



# MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF JAPAN

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

2025





# 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.



## 1 About the Ministry of Justice

Structure, Historical Background, Number of Personnel of Budget Base, and Budget .....	3
---	---

## 2 Special Feature

Special Feature1 : Promoting the Prevention of Recidivism .....	5
Special Feature2 : Support for Victims of Crime .....	11
Special Feature3 : Promoting Measures against Unclaimed Land ...	13
Special Feature4 : Promotion of Measures for Realizing a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals ...	15
Special Feature5 : Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” .....	17

## 3 Introduction of the duties assumed by each department of the Ministry of Justice

Minister’s Secretariat .....	19
International Affairs Division .....	21
Facilities Division .....	23
Judicial System Department .....	25
Civil Affairs Bureau .....	27
Criminal Affairs Bureau .....	29
Corrections Bureau .....	31
Rehabilitation Bureau .....	33
Human Rights Bureau .....	35
Litigation Bureau .....	37
Immigration Services Agency .....	39
Public Security Intelligence Agency .....	41
Public Security Examination Commission .....	42
Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice .....	43

## 4 Qualifications and Employment

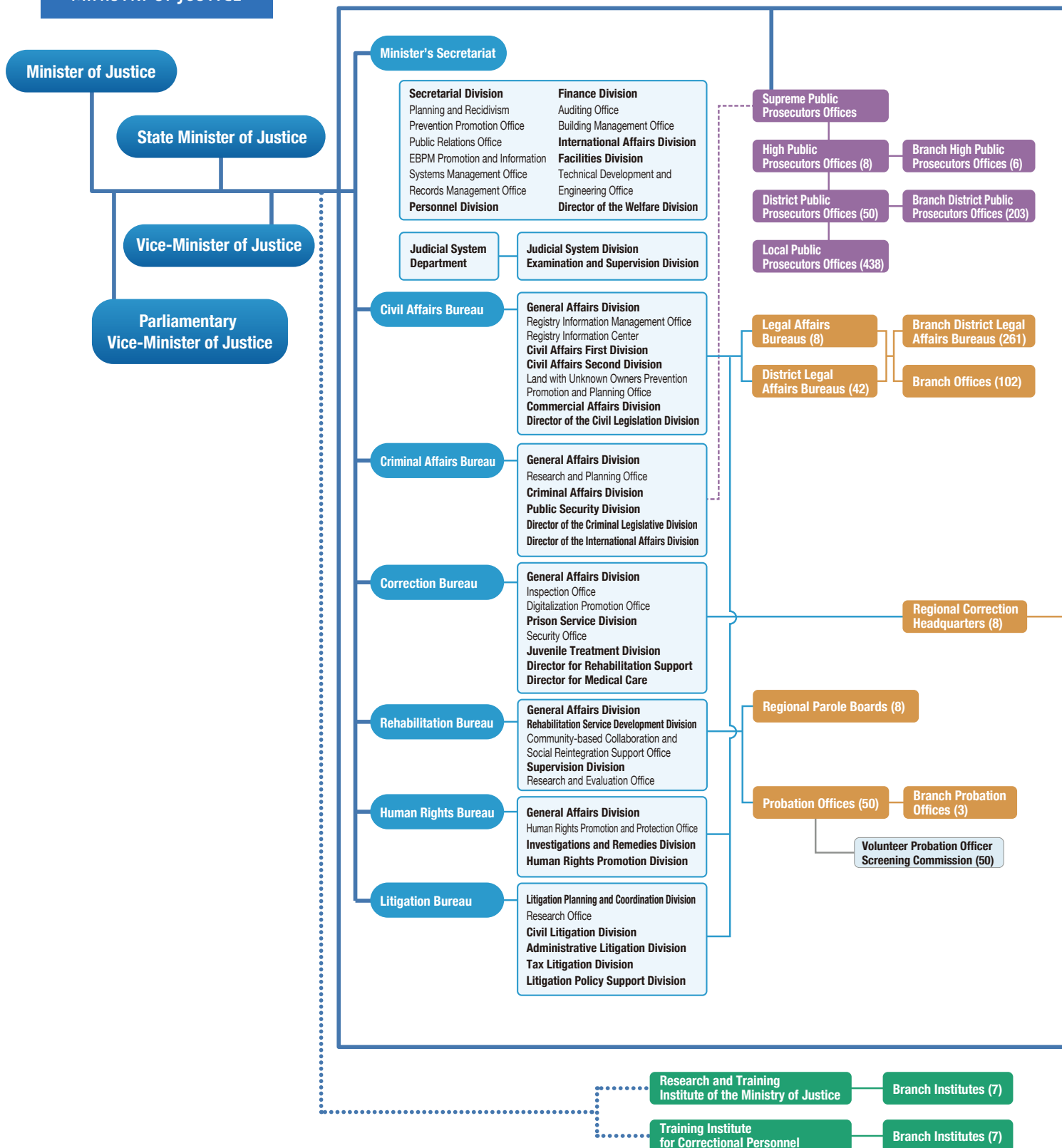
Qualification Examinations .....	45
Employment Examinations for Services .....	46

## 5 Making the Ministry of Justice More Familiar

History of the Red-Brick Building of the Ministry of Justice .....	47
Main Anniversaries and Weekly/Monthly Events of the Ministry of Justice ...	49
Kids Room .....	51
Want to Learn More about MOJ? .....	54

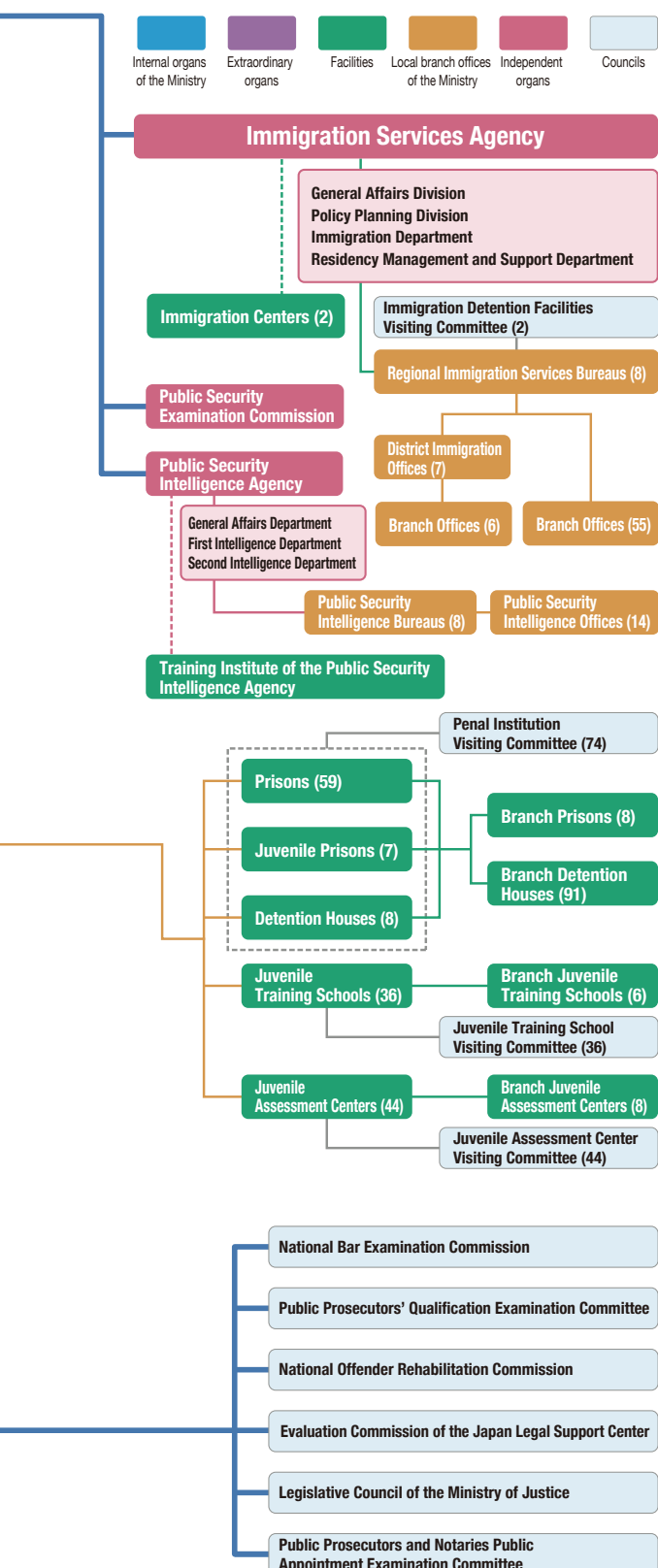
# About the Ministry of Justice

## ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



Figures in parentheses show the number of organizations (as of Apr. 1, 2025)





## 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 (with Minister's Secretariat and 6 bureaus)

## Number of Personnel of Budget Base (FY 2025)

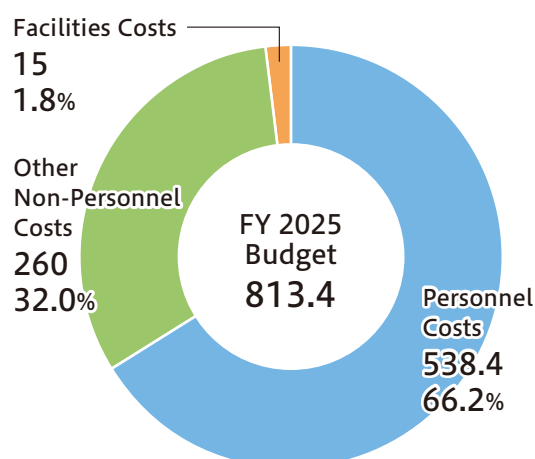
Organization Name	Personnel
Ministry of Justice	892
Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice	84
Legal Affairs Bureaus	8,946
Public Prosecutors Offices	11,858
Correctional Institutions	23,515
Probation Offices and Regional Parole Boards	1,859
Immigration Services Agency	6,499
Public Security Examination Commission	4
Public Security Intelligence Agency	1,830
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,487</b>

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

## Budget (FY 2025)

The MOJ FY 2025 Budget comprises a general budget of 813.4 billion yen.

Personnel costs comprise 66.2% of the general budget.





# Promoting the Prevention of Recidivism

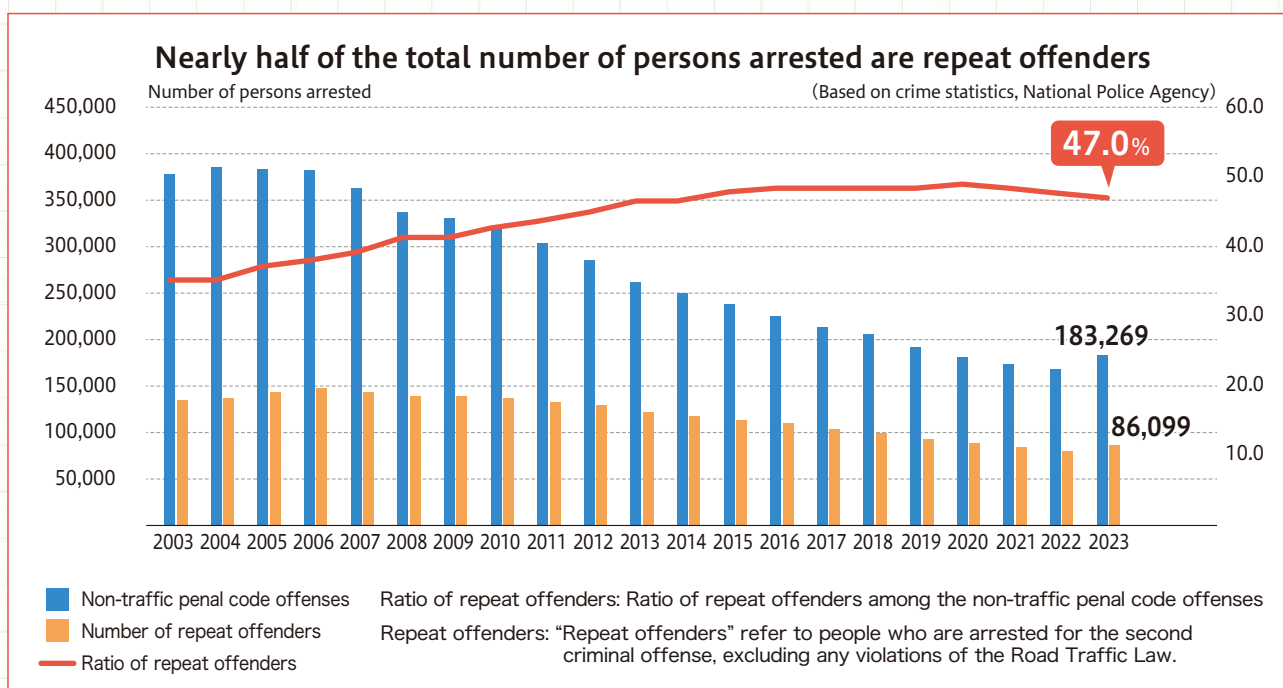
## For the achievement of a society without recidivism nor any new victims of crime

The Ministry of Justice works to ensure that individuals who have committed crimes or delinquent acts can smoothly be reintegrated into society as active members. This helps us create a safe and secure society, preventing the public from being further victimized.

