexibly resolution of civil disputes through conferences involving a fair and neutral third party (such as conciliation or mediation), without a trial. Furthermore, conducting ADR online is called "ODR". To make ADR and ODR familiar ways of dispute resolution for all citizens, the Ministry of Justice has designated December 1 as "ADR Day" and the week beginning December 1 as "ADR Week", and during this period unfolds various PR activities.

● The North Korean Human Rights Abuse Issue Awareness Week

The law to Address the Abduction Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations was enforced with the aim of improving public understanding of the issue of human rights violations by North Korean authorities. The Law designated the week from December 10 to 16 every year as the North Korean Human Rights Abuse Awareness Week.

During the Week, various activities are conducted, including holding events and PR activities using various media.

Law Day Festa leaflet





This page is designed to give elementary and junior high school children an easy-to-understand introduction to the Ministry of Justice.

What is the role of the Ministry of Justice?

The Ministry of Justice implements measures to make society safer, securer and livelier. For example, the Ministry drafts the basic laws (rules) that help people live with a feeling of safety. When someone commits a crime, the Ministry educates the person in prison or in juvenile training schools or supports their lives in the community so that they can live without committing another crime. In addition, the Ministry implements a variety of different measures to make society a more comfortable place to live, such as investigating human violations involving bullying to prevent a reoccurrence or conducting immigration examinations for both Japanese and foreign nationals when they enter and depart Japan.

Is the Ministry of Justice in charge of all Japanese laws?

Many people think that the Ministry of Justice is in charge of all Japanese laws, but in fact, it is not. For example, the Ministry of Finance is responsible for laws related to taxes; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is responsible for laws related to

education and schools. Likewise, each ministry is responsible for laws related to the duties of those ministries and agencies. In some cases, several ministries and agencies work together on a single law. The Ministry of Justice is in charge of a number of basic social rules, including the Civil Code, which regulates property matters, and the Criminal Code, which regulates crime and punishment. The Ministry works on a variety of issues in order to realize a safe and secure society.

What are laws for?

What do you imagine when you hear the word "laws"? It may sound difficult, but laws can make us happier. Laws are rules that help us all live together through cooperation and respect for each other's individuality. By protecting our rights and showing clearly what rules we must follow, laws make it possible to live and act freely and enjoy a more fulfilling life.

The Ministry of Justice website "Kids Room" provides detailed explanations of the Ministry of Justice's work with figures and photographs.





What is Law-Related Education?

Law-related education aims to help citizens nurture the necessary social skills, including determining what is good and what is bad, and solving problems well by thinking about such questions as "What are the laws and rules for?"; "What does it mean to make a promise?"; "How can we all have different ideas and live together peacefully?"

The Ministry of Justice publishes books so that everyone can happily participate in law-related education classes and conducts classes at some schools through visitations.

Hourisu-kun on the right is the law-related education mascot character who was selected by popular vote and always works hard to make law-related education more familiar to general public. Why don't you enjoy learning with Hourisu-kun?

Law-Related Education mascot, "Hourisu-kun"



The Village With No Rules



What's wrong with the village with no rules? If we made rules for this village, what sort of rules should they be?





Stop worrying alone!
Talk to us anytime!!

I'm worried about my school, SNS, or my family, but I can't talk to anyone...
The Ministry of Justice accepts such consultations.

Children's Human Rights

If you have any of the following problems, don't hesitate to talk with us.

- I don't want to go to school because of bullying.
- My family does unpleasant things to me.
- I suffer abusive language and violence during club activities.
- I am in trouble with my parents' religion.
- It is difficult to talk to teachers and parents about my problems.
- I have no one to talk to about my problems and no idea what to do about this situation.
- Nobody notices my problems.

You can also consult about the problems around you,
such as "One of my friends is troubled by such things".

We will promise to keep your secrets.

