

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE





Happiness
protected by laws

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

In order to live in this community it is necessary to have rules and regulations.

Such rules ensure that family relationships, such as 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 preserve peace and order in society, it is also essential that persons who harm others or commit a crime are appropriately punished.

The Ministry of Justice not only prescribes such basic rules applicable in society but also creates basic judicial framework under which the rules are adhered to. It also assumes responsibility for a broad range of legal work under which those who have been punished are assisted in their resocialization processes.

The Ministry also oversees the management of a system to help 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 that the immigration control of those entering or leaving Japan is dealt with in an appropriate manner, the basic human rights of individuals are respected, and intelligence activities are carried out for the purpose of public security.

Human
rights

Registrations,
Family Registers
Citizenship

Criminal
justice

Immigration
services

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Laws Shaping the Future



Toward a Safer Future

Promotion of Recidivism Prevention Measures

Public officials and citizens of the private sector are working together to prevent repeat offenses (recidivism) so that everyone can live in safety and security in a society that is free of repeat offenses and where no new victims are created.

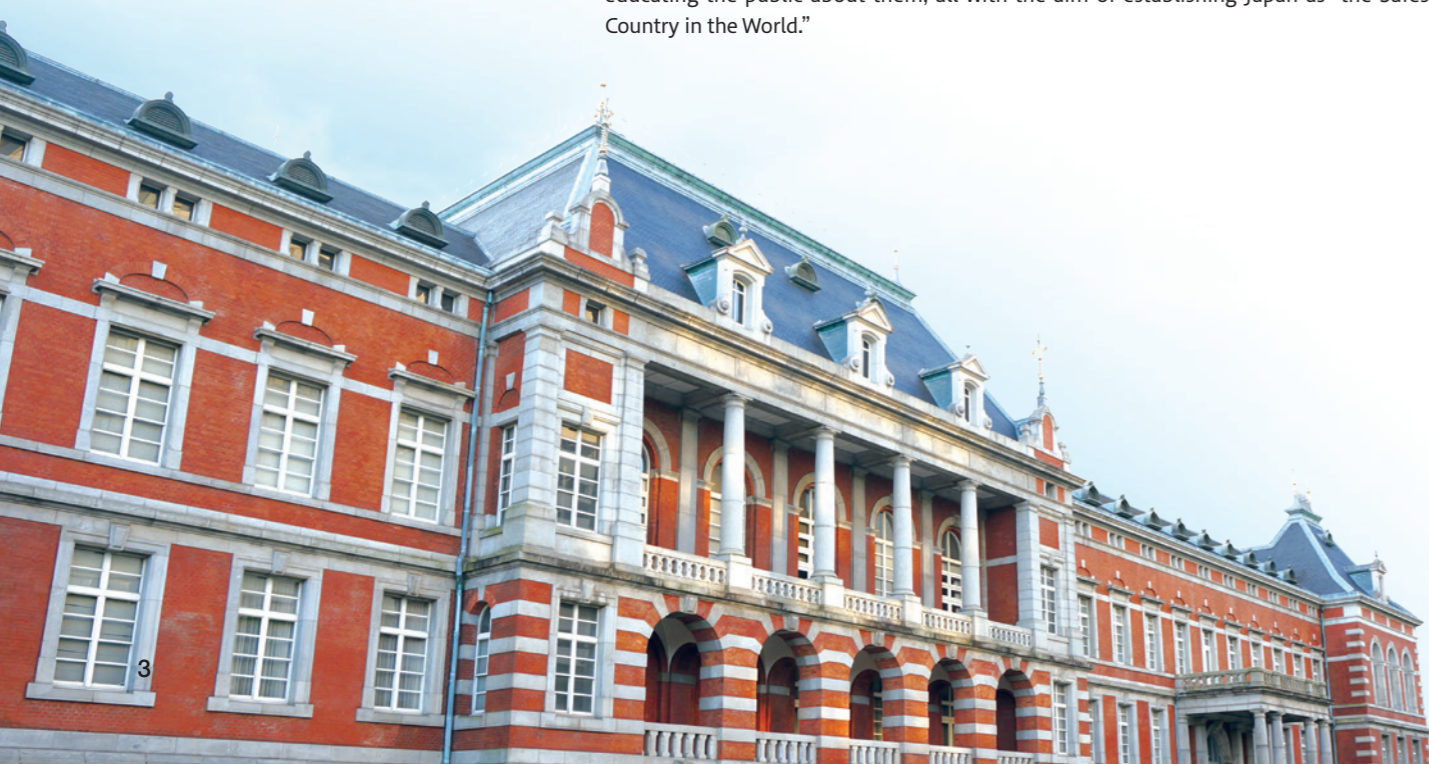


A session for speaking with people who support rehabilitation (Feb. 3, 2016) (From left: Minister of Justice Iwaki, Prime Minister Abe, Mr. Shinji Tanimura (flag artist for the "Campaign for a Brighter Society"))

3 Challenges for Establishing the "Safest Country in the World"

Ministry of Justice Challenges for the Future

The Ministry of Justice is dedicated to ongoing efforts to maintain the security of society by working to prevent repeat offenses, promoting immigration regulations that encourage international exchange and strengthening Japan's legal institutions and educating the public about them, all with the aim of establishing Japan as "the Safest Country in the World."



Toward a Future of Interaction

Enhancement of Immigration Administration

Connection and interaction with the world will become more active with the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games coming up in 2020.

The Ministry of Justice is advancing efforts so that Japan can welcome foreign visitors safely and efficiently to Japan.



Immigration Examinations at the port of Entry



Automated gate



Toward the Future of Law

Systems to Protect the People and Society

To realize a society where each and every individual can live without anxiety, the Ministry of Justice is working to develop a comprehensive and carefully implemented human rights relief system, enhance the justice system in ways that the people can relate to and rely on, and promote law-related education for the next generation who will be using and creating laws in the future.

Also, the Ministry will actively provide assistance for the improvement of legal systems in different countries as a country open to the world.



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



Law-related education class

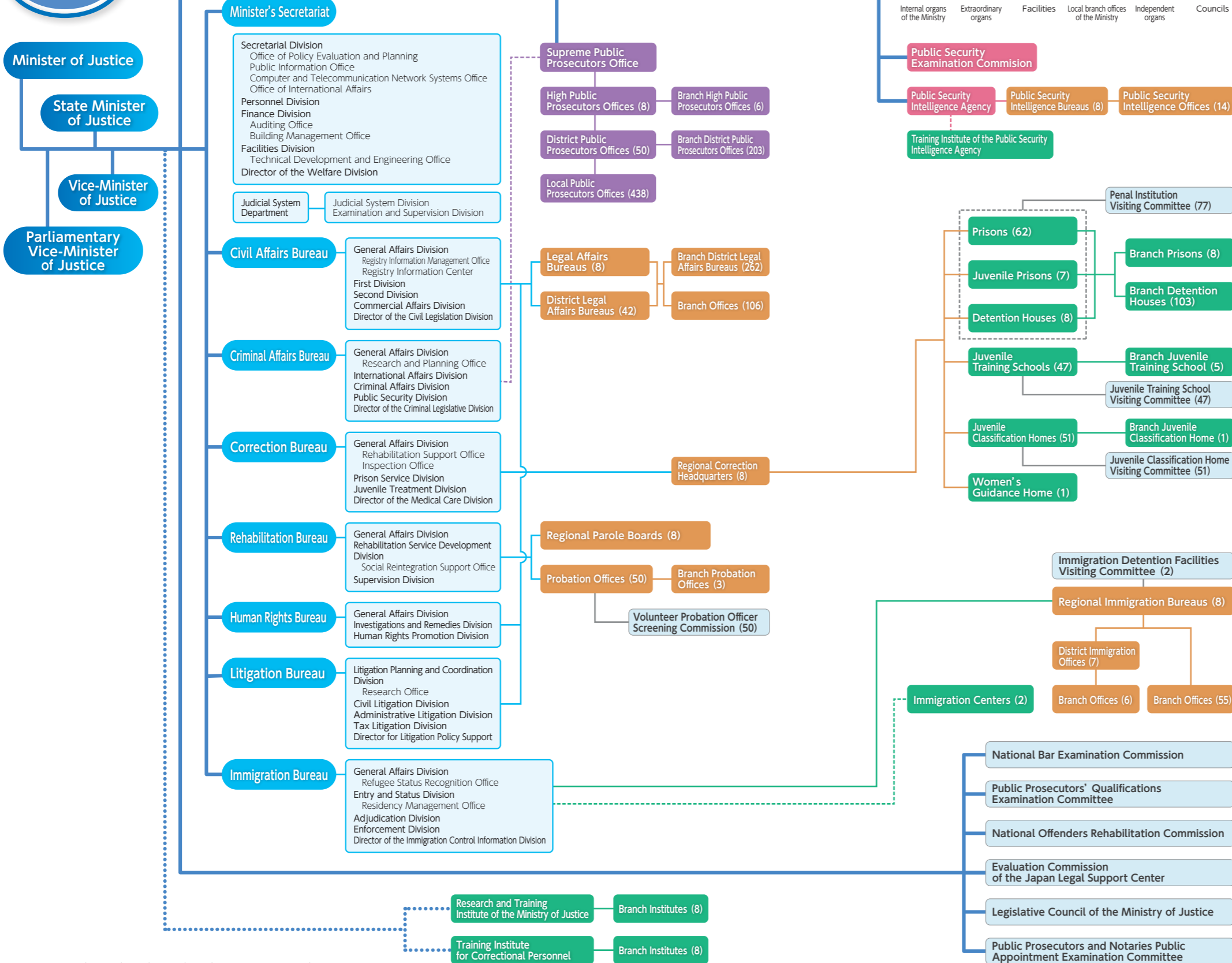


The mascot for law-related education "Hourisu-kun"

About the Ministry of Justice

Structure, Historical Background, Quota and Budget

ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



*Figures in parentheses show the number of organizations (as of Apr. 2016)

Historical Background

- 1871 • Shihosho established
- 1947 • Separated from Shihosho, came under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court
- 1948 • Homucho established (Shihosho abolished)
- 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)

Quota (FY 2016)

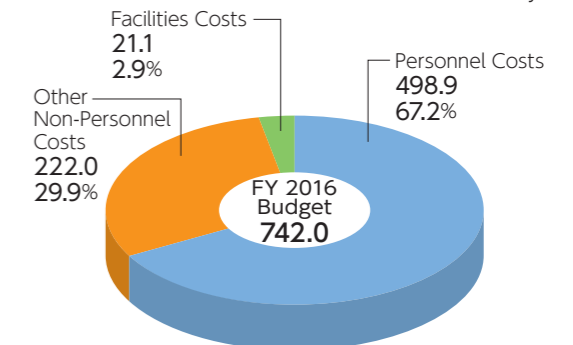
Organization	Quota
Ministry of Justice	863
Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice	88
Legal Affairs Bureaus	8,877
Public Prosecutors Offices	11,799
Correctional Institutions	23,597
Probation and Parole Offices	1,791
Regional Immigration Bureaus	4,208
Public Security Examination Commission	4
Public Security Intelligence Agency	1,589

Total 52,816

Note: The numbers in the Ministry of Justice include the number of special officers

Budget (FY 2016)

The MOJ FY 2016 Budget totals 742.0 billion yen, including 498.9 billion (67.2%) in personnel costs. An additional 1.4 billion is allocated to MOJ from the "Special Account for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake".
 (Unit: billion yen)



Internal Departments of the Ministry of Justice

Minister's Secretariat

▶ Secretarial Division

The Secretarial Division is in charge of secretarial and administrative work for the Minister of Justice, etc., overall coordination of administration of each department, clerical work pertinent to the National Diet, public relations, liaison functions, etc.

▶ Personnel Division

The Personnel Division is in charge of the general affairs of the National Bar Examination Commission and clerical work accompanying its exams, etc., as well as clerical work related to human resources such as the quota, appointment and dismissal of employees.

▶ Finance Division

The Finance Division is in charge of the budget, auditing and revenues and expenditures of the Ministry of Justice.

▶ Facilities Division

The Facilities Division engages in the design, construction work and maintenance of the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, and also in international cooperation to help foreign governments build correctional institutions.

▶ Director of the Welfare Division

The Director of the Welfare Division is in charge of clerical work pertinent to mutual aid associations, benefits and welfare, as well as enhancing the efficiency of the employees and pension and accident compensation.

▶ Judicial System Department

The Judicial System Department is in charge of the work of conducting research and studies as well as drafting of laws and regulations on the judicial system. The clerical work includes: the work of 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 administration of the Ministry of Justice Library and the Ministry of Justice Museum-Message Gallery; the compilation of statistics on the work handled by the Ministry; matters concerning comprehensive legal support; matters concerning law-related education; 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 the claim management and collection companies (servicers); and matters concerning the certification of private dispute resolution services.

Civil Affairs Bureau

The Civil Affairs Bureau is responsible for handling matters such as the affairs regarding the systems of registration of companies and real estate, family registration, nationality (citizenship), deposit services, notarization, 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.

Human Rights Bureau

The Human Rights Bureau handles matters concerning the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights. Its functions include investigating and handling human rights violation cases, providing human rights counseling services, and promoting respect

for human rights. As field offices of the Bureau, there is Human Rights Department in each Legal Affairs Bureau and a Human Rights Division in each District Legal Affairs Bureau. In addition, human rights volunteers, who are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice, are placed in each municipality of cities, towns and villages (including wards of Tokyo) across the country.

Criminal Affairs Bureau

The Criminal Affairs Bureau is responsible for, among other things, the planning and drafting of criminal legislation, such as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure; affairs regarding prosecution; and affairs regarding extradition of criminals and fugitives as well as mutual international legal assistance.

Corrections Bureau

The Corrections Bureau is responsible for matters concerning the treatment of inmates (such as security, prison work, education, classification, medical treatment, hygiene) in the correctional institutions (prisons, juvenile prisons, detention houses, juvenile training schools, juvenile classification homes, and the women's guidance homes); the planning and drafting of correctional legislation; the organization and management of correctional institutions; and the international transfer of sentenced persons.

Litigation Bureau

The Litigation Bureau handles state redress suits and administrative suits in which the State is the party. Furthermore, they are in charge of clerical work that makes suggestions from juristic perspectives by request from each administrative arm concerning cases which may lead to legal disputes. The divisions are also responsible for dealing with lawsuits involving local public entities, independent administrative institutions and other public juristic persons as prescribed by Cabinet orders in cases where such suits are found to be related to the interests of the State.

Rehabilitation Bureau

The Rehabilitation Bureau is responsible for administration matters concerning the offender rehabilitation system in the community which includes the parole of inmates of correctional institutions, probation for juveniles who are under probation, parolees from juvenile training schools and penal institutions or persons under probation with suspension of execution of their sentence, crime prevention activities, pardons and measures for crime victims, and also matters concerning community-based treatment according to the Act on Medical Care and Treatment for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Incidents on the Grounds of Insanity or Diminished Capacity.