## Why is it necessary to prevent recidivism?

The ratio of repeat offenders among those arrested for criminal offenses has remained at nearly half, or 47.0 percent, in 2023. In other words, out of every two individuals arrested, one is a repeat offender. As such, in order to reduce crime overall, it is important to implement measures to prevent recidivism.

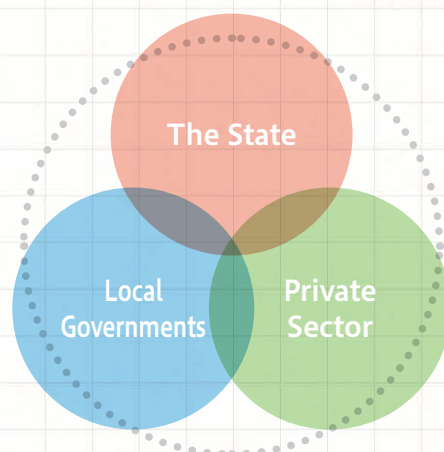
### Number and ratio of repeat offenders among those arrested for criminal offenses



## To avoid criminal recidivism and delinquency

Some of those who repeat crimes and delinquent acts have difficulties in terms of work, housing, studies, or senior or disability status. Such factors may play a role in recidivism.

As such, in addition to guidance and education provided by criminal justice institutions, including correctional facilities and probation offices, it is crucial for local governments and private sector partners engaged in activities related to preventing recidivism to look beyond criminal justice proceedings and work together to provide long-term support.



## The Act for the Prevention of Recidivism and Recidivism Prevention Plan

The Act for the Prevention of Recidivism was enacted and came into effect in December 2016. It establishes basic measures for preventing recidivism, along with basic principles and clarification of the responsibilities of the State and local governments with regard to these measures. To promote comprehensive and systematic measures related to preventing recidivism in accordance with this law, the Government Cabinet approved the Recidivism Prevention Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "First Plan") (\*) in December 2017. With the period of the First Plan concluding at the end of FY 2022, the Second Recidivism Prevention Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Second Plan") (\*) was approved by the Cabinet in March 2023. The Second Plan established seven major challenges as follows, as well as 96 specific measures.

(\*) the Government Cabinet approved the Recidivism Prevention Plan (First Plan) in December 2017. With the period of the First Plan concluding at the end of FY 2022, the Recidivism Prevention Plan (Second Plan) was approved by the Cabinet in March 2023.

### Major Challenges

- ① Securing Employment and Housing
- ② Facilitating the Use of Health, Medical, and Welfare Services
- ③ Implementing Educational Support in Collaboration with Schools and Others
- ④ Implementing Effective Guidance That Is Tailored to the Individual Attributes of Persons Who Have Committed Offenses
- ⑤ Promoting Activities of Cooperating Members of the Private Sector
- ⑥ Advancing Regional Inclusion
- ⑦ Developing the Personnel and Physical Systems for Recidivism Prevention

## Advancing Regional Inclusion

Various factors influence those who repeatedly commit crimes and delinquent acts, and the criminal justice process does not necessarily resolve these.

Once the criminal justice process is concluded, the State, local governments, and private sector partners need to continue to cooperate to provide support to help reintegrate individuals who have committed crimes or delinquent acts back into the local community.

Given the importance of providing this support, the Second Plan advances regional inclusion as a major challenge.

Support after the conclusion of the criminal justice process will mainly be carried out by local governments through the provision of various administrative services for the general public.

The Ministry of Justice will promote local government efforts to prevent recidivism through measures like financial support to prefectures engaged in providing assistance to municipalities, as well as in providing direct support to those who have committed crimes or delinquent acts.

The government reports annually on measures taken to prevent recidivism in the White Paper on Recidivism Prevention, which is based on the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism.

In order to rehabilitate individuals who have committed crimes or delinquent acts, the understanding and cooperation of all members of the local community are essential, along with the efforts of the State and local governments.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation in helping 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.





## Introduction of the new imprisonment and improved treatment of inmates

### Establishment of the new imprisonment

In June 2022, a law was enacted to partially revise the Penal Code, creating a “new imprisonment” in place of imprisonment with or without work. The law stipulates that those receiving the new imprisonment may be made to perform work or be provided with guidance that will help improve rehabilitation.

Previously it was assumed that all inmates sentenced to imprisonment with work would be required to work, and a specified amount of time would be allotted for it. Work is important for inmate rehabilitation and their smooth reintegration into society. That significance remains unchanged even with the introduction of the new imprisonment. However, some inmates are more effectively rehabilitated when prioritizing guidance over work, while others may benefit more from receiving medical or welfare-related support.

The establishment of the new imprisonment means that instead of having all inmates do the same work, we are now better able to provide treatment tailored to the needs of each inmate. We expect this will result in more effective rehabilitation and facilitate smooth reintegration into society.

The new imprisonment will be introduced on June 1, 2025. We are in the process of conducting various studies and carrying out initiatives at penal institutions related to implementation of new forms of treatment under the new imprisonment.

### Efforts to improve the treatment of inmates

#### Treatment tailored to the individual

In light of the purpose behind the system of the new imprisonment, correctional treatment programs will be established for various categories of inmates in line with certain shared characteristics. These will consider factors such as the age of an inmate, their mental and physical condition, the length of sentence to be served, and any circumstances that may hinder an inmate’s rehabilitation and smooth reintegration into society. Correctional treatment programs will stipulate important matters that need to be addressed regarding rehabilitation and reform. Appropriate correctional treatment programs will be assigned to inmates according to their particular situations; they will be treated in facilities that cater to these programs, making it easier to effectively and efficiently provide the necessary treatment to individual inmates.

#### Welfare support program

For individuals with intellectual disabilities and others in need of welfare support



#### Senior welfare program

For those who have difficulty living independently due to old age, etc.



#### Addiction recovery treatment program

For those who require focused correctional treatment for substance addiction, based on factors like the extent of addiction to drugs



#### Youth treatment program

For inmates under 26 years old



Examples of correctional treatment programs

#### Work for the purpose of reformation and rehabilitation

Under the new imprisonment, inmates must clearly understand the purpose of the work which they have been assigned and what they can expect from engaging in it. So work that will help inmates acquire the vocational basics necessary to work as members of society after being released from prison is referred to as “basic work,” and work that supplements areas the inmate may be lacking in, such as communication skills, and is performed to improve areas that need to be improved is called “functional work.” Work will be reorganized and implemented in conjunction with vocational training to help inmates acquire qualifications and other skills in line with employment-related needs. Also, to make work more effective regarding reformation, rehabilitation, and smooth reintegration into society, inmates will be encouraged to work with their own goals in mind.



Discussions regarding functional work for the improvement of communication skills, etc.

### ● Guidance tailored to an inmate's issues

In penal institutions, inmates are made aware of their responsibility for their crimes. To cultivate a healthy mind and body, and help inmates acquire the knowledge and attitudes necessary to adapt to life in the wider society, we have been offering inmates guidance to help them improve. In October 2023, under the new imprisonment, we introduced a “dialogue” program with guidance for general improvement in order to further motivate inmates regarding their rehabilitation, reform, and smooth reintegration into society. This guidance helps inmates reflect on the way they lived in the past, the crimes they committed, and the environment they were a part of, which in turn helps them understand the significance of correctional treatment and their own future prospects. Practicing dialogue, individual interviews, group work, and other approaches are adopted based on dialogue between inmates and staff. Dialogue practice should be conducted on an equal footing, in an open dialogue with staff listening and responding to everything the inmate has to say. A variety of other principles and methods regarding dialogue practice are also incorporated, such as reflecting process, a core method of the approach.



Guidance for general improvement through dialogue being implemented

Furthermore, special improvement guidance that is provided according to individual issues like drug addiction and issues related to sexual offenses, in line with the new imprisonment, will be fully implemented through the new “guidance for preventing violence.” In the past, a “violence prevention program” providing guidance for general improvement was implemented for individuals involved in violent crimes, including those guilty of continuous or repeated child abuse or violence toward spouses. However, this program was primarily aimed at male inmates. As such, the content has been revised and is now delivered as special improvement guidance, regardless of gender. This allows the provision of a wider range of guidance to inmates who exhibit violent tendencies. The new guidance addresses issues of violent crime in general, including programs with a focus on individual issues such as child abuse and domestic violence. The goal is to help inmates acquire practical skills regarding the individual's issues, such as changing one's mindset, dealing with risks, and learning how to better interact with people.

#### [Special improvement guidance]

- Guidance for drug addiction withdrawal
- Guidance for traffic safety
- Guidance for reduction of violent tendencies
- **Guidance for preventing violence**
- Guidance for preventing recidivism of sexual offenses
- Education that helps inmates see from the victim's perspective

### ● Support for social reintegration after release from prison

Apart from correctional treatment, given the importance of improving rehabilitation and promoting the smooth reintegration of inmates into society, support is provided to help secure housing, employment, and other necessities of life in society after release. As such, a variety of efforts has traditionally been made in penal institutions in terms of operational measures in cooperation with related organizations. However, starting in December 2023, it has been explicitly stipulated by law that the heads of penal institutions are responsible for implementing support for the social reintegration of inmates, and efforts in line with this are being further promoted.



Staff learning about an employment program that incorporates human resource development expertise

To help secure employment for those released from prison, we have been collaborating with Hello Work since 2006 to provide employment support like job counseling and interviews with potential employers according to the wishes and capabilities of inmates. With the aim of motivating inmates to find employment after release and helping them acquire the mindset and behavior required in the workplace, “employment preparation guidance” is provided in the form of group work, lectures, and other activities. In recent years, we have collaborated with private companies and organizations to implement virtual job fairs and employment programs that incorporate expertise in human resource development. Utilizing the ideas and ingenuity of the private sector has enabled us to implement initiatives that would not be possible by the government alone.

### ● Team-based treatment that incorporates the expertise of multiple professions

Besides prison officers, penal institutions engage the services of various professionals as they work toward preventing inmates' recidivism, including people in the medical, psychological, educational, welfare, and employment support fields. In order to improve treatment and support for inmates who require special consideration due to their individual situations, we have established support teams consisting of staff from multiple professions. They cooperate to implement treatment, taking advantage of their respective fields of expertise.



Meeting with staff from multiple professions

To prevent recidivism and create a society where people can live safely and securely, we will continue working to improve the treatment of inmates, in line with the reasons behind establishing the new imprisonment.



## “HOGOSHI”

### Handing down traditions and establishing a sustainable system

#### What are “HOGOSHI”?

They are community volunteers who work with probation officers to support the rehabilitation of those who have committed crimes or delinquent acts.