Contact us by phone

If you would like to talk to us immediately,
please dial the following number

0570-090911

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (Monday to Friday)



Human rights Campaign characters
Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun & Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan

Contact us by Mini-Letter

Mini-Letters are distributed at schools between may and July. You may find them in the infirmary, library, or local libraries.



Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters
(for elementary school students)

Contact us by e-mail

Foreign-Language Human Rights Counseling service on the Internet

https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/pc_ad/0101_en.html

To those who are troubled
by the divorce
of father and mother



My mother and father are quarreling ... are they going to break up ...
You are having a hard time right now.
Don't put up with your problems alone; instead, talk to the people around you.
There are some places where you can consult someone about your problems.
Family life may change, but the relationship between you and
your father, mother, grandpa, and grandma will not change.
Here are some things you might want to know about your mother and father's divorce.

<https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/top-child.html>



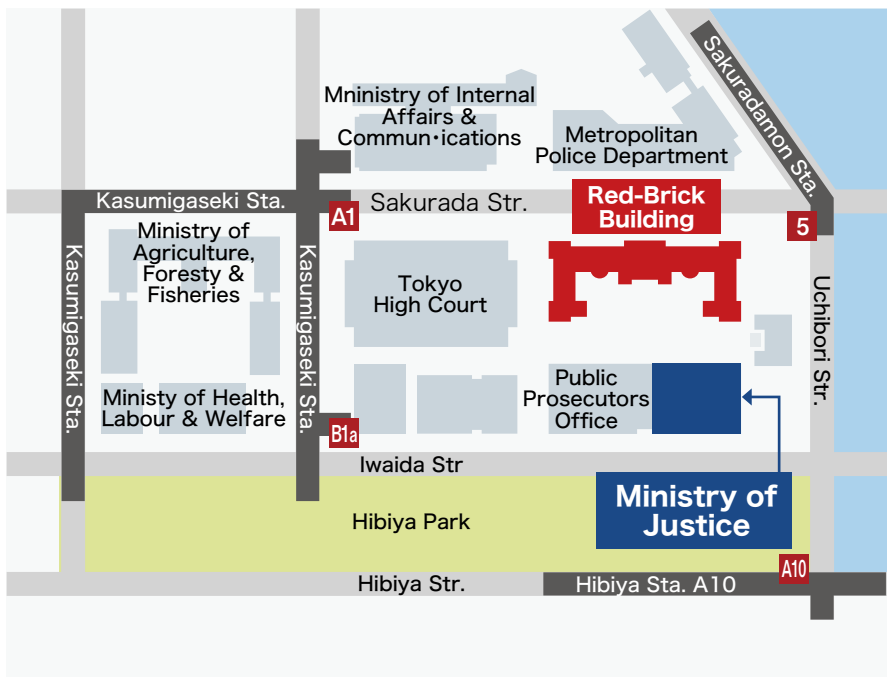


Central Gov't Bldg. No.6

Central Government Office Complex No. 6-A, which houses the Ministry of Justice, consists of 21 floors and 4 basement floors. The building is functionally divided into two zones: the Ministry of Justice zone on the north side (right on the photo) and the Public Prosecutor Offices zone on the south side (left on the photo). The outer wall of the building is covered with dignified red granite from Canada that harmonizes well with the red-brick walls.

The building was completed on June 30, 1990 as the new Ministry of Justice building.

ACCESS TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



- **JR** Yamanote Line / Keihin Tohoku Line10-minute walk from JR Yurakucho Station
- **Metro** Yurakucho Line1-minute walk from Sakuradamon Station
- Marunouchi Line / Hibiya Line3-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station
- Chiyoda Line5-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station
- Toei Mita Line6-minute walk from Hibiya Station

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

1-1-1 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8977
Tel. 03-3580-4111

website

<https://www.moj.go.jp/index.html>



@MOJ_HOUMU

X account

https://twitter.com/MOJ_HOUMU



YouTube Official channel of the Ministry of Justice MOJ Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MOJchannel>



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