Immigration Bureau

In addition to the immigration inspections of Japanese nationals and foreign nationals, the Immigration Bureau processes the administrative affairs relating to the residency procedures for foreign nationals staying in Japan, the deportation of foreign nationals and the recognition of refugees.

Extraordinary Organs

Public Prosecutors Office

The function of the Public Prosecutors Office is to exercise control over all the work handled by the public prosecutors. The public prosecutors offices consist of the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office (in Tokyo), the High Public Prosecutors Offices (in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Sendai, Sapporo and Takamatsu), the District Public Prosecutors Offices (one each in the 46 prefectures except for Hokkaido, where because of the large size of its administrative area, there are four offices) and Local Public Prosecutors Offices (one each in major cities, wards or towns). Each of the high public prosecutors offices and the district public prosecutors offices has branches to handle parts of their work.

Public prosecutors offices are staffed with public prosecutors (Prosecutor-General, Deputy Prosecutor-General, Superintending Prosecutors, Public Prosecutors and Assistant Prosecutors) and public prosecutors' assistant officers.

Public Prosecutors

In criminal cases, public prosecutors have the power to investigate any criminal offense, decide whether or not to institute prosecution, request proper application of law by courts and control/supervise the execution of judgments, and furthermore, as representatives of public interests, they are given additional authority by the Civil Code and other laws.

Prosecutorial power is exercised for the purpose of the maintenance of the law and order of the nation and society. The exercise of prosecutorial power is based on the principle of strict fairness and impartiality, and cases are handled with due respect to the human rights of the suspects.

Facilities

Penal Institutions (Prisons, Juvenile Prisons, Detention Houses)

The penal institutions consist of prisons which confine inmates sentenced to imprisonment with or without work, juvenile prisons which confine sentenced juvenile inmates and detention houses which confine defendants or suspects awaiting trial.

The treatment of sentenced persons aims at their rehabilitation and smooth return to society, and for this purpose, they are taken into the most suitable institution after psychological examinations of their personality characteristics and social adjustment. The institutions draw up treatment plans most deemed most suitable for individual sentenced persons and actively carry out the various tasks involved, including vocational training, living guidance, and educational programs, etc.

In addition, some prisons, including Ichihara Prison and Ooi Shipyard Prison Camp (of Matsuyama Prison), adopt "open treatment" measures. In this way, the Ministry is actively introducing



The cover of a pamphlet explaining the meaning and role of prosecution
 ● For its contents, please refer to the Ministry of Justice website http://www.moj.go.jp/keiji1/keiji_keiji12.html

The cover of a pamphlet clearly explaining the various systems in the Public Prosecutors Office, supporting victims of crime.

● For its contents, please refer to the Ministry of Justice website <http://www.moj.go.jp/ENGLISH/CRAB/crab-02.html>

new treatment techniques. The treatment of defendants awaiting trial is intended to contribute to smooth trial proceedings by detainment and by preventing the destruction of evidence, while paying due respect to the defendants' basic human rights.



FUCHU Prison

Juvenile Classification Homes

A Juvenile classification home confines juveniles who have been referred by the family court when the court orders “protective measures.” The home conducts assessment of these juveniles based on the expertise the home has in medicine, psychology and pedagogy, etc., in order to provide relevant information for the investigation and hearing by the family court. Such assessment is conducted by interviews, psychological tests and behavioral observations as well as by psychiatric examinations if necessary; the treatment guidelines for rehabilitation are drawn up through examination and diagnosis of the mental and physical conditions of the juveniles and through clarification of the causes of delinquency.

The home also conducts assessment at the request of the superintendent of juvenile training schools, the director of probation offices, etc., for the enforcement of protective Measures, etc.

Furthermore, the home provides necessary support such as counseling and consultation services based on its professional knowledge and skills for the general public and school teachers on delinquency, bullying and domestic violence, etc., in order to prevent delinquency and crime in the local community.



OSAKA Juvenile Classification Home



Photo of a Psychological Test at a Juvenile Classification Home (posed image)

Women's Guidance Homes

The Women's Guidance Homes confine adult females who are rendered for “guidance measures” by the criminal court for violation of the Anti-Prostitution Act. The home provides living guidance and vocational training according to the needs for their rehabilitation.

Juvenile Training Schools



KAKOGAWA & HARIMA Juvenile Training School



Photo of guidance on problematic behavior

Juvenile Training Schools confine juveniles, etc., who have been sent from the family court as protective measures and provide correctional education, etc.

At a juvenile training school, an Individual Plan for Correctional Education which determines the goals, contents, implementation methods, and terms of correctional education that should be conducted according to the juvenile's traits such as age, physical and mental condition, and criminal tendencies, etc., is drawn up for each individual, and the training school provides lifestyle guidance, vocational guidance, school course teaching, physical guidance education and special activities guidance according to the characteristics of each juvenile.

Furthermore, aiming for smooth rehabilitation in society for the juveniles who have difficulties in leading an independent life after release, support for learning and working, securing of a place of residence and continuous support in collaboration with medical/welfare institutions are provided.

Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice

The Research and Training Institute is one of the agencies of the Ministry of Justice. The institute conducts a wide range of work, including (i) research related to criminal justice policies and other Ministry of Justice affairs, (ii) various kinds of training for Ministry of Justice officials, and (iii) international cooperation both in criminal and civil sectors provided for developing countries mainly in the Asian region.

Activities of Research and Training Institute

■ Research

Research activities of the Institute range from general crime trends and the treatment of offenders in Japan to the analysis of specific crime situations and effective measures to reduce recidivism.

The White Paper on Crime is an annual publication that portrays the overall crime situation in Japan, and detailed analyses on thematic research topics can be found in the Research Department Reports and Materials.



White Paper on Crime

■ Training

Various types of training are conducted for the officials of the Ministry of Justice (excluding correctional personnel and those at the Public Security Intelligence Agency). In the training, various training formats such as lectures, debates and exercises are adopted so that the officials can acquire knowledge and skills needed as officials of the Ministry of Justice, depending on their duties. Through the training, the institute is aiming to foster officials who can respond appropriately to operations that are becoming increasingly diverse and complex in recent years.

■ International Cooperation

[The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders]

In cooperation with the United Nations, Japan has participated in the joint management and operation of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established based on an agreement with the United Nations in 1962, and has trained legal practitioners from



International Training Course at UNAFEI

developing countries involved in the areas of crime prevention and treatment of offenders, while also cooperating in the formulation and implementation of proposals for United Nations policies.

[Technical Assistance in the Legal Field]

Japan has invited legal practitioners of selected countries to Japan for training, and has also dispatched Japanese experts to said countries to conduct advisory activities and hold seminars. Japan has so far offered support to such countries as Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia and Myanmar.

With regard to international cooperation, see “Promotion of Global Cooperation” in page 43.



Mock Trial in Cambodia

Training Institute for Correctional Personnel

The Training Institute for Correctional Personnel of the Ministry of Justice provides the necessary training programs as a matter of duty for personnel engaged in correctional services.

History ● The Training Institute for Correctional Personnel is a venerable institute whose predecessor is the Prison Officers Training Institute of the old Home Office established in 1890. It has a long history and tradition as a training institution for public officers.



Training Institute for Correctional Personnel



Training at the Training Institute for Correctional Personnel

Extra-ministerial Bureaus (Public Security Intelligence Agency, Public Security Examination Commission)

Public Security Intelligence Agency

The Public Security Intelligence Agency is an administrative organ whose duties are to comprehensively conduct functions including intelligence activities and requests for dispositions regarding the control of subversives and other relevant organizations based on the Subversive Activities Prevention Act and the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder.

Furthermore, as a core member of the Japanese intelligence community, the Agency contributes to relevant governmental policies by providing, in a timely and appropriate manner, the relevant organs with domestic and foreign intelligence/materials collected and analyzed through investigation and related to the public security of Japan.

The Operations of the Public Security Intelligence Agency

Control of Subversive Organizations

In Japan, there are many organizations and forces which may pose a security risk to the public. They include: Aum Shinrikyo, which carried out the subway sarin gas attacks, among others; leftist extremists, which have repeatedly conducted illegal activities including terrorist and guerilla attacks; right wing groups; and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan.

Based on the Subversive Activities Prevention Act, the Agency conducts intelligence activities regarding those organizations which have a potential for subversive terrorist activities. When it is deemed necessary to take control measures as a result of intelligence activities, the Agency files an application with the Public Security Examination Commission (see page 12) in order to take control measures such as restricting their activities or giving them a dissolution order. Also, in accordance with the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder, the Agency files an application with the Commission against organizations that have committed indiscriminate mass murder in the past and are still considered dangerous in order to take “surveillance measures” or other measures for preventing a recurrence. At the same time, the Agency conducts on-site inspections at the facilities of these organizations under the Commission’s order for surveillance and carries out necessary investigations.

Aum Shinrikyo Today

In order to reveal the status of the activities of Aum Shinrikyo (“Aleph” and “Hikarinowa” are central in its activities), the Agency conducts surveillance of the cult in an appropriate and rigorous manner. Investigations and on-site inspections of Aum Shinrikyo have revealed that the cult still poses a threat in nature: the cult has increased the number of new followers through recruiting activities without mentioning its name; the cult also has reinforced teachings designed to increase the followers’ absolute faith in Asahara, who is currently on death row.

Intelligence Contribution

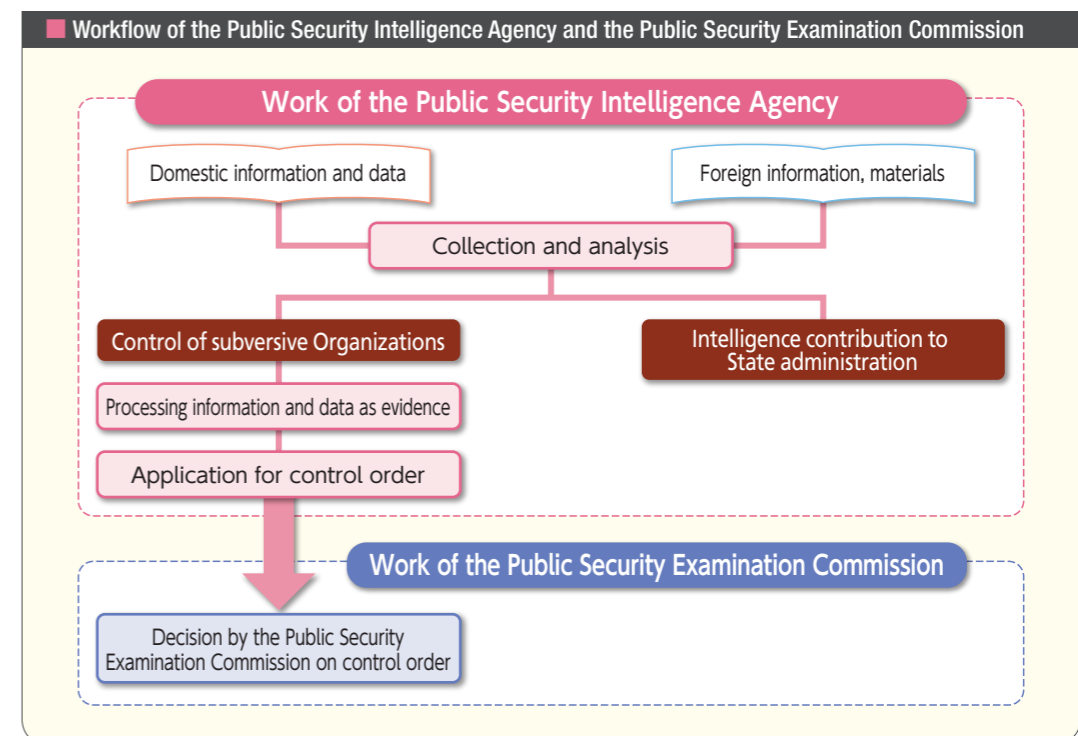
There are many challenges to the security of Japan and its people such as North Korea’s ballistic missile test-launches, nuclear development and abductions of Japanese nationals; China’s extensive and rapid modernization of military strength; threats posed by international terrorism and cyber attacks; and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These challenges need to be carefully watched. In particular, Japan has repeatedly faced situations where tensions became heightened with its neighboring countries regarding the territorial and maritime interests of Japan, and these situations have become matters of great concern to the government and relevant organs of Japan. It has become one of the most important missions of the Agency, which is tasked with protecting public security, to collect and analyze relevant intelligence with regard to these challenges, thus contributing to the government’s policies by providing relevant organs including the National Security Council with the intelligence.

Initiative for public-private collaboration

The Agency is strengthening its measures to provide intelligence regarding terrorism to private-sector organizations. The Director-General of the Agency delivers lectures for private corporations and economic associations and provides those organizations with the “Summary of International Terrorism,” outlining the trends of terrorist activities in the world. The Agency promotes its initiative for the protection of important information that private corporations and research institutes own, introducing relevant information at the “Public-Private Forum on Trade Secrets” held by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Public Security Examination Commission

The Public Security Examination Commission is an extraministerial organ of the Ministry with the aim of maintaining public security. Upon receiving an application from the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency for regulatory actions on subversive organizations 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 a decision on whether any control measure is necessary or what control measure should be taken.



An on-site inspection



Lecture at Keidanren

PICK UP!

Preventing Repeat Offenses ~Establishing the Safest Country in the World~



What kind of questions should be addressed in order to build the safest country in the world?

Ensuring favorable public security is not only prerequisite for the success of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, but also an important basis to enable women and the young to live comfortably and with assurance in the community. It is also an important issue that can be the “foundation” for development of the localities.

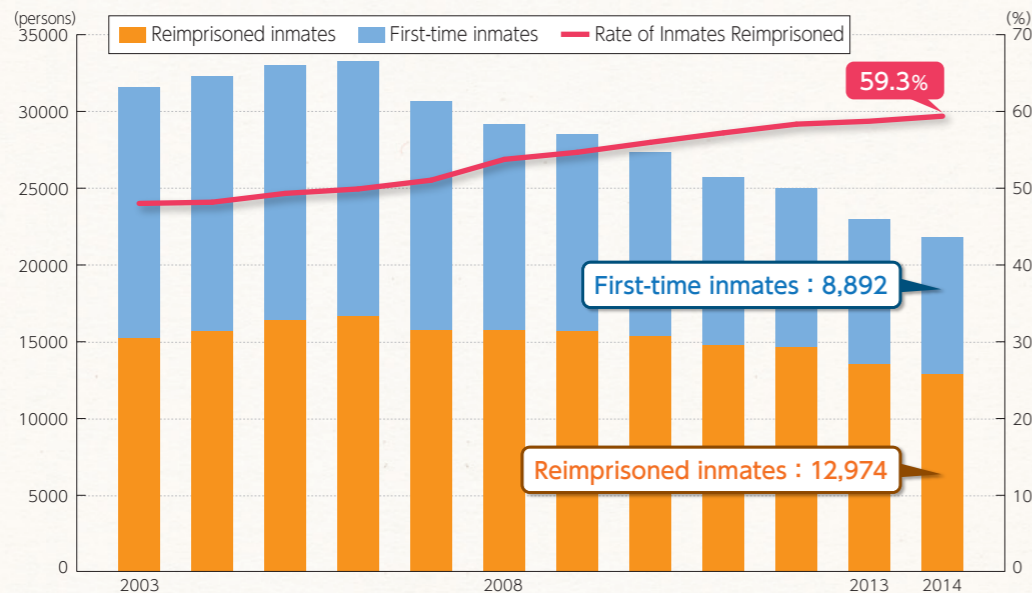
At the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in December 2013, the “Strategy to Make Japan ‘the Safest Country in the World’” was approved, and while efforts for comprehensive crime control were made by the government as a whole based on the strategy, the number of reported crimes decreased, proving that an improvement has been seen in the public security of Japan.