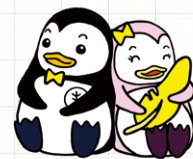
There are approximately 47,000 hogoshi nationwide. (As of January 1, 2024)

They are part-time government civil servants commissioned by the Minister of Justice, but they do not receive a salary. (However, they are reimbursed for actual expenses such as transportation costs that they incur in the course of their duties.)

Scan here for more information on HOGOSHI.



Scan here for a pamphlet on HOGOSHI.



#### Main duties of a HOGOSHI

The main duties of a HOGOSHI are as follows.

##### Probationary supervision

Hogoshi conduct periodic interviews with those on probation, either at the Hogoshi's home or a Rehabilitation Support Center. Apart from assessing the probationers' living conditions and providing necessary guidance, they provide assistance with employment and education, as well as consultation and advice regarding personal concerns.

##### Re-entry Coordination

For individuals housed in prisons or juvenile training schools, hogoshi talk with family members and look into post-release housing options while individuals are still incarcerated. This involves helping create a sound environment for post-release rehabilitation by coordinating with potential employers, schools, and welfare organizations.

##### Crime Prevention Activities

They also engage in various public relations activities in cooperation with local governments and other related agencies and organizations to help raise awareness, including through the “Yellow Feather Campaign.” The goal is to promote understanding of offender rehabilitation and reintegration, and help prevent crime from occurring in the first place.



An interview

Scan here for a true story of a juvenile and a HOGOSHI.



Anyone's life can change



What's important

Scan here for a pamphlet on collaboration between HOGOSHI and schools.





## Study Group for the Establishment of a Sustainable HOGOSHI System

The 2nd Recidivism Prevention Plan approved by the Cabinet in March 2023 states that, “To establish a HOGOSHI system that can adapt to the changing times, examinations and trials must be conducted regarding HOGOSHI treatment and their operating environment, procedures for recommendation and appointment, age requirements, and job descriptions, as well as improving collaboration with probation officers. Conclusions will be reached within two years, and necessary measures will be taken based on those conclusions.” As such, the Minister of Justice decided that the “Study Group for the Establishment of a Sustainable HOGOSHI System” would be held starting in May 2023, with members consisting of both novice and experienced HOGOSHI, as well as experts and academics.

The study group has met 14 times and discussed various issues and challenges related to the HOGOSHI system. In October 2024, a report summarizing the group’s results was submitted to the Minister of Justice. The report included 78 measures to be implemented. The Ministry of Justice plans to steadily implement measures based on the findings in the report, while continuing to listen to the opinions of HOGOSHI nationwide.



Study group members submitting their report to the Minister of Justice

Scan here for  
details of the  
report.



## International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

The Ministry of Justice arranged the “Second World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration,” held as a parallel session of the Sixth World Congress on Probation and Parole held in The Hague, Netherlands on April 17, 2024.

A declaration was endorsed at this conference with the support of participants designating April 17, the date of the conference, as the “International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration.” The declaration also mentions the nearly 130-year old HOGOSHI system of Japan. With the aim of raising international awareness of community volunteers’ contributions, the declaration highlights the importance of community volunteer initiatives in the field of rehabilitation and community corrections around the world as they work to support the reintegration of offenders.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to promote Japan’s renowned HOGOSHI system internationally, taking into account the purpose of this declaration.



The Second World Congress for Community Volunteers

Scan here for more information on  
community volunteers supporting  
offender reintegration.





# Support for Victims of Crime

## Establishment of an attorney-based victim support systems

To further promote measures to support the victims of crime, the Comprehensive Legal Support Act was amended in April 2024, establishing an attorney-based victim support systems.

It is set to be implemented as soon as possible, but at the latest within two years from the date of promulgation (the 24th of the same month).

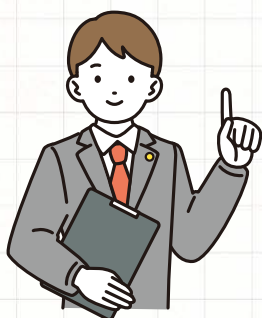
### Reason for the amendment

Victims of crime and their families need to take various measures immediately after an incident, including regarding criminal and civil matters. Despite this, depending on the actual circumstances of the crime, they may be unable to cope with the situation by themselves due to mental or physical damage, or fall into economic hardship and find themselves unable to engage the services of an attorney.

As such, this amendment to the law aims to further promote measures related to supporting the victims of crime, adding services to provide necessary legal consultations and to have contracted attorneys handle legal services through the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu), which provides comprehensive and continuous support to the victims of certain crime.

### Key points of the system

- Regarding various responses related to criminal, civil, and administrative matters, victims of crime and their families can receive comprehensive and continuous assistance from contracted attorneys of Houterasu.



#### Examples of assistance from Houterasu attorneys



Legal consultation



Accompanying to visit  
investigative authorities



Claims for damages

- In principle, the system is free of charge.

\*If victims are compensated more than a certain amount, they become responsible for a portion or all of the cost of assistance.

### Who can use the system?

Those who meet certain financial requirements and meet the following criteria:

- 1 Victims of a crime constituting an intentional, criminal act resulting in a person's death (murder, manslaughter, robbery resulting in death, etc.)
- 2 Victims of specific sex crimes under the Penal Code (penetrative sexual assault, Indecent assault, etc.)
- 3 Victims of the criminal acts specified by Cabinet Order, who have suffered damage to the extent specified by Cabinet Order

Under this system, "victims" refers to persons who have sustained an injury due to a crime or their spouses, lineal relatives, or siblings, if such a person has died, etc.

## Other major Ministry of Justice initiatives supporting victims of crime

The Ministry of Justice aims to help the victims of crime recover as quickly as possible. To that end, we aim to provide comprehensive support in accordance with the “4th Basic Plan for Crime Victims” so that they can resume peaceful lives in society, implemented through various initiatives as follows.

### ● Damages compensation order system

A system has been established that allows victims of crimes such as murder or assault, or their legal heirs, to make simpler and more prompt claims for damages than through normal civil litigation procedures. When attempting to recover damages incurred through harm by an assailant, a petition for a restitution order is filed with the court handling the perpetrator’s criminal case, and those criminal trial records are used for the proceedings.

### ● Notification system for victims

The Public Prosecutors Office has established a system to provide victims of crime with information like the outcome of cases, trial dates, and court verdicts. Upon the victim’s request, in cooperation with correctional facilities, regional parole boards, and probation offices, the system also allows for the provision of information regarding the perpetrator’s treatment while incarcerated, their release date from prison, details related to parole examinations, and the status of their treatment while on probation. There is also a system for providing information regarding perpetrators to victims of juvenile offences.

### ● Victim participation system

A system has been established that allows victims of certain crimes, if they wish and with the court’s permission, to participate in criminal proceedings, attend the trial, and question the defendant.

### ● Opinion hearing system in parole examination

A system has been established that allows victims of crime to convey their opinions and sentiments regarding the harm they suffered to the regional parole board, which holds hearings to decide whether to grant parole of the perpetrator or release on parole from a juvenile training school, as well as issues related to the adjustment of living conditions and probation.

### ● Hearing and Communication System of Victims' Sentiments to perpetrators

A system has been established that allows the victims of crime to express to corrections officers and probation officers their sentiments and their opinions about the perpetrator’s current situation and behavior. Upon request from victims, these feelings can be conveyed to perpetrators who are serving their prison sentence, committed to juvenile training school, or on probation.

### ● Support from the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

Houterasu provides various information on support for victims of crime, along with referrals to attorneys with experience and understanding of such support. It also offers legal consultation regardless of financial means for victims of spousal violence, stalking, and child abuse. It also notifies the court of candidates for court-appointed attorneys under the victim participation system, which allows victims of certain crimes to directly participate in criminal trials, and provides allowances like travel expenses to these victims.





# Promoting Measures against Unclaimed Land

## What is Unclaimed Land?

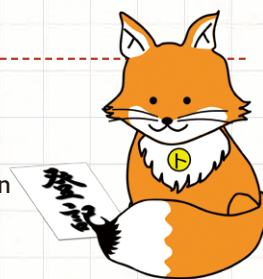
*Unclaimed land* refers to land that falls under any of the following due to the lack of registration of an inheritance and other reasons.

### Unclaimed Land

- 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

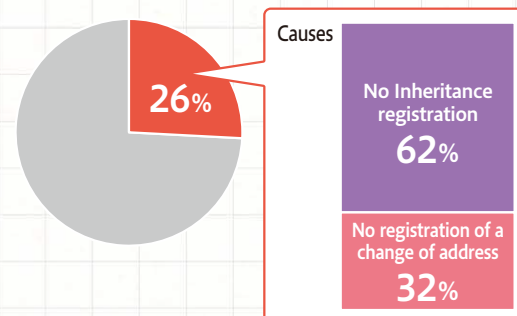
Over 20% of the land in Japan (equivalent to the area of the main island of Kyushu) is unclaimed land, which results in a major social problem.

Real Property Registration Promotion Mascot  
Toukitsune



### ● Ration of Unclaimed land

(Research conducted by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in 2023)



## 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)

Inheritors are 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 100,000yen 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.



### Declaration-by-the-heir (starting on April 1, 2024)

A new system, the "Declaration-by-the-heir", has also been 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 "Declaration-by-the-heir" 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.

## ● 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 name or address (starting on April 1, 2026)

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

The following measures will also be introduced alongside mandatory application for registration of change of name or 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 Registration System and the Basic Resident Registration Network System, enabling the registrar to update property addresses with official authority without having to wait for the owners to apply for a change of name or 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.

## ● The Inherited Land Treasury Return System (starting from April 27, 2023)

In order to prevent unneeded inherited land from being left uncontrolled and becoming unclaimed land, the Inherited Land Treasury Return System was established where any inherited land can be returned to the national treasury after payment of the dues (basically 200,000yen) when the land satisfies certain requirements. This system becomes a new option for disposing of inherited land in Japanese society.

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 Bureaus)

- 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.

## ● 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.



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







# Promotion of Measures for Realizing 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 protection of refugees.

The compiled opinion statement of the “Advisory Panel of Experts for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals” was submitted to the Minister of Justice in November 2021, who serves as co-chair of the Ministerial Conference (a council whose members are ministers from relevant ministries and agencies).

Based on this opinion statement, the Ministerial Conference in June 2022 adopted the “Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals,” outlining Japan’s vision for a society of harmonious coexistence, as well as medium- and long-term issues that need to be addressed in order to realize such a society. The roadmap was partially revised in June 2024. It was also decided that the government would work as one to further promote the creation of an environment for the Realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

See here for more information on  
the Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of  
Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals.



## 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 and Immigration Services Agency 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 “ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL,” an event that was the highlight of the month.

See here for more information on  
LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH.



Counseling for foreign residents



Consultation counter at Foreign Residents Support Center



Performance on the main stage



Immigration inspector experience booth



## ● Information necessary for daily life

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 is available on the “Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” page on the Agency’s website in 18 languages, as well as plain Japanese.

In March 2024, an orientation video on daily life in Japan was also released in 17 languages. (Available on the Immigration Services Agency’s website, as well as the official YouTube channel of the Ministry of Justice.)



See here for  
the **Guidebook on Living  
and Working.**



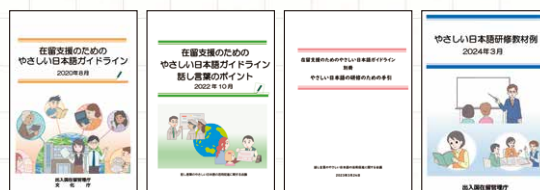
See here for more information on  
the **orientation video on  
daily life in Japan.**



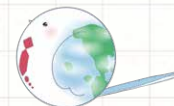
## ● Spreading the use of plain Japanese

In order to promote the use of plain Japanese by the national government, local governments, and other entities, the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Resident Support” was 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. These guidelines are available on “Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” on the website of the Immigration Services Agency.

Training for employees of local governments and other entities is being implemented based on these guidelines, in collaboration with relevant ministries and agencies, with the aim of promoting the spread and usage of plain Japanese.



Plain Japanese  
Promotion Mascot  
Kotorin



See here for  
the **Plain Japanese  
Guidelines for Foreign  
Resident Support.**



# To develop and secure human resources in industrial fields with labor shortages

## ● Review of the Technical Intern Training Program (establishment of the Employment-for-Skill-Development Program)

Since Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) was established in 1993, we have welcomed a lot of technical intern trainees to Japan. The trainees brought the skills, etc. acquired in the training back to their home countries, and it has contributed to the development of those countries.

On the other hand, various issues have been pointed out regarding the TITP. Since the time to review the program which is specified by law has come, we have promulgated an Amendment Act in June 2024 to establish a new program called the Employment-for-Skill-Development (ESD) Program for the purpose of dissolving those issues of TITP according to the actual situation, and developing and securing human resources through employment in industrial fields with labor shortages.

For making Japan an attractive country to work, we will prepare for the smooth implementation of the amended law along with the Specified Skilled Worker System, while paying attention to securing human resources even in rural area. In addition, we will get down to the improvement of an environment for acceptance of foreign nationals to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.

## ● Optimization of the Specified Skilled Worker System

In order to cope with the Japan’s worsening labor shortages, the Specified Skilled Worker System (SSWS) has been in operation since April 2019, accepting work-ready foreign nationals who have a certain degree of expertise and skills in the industrial fields where it is difficult to secure human resources even if efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources.

For the System’s smooth operation, we are undertaking various initiatives such as Memorandums of Cooperation (MOCs) with foreign governments and holding job matching events for companies wishing to employ Specified Skilled Workers.

Along with the establishment of the ESD Program, the Amendment Act (enacted in June 2024) was made to optimize the SSWS. For the further optimization of the system, the Amendment Act limits outsourced organization providing support services for the Specified Skilled Workers to registered support organizations, while tightening registration requirements. It also specifies the Employment-for-Skill-Development Organization (ESDO) provides consultation and support for Specified Skilled Workers and strengthens collaboration between accepting organizations and local governments.



# Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”

## 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 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.

## “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum and its outcomes

The Ministry of Justice held three ministerial-level meetings in 2023, collectively referred to as the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum. These consisted of the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers, the G7 Justice Ministers’ Meeting, and the ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers’ Interface.

The Ministry of Justice, through implementing commitments agreed upon at the forum, bolstered relations with ASEAN and the G7 in the fields of law and justice. Specific activities are as follows.



Photo at the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum

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



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



## ● G7 Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine (ACT for Ukraine)

Adopted at the G7 Justice Ministers’ Meeting, the Tokyo Declaration, as proposed by Japan, includes the establishment of the “Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine.” The Ministry of Justice serves as the secretariat for the Task Force and plays a leading role in its activities. Supporting anti-corruption measures in Ukraine not only helps build a better country there but is extremely important for utilizing resources for reconstruction supplied by countries around the world fairly and equitably.

The Task Force held its third meeting in Tokyo in November 2024, following two previous online meetings. The meeting was attended by about 40 experts, including representatives from the justice ministries of G7, EU, international organizations like the United Nations, and Ukraine’s anti-corruption agencies. Discussions were held with the aim of developing an effective anti-corruption support programs for Ukraine, while preventing overlap of technical assistance programs.

The Ministry of Justice will continue to head this Task Force moving forward and, through its anti-corruption efforts, work to support Ukraine’s recovery.

## ● ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum

The ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers’ Interface was the first of its kind, bringing together ministerial-level officials of ASEAN and the G7 from the fields of law and justice. It was agreed that this dialogue between ASEAN and the G7 would continue moving forward. Furthermore, based on a proposal from Japan, the establishment of the ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum was agreed upon. The purpose of the forum is to build mutual understanding and trust through dialogue among the young government officials (Next Leaders) who will head the fields of





law and justice in ASEAN and the G7 in the future.

The first forum was held in Tokyo from June to July 2024, with 55 young officials from 18 countries and organizations attending. Participants exchanged views on policy issues faced by each country and initiatives related to them, common challenges related to the rule of law, and measures to address these challenges. A network was formed to deepen mutual understanding and lay the groundwork for future cooperation, transcending the regional, social, and institutional differences between ASEAN and the G7.

Moving forward, the Ministry of Justice plans to hold this forum on a regular basis.



### ● Implementation of the ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Law and Justice

The ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers approved the "ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Law and Justice," which outlines specific activities to deal with common issues in the fields of law and justice shared by Japan and ASEAN. As one of the Work Plan's initiatives, the ASEAN-Japan Good Practice Seminar on Intellectual Property 2024 (JSIP Follow-up Seminar) was held in December 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The seminar brought together legal practitioners and experts from ASEAN countries, Timor-Leste, and Japan to hold discussions regarding systems, operations, and issues related to trademark rights.

## ● The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (The Kyoto Congress) and its outcomes

The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (The Kyoto Congress), held in Kyoto over six days from March 7-12, 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 the 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) (For details on the outcomes, refer to the Minister's Secretariat International Affairs Division section (page 21).)

## ● Promoting Legal Technical Assistance

For many years, the Ministry of Justice has contributed to the promotion of the rule of law and the strengthening of good governance by providing assistance for improving legal systems in developing countries.

In a range of fields including civil, commercial, and criminal law, we have been assisting developing countries, mainly in Asia and in the form of bilateral support, for around 30 years. This has involved providing assistance in drafting basic laws, developing judicial systems that administer the enacted laws and regulations, and building the capacity of legal professionals while carefully responding to the actual situation and needs of each country. Furthermore, in cooperation with international organizations, among others, the United Nations, 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, along with providing bilateral support in the field of criminal justice.

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 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 Secretarial Division, Personnel Division, Finance Division, International Affairs Division, Facilities Division, Director of the Welfare Division, and Judicial System Department. (See page 21 onward for the duties of the International Affairs Division, Facilities Division, and Judicial System Department.)

## 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 ほうむSHOW?

"Houmu SHOW"

The "Houmu SHOW" Editorial Office is a voluntary public relations 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 policies.

Staff with diverse backgrounds and skills collaborate across departments and engage in activities to promote the appeal of the Ministry of Justice both internally and externally.

Initiatives include interviews with staff members, public relations activities using "Momojan" the PR mascot of the Ministry of Justice of Japan, etc.



"Momojan"  
the PR mascot of the  
Ministry of Justice of Japan



ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL



Interview with the Director-  
General of the Civil Affairs Bureau



Official website



Japan Law Day Festa



Official Instagram  
account



## Topics

### At Home Plan - Plus One -: Aiming to achieve diversity and inclusion

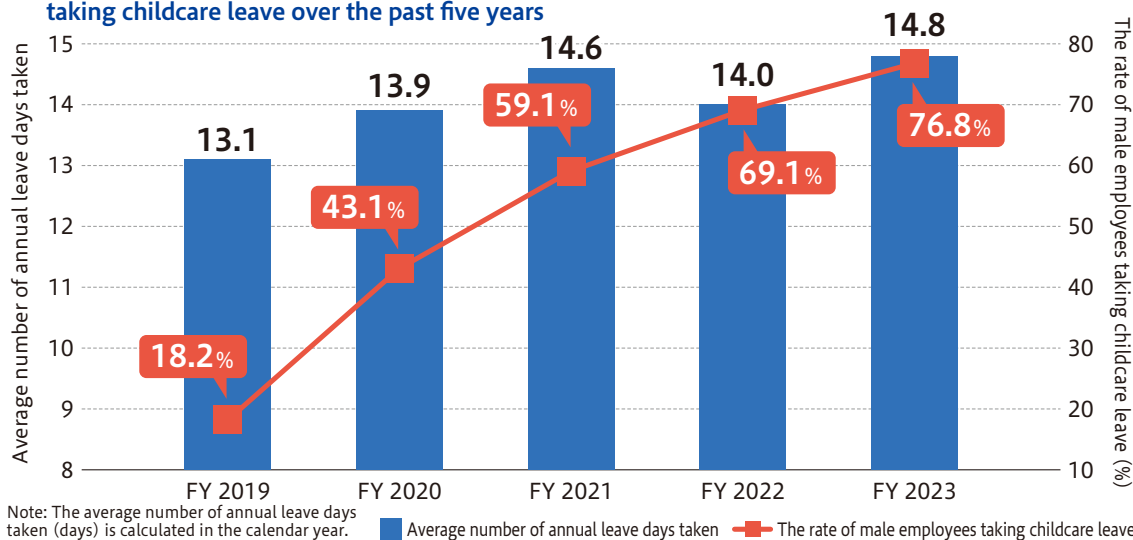
In order to promote women's participation in professional life and work-life balance for all employees, the Ministry of Justice has formulated the "At Home Plan - Plus One -" initiative. In addition to government-wide efforts that expands the recruitment and promotion of female employees, supports career development, and promotes work-life balance through management and work style reforms, the Ministry of Justice is also implementing its own "Plus One" initiative and originality.

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 average 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.

(\*) The average number of days of annual leave taken and the percentage of male employees taking childcare leave over the past five years



### EBPM initiatives by the Ministry of Justice

As seen in the rapid progress of digitalization and the COVID-19 pandemic, the society we live in changes greatly, 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.



# International Affairs Division

## 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

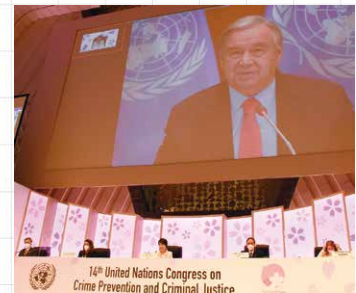
The Ministry of Justice is taking a leading role in the implementation of the Kyoto Declaration adopted at the Kyoto Congress by actively implementing the following three pillars (for an overview of the Kyoto Congress, see page 17-18 on the Promotion of "Justice Affairs Diplomacy".)

### 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 a Recidivism Prevention Plan and has a history of implementing recidivism prevention efforts through public-private partnerships, including *Hogoshi* – volunteer probation officers whose origin dates back 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, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is leading the formulation of the Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending – which, once adopted, will be the newest UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. 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.

The Ministry of Justice aims to support the implementation of these UN standards and norms in developing countries, thereby contributing to measures designed to reduce reoffending 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 for crime prevention. To follow up on this commitment, 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. Most recently, the third forum was held in February 2025, in collaboration with the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) and UNODC, where participants engaged in discussion under the theme of "Youth as Pioneers in Shaping a More Inclusive, Safe & Just Society ~ Utilization and Challenges of AI and Digital Technologies in the Field of Law and Justice ~".

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 strengthen the rule of law in the international community.

### 3 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 crime 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 (Crim-AP) on a regular basis as a platform for information sharing among criminal justice practitioners in the Asia-Pacific region. In the third forum in June 2024, practitioners actively engaged in two working groups: the Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance (WG-MLA) and the Working Group on Offender Treatment and Rehabilitation (WG-OTR), sharing information and exchanging views under the themes of "Asset recovery (freezing, confiscation, management, and return)" and "Challenges and developments in the treatment of women prisoners," respectively. The Ministry of Justice will promote mutual understanding among criminal justice practitioners from various countries through the Crim-AP 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 in the Fields of International Civil and Commercial Law

As part of the promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy,” the Ministry of Justice plays a leadership role in developing international dispute resolution rules in the field of civil and commercial law, and is vigorously engaged in a variety of activities, recognizing initiatives to promote international arbitration as an important government policy.

### 1 Contribution to the development of international rules in the fields of civil and commercial law

The Ministry of Justice actively contributes to the development and dissemination of international rules in the fields of civil and commercial law with the aim of harmonizing Japan's legal system and practices with international norms.

As part of the efforts, at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), 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 research and analyze trends in the digitalization of dispute resolution practice. This project seeks to address the growing impact of digitalization on legal dispute resolution procedures, including international arbitration and mediation. In July 2024, Japan further proposed the development of international rules to accelerate the digitalization of arbitration proceedings. The proposal was adopted by the UNCITRAL Commission and referred to a working group for further deliberations. Japan continues to contribute in a variety of ways, including by dispatching personnel to the UNCITRAL Secretariat, and hosting a forum on international arbitration in Tokyo.