However, the rate of repeat offenders has increasing, and the roughly 50 percent of non-traffic penal code offenses was repeat offenders in 2014, and the rate of offenders returning to prison reached about 60 percent.

Taking the above facts into consideration, the question of how we should prevent the repetition of crimes and delinquencies (= recidivism, the tendency to repeat offenses) is a major challenge for reducing the number of crimes, as well as for the construction of a society where people can live safely and in peace.



The Number of Reimprisoned Inmates Among Imprisoned Inmates/Changes in the Rate of Inmates Reimprisoned (2003-2014)



(Note 1) Annual Report of Statistics on Correction
 (Note 2) “First-time inmates” refer to inmates imprisoned to penal institutions for the first time and “reimprisoned inmates” refer to inmates who had previously been imprisoned to penal institutions.

Comprehensive Measures for the Prevention of Repeat Offenses

At the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in July 2012, the “Comprehensive Measures for the Prevention of Repeat Offenses” that stipulated the mid- to long-term efforts of the government for recidivism prevention was established.

In the strategy, a numerical target to “decrease the rate of

inmates who become re-imprisoned within two years of release from prison by more than 20 percent in ten years” was set for the first time as the Government’s efforts for recidivism prevention. Next, let’s look at the contents in detail.

Enhancement of Guidance and Support According to Each Offender's Characteristics

There are various factors for committing crimes or turning to delinquency, however, to prevent recidivism, it is necessary to take effective approaches to each problem as well as to give guidance and support to overcome their problems.

Therefore, prisons, juvenile training schools and probation offices are seeking to enhance effective and seamless treatment based on empirical studies and according to each offender’s characteristics.

Guidance Provided at Prisons and Probation Offices

At Prisons, for inmates who have difficulty in rehabilitation or smooth return to society because of having certain reasons such as drug dependency, the following programs are conducted:

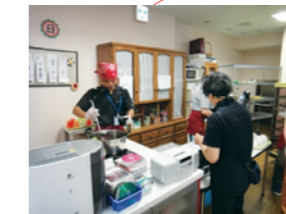


Workgroup at a Prison

- Guidance to Overcome Drug Dependency
- Guidance to Stay Away from Organized Crime Groups
- Guidance for Recidivism Prevention for Sexual Offenses
- Education Adopting the Perspectives of Victims
- Guidance for Traffic Safety
- Guidance for Job Assistance

At probation offices, in addition to specialized treatment such as treatment programs for sexual offenders or drug-related criminals, etc., efforts for social contribution activities, etc., have been implemented.

Examples of social contribution activities



Preparation assistance for serving lunch at a welfare facility



Cleanup activity at a dry riverbed

Creating a “Place to Belong” and “Opportunity” in the Community

Ensuring Occupation to Lead an Independent Life

When recidivism rates of those who have occupation and those who do not have occupation are compared, the recidivism rate of those who are out of work is four times as high compared to the rate of those who are in work. If the unemployed can go into work, they can not only gain steady incomes but also be expected to establish interpersonal relationships through work which will then lead to greater opportunities to re-establish themselves as independent members of the society.

However, difficult situations remain for those who have committed crimes or turned to delinquency to obtain work due to their qualifications and previous criminal records.

The Ministry of Justice is engaging in job assistance in cooperation with not only prisons and probation offices but also with various organizations in the community as well as private citizens such as cooperative employers, etc.

Vocational Training that Meets the Needs of the Society



Division of Care Welfare

At prisons or juvenile training schools, vocational training that will lead to employment in types of businesses with high levels of social need such as construction industries and care welfare industries is conducted.

Also, in addition to the acquisition of technique and skills, the facilities give guidance to enable trainees to acquire manners and abilities needed for work, such as acceptable manners as members of a society or communication abilities in the workplace.

Efforts in the Community



Cooperative employers

Companies that employ those released from prison by understanding their conditions are called “cooperative employers” (see page 36).

The Ministry of Justice is working to strengthen measures to support the efforts of “cooperative employers” through such means as economic support initiatives to help ensure that employers can provide sustainable employment to people who have served prison terms, etc., with assurance.

The Ministry of Justice is seeking companies that are willing to become “cooperative employers”.

ACTION!

Employment Information for Inmates

To match the job offer of companies which wish to employ people who have served prison terms and the job seeking of those persons, new efforts have been advanced in that companies can post job offers at certain correctional institutions through job-placement offices.

▶▶ Ensuring a Place to Belong in the Community

For inmates who can ask their relatives for help, adjustments have been undertaken so that they can be supported by their relatives after release.

Meanwhile, the repetition of criminal behavior leads to estrangement. They become isolated since there is no one to support them. Therefore, for those who do not have places to go back to, efforts are being made to provide them with places to stay for a time, such as relief and rehabilitation facilities (see page 35).

Also, for inmates who have difficulty in leading independent lives such as the elderly or disabled, improvements have been made to the systems in cooperation with prisons /probation offices and local public authorities so that they can receive appropriate welfare services after their release.



A room of a relief and rehabilitation facility

Functional Enhancement of Relief and Rehabilitation Facilities and Securement of Various Places to Stay

To enhance treatment for inmates who have difficulty in leading independent lives, such as the elderly or disabled or those who are drug dependent, officials with professional qualifications in the welfare and psychology fields are assigned. Acceptance mechanisms at relief and rehabilitation facilities are being enhanced, and from FY 2011, efforts are being made to secure various places to accept them, taking advantage of welfare hotels (self-support homes) which are managed by incorporated non-profit organizations, etc.



Education at a relief and rehabilitation facility

“No Return to Crime, No Facilitation of a Return to Crime” Declaration (Toward a Bright Society with Everyone Supporting Rehabilitation)

To make Japan “the Safest Country in the World,” where crimes are not repeated and, above all, where no more people are victimized and the citizens can live safely in peace, it is essential to create a social environment where everyone can accept those who committed crimes or turned to delinquency once again in natural ways as responsible members of the society without rejecting and isolating them. (RE-ENTRY).

For the realization of such a society, the declaration “No Return to Crime, No Facilitation of a Return to Crime” was approved at the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime held in December 2014.

In the declaration, the following targets are articulated to

secure “occupation” and a “place to belong,” which are the keys to prevent recidivism, by 2020:

- 1 triple the number of companies which are willing to employ those who have committed crimes or turned to delinquency by understanding their conditions.
- 2 reduce the number of those who return to society from prisons without any place to go back to by more than 30 percent.

The declaration explicitly asks for the efforts of the country and support from the citizens by setting the above two numerical targets.

Recidivism Prevention Campaign

In Japan, many people from the private sector, such as probation officers and cooperative employers are working on a daily basis to help prevent recidivism. Furthermore, there are also a good number of local government offices and corporations supporting these activities.

Within these efforts in the communities, many important keys for promoting recidivism prevention at the community level are to be found.

For this reason, The Ministry of Justice has launched a Recidivism Prevention Campaign with the Minister, State Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Justice taking the initiative as leaders of teams that travel around the country listening to the voices of officials and people from the private sector involved in recidivism prevention and speaking with leaders of key organizations in each community in order to promote fuller understanding of and cooperation in measures for recidivism prevention.



Minister of Justice Mitsuhide Iwaki (4th from left) with offender rehabilitation volunteers in Hiroshima Pref.



Minister of Justice Mitsuhide Iwaki meeting with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui

The prevention of recidivism is not an easy task. However, it is an issue that we should never give up on.

The Ministry of Justice will face this issue squarely and will continue to tackle it and make progress with the problem by gaining the understanding and cooperation of the citizens as much as possible for the realization of Japan as “the Safest Country in the World.”

For further information on the prevention of recidivism

再犯防止対策 Search

The Ministry of Justice website introduces a wide range of information regarding prevention of recidivism. The contents are regularly being updated, so we hope you will access it for information.

Efforts to Achieve Safety and Security

▶▶ The Strategy to Make Japan “the Safest Country in the World”

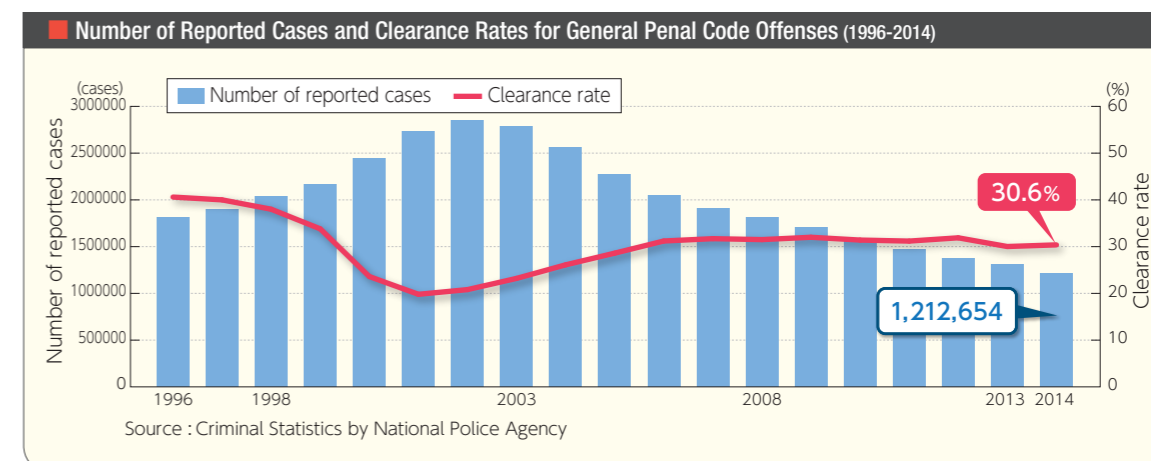
In 2002, the known number of general criminal law offences had increased to 2.85 million and the crime-arrest ratio had fallen sharply to a low level, making the deterioration of public security a serious problem.

In response to this situation, the government lunched a Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime in 2003 and concentrated government-wide efforts on measures for the prevention of crime.

These efforts resulted in a significant improvement, with a reduction in the crime rate to less than half that of the worst period in postwar Japan. However, a survey of public opinion conducted by the Cabinet Office in July of 2012 revealed that there was still

a high level of fear about public security, and with the emergence of new threats such as cybercrime and international terror and the approach of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, it was evident that new efforts had to be made to further reduce crime and restore faith among the citizens in public security. Toward this end, in December of 2013, the Ministerial Meeting Concerning Measures Against Crime agreed to a “Strategy to Make Japan ‘the Safest Country in the World’”, which was adopted in a cabinet decision.

Based on this strategy, the Ministry of Justice will pursue its recidivism prevention measures (refer to pages 13 – 15) and the following types of programs.



▶▶ Cooperation Between the Investigative Authorities of Foreign Countries and Japan

In order to deal effectively with the frequently occurring atrocious crimes committed by foreign nationals and the increasing number of transnational crimes, it is necessary to gather evidence from abroad more effectively and enhance cooperation between the investigative authorities of foreign countries and Japan.

As part of such enhancement of cooperation, the Japanese Government concluded the Treaty between Japan and the United States of America on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on July 21, 2006), the Treaty between Japan and the Republic of Korea on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on January 26, 2007), the Treaty between Japan and the People’s Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on November 23, 2008), the Agreement between Japan and the Hong Kong

Special Administrative Region of the People’s Republic of China on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on September 24, 2009), the Agreement between Japan and the European Union on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters (entered into force on January 2, 2011) and the Treaty between Japan and the Russian Federation on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (entered into force on February 11, 2011). These treaties and agreements have made it possible to send and receive requests for collection of evidence directly between the Ministry of Justice or the National Police Agency and the judicial authorities of respective countries or regions, not through diplomatic channels, to enable expedition of procedures. The Ministry of Justice is planning to strengthen cooperation with other countries as well in the future.

▶▶ Measures at the Borders

In order to protect people's lives and safety, it is highly important to prevent those who intend to enter Japan for illicit purposes, such as terrorists and criminals who disguise themselves as tourists, from entering the country at the borders and ports of entry. To ensure that such illegal entrants are identified, the Immigration Bureau conducts strict and effective immigration examinations and implements surveillance and monitoring activities through the methods described below.

● Immigration Examinations Using Personal Identification Information (Fingerprints and Facial Photographs)

Based on such information, the bureau is striving to prevent the entry of terrorists or those who intend to illegally enter the country with forged or altered passports hiding their records of deportation.



Immigration examinations using personal identification information

● Utilization of Information on Lost or Stolen Passports Provided by the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO)

In order to prevent terrorists, etc., who impersonate others from entering the country using lost or stolen passports, immigration examinations are carried out utilizing the ICPO's database on lost or stolen passports.



Onboard inspection in order to prevent illegal entry

● Utilization of the APIS (Advance Passenger Information System) and PNR (Passenger Name Record)

The Immigration Bureau is striving to identify terrorists, etc., by obtaining passenger information and passenger name records in advance with regard to aircraft and vessels entering Japan and closely checking such information against a blacklist of terrorists, etc.

● Reinforcement of the Intelligence-Gathering Functions of Immigration Control

In October 2015, "The Center for Collection and Analysis of Intelligence" was established in order to enhance intelligence-gathering functions, and immigration control is being conducted by utilizing the pertinent information.