UNCITRAL comission 57th 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 arbitrators' decision. International arbitration is increasingly used globally for resolving disputes over cross-border commercial transactions. International arbitration has many advantages, for example:

- ease of treaty-based enforcement of arbitration awards in foreign countries;
- preserving trade secrets through the confidentiality of proceedings;
- appointment of specialized and neutral arbitrators

The promotion of international arbitration in Japan not only supports the overseas expansion of businesses but also contributes to the creation of a business environment conducive to foreign investment.

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 arbitral institutions, to raise awareness of arbitration and mediation procedures among users and to develop capacity of arbitrators and arbitration counsel.

## 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

# Facilities Division

## 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.

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



## How We Manage Our Facilities

The total number of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice is 771 (as of April 1, 2024) and the total area of all buildings is larger than that of other ministries and agencies. The Division is working on reconstruction, long life renovation, repairing and preservation of the facilities, as well as introducing 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 Matsuyama prison  
(Introduction of the wooden structure)



Administration building entrance of Matsue Ministry of Justice office complex  
(Introduction of the wooden interior decoration)



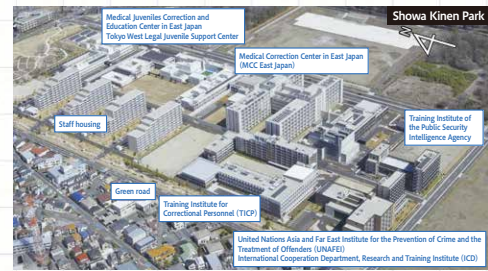
## Facility integration

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. 126,000m<sup>2</sup>. As a result, a new community of facilities of the Ministry of Justice was created.

## 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.



The International Justice Center (Completed in 2019)



Green road blending into the local landscape

## International Cooperation

We manage international cooperation in the field of the correctional facilities as the only organization in Japan which deals with design and construction of the 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

## Our Training Programs

Facilities Division holds many engineers as technical and engineering officials. In order to improve the technical skills of the Division personnel, we prepare abundant opportunities to participate in internal training and external training to support elevate the standard and knowledge about the construction of correctional and public facilities.

- 2nd year : Introduction training
- 2nd – 5th year : Practical training for junior staff (internal training), short-term external training (Japan Construction Training Center etc.)
- 6th – 10th year : Long-term external training (College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism etc.)

### 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 Government Building No. 6)



Facilities Division



# Judicial System Department

## 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 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"

X account



## 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 is rapidly moving ahead with a system to publish the translations on its dedicated website (JLT: Japanese Law Translation). Over 950 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.

Please use this QR code to access the JLT



## 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.

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.



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



## 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.

▶ Please refer to 「Special Feature 2: Support for Victims of Crime」 (page 11) when you would like to know more information about an attorney-based victim support system.



Houterasu Support Dial

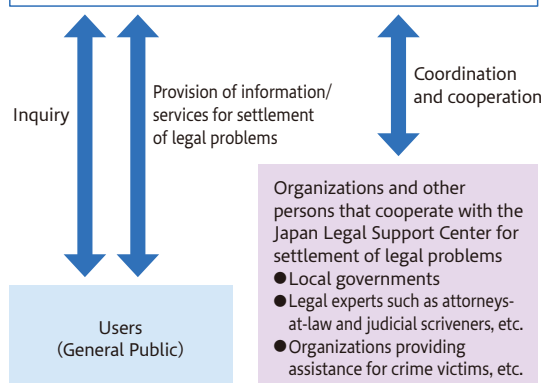
☎ 0570-078374

Crime Victim Support Line

☎ 0120-079714

Website

<https://www.houterasu.or.jp>





# Civil Affairs Bureau

## 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.

## Entry of Kana Characters Indicating the Name in the Family Register (Started on May 26, 2025)

Previously, kana characters indicating the name was not recorded in the family register of the people and was not notarized, but on June 2, 2023, the "Law to Partially Amend the Act on the Use of Numbers to Identify a Specific Individual in Administrative Procedures (Act No. 48 of 2023)" was enacted. As a result, the Family Register Act was revised, and kana characters indicating the name will be the particulars entered in the family register. The revised Family Register Act will come into effect on May 26, 2025, and the family register will include kana characters indicating the name.

The notarization of kana characters indicating the name in the family register is expected to have the following effects.

### (1) Establishment of infrastructure for promoting the digitalization of public administration

Most of the information on names held by an administrative organ or other is written in kanji characters, but there are various fonts for the same kanji character, and when gaiji characters are used, the work of creating a database is complicated and it takes time to search for a specific person. By uniquely identifying kana characters indicating the name in the family register, it will be easier to search in the database and prevent errors.

### (2) Use as identity verification materials

By entering kana characters indicating the name in the family register, it will be written on a copy of the certificate of residence or a My Number card, which will allow you to use it as an identity verification document, and there will be many situations where you will be able to call your name accurately.

### (3) Prevention of evasion of various regulations

In some cases, the name of the person is used for identity verification at financial institutions, etc., there are cases of fraudulent attempts to circumvent various regulations by pretending to be another person using multiple kana characters indicating the name, but we can prevent acts of evasion of such regulations by uniquely identifying kana characters indicating the name in the family register.

## Flow until the family register entry

### 1. In the case of a person whose surname or name is recorded in the family register for the first time

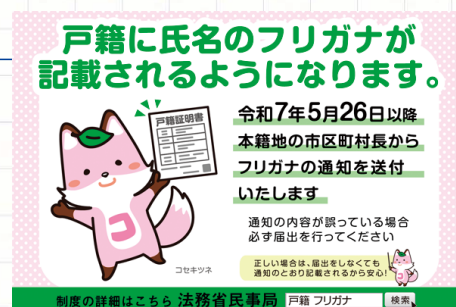
In the case of the birth of a child, the "kana characters indicating the name" is added to the items to be stated in the notification, and when this is notified, the kana characters indicating the name will be recorded in the family register.

### 2. In the case of a person who is already entered in the family register

- (1) After May 26, 2025, the mayor of a municipality in the locality of the registered domicile will send a mail to the citizens notifying them of the kana characters indicating the name to be written. Please be sure to check that the correct kana characters indicating the name is written in the notification.
- (2) If the notified kana characters indicating the name is incorrect, please notify the municipality of the correct kana characters indicating the name by May 25, 2026. The notifying person will be the head person for the surname and the person in the family register for the name. In addition, if the notified kana characters indicating the name are correct, they will be written as it is, even if the notification is not submitted.
- (3) If there is no notification of the kana characters indicating the name by May 25, 2026, the notified kana characters indicating the name will be recorded in the family register.



"Entry of Kana Characters Indicating the Name in the Family Register" poster



For details, please see the Ministry of Justice website.





## 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 13).



Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau



State of the Legal Affairs Bureau

### Responsibilities of the 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

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.

## Topics

### The system of address confidentiality measure for the representative of company has begun!

On October 1, 2024, the system of address confidentiality measure for the representative of company started, under which, subject to certain requirements, part of address of representative directors, representative executive officers, and representative liquidators of stock companies are not included on certificates of registered information upon request.

While the government is promoting various types of start-up support, this system is expected to protect personal information (privacy), eliminate the concerns of those who have been reluctant to start a business due to the display of an individual's address, and promote start-ups.

一定の要件の下、株式会社の代表取締役等の住所の行政区画以外の部分につき登記事項証明書等において非表示とする。

(従来の登記情報)

役員に関する事項 東京都千代田区一丁目1番1号  
代表取締役 法 務 太 郎



(非表示措置後の登記情報)

役員に関する事項 東京都千代田区  
代表取締役 法 務 太 郎

**要件1 登記の申請と同時に申し出ること** (※ 代表取締役等の住所が登記すべき事項に含まれる登記の申請に限る。)

**要件2 以下の書面を添付すること** (※ 上場会社については必要な書面を簡略化)

【①株式会社の実在性を証する書面、②代表取締役等の住所等を証する書面、③株式会社の実質的支配者の本人特定事項を証する書面】

Extract from the Ministry of Justice website ([https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/minji06\\_00210.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/minji06_00210.html))

For details, see the Ministry of Justice website.



# Criminal Affairs Bureau

## 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 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.

Sexual offenses are heinous crimes that damage the dignity of victims, causing them serious mental and physical suffering lasting for many years. To enable such crimes to be dealt with more appropriately, the Penal Code was revised. Based on the understanding that sexual offenses are sexual acts that are performed under circumstances where it is difficult for the individual to freely choose to participate, the revision includes the 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". In addition, taking into consideration the situation that recently, voyeurism cases in which photographs or videos were taken are causing serious harm, provisions have been established 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.

## Promoting Digitalization of Criminal Procedure

In criminal procedures, efforts are underway to digitize these processes that aims to reduce the burden on the public involved in the procedures and to facilitate and expedite the procedures by the preparation of documents used in investigations and trials by electronic means and the expansion of online procedures. 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.

For more information on a  
Public Prosecutor



## 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

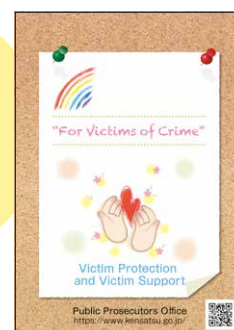
The Ministry of Justice supports the various efforts of the Public Prosecutors Office in recent years.

### (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.

[https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/keiji1/keiji\\_keiji11.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/EN/keiji1/keiji_keiji11.html)

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.

# Corrections Bureau

## 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.

### A New Form of Correction, Walking with Society

In June 2025, the new type of criminal penalty, “imprisonment” will come into force, and the current type of criminal penalties, imprisonment with and without work (called “choeki” and “kinko” respectively) will be abolished. It is the first change in type of the punishment since the Penal Code was established in 1907.

The introduction of the new “imprisonment” allows for flexible combinations of work and guidance to take into consideration the characteristics of each inmate, facilitating efforts to prevent reoffending and support reintegration into society.

Additionally, when providing such measures, it is essential to take into account the emotions and circumstances of victims and others, as exemplified by the System for Hearing and Communicating Crime Victim’s Sentiments, which has been in operation since December 2023, and requiring inmates be guided to deepen their reflection and remorse in light of the considerations.

To achieve treatment suitable for this new “imprisonment”, the Correction Bureau is revising all aspects of inmate’s treatment. (For details, please see page 7.)

**Mission:**  
With the power  
of belief in  
rehabilitation, toward  
a safer and more  
prosperous society

We have always faced those who have committed crimes or delinquent acts.  
Maintaining a safe environment, confronting one’s crimes, engaging in sincere reflection, and striving to live again as a responsible member of society.  
We believe that these efforts will prevent further harm and lead them toward a safer and more prosperous society.  
Facing the past and future, moving the hearts of individuals, and creating a society where we can live together.  
“With the power of belief in rehabilitation, toward a safer and more prosperous society.”  
That is our mission.

**Vision:**  
A place to confront  
the crime and  
connect with society

We aim to build a society where those who have committed crimes or delinquent acts can rehabilitate and coexist through connections with people and society.  
To achieve this, we continue to consider, practice, and improve safety measures.  
We work together with all members of society to think about rehabilitation, sharing diverse values and perspectives.  
For this purpose, we also consider our health and happiness and create a sound environment that could support us.

**Value:**

We continue to watch them over, 24/7, 365 days a year.  
In the daytime, in factories, or in classrooms. At night, in the corridors.  
Through repeated observations of individuals and confirmations of each situation, we offer words of encouragement to them.  
Each of us earnestly faces our responsibilities in our respective roles, as the person in front of us cherishes each day entrusted to them, one by one.  
We strive toward a safer and more prosperous society.

1. We engage in continuous dialogue, listening to the voices of crime victims and others, while also focusing on the past of those who have committed crimes or delinquent acts. Through the efforts, we aim to foster sincere reflection and actions toward rehabilitation.
2. As professionals providing interpersonal support to ensure safety and assist with recovery and rehabilitation, we act with fairness and justice, fulfilling our responsibilities. To this end, we maintain a mindset of constant learning and improvement, stay connected with society, and engage in creative problem-solving. We view failures as lessons and challenge ourselves to tackle difficult issues.
3. By embracing diverse values, we support one another so that individual strengths can be fully utilized, striving to grow together and achieve shared happiness.