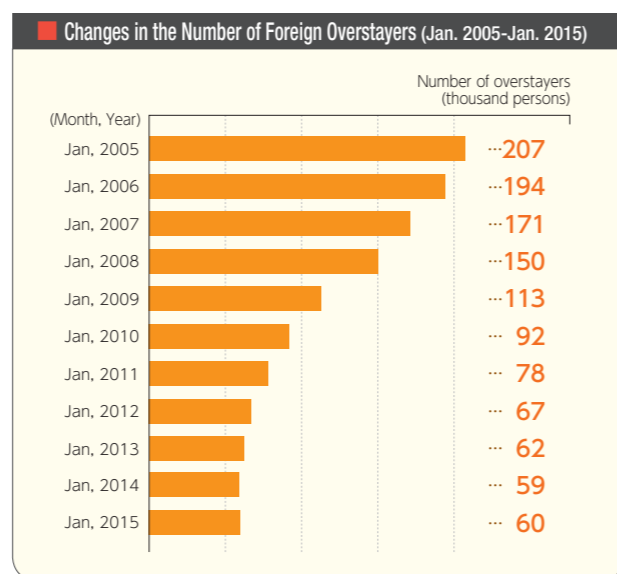
● Implementation of Patrols at Seaports and Other Measures

As well as conducting patrols and searches, etc., on ships at seaports and other places for the purpose of preventing cases of smuggling using ships, and patrols are also being implemented in order to prevent cases of exploitation of airport transit areas.

▶▶ Measures Against Illegal or Fraudulent Foreign Residents

Along with measures at the borders and ports of entry, it is also important for the restoration of security to reduce the number of foreigners who are now residing illegally in Japan. The Immigration Bureau is striving to reduce the number of illegal foreign residents by reinforcing the detection of illegal residents, performing safe and reliable forced repatriation, and implementing public relations activities for prevention of illegal employment.

In addition, the existence of fraudulent foreign residents, who work illegally disguising themselves as legal residents, has recently become a problem; they falsify their identities as well as the purpose of their activities and obtain residence permission by using falsified or altered documents. Thus, the bureau will promote the analysis of information on foreign residents whose information can be obtained from the new residence management system introduced in July 2012. Through this analysis, the bureau will endeavor to build a society where no illegal residency by foreigners is possible by assembling pictures of foreign residents and by taking active measures against fraudulent foreign residents by accurately performing procedures to revoke their status of residence.



▶▶ Public Security Intelligence Agency

In September 2013, the Public Security Intelligence Agency established the Special Task Force for Intelligence for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games to strengthen intelligence functions related to the Olympic events on a long-term basis. In June 2015, the Agency has also established the Special Task Force for Intelligence for the 2016 G7 Summit to be held in Ise-shima. Both of these are concerted efforts to strengthen efforts in the gathering and analysis of intelligence.

With terrorism increasing becoming a real threat, as demonstrated by the terror attacks in Paris, France in November 2015. In Japan extremist groups have engaged in guerrilla type incidents and rightwing groups have undertaken activities with their eyes on developments in issues inside and outside of Japan. In order to deal appropriately with these situations, the Agency is strengthening its efforts in gathering and analyzing information related to international terrorist and these domestic groups and strengthening systems for providing pertinent information to Japanese citizens traveling or living abroad. The Agency is also taking measures such as assigning officials to Japan's newly established International Counter-Terrorism Intelligence Collection Unit as part of efforts to promote and strengthen measures to prevent terrorism and other illegal activities.

Furthermore, to strengthen counter-intelligence functions and prevent the proliferation of the materials and technology related to weapons of mass destruction, the Agency is also diligently pursuing the gathering and analysis of intelligence related to these issues. In addition, with regard to the increasingly serious threats to the cyberspace, the Agency is contributing to the government's measures against cyber attacks by gathering and analyzing related intelligence and supplying it to the related agencies on a timely basis and in relevant forms.

With regard to Aum Shinrikyo, the Agency has verified its danger and anti-social nature as there are still believers who place absolute faith in the condemned criminal Asahara. Therefore, the Agency continues surveillance actions against the group with appropriate diligence for the purpose of protecting the public security and alleviating the fears and insecurity of community residents.



The "Summary of International Terrorism" (Web version)

▶ The Public Security Intelligence Agency website

<http://www.moj.go.jp/psia/>



Every year, the Public Security Intelligence Agency publishes the "Summary of International Terrorism," as a review of global terrorism trends. This Summary can also be viewed (in a Web version) on the Public Security Intelligence Agency website. (<http://www.moj.go.jp/psia/>)

Support for Crime Victims

▶▶ The Basic Act on Crime Victims and the Basic Plan for Crime Victims

● The Basic Act on Crime Victims

The Basic Act on Crime Victims was enacted in April 2005. The Act intends to comprehensively and systematically promote policies to protect the rights and interests of crime victims and their family members (victims of crime and victims of acts similar to crime that adversely affect the body and mind of victims as well as their families or the bereaved).

● The Basic Plan for Crime Victims

Based on the Basic Act on Crime Victims, the Ministry of Justice has promoted various support measures under the "Basic Plan for Crime Victims" adopted in December 2005 and the "Second Basic Plan for Crime Victims" adopted in March 2011.

Because the target period of the "Second Plan for Crime Victims"

terminated at the end of FY 2015, the "Third Basic Plan for Crime Victims" was adopted in the Cabinet meeting in April 2016.

The Ministry of Justice is promoting various support measures in accordance with the Third Basic Plan and other plans.



► Concrete Support Measures

● Procedure for Payment Based on the Recovery of the Property of Crime Victims

Under the “Act on Recovery Payment to be Paid from Assets Generated from Crime,” it is now possible, under certain conditions, to confiscate such property taken by offenders from crime victims through property offenses and to use the confiscated property for the recovery of damages suffered by the crime victims of relevant cases.

● Victim Participation System

The victims, etc., of crimes such as murder or injury may, when they so wish and with the court's permission, attend the trial dates, etc., and engage in activities such as questioning of the defendant under certain requirements.

● Travel Expenses Payment System for Victim Participants

To reduce the economic burden of victim participants under the victim participation system, a system has been established whereby the government pays travel expenses, daily allowances, and accommodation charges to victim participants who attend the trial dates, etc.

● State-Appointed Attorney for Victim Participants

A victim participant can request the court to appoint a participating victim's attorney on assistance, under certain requirements; the fees, etc. are covered by the state.

► The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) nominates candidates as court-appointed attorneys for the victims, does the administrative work of notifying the court, provides travel expenses, etc., for victim participants, offers various types of information to support crime victims and their families, and introduces attorneys-at-law who have experience and understanding of victim assistance.

● Restitution Order

A criminal court, making use of the outcome of the criminal proceedings, is able to briefly and quickly examine and decide on a claim for damages that the victims etc. of crimes such as murder or injury may file against the defendant.

● Observation of Juvenile Hearings by Victims, etc.

A victim of a serious case such as murder, etc., can observe the proceedings on the date of the hearing of a case of a Juvenile.

● Hearing of Victims' Opinions in Parole Examinations and Communication of Victims' Sentiments to Probationers

“Hearing of Victims' Opinions in Parole Examinations” is a system to hear criminal victims' opinions during parole examinations by Regional Parole Boards.

“Communication of Victims' Sentiments to Probationers” is a system to hear the sentiments of the victims and to communicate such feelings to offenders on probation.

Regarding the implementation of these measures, officers specifically in charge of the measures are positioned at each probation office (victim-specific officers and victim-specific volunteer probation officers).

● Victim Notification System

The public prosecutors office notifies crime victims of information related to their cases, including the determinations on whether or not the offenders should be prosecuted, the outcomes of the trials, and the dates of offenders' release. In collaboration with related organizations, the office also notifies victims of information on offenders upon victims' request, such as the treatment circumstances of the offenders after the final decision in criminal trials and of the offenders under protective measures.

Ensuring that the Results of Justice System Reforms Take Root

The justice system is expected to play an even larger role in the 21st century due to various social changes, including change from an “extant regulation and coordination society” to an “ex-post facto check and aid society.” Therefore, it is necessary to continue to strengthen the functions of legal services and to establish a new legal system that is readily accessible to the general public.

For the realization of a closer, faster, and more reliable justice system for the public, the Ministry has been implementing reforms based on the following three pillars as fundamental principles: (1) construction of a justice system which meets the expectations of the people; (2) reform of the judicial community to support the justice system; and (3) establishment of the foundations of justice among the general public (participation of the general public in the

justice system).

A total of 24 Acts relating to the reform of the judicial system were enacted in the three years from 2002 to 2004, and those Acts have been steadily implemented.

After the above mentioned reforms, the effects and achievements of the reforms need to take root, so that the justice system can fully exercise its functions and the public can share in the fruits of the reform.

Being in charge of the justice system, the Ministry of Justice is ready to take appropriate measures to fulfill the requirements of the new age while giving due regard to the aims of the reform of the judicial system.

Government Efforts

July	1999	Establishment of the Justice System Reform Council (JSRC) within the Cabinet
June	2001	Submission of the Recommendations of the JSRC to the Cabinet
December	2001	Establishment of the Office for Promotion of Justice System Reform (OPJSR) within the Cabinet (time limit for establishment: November 2004)
March	2002	Cabinet Approval of the Plan for Promotion of Justice System Reform
December	2004	Establishment of the Office for Promotion of Justice System Reform within the Cabinet Secretariat (until: December 2009)

The Three Pillars of the Reform

Construction of a Justice System that Meets the Expectations of the People

● Establishment of the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The Center aims to create a society in which the general public can acquire information and services necessary to settle disputes based on laws anywhere in Japan. (Concerning the Japan Legal Support Center, please see page 30 of “Implementation of Comprehensive Legal Support by the Japan Legal Support Center”)

● Enhancement of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) that can settle disputes flexibly by respecting the voluntary will of the parties involved shall be enhanced, and the function of adjudication shall further be enhanced as well. (For enhancement of ADR, please see page 29 of “Legal Services”)

● Improvement and Acceleration of Criminal Trials

Punitive authority shall be exercised more appropriately and expeditiously through the introduction of pretrial arrangement proceedings and state-appointed counsel.

● Promoting Translation of Japanese Laws

Translation of Japanese laws shall be promoted from the perspective of facilitating cross-border transactions and promoting direct foreign investment.

Reform of the Judicial Community

● Reform of a System to Nurture the Legal Profession

The aim is to nurture the legal profession through law schools, the national bar examination and legal training.

● Increasing the Number of Legal Professionals

The aim is to increase the number of legal professionals by nurturing the quality and abundance of professionals.

Establishment of the Foundations of Justice Among the General Public

● Lay Judge System -“Saiban-in System”

The system by which the general public participates in criminal trials (commenced: May 21, 2009)

● Promotion of Law-Related Education

The government strives to promote law-related education so that the general public understands the significance of law and judicial process and also acquires a legal frame of mind, thereby supporting a free and just society.

Promotion of Translation of Japanese Laws

The Ministry of Justice is working to translate Japanese laws into foreign languages and to make them available online, and English translations of more than 480 laws have been made available on the Japanese Law Translation website, which was created specifically for that purpose. With the goal of uniformity in the translation of Japanese laws, the Ministry of Justice has compiled and published the Standard Legal Terms Dictionary as a guideline, with bilingual entries for legal terms in both Japanese and English.

In the future, as well, the Ministry hopes to continue publishing

revised editions of the dictionary and information on English translations of the law in subsequent additions to this website.

▶ **The Japanese Law Translation website**
<http://www.japaneselawtranslation.go.jp>



Establishing a New Criminal Justice System that Keeps Pace with the Times

With regard to the criminal justice system, a variety of reforms, including the introduction of the Saiban-in (lay judge) system, have been advanced as part of the reform of the judicial system. On the other hand, discussions on the reform have highlighted some problems, such as the procedural methods for investigations and trials that are adaptable to the new era, which still remains on the agenda to be examined in the future.

In these situations, some questions have been raised about whether the criminal justice system methods for investigations and trials may be too dependent on interrogations and confession statements. In order for the system to fully achieve the goal of ensuring the safe and secure livelihood of the people, it is necessary to examine diverse issues and to build a new criminal justice system, based on such suggestions.

In May 2011, for the purpose of establishing a new criminal justice system that keeps pace with the times, the Minister of Justice called on the Legislative Council of the Ministry of Justice to deliberate on ways to develop the substantive criminal law and procedural law relating to criminal cases. In a report submitted to the Minister in September 2014, the Council delivered two principles: (1) the moderation and the diversification of evidence-gathering and (2)

the improvement of trial procedure.

Based on this report, the Ministry of Justice prepared and submitted a proposal for a bill to revise the Code of Criminal Procedure and some other codes to the 189th session of the Diet. This bill includes nine items necessary for the new criminal justice system: i) introducing audiovisual recording systems for interrogations, ii) introducing the prosecutorial agreement system for cooperation in investigations and trials, iii) rationalizing and streamlining the interception of electronic communication, iv) clarifying of elements for consideration concerning whether to admit discretionary bail, v) improving legal assistance by defense counsels, vi) broadening information disclosure system, vii) introducing measures for protecting victims and witnesses, viii) raising statutory penalties of crimes related to obstruction of justice, and ix) introducing measures to simplify and accelerate trials when defendants admit their guilt. The bill incorporates all the items mentioned above into the present criminal justice system and aims to establish a more moderate and more effective criminal justice system.

The bill was partially amended and approved by the House of Representatives, and is currently under deliberation by the House of Councilors as of March 2015.

Enrichment and Development of Law-Related Education

▶▶ Law-Related Education

Law-related education aims to enable citizens who are not legal professionals to understand laws, the judicial system, and the values that underlie them.

▶▶ The Importance of Law-Related Education

Following the reforms in various fields and deregulation in Japan, it has become more crucial to prevent disputes, and to solve them in a fair way based on law once they occur.

Furthermore, as is symbolized by the saiban-in system (see page 22), it is essential for every citizen to take an active role in the judicial system so that it is supported nationally. This has

made law-related education, which aims to give citizens a deeper understanding of laws and the judicial system, more important.

The Courses of Study, the national curriculum standard, provides that students study about the basic concepts of laws, the significance of public involvement in judicial proceedings, and the importance of contract.

Considering the importance of law-related education, the Ministry of Justice is working on its improvement and development. The Ministry will keep on with its efforts to improve the contents of law-related education, with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and other relevant organizations.

The mascot for law-related education
“Hourisu-kun”

“Hourisu-kun” was chosen through a popularity vote. “Hourisu-kun” is playing an active role in various ways, such as in teaching materials for law-related education to make the education more familiar to the general public.



▶▶ The Law-Related Education Promotion Council

The Law-Related Education Promotion Council established by the Ministry of Justice aims to enhance the opportunities to learn about laws and the judicial system and to promote law-related education in schools, through its activities such as developing teaching materials for law-related education.

The Ministry of Justice will continue its efforts to involve citizens, including those who take part in education.

Saiban-in System

The saiban-in system that commenced on May 21, 2009 is a system in which the saiban-in who have been selected from the general public participate in the criminal trials for serious cases.

The saiban-in, along with professional judges, determine whether the defendant is guilty or not and what the sentence should be.

With this system, the justice system will be closer and more familiar to the people.

The Ministry of Justice has been implementing public relations activities concerning the system so that the people will be able to deepen their understanding.

Appointment Procedure

Around November

Persons who have been selected by lot as next year's candidates for saiban-in will be notified of their selection.

※ At this stage the candidates do not need to appear in the court.

About six weeks before the trial

The candidates who have been further selected by lot for each trial will be notified of the date for appearance in court by the service of the writ of summons.

The day of the appointment procedure

Six saiban-in will be appointed through the appointment procedure at the court.

Duties of the saiban-in

Trial

Saiban-in hear the witness testimonies and examine the evidence.

Deliberations

Saiban-in and professional judges deliberate and determine together whether the defendant is guilty or not and what the sentence will be.

Judgment

The presiding judge renders the judgment.



A courtroom for saiban-in trials



A room for deliberations

▶ **For more information about the system, please refer to our website**

http://www.moj.go.jp/keiji1/saibanin_index.html



Legal Affairs Bureau

Responsibilities of the Legal Affairs Bureau

As one of the regional organizations of the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Affairs Bureau is responsible for, among other things, civil administrative affairs such as registration, family register, nationality and deposits with a deposit office to protect the property and identity matters of the people, the litigation affairs including litigation activities which are found to be related to the interests of the State and the human rights affairs for the protection of fundamental human rights.



Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau

For further details, please check the Legal Affairs Bureau website.
<http://houmukyoku.moj.go.jp/homu/static/index.html>

Organization of the Legal Affairs Bureau

The Legal Affairs Bureau is composed of "Legal Affairs Bureaus" (8 stations) and "District Legal Affairs Bureaus" (42 stations). A Legal Affairs Bureau is responsible for one of the eight blocks the nation is divided into. A total of 42 "District Legal Affairs Bureaus" have been placed under the Legal Affairs Bureaus. A District Legal Affairs Bureau is generally responsible for a region consisting of one prefecture.

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, deposit office deposits, litigation, and human rights affairs. Branch Offices are mainly responsible for registration.



State of the Legal Affairs Bureau

Institution for Documenting Your Rights

Registration (Real Estate Property, Commercial, etc.)

Protection of Our Assets

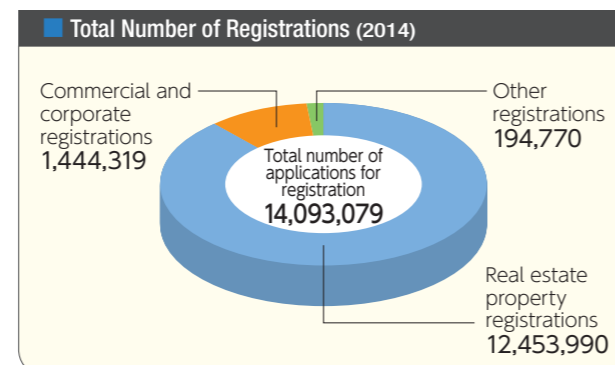
-Real Estate Property Registration System-

Real Estate Property Registration is a system which records the actual condition of our important real estate assets, including the location and area of the land and buildings, the name and address of the owner and the rights involved in a public book called a "registry." This documentation in a clear form that anyone can understand in the "registry" ensures individual rights and contributes to smooth and safe real estate dealings.

If you don't register...

Q After many years of saving, I purchased my home. But later, someone who claims to be the owner of the house appeared. When I checked the registry, I found out that the name of the proprietor was the person who claimed to be the owner. According to my investigation, after I purchased the house, the seller sold the house to him at a higher price. Isn't the owner of the house me, since I bought the house earlier?

A Unfortunately, you will not be able to claim ownership. Even if you purchased the house earlier, since it was not registered as your house, you will not be able to claim ownership to third parties. In order to avoid such trouble, it is important to carry out proper registration procedures as soon as possible after the completion of a transaction.



Inheritance Registration for the Future

Making an inheritance registration clarifies the rights and interests in the real estate property that you have acquired by inheritance, and enables you to sell it whenever you want or take out a mortgage on it.

If your real estate property is inherited multiple times without intervening inheritance registrations, it would take much time to identify the heir, and the procedural costs and fees for the inheritance registration would be high. If the inheritance process takes too much time, it might bring you disadvantages such as being difficult to sell your real property immediately even though you want to.

In order to preserve your rights for future generations securely, we recommend that you make an inheritance registration.

Defining Your Land Lot (Parcel) Clearly -Creating a Registry Office Designated Map-

In order to clarify the exact location and dimensions of piece of registered land, the registry office has to include in the registration documents a map called a "Registry Office Designated Map" created based on the results of high-precision surveying. However, the maintenance of Registry Office Designated Maps is not sufficient, since there are also many registry offices which have old maps that were created in the Meiji era. Professional personnel with specialized knowledge and many years of experience in the registry office promote the creation of Registry Office Designated Maps around the country.



Old Map



Registry Office Designated Map

What is a "parcel boundary"?

A parcel boundary is a line that defines the position and dimensions of the land at the time of registration. The parcel boundary cannot be changed merely by an agreement between the owners.

Commercial and Corporate Registration

Companies play an indispensable role in the economic activities of our country, but they can only acquire their juridical identity, which is necessary in order to hold legal rights and obligations to carry out such economic activities, through commercial registration. Thus, commercial registration is an important system serving as a basis for the economic activities of companies in order to ensure the safety and smoothness of transactions. The Companies Act (which contains provisions to make corporate management more effective and flexible, to ensure that corporate management is kept open and sound and to amend the classifications of companies from the point of view of users) was enacted on May 1, 2006.

Efforts to Implement Registration

In addition to the above-mentioned development of legal systems, to establish a registration system appropriate in today's advanced information society, enhancement of organizational structure of the personnel engaged in clerical registration; establishment of effective work processes, including mechanization and rationalization of office work; optimization of the placement of the registration office; and improvement of government buildings, etc. are pursued.

Also, in order to comply with the needs of today's IT advances, registry information services through which one's registration information can be verified on the Internet and an electronic certification system based on the commercial registry have been introduced. Furthermore, registration applications for real estate property, commerce and incorporation, transfer of assigned movables, transfer of receivables and adult guardianship are available online.

Economic Activities and Registry Office Designated Maps

When redevelopment of land around Roppongi Hills was conducted, it took a long time and much expense to define the boundaries of the lots (parcels) involved because there was only an old map. In order to prevent such problems, a highly accurate Registry Office Designated Map is required. The development of Registry Office Designated Maps supports smoother economic activities such as land development.

Solving Boundary Disputes -Parcel Boundary Demarcation-

"Parcel Boundary Demarcation" is a system in which registrars for parcel (lot) boundary demarcation (the officials of the Legal Affairs Bureau), who are experts regarding abutments of land, demarcate the registered land when its owner applies for the system.

After conducting various research, including field research and surveying, the registrar finds out and clarifies the original parcel boundary.

When an issues regarding the parcel boundary of a parcel of land occurs, it is possible to resolve of the problem by taking advantage of this system, without filing a litigation.



Enlightenment poster about Parcel Boundary Demarcation

Family Registration

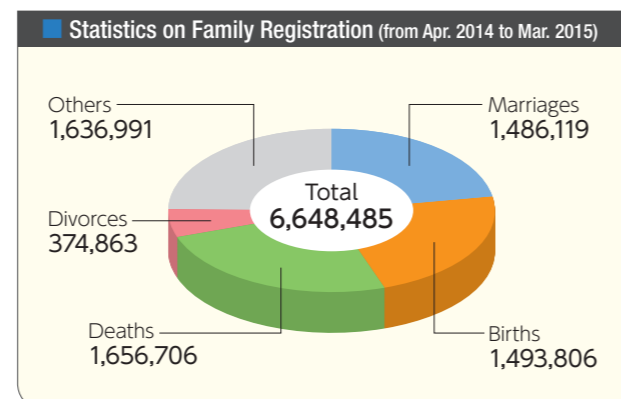
Family registration is the system that notarizes the kinship of individuals from birth until death. Registrations are made for every Japanese national and they are the only public documents to certify that a person has Japanese nationality. Family registration work is handled by each city, town or village, but the State (Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau or the District Legal Affairs Bureau) gives advice, suggestions or directions to ensure that the work of registration is performed in a smooth, proper and uniform manner throughout the country.

There are people who are not entered in a family register because the notification of a birth has not been submitted, and this has recently become a problem in the society.

Therefore, the Ministry of Justice has posted explanations of the procedure for enter such persons in a family register on the Ministry of Justice website (http://www.moj.go.jp/MINJI/minji04_00034.html)

Meanwhile, from May 1, 2008 Family Register Act restricts the cases in which a third person can make a request for the issuance of

a copy of a family register, etc. In addition, the law stipulates that identification must be shown when the applicant submits his or her information for registration.

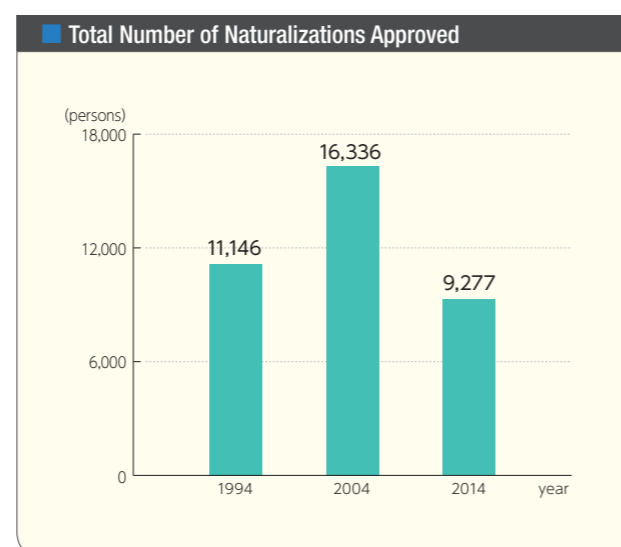


Nationality Administration

Nationality is the qualification of an individual to be a national of a particular country. The Ministry of Justice performs various functions related to Japanese nationality such as the following:

- 1 work related to naturalization when a foreign national wishes to acquire Japanese nationality (citizenship)
- 2 work related to applications for acquisition of Japanese nationality
- 3 work related to applications for renouncement of Japanese nationality
- 4 work related to the choice of nationality by a person who has dual nationality
- 5 work related to recognition of Japanese nationality
- 6 consultation concerning nationality

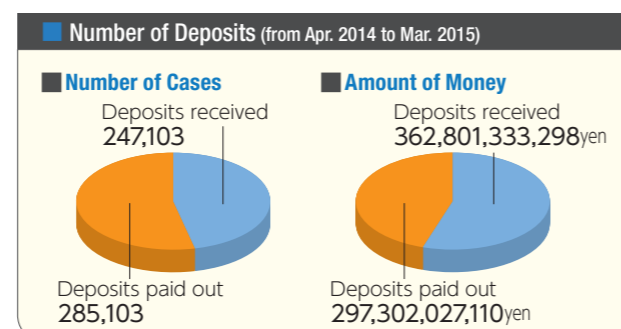
Meanwhile, an amended Nationality Act was enacted on January 1, 2009. The amended act has changed the conditions for acquiring Japanese nationality, under the provision of the third article of the Nationality Act, and has established penal regulations.



Deposit (Kyotaku) Administration

The deposit system is designed to accomplish a certain legal objective by having a person entrust a sum of money or negotiable securities to a deposit office (legal affairs bureau or district legal affairs bureau) to guarantee the performance of his or her obligation and ultimately by having the other party who is entitled to that property acquire the money from the deposit office.

An online deposit application system has been implemented in response to IT advances in today's society. In addition, deposits for a continuing case can be easily made by presenting a deposits card, and a large number of deposits can be applied at the same time by using a dedicated application system tool.



Notary System

Notarization is a system under which a notary, a State agent whose functions are to officially certify legal matters related to the life of a private person such as the conclusion of a contract, certifies matters as prescribed by law, by such means as preparing notarial instruments. By having a notary participate in the preparation of the contract in advance and check the legality and the validity of the contents, this system guarantees the protection of individual's rights and helps prevent possible future legal disputes. In this sense, it is a "preventive justice" system.

Notaries, working at the request of the persons and/or parties involved, perform tasks including creating notarial instruments like wills, certifying private instruments, certifying articles of

incorporation and attaching fixed dates.

With regard to digital documents notaries are capable of certification of private electronic or magnetic records, attachment of fixed dates and preservation and certification of digital information (electric notary system).

Notaries are appointed by the Minister of Justice, and their instruction and supervision is also performed under the Minister of Justice (Legal Affairs Bureau directors, District Legal Affairs Bureau directors).

About 500 notaries are working in about 300 notary offices throughout the country.

PICK UP!

Improvement of Basic Laws on Civil Matters



The world, is changing rapidly in aspects such as the living environment, etc. Will laws be reviewed?

There are various fundamental laws on civil affairs: the Civil Code, the Commercial Code, the Companies Act, and the Code of Civil Procedure; and they stipulate the basic rules for people's daily lives and economic transactions, the family system, and judicial proceedings. Recently in Japan, socioeconomic circumstances have been changing significantly, and public awareness has greatly diversified. The Ministry of Justice is conducting necessary examinations and reviews to make the fundamental laws on civil affairs responsive to those changes and suited to the current era. The Ministry also delivers its views on law bills governed by other ministries and agencies on whether they are consistent with the fundamental laws from a standpoint of governing the fundamental laws on civil affairs.

● Civil Code

In 2013, a partial amendment was made to the Civil Code specifying equal division of inheritance between legitimate and illegitimate children following a decision of unconstitutionality in a case judged by the Supreme Court on September 4th of that year.

Furthermore, concerning the current Civil Code, the Ministry has sent a proposal for a bill to amend sections of the Civil Code regarding the law of obligations to the Diet, and we are presently examining possibilities for a review of codes related to inheritance.

● Commercial Code

In 2014, amendments were made to the corporate laws with the aim of strengthening corporate governance, etc.

Regarding the commercial code as well, the Ministry is currently preparing for a review of regulations governing transport and maritime commerce (corporate activities involving the use of ocean-going ships, such as sea transport).