(\*) Mission: The role to fulfill in society    Vision: The vision for the next 20 years    Value: Philosophy and standards of conduct of each staff member



While the correctional administration is undergoing a significant period of transformation, it is vital to steadily advance efforts toward this change and realize treatment appropriate for the new “imprisonment”. Gaining the understanding and cooperation among not only staff working in correctional facilities but also the general public is indispensable to achieve such goals.

In response, the Correction Bureau launched a project comprising 125 staff members to formulate the “Mission, Vision, and Value”, that clarifies the future role of correctional administration in the society.

As part of this project, the members conducted interviews with crime victims, workplace supervisors, subordinates, colleagues, and others. Additionally, workshops were held with the general public, including university students and company employees. Based on the voices of as many as 1,500 participants, the Mission, Vision, and Value were formulated.



Based on the formulated Mission, Vision, and Value, the Correction Bureau will continue advancing its initiatives.

For details on this initiative, please scan the QR code.



## Introduction of Correctional Institutions

### Penal institutions

Penal institutions consist of prisons that confine inmates sentenced to imprisonment with or without work etc. (from June 2025, inmates sentenced to imprisonment under the new Penal Code will be confined as well); juvenile prisons that confine juvenile inmates sentenced to such imprisonment; and detention centers that mainly 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, schoolteachers, 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.



# Rehabilitation Bureau

## Mission

The Offender Rehabilitation scheme under the administration of the Rehabilitation Bureau aims to realize a safe and secure community by preventing reoffending and supporting the reintegration of individuals who have committed offenses into society. Specifically, the Bureau cooperates with community volunteers, including *hogoshi* (volunteer probation officers), who supervise and provide guidance to supervisees. It also works with local governments and other organizations to provide consultations within the community regarding crime and delinquency. Additionally, the Bureau is responsible for re-entry coordination of inmates, managing parole and other release programs, crime prevention activities like the “Yellow Feather Campaign”, the pardon process, and measures for crime victims as well. Furthermore, the Bureau has responsibility for the medical treatment and supervision of those in the community under the Act on Medical Care and Treatment for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Cases Under the Condition of Insanity.

## Community Corrections

In order to effectively prevent reoffending, the Ministry of Justice has introduced an assessment tool (Case Formulation in Probation/Parole, or CFP) to recognize the risks, needs and characteristics of supervisees and enhance treatment since January 2021. Using this tool, probation officers comprehensively collect and analyze the factors that lead to recidivism as well as matters that are useful for rehabilitation.

Supervision is implemented based on the results of this analysis and statistical evaluation of the degree of risk of recidivism. In addition, the Ministry of Justice has developed specialized treatment programs for supervisees, including drug offenders, based on cognitive behavioral therapy, and is actively engaged in providing welfare, employment, and housing support tailored to the needs of supervisees. Furthermore, the Ministry of Justice has implemented the Redemption Guidance Program in order for supervisees to fully understand and take responsibility for the offenses they have committed, as well as the impact on the victims and their families, and to sincerely compensate for the damage and apologize to the victims.



Group Session(image)

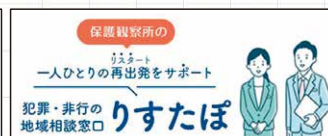
## Contribution to Local Community

In order to provide long-lasting support to those who have committed offenses, the Ministry of Justice is engaged in the following activities.

- The probation office responds to consultations from local residents and related organizations, including from those who have committed offenses, 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, the probation office has commissioned the private sector with specialized expertise to develop a community support scheme involving local stake-holders like municipalities, the private sector and volunteers, and are assisting their activities.

These activities encourage the Ministry of Justice to play a significant role in improving the safety, security and welfare of the community and contribute to building an inclusive society where no one is left behind.

Learn more about reintegration support for the local community by probation offices



## Mobilizing Eligible Persons to Serve as *Hogoshi*

In recent years, the circumstances to mobilize eligible persons for *hogoshi* has changed and has become difficult because of the aging society. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice has implemented several measures for recruiting newly appointed *hogoshi* such as the informational meetings on *hogoshi* candidates to identify suitable persons from among local residents of all ages coming from various backgrounds, the *hogoshi* internship program, which provides opportunities to experience *hogoshi* activities, and the establishment of Offender Rehabilitation Support Centers which are bases for *hogoshi* activities across Japan with the cooperation of municipalities.

The Ministry of Justice promotes the significance and appealing aspect of the *hogoshi* system among the public during various opportunities such as the “Yellow Feather Campaign” and international conferences. Through these opportunities, the Ministry of Justice is also working to develop domestic and international recognition of the efforts of community volunteers supporting offender rehabilitation including *hogoshi*, and to enhance their standing in society further.

Learn more about the Rehabilitation Bureau





## Organizations and Stakeholders for Offender Rehabilitation

### Government sectors

#### Regional Parole Boards

Regional Parole Boards are located in the eight regions across Japan, which correspond to the jurisdictions of the high courts. The major functions of the boards are to grant parole, and revoking parole when parolees violate their conditions.

#### Probation Offices

Probation Offices are located in 50 cities nationwide and are at the front line of supervising adult/juvenile supervisees and conducting 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 re-entry coordination of inmates.

#### Rehabilitation Coordinators

Rehabilitation coordinators are government officers with qualifications as mental health social workers who work in probation offices. They provide mental health supervision, re-entry investigations, and re-entry coordination in cooperation with relevant local institutions. These services are 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 provides fundamental necessities such as accommodation and meals to supervisees who are discharged from correctional facilities without any support from their families or relatives. The Center is operated by probation officers, and they conduct direct and intensive supervision, and attentive employment assistance support to the supervisees who do not have enough social capital to enhance their smooth reintegration into the society.

### Private sectors

#### 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 actual expenses needed to exert 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 Facilities

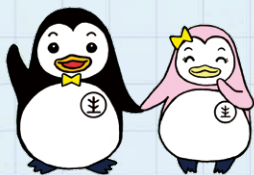
Offender Rehabilitation Facilities provide accommodations, meals, and essential support so that persons who have committed offenses, who lack a place to live, and have no one to rely on can become independent. There are approximately 100 such facilities nationwide, and they also offer ongoing assistance to help offenders reintegrate into the community 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.

### Mascot characters of Offender Rehabilitation

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



Learn more about  
"Hogo-chan" &  
"Sara-chan"



### The Yellow Feather

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



Learn more about the  
"Yellow Feather  
Campaign"



# Human Rights Bureau

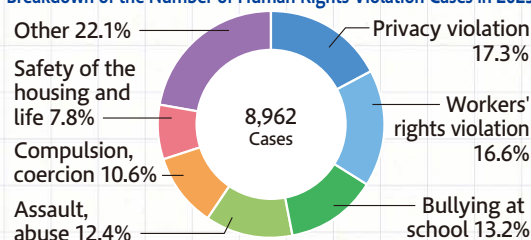
## Mission

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 a chat app). Therefore, depending on the case, the human rights bodies of 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.

Breakdown of the Number of Human Rights Violation Cases in 2023



## 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 (Children's Rights SOS-e mail) on its website and provides human rights counseling through a chat app, 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 investigation 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"> <li>English</li> <li>Chinese</li> <li>Korean</li> <li>Filipino</li> <li>Portuguese</li> <li>Vietnamese</li> <li>Nepalese</li> <li>Spanish</li> <li>Indonesian</li> <li>Thai</li> </ul>	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>

Click Search



## 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, there are a variety of human rights problems related to children, persons with disabilities, minorities, Buraku discrimination (Dowa Issue), and human rights violations on the Internet. However 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.

Winning essays collections in the  
42th National Essay Contest  
on Human Rights for  
Junior High School Students



Human Rights Lecture



“The Priority Goal of  
Awareness-Raising  
Activities 2024” poster

## 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 (including special wards in Tokyo). 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.



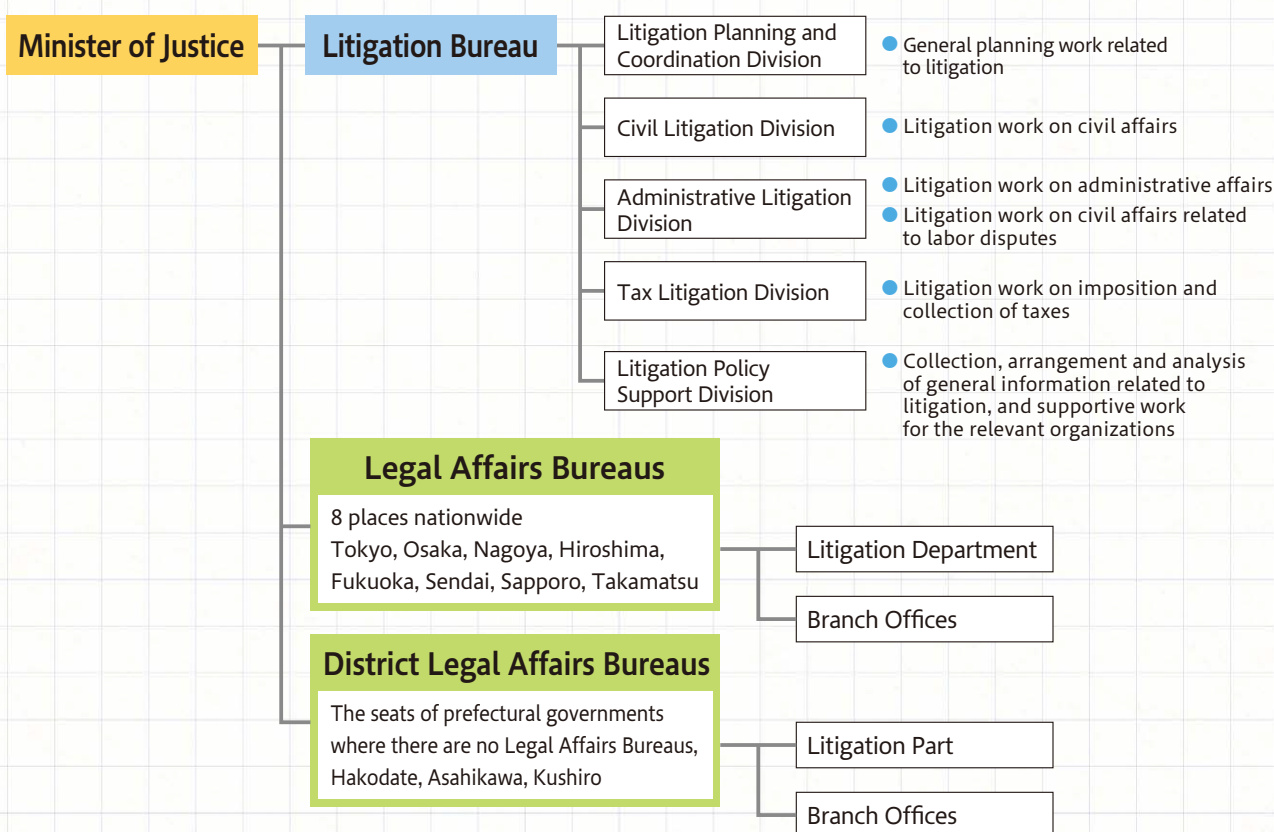
# Litigation Bureau

## 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.

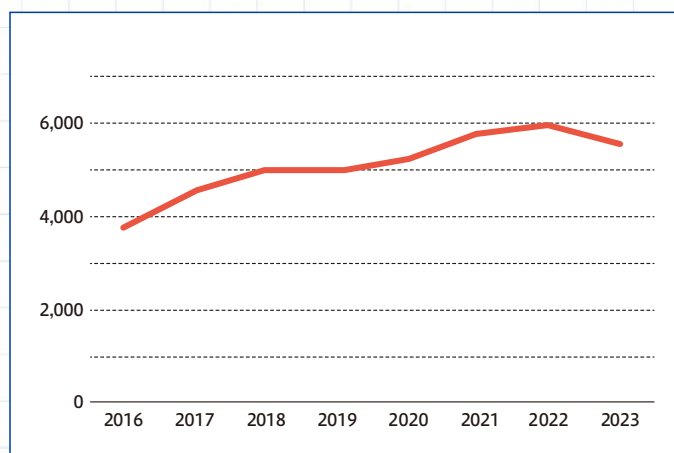
## Pursuit of Lawsuits

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 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.