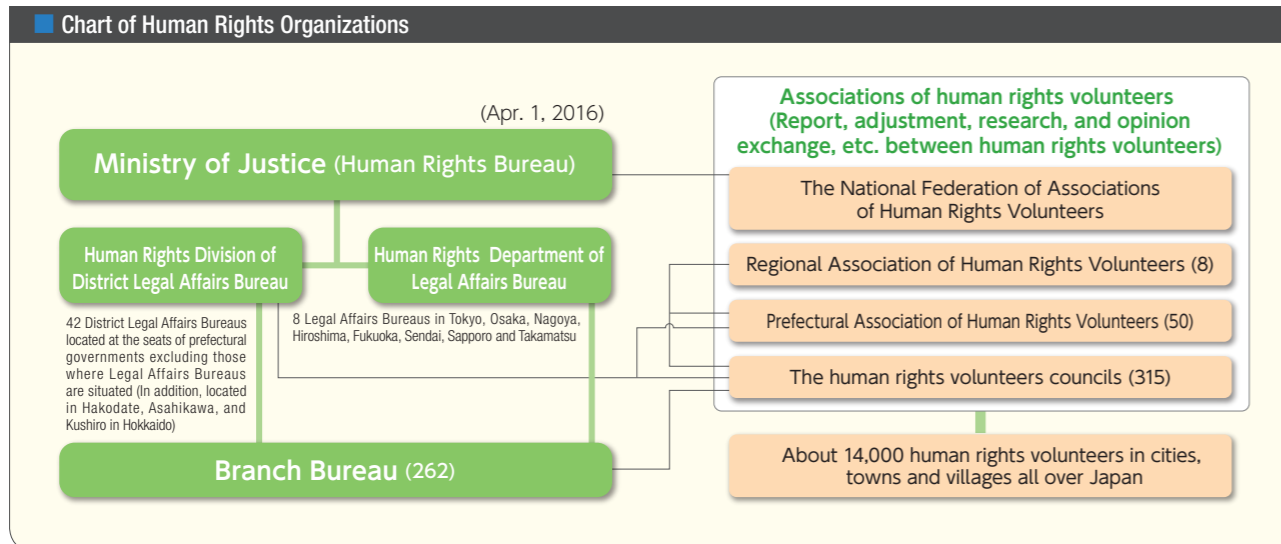
● Civil Procedural Laws

In 2013, in accordance with Japan's adoption of statutes of the Hague Convention on parental responsibility and protection of children (Hague Convention 1996) regarding the international abduction of children, laws necessary for the enactment of the Convention (laws concerning civil cases of international abduction of children) were passed.

Also, concerning civil measures, the Ministry has sent a proposal for a bill to implement regulations governing international jurisdiction with regard to litigation regarding personal status and domestic relations to the Diet.

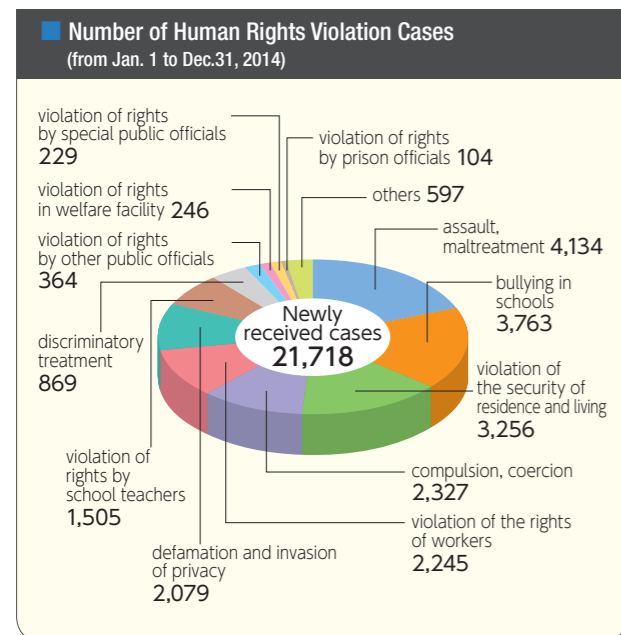


Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Human Rights Counseling, Investigation and Remedies Measures, Human Rights Promotion, etc.)



▶▶ Investigation and Remedies Measures for Human Rights Violation Cases

There are various human rights violation cases (cases where human rights violations are suspected): assault and maltreatment against women, children, the elderly, etc.; bullying at schools; compulsion and coercion in the forms of sexual harassment, "power harassment" and stalking behavior; and defamation and invasion of privacy on the Internet. Pertaining to these human rights violation cases, to relieve and prevent damages, the organizations provide assistance to victims (e.g. introductions to responsible authorities or other organizations, giving legal advice, etc.), adjust relations of the parties involved as well as give "instruction" or make "recommendations" to the other party when violation of human rights is identified.



▶▶ Awareness-raising for Human Rights

Awareness-raising for human rights is one of the most important duties of the human rights bodies. The aims of awareness-raising are to make sure that the necessity and importance of respecting human rights are understood by the people and the idea of respecting human rights is spread among the people.

● Awareness-raising Activities

Awareness-raising activities are widely carried out for the general public through various means. Generally, the human rights bodies annually set priority targets, and in line with the targets, activities are conducted by means of holding symposiums, lectures, movie events; organizing various events; and utilizing mass media such as TV, Radio and the Internet.



● Awareness-raising Activities Aimed at Children

"The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students"

The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students is an awareness-raising activity for the purpose of enabling junior high school students to deepen their understanding of the importance and necessity of respecting human rights and to acquire greater awareness of human rights through writing essays on human rights issues.

"Human Rights Lectures"

The human rights lectures is an awareness-raising activity aiming to deepen a feeling of compassion and to learn the preciousness of life among children by creating opportunities to think about bullying, and so on. The classes are aimed mainly at elementary school children and junior high school students, with human rights volunteers across the country playing a central role.

"The Human Rights Flower Campaign"

The human rights flower campaign is an awareness-raising activity carried out mainly for elementary school children.

In the campaign, children are given flower seeds or bulbs and grow them by cooperating together. Through the experience, they realize the preciousness of life, nurture a warm-hearted spirit and learn tenderness and compassion.



▶▶ Human Rights Counseling

Human rights counseling is available for all kinds of human rights problems, and counselors give advice depending on the content. When human rights violations are suspected, the human rights bodies initiate investigation in accordance with the counselor's disposition.

The counseling services are free of charge, easy to use and strictly confidential.

● Human Rights Counseling Centers

Human rights counseling centers are permanently-installed at Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus and their branches across the nation; interview-style counseling, phone counseling and Internet counseling are available. In addition, counseling services with interpreters at human rights counseling centers for foreigners are available at Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya, etc.

● Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters

Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus are actively responding to consultations by children through "Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters" (letter paper with a pre-stamped envelope). They are distributed to elementary and junior high school students nationwide as part of efforts for solving human-rights problems involving children (e.g. bullying and corporal punishment at school and abuse of children at home).



■ Counseling Services

Human Rights Hotline	0570-003-110 (with a nationwide number)
Children's Rights Hotline	0120-007-110 (with a nationwide toll-free number)
Women's Rights Hotline	0570-070-810 (with a nationwide number)
Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline	English: 0570-090-911 Chinese: 0570-050-110 (with a nationwide number)

PC
<http://www.moj.jp/JINKEN/jinken113.html>

インターネット人権相談 Search Click

Mobile
<https://www.jinken.go.jp/soudan/mobile/001.html>

▶▶ Human Rights Volunteers

Human rights volunteers are counseling partners in your town. They are selected from among private citizens recommended by mayors of municipalities and appointed by the Minister of Justice. The system of human rights volunteers was introduced in 1948 based on the concept that the government and private citizens should work side by side to protect human rights of local inhabitants.

About 14,000 human rights volunteers (about 6,000 of whom are female) are placed in municipalities (including wards of Tokyo) across the country to handle human rights problems by means such as activities for human rights awareness-raising and human rights counseling in cooperation with officers of the Legal Affairs Bureaus and the District Legal Affairs Bureaus.

Legal Services

▶▶ Attorney Certification System

In order to obtain the qualification of an attorney-at-law, in principle a person is required to complete the legal apprentice training course after passing the national bar examination.

As an exception, the qualification of an attorney-at-law is given through the Attorney Certification System with the approval of the Minister of Justice to those who have acquired a certain level of actual legal practice experience in corporate enterprises after passing the national bar examination.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the certification of qualifications for attorney-at-law.

▶▶ Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi

The Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi (Gaiben) system is designed to permit persons qualified as lawyers in foreign states to handle specific legal business in Japan as a Gaiben, without taking a qualification examination anew.

To become "Gaiben", the qualified foreign lawyers must be approved by the Minister of Justice in accordance with the "Act on Special Measures Concerning the Handling of Legal Services by Foreign Lawyers." Also they must be registered on the Roll of Registered Foreign Lawyers kept by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the approval of qualifications for Gaiben.

▶▶ Claim Management and Collection Companies (Servicers)

As an exception to the Attorney Act, in order to promote the disposal of non-performing loans and thereby contribute to the sound development of the national economy, the Act on Special Measures Concerning the Claims Servicing Business (Servicer Act; Act No. 126 of 1998) was enacted on February 1, 1999.

Servicers licensed by the Minister of Justice are allowed to manage and collect specified monetary claims provided for by the Servicer Act.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for examining and screening these servicers when giving approval and license as well as for supervising them to ensure appropriate practices by conducting on-site inspections, etc.

▶▶ Certified Dispute Resolution Business Operators

The Act on Promotion of Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution, enacted on April 1, 2007 as part of the reform of the judicial system, has introduced a system in which the Minister of Justice certifies private dispute resolution services (conciliation and intercession services performed by private businesses on a civil dispute), when recognized as proper and satisfying the statutory criteria and requirements for the purpose of promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution processes (procedures for the resolution of a civil dispute between parties who seek, with the involvement of a fair third party, a resolution without using legal procedures).

Certified dispute resolution business operators (private businesses

certified by the Minister of Justice) are engaged in resolving disputes, utilizing their professional knowledge and experience, in order to accurately meet the diverse needs of the people.

The number of certified dispute resolution business operators increased from 10 in FY2007 when the system was launched to over 140 in FY2015. The fields of disputes handled have become more diversified and the accessibility to the system has been further improved.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the certification of private dispute resolution services, and undertaking various efforts to ensure that procedures for conciliations, etc., taken by certified dispute resolution operators will be used extensively as an accessible means of resolving disputes.



▶▶ Judicial Scriveners

Judicial scriveners are legal experts who contribute to protecting rights and benefits of the people; they engage in registration procedures of immovable property and commercial registration (incorporation of companies, etc.) on behalf of the client as well as in preparation of documents for the court. Since 2003, judicial scriveners, certified by the Minister of Justice after completing the designated training course, have been able to engage in civil procedures on behalf of clients at summary courts. Furthermore, since 2006, they have been able to undertake proceedings as representatives in identifying registered land parcel boundary demarcations within a certain range.

The Civil Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the judicial scriveners system.

▶▶ Land and House Investigators

The land and house investigators contribute to the clarification of rights of the people related to real estate. They take charge of necessary investigations, surveys, and application procedures on registering real estate on behalf of a client. From 2006, the land and house investigators approved by the Minister of Justice by completing a certain training course to act as agents in proceedings to identify registered land parcel sections, are able to undertake proceedings for solving civil disputes that originate from unclear registered land parcel sections; the dispute resolution business operators who engage in the proceedings must be designated by the Minister of Justice and the operations are to be carried out jointly with attorneys-at-law.

The Civil Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the land and house investigators system.

Implementation of Comprehensive Legal Support by the Japan Legal Support Center

▶▶ What is the Comprehensive Legal Support Plan?

The Comprehensive Legal Support Act was approved at the 2004 ordinary Diet session. The Act is based on the Comprehensive Legal Support Plan, which is designed to provide all citizens in Japan with necessary information and services for legal solutions to disputes both on civil and on criminal affairs so that the justice system may be more accessible to the citizens.

● Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu), established within the framework of an independent administrative agency, forms the core of the Comprehensive Legal Support Plan. The Ministry of Justice takes charge of the corporate body.

The Houterasu, with the purpose of promptly and properly implementing operations related to comprehensive legal support, was established in April 2006 and commenced its operations in October of the same year. The popular name "Houterasu" expresses the belief that it can "shed light on the confused minds of those who are suffering from troubles by providing a path to settlement based on the law" and "be a place like a sunny terrace where everyone can relax."

▶▶ Outline of the Operations of the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

The principal operations of Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) consist of the following five (5) services as prescribed in Article 30, Paragraph 1 of the Act:

- 1 Information Services
- 2 Civil Legal Aid
- 3 Legal Aid for Criminal Defense
- 4 Measures for Areas with Limited Legal Services
- 5 Support for Victims of Crime

Another service area for the Houterasu is coordinating and encouraging the cooperation of authorities and organizations that have operations related to the five (5) core services. Moreover, the Houterasu may also provide services entrusted by the national government, local governments, non-profit corporations and other organizations, to the extent that it does not impair the Houterasu's delivery of its core services (Article 30, Paragraph 2 of the Act). In addition, since April 2012, the Houterasu has been providing legal aid to victims and survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake.



Flow of Criminal Cases Committed by Adults

Flow of Criminal Cases Committed by Adults (Figure 1)

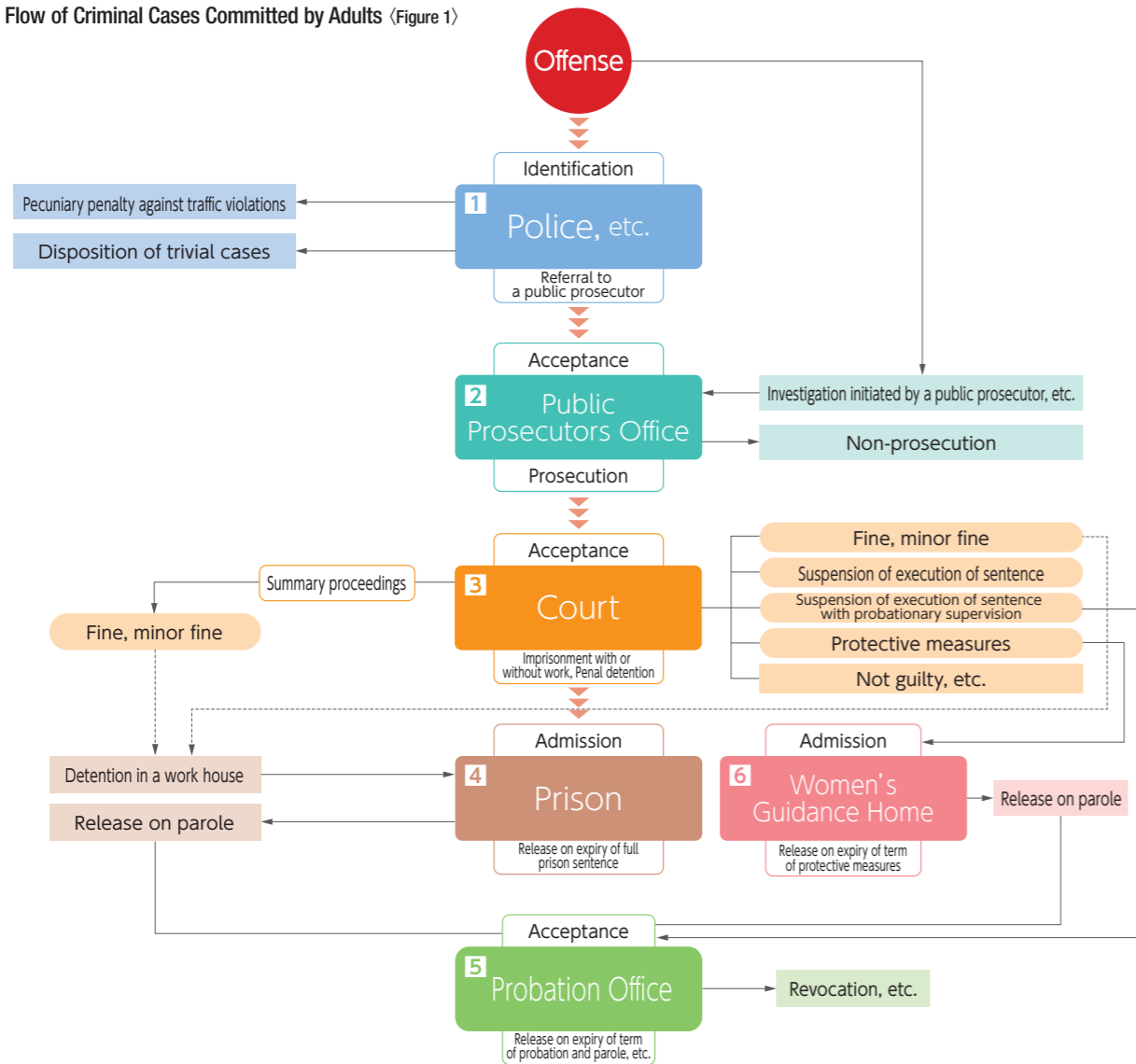


Figure 1 shows the flow of criminal offenses committed by adults.