### Learn More about Litigation Organization

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

**Summaries of Major Pending Lawsuits**  
[https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01\\_00024.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00024.html)



**List of Recent Major Court Decisions**  
[https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01\\_00023.html](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](https://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00041.html)



# Immigration Services Agency

## 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.



Entry examination



BioCart



Facial Recognition Automated Gates



KIOSKS

## Proper and Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Nationals

### Residency management of foreign nationals

Foreign nationals residing in Japan can engage in activities freely and securely so long as these are within the scope of their status of residence and period of stay that was determined at the time of landing. Those who desire to change their status of residence or extend their period of stay are required to obtain permission from Regional Immigration Services Bureaus in accordance with Japanese laws and regulations.

The government of Japan strives to implement appropriate residence control of foreign nationals as well as consider the interests and security of Japanese citizens, by implementing examinations to permit foreign nationals' activities and residence in Japan based on a status of residence and period of stay.



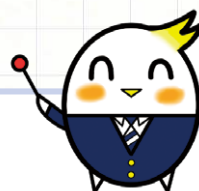
Residence examination counter

### Online Residency Procedures

- 1 No visit to the regional immigration services bureaus is required.
- 2 Applications can be submitted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, from your home or office.  
\* The system may be shut down for maintenance several times a year.
- 3 There is no charge for using the system.
- 4 You can also receive your residence card by mail.

24H  
365DAY

Free



These are some of the benefits!

PR character  
"Rasppi"

for online residence procedures



Applying online for residency procedure  
<https://www.moj.go.jp/isa/applications/online/onlineshinsei.html>



## Improving the Environment for Accepting Foreign Nationals to a Society of Harmonious Coexistence

To realize a society of harmonious coexistence where both Japanese and foreign nationals can live together safely and comfortably, the government is working to improve an environment for accepting foreign nationals. In April 2019, the Ministry of Justice's Immigration Bureau was reorganized, establishing the ISA. In addition to its traditional roles of conducting immigration and residence examinations, the ISA was also given the responsibility of planning, drafting, and general coordination, to improve the environment for accepting foreign nationals. The ISA acts as the government's central coordinating body, working to formulate policies and cooperate with local governments and other organizations to support foreign nationals as residents.



A consultation taking place at a one-stop consulting counter

## Promotion of Measures Against Illegal Residents to Realize a Safe, Secure Society

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

The ISA works to realize a safe and secure society. As such, by deporting such foreign nationals in accordance with laws and regulations, we prevent harm to the safety and interests of our citizens.



## Proper Protection of Refugees

Due to the recognition that it is important for Japan to fulfill its obligations in the international community by accepting refugees, Japan became a signatory to the Refugee Convention in 1981 and the Protocol in 1982 (hereinafter, "the Refugee Convention" and "the Protocol" are referred to together as "the Refugee Convention. etc.") and as a result, also established a system for recognition of refugee status.

Also, to ensure the protection of individuals who, while are not "refugees" under the Refugee Convention.etc, still require the same protection, a system for recognizing persons under complementary protection was established. This system took effect on December 1, 2023.

Moreover, the GOJ has also accepted refugees through resettlement. The ISA has further improved and strengthened its organizational structure and investigation system, and has endeavored to ensure proper implementation of the refugee recognition system including complementary protection to handle applications for refugee status quickly and appropriately. Besides, we have engaged in smooth acceptance of refugees through resettlement.



Examination by refugee inquirer

## 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).

Immigration Services Agency Website



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.



Lecture at an economic security-related event

## 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 international terrorist organizations such as "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) and "Al-Qaida" currently continue their activities overseas, and the threats posed by these organizations still remain. There have been cases causing collateral damage of Japanese nationals by terrorist incidents overseas, which requires, continued vigilance. 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.

## Surveillance Disposition on and Other Measures Against Aum Shinrikyo

Thirty years have passed since the sarin gas attack in Matsumoto City, Nagano, and the another sarin gas attacks on the subway in Tokyo were both conducted by Aum Shinrikyo (organization), and the 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 aforementioned both sarin gas attacks in Matsumoto and in Tokyo and other crimes.

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



On-site inspection

Aum Shinrikyo Special Page



### 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, in each of the following categories: "Special Feature on Aum Shinrikyo," "Situations Occurring Tied to Terrorism and Relevant Affairs in the World," and "Recent Domestic and International Situations." Digital pamphlets on the PSIA's aforementioned efforts and initiatives are available on the website.



Public Security Intelligence  
Agency Website



Published  
documents

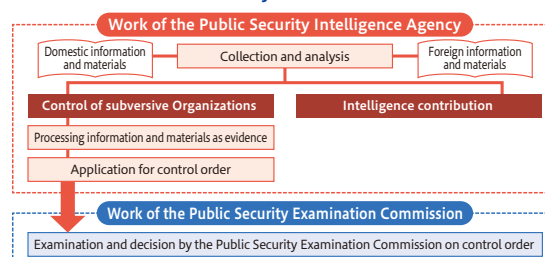


# Public Security Examination Commission

## 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.

### Workflow of the Public Security Intelligence Agency and the Public Security Examination Commission



# 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) conducting research on criminal justice policies and publishing the *White Paper on Crime*, which summarizes crime trends, the actual status of offender treatment and important current issues, as well as the *Research Department Report* focusing on specific issues;
- (ii) providing various kinds of training for Ministry of Justice officials according to their career experience and specialties;
- (iii) promoting international cooperation such as providing international training for criminal justice practitioners in various countries and contributing to the United Nations on the activities of crime prevention and criminal justice; and
- (iv) providing legal technical assistance to developing countries, mainly in Asia, such as assisting drafting legislation and regulations, improvement of legal and judicial systems, and capacity-building of legal practitioners.

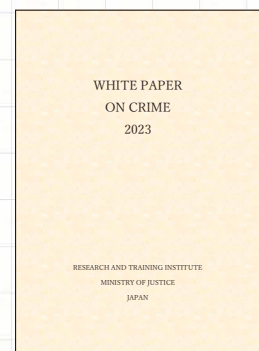
## Publication of the White Paper on Crime and English Version

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

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 2024 Version | Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders   |
| 2023 Version | The Juvenile Delinquents and their Growing Environments   |
| 2022 Version | (i) COVID-19 Pandemic and Criminal Justice<br>(ii) Attitudes and Values of Offenders and Juvenile Delinquents |

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

	● Chief Justice, The Supreme People's Court		● Minister of Justice
	● Grand Justice of the Second Rank, The Supreme People's Court		● Prosecutor General
	● Deputy Chief Justice		● Senior Deputy State Prosecutor, Department of Justice
	● Principal Senior State Counsel of the Criminal Justice Division, Attorney General's Chambers		● Commissioner, National Police Commission
	● Chief Justice, Chairman, Council of Ministers		● Administrator, Parole and Probation Administration, Department of Justice
	● Prime Minister		● Minister of Justice
	● Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Constituent Assembly Affairs		● President, Supreme Court
	● Secretary, Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority		● Attorney General
	● Director General, National Police Bureau, Ministry of Interior		● Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice
	● Director of International Cooperation Division, Federal Prosecution Service		● National Director of Prison Services and Social Reintegration, Ministry of Justice
	● Judge of the International Criminal Court		● Secretary to the Ministry of Justice
	● Senior Supreme Court Justice		● Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
			● Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice
			● 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
			● Costa Rican Ambassador to Japan
			● President of the United Nations Human Rights Council
			● Deputy Prosecutor, International Criminal Court



International Training Course (UNAFEI)



Group Workshop for International Training Course (UNAFEI)

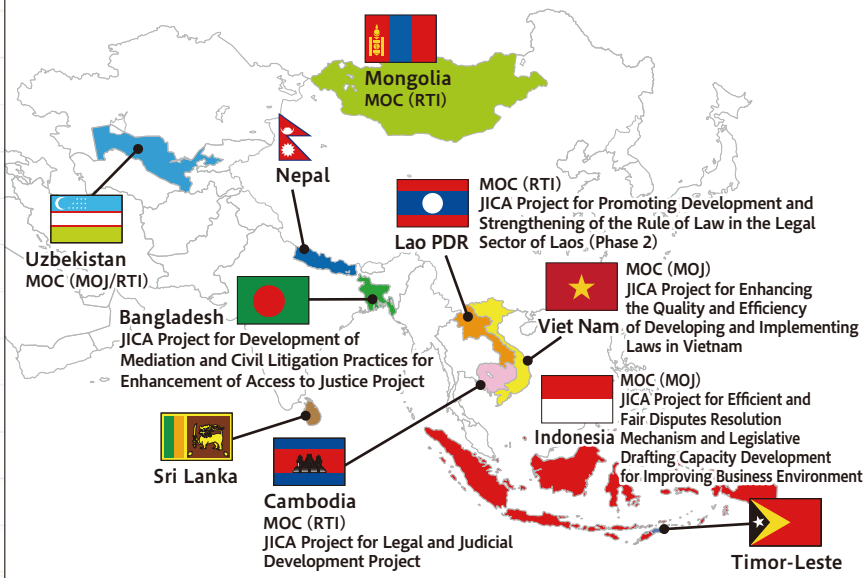


Seminar in Japan for Vietnamese officers (ICD)



Seminar in Japan for Indonesian officers (ICD)

## Recipient countries cooperated by ICD



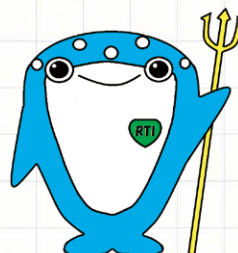
※ The countries where a JICA project is being implemented or with which the Ministry of Justice or the Research and Training Institute has exchanged a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) are marked as such on the map.

## Learn More about Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice

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



UNAFEI & ICD

# 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
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%
2024	3,779	1,592 (481)	26.9	42.13%

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
2020	10,608	442 (75)
2021	11,717	467 (102)
2022	13,004	472 (73)
2023	13,372	479 (79)
2024	12,569	449 (95)

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.

#### Results of the National Examination for Judicial Scriveners

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2020	11,494	595
2021	11,925	613
2022	12,727	660
2023	13,372	695
2024	13,960	737

#### Results of the National Examination for Land and House Investigators

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2020	3,785	392
2021	3,859	404
2022	4,404	424
2023	4,429	428
2024	4,589	505

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



# Employment Examinations 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. However, applicants for education, welfare, and social studies among those employed in the human sciences category and accepted by Corrections Bureau have the same career path as law categories.

## Examination for General Service

### ● Contact:

**General Affairs Section, Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat (electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and architecture)**

**Local offices below (public administration)**

**Legal Affairs Bureaus Officers: Legal Affairs Bureaus**

**Assistant Public Prosecutors: District Public Prosecutors Offices**

**Immigration Inspectors: Regional Immigration Services Bureaus**

**Public Security Intelligence Officers: Public Security Intelligence Bureaus**

Those employed in the category of electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and architecture are assigned to the Facilities Division of the Minister's Secretariat as technical and engineering officials, and those employed in the public administration category are generally assigned to Legal Affairs Bureaus or District Legal Affairs Bureaus as Legal Affairs Bureaus Officers, District Public Prosecutors Offices as Assistant Public Prosecutors, airports as Immigration Inspectors, and Public Security Intelligence Bureaus as Public Security Intelligence Officers.