1 Police etc.

All cases in which the police, etc., arrest suspects and conduct necessary investigations are transferred to public prosecutors, in principle.

2 Public Prosecutors Office

Public prosecutors conduct necessary investigations on the cases transferred from the police and determine whether or not to indict the accused based on the law and evidence. At times, they themselves detect criminal cases or conduct investigations on cases that have been charged or accused.

3 Court

The courts hold hearings at public trials, and when they recognize the accused as guilty, the courts hand down a sentence, such as the death penalty, penal servitude, imprisonment or a fine. In the case of penal servitude or imprisonment for three years or less, the prison term may be suspended due to extenuating circumstances, and probation may be given during the period of suspended sentence.

In the case of a relatively minor offense, the court may decide to examine the case through summary proceedings as long as the accused has no objection.

4 Prison

After the accused is convicted, the punishment will be administered under the direction of public prosecutors. As a general rule, punishment, including imprisonment, with or without prison work, or detention is enforced at penal institutions like prisons. Penal institutions help inmates to reform themselves and to re-integrate into the community by means of correctional treatment.

Those who are incapable of paying the full amount of a penalty or fine will be detained in a workhouse attached to a penal institution.

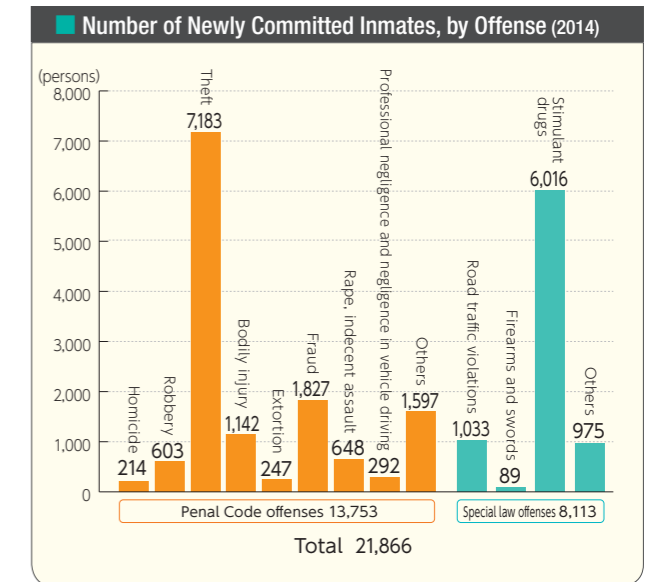
5 Probation Office

Inmates may be released on parole in accordance with a decision by the regional parole board even before the expiration of their term, and such parolees are placed under supervision while they are on parole. Also, those who have been given a suspended sentence on the condition of probation are placed under probationary supervision during the period of suspension, after the sentence has been settled.

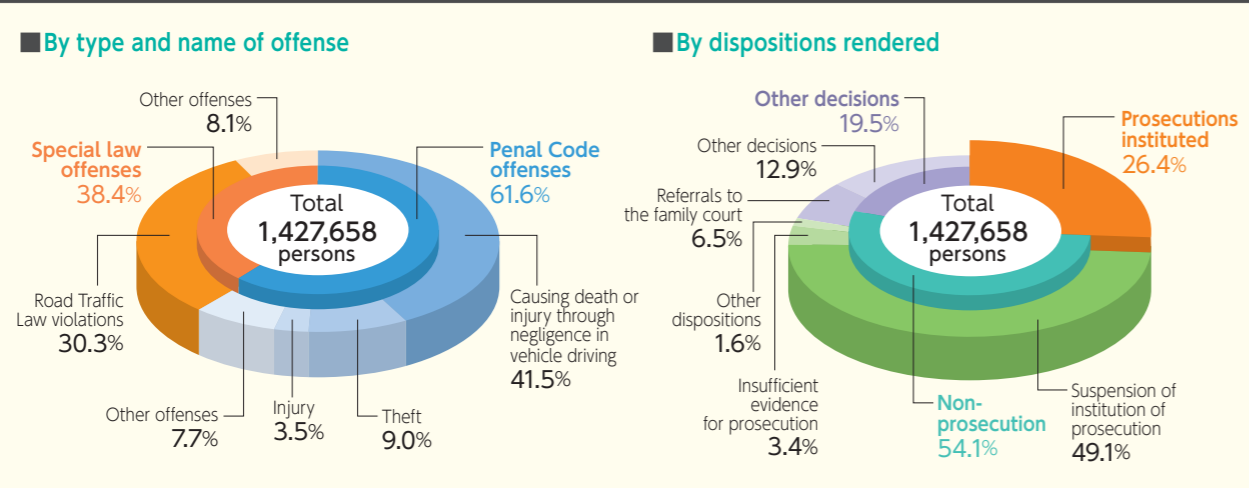
These parolees/probationers receive guidance and assistance from the probation officers of probation offices and volunteer probation officers and pursue rehabilitation for a smooth return to society.

6 Women's Guidance Home

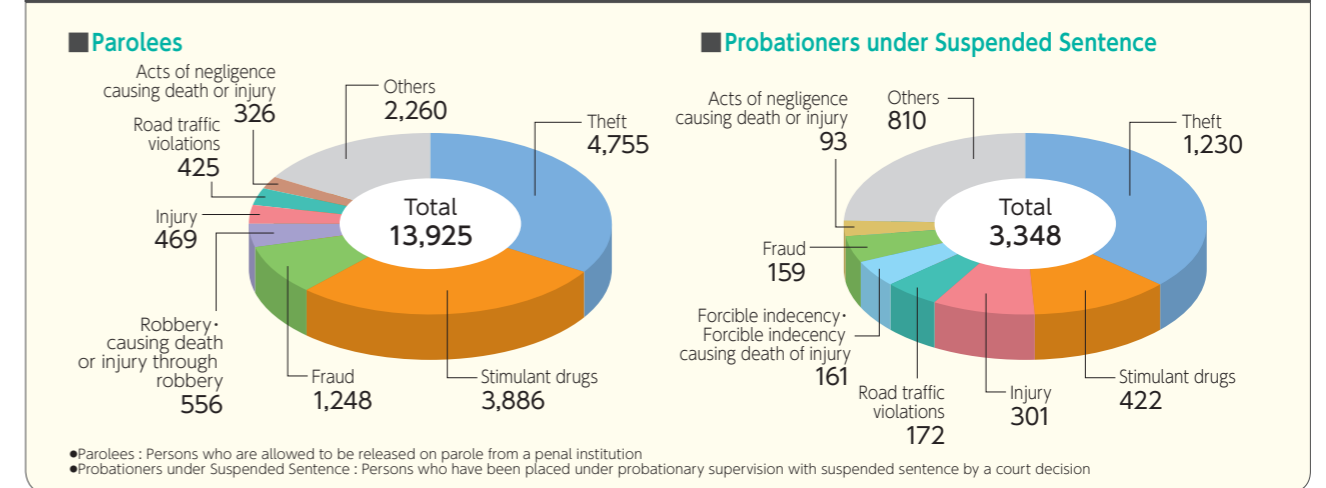
Adult females who have been taken into custody for violating the Anti-Prostitution Act are detained in women's guidance homes and will be placed on probation when they are granted parole release.



Percentage Breakdown of Cases (Offenders) Handled at the Public Prosecutors Offices Across the Country (2014)



Number of Persons Newly Commencing Their Probation/Parole According to Offense Types (2014)



Handling Juvenile Crimes and Delinquencies

Flow of Proceedings for Juvenile Delinquents (Figure 2)

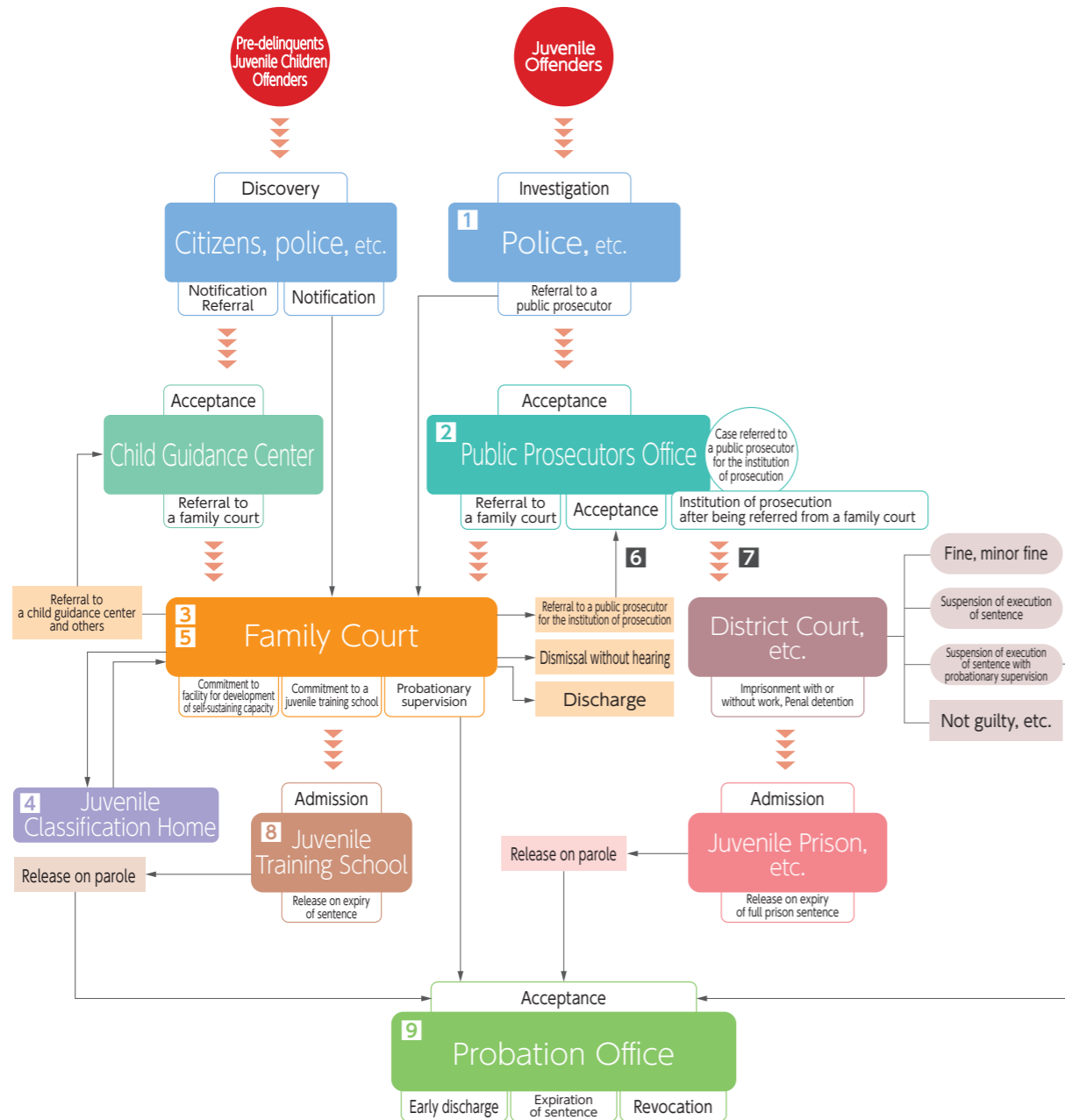


Figure 2 shows the flow of proceedings for juvenile delinquents.

1 Police etc.

When juvenile suspects are arrested by the police the cases are transferred to public prosecutors, in principle, after investigations are completed.

2 Public Prosecutors Office

When public prosecutors suspect juveniles of committing crimes, or have good reasons to leave them to the decision of the family court on pre-delinquency (a state in which juvenile delinquents have behavioral problems which may lead to crimes yet stopping short of committing crimes, but highly necessary to be taken into custody), the relevant cases will be transferred to the family court after investigations are completed.

3 Family Court

A family court orders investigators to conduct investigations on relevant juveniles, including their dispositions and family backgrounds, and/or send them to a juvenile classification home for assessment.

4 Juvenile Classification Home

A juvenile classification home conducts assessments of juveniles based on expertise in medicine, pedagogy, etc. and submits the results to a family court.

5 Family Court

When a family court considers that a juvenile has no reason to undergo adjudication procedures or that it is not suitable to put him/her through adjudication procedures based on the result of the investigation of his/her dossier, etc., the court elects dismissal without hearing. When the court finds it reasonable to take adjudication procedures, it employs the closed-door process for adjudication.

If deemed unnecessary to place the juvenile in protective custody as a result of adjudication process based on the above-mentioned investigations and assessment.

5 and 4 respectively, the court declares the juvenile not to be discharged. However, if deemed reasonable to place him/her in protective custody, the court decides to place him/her on probation or send him/her to a juvenile training school.

Meanwhile, if the presence of a public prosecutor is necessary for the identification of delinquency in a major crime, a public prosecutor also participates in the hearing under the decision of the family court.

6, 7 Sending of Juveniles to Public Prosecutors and Indictment

When a family court finds it reasonable to impose criminal punishment on those who have committed a crime that deserves the death penalty, penal servitude or imprisonment, the court sends the case to public prosecutors.

When juveniles aged sixteen or older are accused of killing their victims intentionally, the cases are sent to public prosecutors, in principle, and the prosecutors who have accepted the cases must indict them.