## 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 Instructors

#### ● 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

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



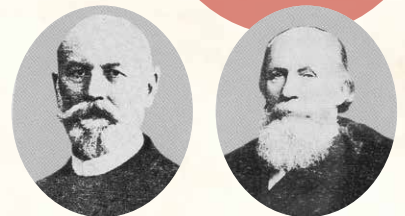
Red-Brick Building and Central Government Office No.6-A



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

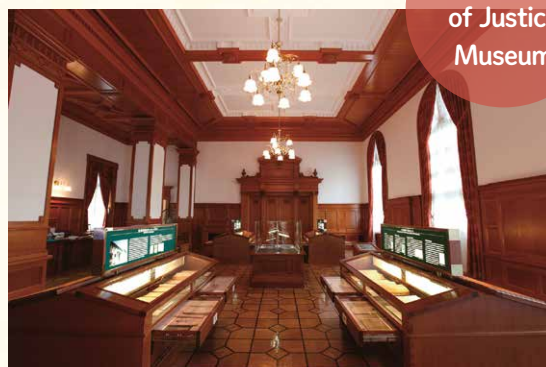


# Modernization of the Judiciary

The Ministry of Justice Museum

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 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.



Dining hall of the old Justice Minister's official residence



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



## Tour Guide

## The Ministry of Justice Museum

Location	3F Ministry of Justice Red-Brick Building, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Access	Please refer to the back cover for directions
Open days	From Monday to Friday (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays/Free admission)
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.)
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.
Contact information	Direct Phone Number: 81-3-3592-7911 Email: renga1@i.moj.go.jp

Ministry of Justice Website

“The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery”

► [https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/tosho-tenji/housei06\\_00004.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/housei/tosho-tenji/housei06_00004.html)



# Main Anniversaries and Weekly/Monthly Events of the Ministry of Justice



2025.4 ▶▶▶ 2026.3

## International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

To boost international recognition of the efforts, contributions, and significance of community volunteers who support the rehabilitation of individuals who have committed crimes, a declaration was endorsed at the Second World Congress for Community Volunteers supporting offender reintegration designating April 17 as "International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting the Offender Reintegration."

## 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."

## 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.

2025

4

- Houterasu Day (April 10)
- International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration (April 17)

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

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

## "Yellow Feather Campaign" Awareness Month

The "Yellow Feather Campaign" is a nationwide campaign to develop further understanding of the importance of offender rehabilitation. Through this campaign, citizens endeavor to establish a brighter society that is safe and secure, without crime and delinquency. The "Yellow Feather Campaign" is a year-round movement, but many promotional events are held during July, which is designated as the awareness month.



74th "Yellow Feather Campaign" poster

## 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.



FY 2024 Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week poster

## Kasumigaseki Open Day for Children

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

## Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month

The Act for the Prevention of Recidivism sets July as "Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month" to broadly deepen the interest and understanding of the citizens as it regards preventing recidivism. During the month, we actively provide information on recidivism prevention, including through public awareness videos.



Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month 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."



Human Rights Volunteers System poster

## 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 foreign nationals 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.



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





## ADR Week

ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) is a process that is aimed at flexibly resolving civil disputes through discussions 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.

## LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL

Starting from 2024, January every year has been designated as "LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH" with the purpose of deepening interest in and understanding of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals in order to realize such a society. During this period, we focus on various public relations and educational activities, including the "ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL," an event that is the highlight of the month.

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.

## 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, protecting fundamental human rights, and establishing an orderly society through the rule of law. The week beginning October is designated as "Japan Law Day Week," and lectures, free counseling, and various other events are held nationwide during this period.

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



FY 2024 Law Day Festa poster

2026

1

- LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH
- ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL

2

3

## 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.

## 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 rights. 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.



76th Human Rights Week poster

## What is the role of the Ministry of Justice?

The Ministry of Justice implements measures to make society safer, securer and livelier. It does various work to ensure that everyone in our society can live safely and securely.



### Work to protect rights and property

To protect everyone's rights and property, the Legal Affairs Bureau works with a system that registers information regarding land, buildings, and companies. It also does a variety of work related to rules tied to daily life, such as contracts and family.



### Investigation and court proceeding

Prosecutors investigate a case, and decide whether or not to prosecute the suspect (bring them to trial). They also attend the trial and clarify the crimes a suspect has committed.



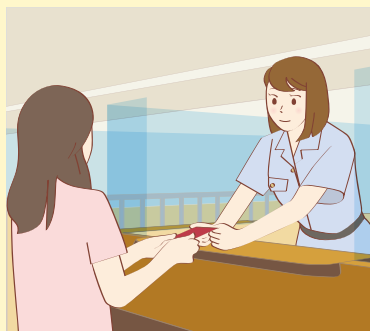
### Preventing recidivism

To help people who have committed crimes rehabilitate and not commit them again, we provide correctional treatment in prisons and juvenile training schools. Probation offices provide guidance and support in the local community.



### Activities to protect human rights

We conduct activities to raise awareness about the importance of human rights and offer counseling on problems such as discrimination, abuse, and bullying.



### Immigration examinations

Immigration examinations are held for both Japanese and foreign nationals when they leave or enter the country to ensure there are no issues.



### Law-related education

We produce videos and hold classes so citizens can understand why laws are necessary.

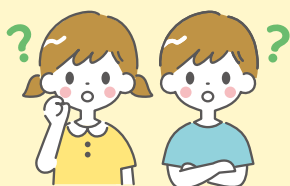


## What are laws for?

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.

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 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.

Law-related education mascot  
“Hourisu-kun”



## Find out more about the Ministry of Justice and what we do

The Ministry of Justice’s website has a “Kids Room” that presents its work to elementary and junior high school students.

It makes use of diagrams and photographs to provide detailed information about the Ministry of Justice and what we do. There’s even a Ministry of Justice quiz so you can see how much you’ve learned!



# Stop worrying alone! Talk to us anytime!!

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

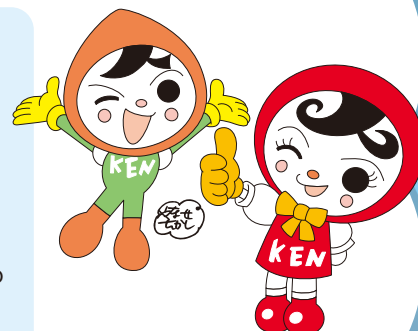
## Children's Human Rights

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.



Human rights campaign characters

Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun  
Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan

### Contact us by phone

If you would like to talk to us immediately, please dial the following number  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (Monday to Friday)

**0570-090911**

### Contact us by Mini-Letter

Mini-Letters are distributed at schools between May and July. If you want Mini-Letters at other times, or need more, you can call the Children's Rights Hotline at 0120-007-110, and we will send them to you (free of charge). You may also find them at the infirmary, school libraries, or local libraries.

### Contact us by e-mail

See here for the consultation service \*We may take several days to respond.

[https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/pc\\_ad/0101\\_en.html](https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/pc_ad/0101_en.html)



### Contact us by LINE

You can contact us via "Legal Affairs Bureau LINE Jinken Soudan," our official LINE account, by adding us as a friend and messaging us.  
Please tap "Tap here for consultation" before entering your request message.

Search ID **@linejinkensoudan**



## To those who are troubled by the divorce of their 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>





# Want to Learn More about MOJ?

## Join us for an event!

Everyone is welcome!

### Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga

► First Saturday of October every year

Every year, we hold this event at the Ministry of Justice to coincide with Japan Law Day on October 1. There are lots of fun programs like mock trials and interrogations where you can learn about the law in Japan and the work of the Ministry of Justice!



See here for photos of last year's event!



For elementary, junior high, and high school students!

### Kasumigaseki Open Day for Children

► Early August every year

During the summer vacation period, we hold this event for elementary, junior high, and high school students to have fun while learning about the Ministry of Justice's work!

See here for photos of last year's event!



## Come visit the Ministry of Justice!

For elementary, junior high, and high school students!

### Come visit on a school field trip!

Students can tour the Ministry of Justice and learn about our work.



Apply here!



Everyone is welcome!

### Visit the Ministry of Justice Museum!

See page 48 for details on the Ministry of Justice Museum!



## Find us online!

### ► Ministry of Justice website

Check here first to find out about the Ministry of Justice! You can also find information on employment opportunities and various consultation services.



### ► Ministry of Justice official YouTube channel

We post event archive videos and PR videos with easy-to-understand explanations of Ministry of Justice policies. There are also short clips for easy viewing!



### ► Ministry of Justice X account

Here, we share information about Ministry of Justice events, initiatives we want everyone to know about, and updates to our website in a timely manner!



### ► Social media accounts of various departments

The Ministry of Justice's various departments share information on platforms like X, Instagram, and Facebook in an easy-to-understand manner. Feel free to follow!



## Don't miss our magazine

### Ministry of Justice Akarenga Magazine

A public relations magazine that presents Ministry of Justice policies and initiatives! Published once every three months. You can find it on the Ministry of Justice website!



### Various pamphlets, leaflets, and posters

Besides this pamphlet you're reading, the Ministry of Justice's various departments produce other pamphlets, leaflets, and posters. See here to check out what's available!





## 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

### ● Metro

Yurakucho Line

1-minute walk from Sakuradamon Station

Marunouchi Line / Hibiya Line

3-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station

Chiyoda Line

5-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station

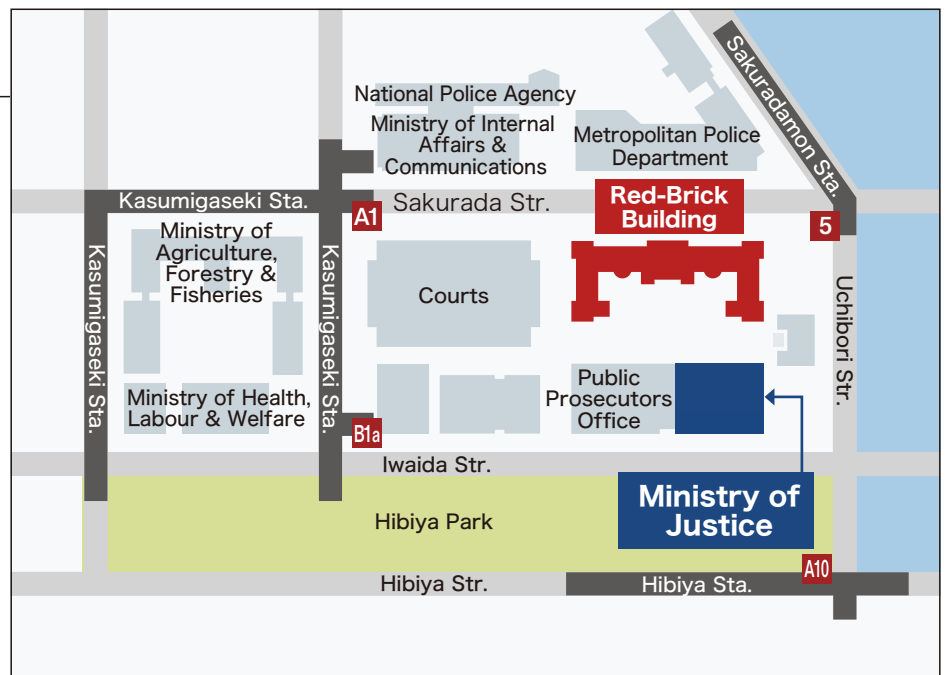
Toei Mita Line

6-minute walk from Hibiya Station

### ● JR

Yamanote Line / Keihin Tohoku Line

10-minute walk from JR Yurakucho Station



## MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

1-1-1 Kasumigaseki Chiyoda-ku,

Tokyo 100-8977

Tel. 03-3580-4111

Editor: Public Relations Office,  
Secretarial Division,  
Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice



この印刷物は、印刷用の紙へ  
リサイクルできます。



Ministry of Justice  
website  
[https://www.moj.go.jp/  
index.html](https://www.moj.go.jp/index.html)



@MOJ\_HOUMU  
Ministry of Justice  
X account  
[https://x.com/  
MOJ\\_HOUMU](https://x.com/MOJ_HOUMU)



YouTube Official Channel of  
the Ministry of Justice MOJ  
Channel  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
user/MOJchannel](https://www.youtube.com/user/MOJchannel)