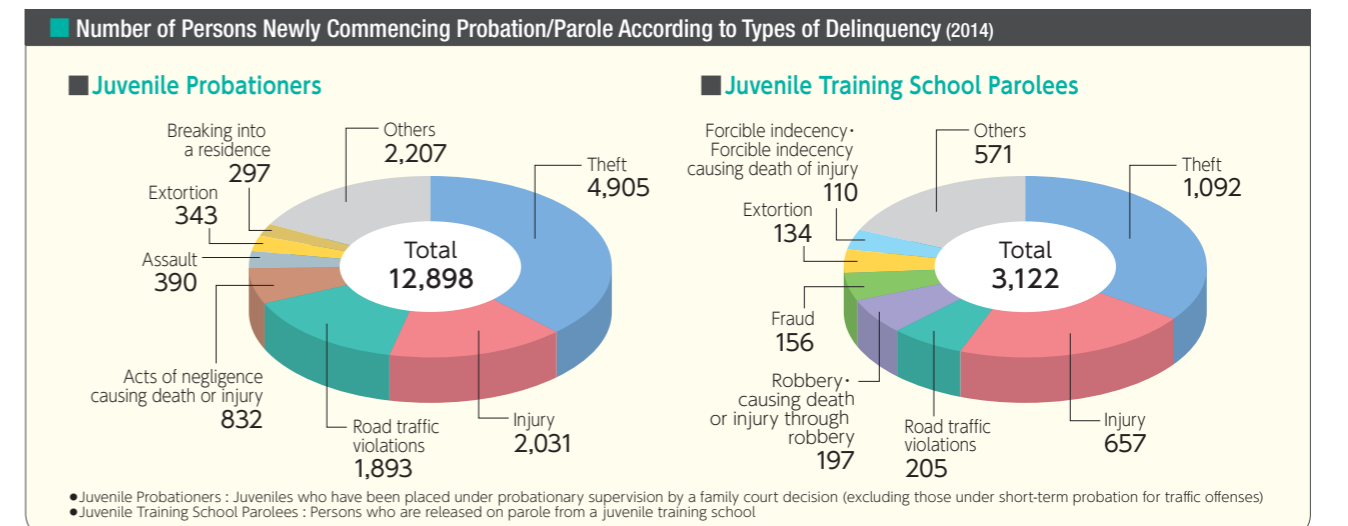
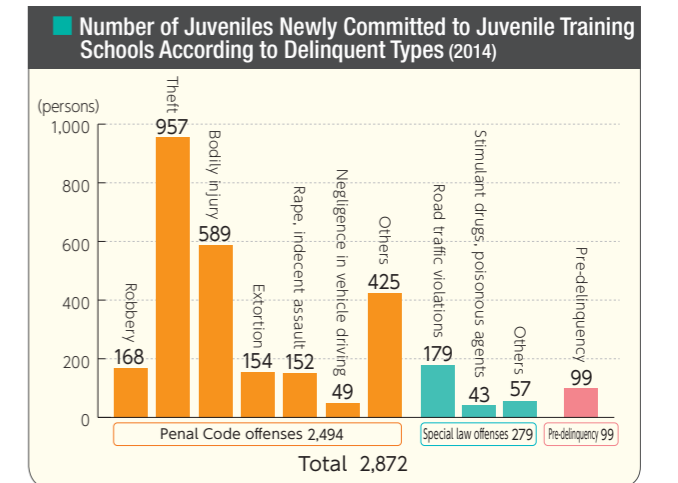
8 Juvenile Training School

Juveniles who are sent to a juvenile training school are placed to either a TYPE-I, TYPE-II or TYPE-III juvenile training school, where rehabilitation is sought through receiving correctional education and rehabilitation support, etc.

Juveniles who are handed a family court judgment to be sent to a juvenile training school are admitted to any of TYPE-I, TYPE-II or TYPE-III juvenile training schools, where they are supposed to receive correctional education and rehabilitation support, etc. to reform themselves.

9 Probation Office

Those who are decided by a family court to be placed on probation, or those who are provisionally permitted to be released from a juvenile training school, are to receive guidance and assistance from probation officers and volunteer probation officers; they are to pursue rehabilitation and a smooth return to society.



Community volunteers supporting correctional facilities

Correctional facilities are supported by community volunteers, such as volunteer visitors and chaplains.

Volunteer visitors are those who help reformation and rehabilitation as well as smooth re-entry into society of inmates by means of counseling and guidance sessions, and music instruction, etc.

Chaplains provide religious guidance upon requests from inmates according to their religious beliefs in order to ensure the freedom of religion.



Community volunteer

What is the Rehabilitation of Offenders?

This is a system designed to give guidance and assistance to those who have committed crimes or those who have turned to juvenile delinquency so that they can become sound members of the society while spending normal social lives; the system is carried out in cooperation with the nation and volunteers.

Regional Parole Boards

The regional parole boards are located in eight regions across the country corresponding to the jurisdictional areas of the high courts. The major functions of the boards are to make decisions on parole of inmates of prisons or juvenile training schools and revocation of parole when parolees fail to observe the parole conditions.

Probation Offices

There are 50 probation offices throughout the country, which are located in each of the jurisdictional areas of the district courts. Their major functions are to conduct probationary supervision over those juveniles placed on probation by decisions of the family courts, those released on parole from prisons or juvenile training schools and also those who are on probation with suspension of sentence. The probation offices are also engaged in activities to promote community-based campaigns to prevent crime and delinquency.

Probation Officers

Probation officers are full-time government officials of the Ministry of Justice who are assigned to either the Secretariat of the Regional Parole Board or to the Probation Office. Having expert knowledge of psychology, pedagogy or sociology, they engage in the work of rehabilitating those who have committed crimes or have turned to juvenile delinquency, by giving them guidance and assistance in everyday life, in collaboration with volunteer probation officers. They also take charge of work relating to the prevention of crime and delinquency and providing support for crime victims.

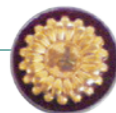
Volunteer Probation Officers

Volunteer probation officers are private citizens commissioned by the Minister of Justice with the work of assisting in the rehabilitation of offenders. There are about 48,000 of these officers across the country. As they are familiar with the situations and customs of their community, they are able to give effective guidance and assistance to those who have committed crimes or have turned to juvenile delinquency in the context of a normal social life in collaboration with probation officers. In addition, they are engaged in crime prevention in their community to promote prevention of crime and delinquency, and provide support for crime victims.

Volunteer probation officers have the status of part-time government officers, but they are not paid salaries, except for the expenses involved in their activities.

Badge of Volunteer Probation Officers

The badge is designed by the late Sagenji Yoshida, Professor Emeritus at the Tokyo University of the Arts. It consists of 18 chrysanthemum petals with a sunflower and the rising sun; the circle of its contour represents harmony among people and the red cloth represents the hearts and passion of people.



Offenders Rehabilitation Facilities

Of all the persons who have been placed under parole/probationary supervision or released from prison, offender rehabilitation facilities accommodate those who have no proper place to live and give them living guidance and vocational training so that they will be able to live independently at the earliest possible date. There are 103 such facilities in the country, mainly operated by juridical persons for the offender rehabilitation services, which are private foundations approved by the Minister of Justice to run the services in order to facilitate the rehabilitation of offenders.



Exterior of an Offenders Rehabilitation Facility

Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid

The Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid is an organization composed of female volunteers who cooperate in community activities from the viewpoint of women for crime prevention and also for the rehabilitation of those who have committed crimes or acts of delinquency, with the aim to establish a brighter society free from crime and delinquency.

There are about 170,000 volunteer members across the country. They are not only engaged in educational activities for prevention of crime and delinquency, but also in a wide range of activities rooted in the community, such as the following: activities for sound upbringing of youth; child-support activities; rehabilitation support in offender rehabilitation facilities; cooperation in social contribution activities of offenders on probation or parole; and visits to prisons and juvenile training schools to encourage the inmates.

BBS Association

BBS stands for the "Big Brothers and Sisters Movement" organized by young volunteers who make friends with and give assistance to delinquents and pre-delinquents to help them attain sound growth. As if they were their older brothers or sisters, these young volunteers keep in touch with the juveniles in various situations (called the "Tomodachi (Friend)-Project") and help them solve their problems and become self-reliant. In addition, BBS members carry out activities for crime prevention to strive for the realization of a crime-free society. About 4,500 members are engaged in the activities.

Cooperative Employers

"Cooperative Employers" are those who willingly offer employment to offenders despite their past records and cooperate in the offenders' rehabilitation. These employers provide stable jobs with full understanding of the feelings of offenders, which amounts to a tremendous contribution. There are about 14,000 such employers across the country who cooperate in this field.

National Centers for Offenders Rehabilitation

The National Center for Offenders Rehabilitation is established and operated to provide parolees from penal institutions or juvenile training schools, etc., who cannot be provided with the necessary social surroundings for their smooth reintegration into society by their relatives or private-sector offender rehabilitation facilities, with lodging at state-established facilities where probation officers directly provide them with intensive supervision and generous employment assistance, thereby encouraging their rehabilitation and preventing them from committing further offenses.

Among these facilities, the organization that performs selective, specialized treatment in society in accord with the relevant specific problem is called the "National Center for Offenders Rehabilitation," while another organization that provides vocational training primarily in agriculture is called the "National Center for Offenders Job Training and Employment Support."

The "National Centers for Offenders Rehabilitation" are established and operated in Kitakyushu and Fukushima City, while the "National Centers for Offenders Job Training" are established and operated in Hokkaido (Numata-cho) and Ibaraki (Hitachinaka City), respectively.

Why Not Join Offenders Rehabilitation Volunteers?

Ensuring that those who have committed a crime are able to rehabilitate themselves and become law-abiding members of society is a task that cannot be achieved by the efforts of the government alone. Activities of offender rehabilitation volunteers, including the Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid, BBS (Big Brothers and Sisters Movement) Association, and Cooperative Employers have been of a great help.

Persons interested in participating in such activities please contact your nearest Parole Office.



The National Center for Offender Rehabilitation in Fukuoka (Kitakyushu City)



The National Center for Offender Job Training and Employment Support in Hokkaido (Numata-cho, Uryu-gun)

System for Partial Suspension of Sentence

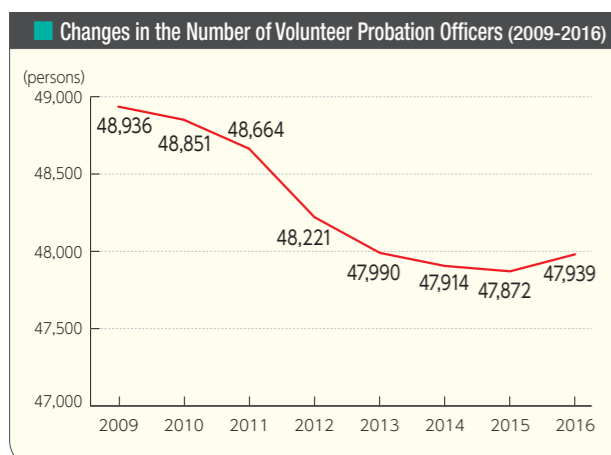
In June 2013, laws were promulgated providing for suspension of part of a criminal's sentence in the "Act for Partial Revision of the Penal Code" and the "Act for Partial Suspension of Sentence for Criminals Convicted of Drug Use, Etc." The system enabling suspension of part of a criminal's sentence that was adopted under these laws makes it possible for the courts grant a suspension of part of a sentence in cases where the criminal was given a short sentence of three years or less or a sentence of imprisonment without work, etc., by having the criminal serve part of the sentence prison term and then suspending the remainder of the term for more than one year but less than five years. The aim of the suspension of sentence is to prevent recidivism by the offender and help in their rehabilitation by enabling a period of treatment in prison, followed by a longer period of treatment in the society.

Under this system, during the period of suspended sentence the offender is put under probation on a discretionary basis in the case of those who have no previous record of sentences heavier than imprisonment without work, and on a mandatory basis in the case of those convicted and sentenced to prison for drug use.

Stable Securing of Volunteer Probation Officers

▶▶ Current Situation of the Volunteer Probation Officer System

Volunteer probation officers are volunteers who support rehabilitation of offenders in the community and who play the most important role in the Japanese offender rehabilitation system. Reflecting the growing awareness towards preventing recidivism of recent years, citizen's expectations for and interest in volunteer probation officers are increasing more than ever. On the other hand, there has been a trend toward a decrease in the number of volunteer probation officers (although the number increased from 2015 to 2016), partly due to the influence of societal changes such as weakening of human relationships in the community. Securing the necessary number of volunteer probation officers is a major challenge for maintaining the system.



▶▶ Efforts of the Ministry of Justice

In light of these circumstances, the "Study Group on Improving the Volunteer Probation Officer System" was launched in March 2011, with the goal of reinforcing the system of volunteer probation officers that would lead to sustainability for the future. The study group consisted of volunteer probation officers and academic experts. After a year of a wide range of discussions, the group submitted a report in March 2012 summarizing the outcome of their discussions to the Rehabilitation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice. The report contains specific recommendations on how the volunteer probation officer system should be improved, from the following wide-ranging perspectives: (1) securing of candidates to become volunteer probation officers and fostering of volunteer probation officers; (2) improvement of the activity environment of volunteer probation officers corresponding to the changes in society; (3) strengthening collaboration with the community; (4) active roles for volunteer probation officer organizations; and (5) reconstruction of the offender rehabilitation system in disaster-affected areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

The Ministry of Justice has taken the above-mentioned recommendations of the study group as earnest voices from volunteer probation officers and therefore strives to put their recommendations into practice.

For example, in FY 2012, the Ministry has started to administer a compensation system for property damage suffered by volunteer probation officers in the performance of their duties. In FY 2013, budget has been established to enable all local volunteer probation officers associations to hold "Volunteer Probation Officer Candidate Information Meetings" to secure appropriate candidates to become volunteer probation officers from a broader cross-section of the population. There are a total of 446 "Offenders Rehabilitation Support Centers" nationwide as of FY2015; the centers are the base of activities for volunteer probation officers and will be improved for the future.

Moreover, the Ministry of Justice is making further efforts to reduce the burdens of volunteer probation officers' activities; widely disseminate awareness of the importance of volunteer probation officers' activities in order to uphold their motivation to fulfill their duties; and to gain the understanding and cooperation of local residents and the relevant authorities and organizations.

The volunteer probation officer organizations and the national government will work together towards the stable securement of volunteer probation officers, so that Japan can sustain its world-class volunteer probation system in the future.

Measures Implemented Under the Medical Care and Treatment System for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Incidents on the Grounds of Insanity, etc.

The Medical Care and Treatment System for Persons Who Have Caused Serious Incidents on the Grounds of Insanity, etc. is a system designed to place the insanity, etc., who have committed murder, arson or the like under proper medical care and required surveillance, instruction to prevent them from committing such acts again and help them return to society.

The Probation Offices have specialized staff members with qualifications as psychiatric social workers, etc., known as "Rehabilitation Coordinators" who work in collaboration with medical institutions designated by the Minister of Health, Labor and Welfare and related local institutions to promote return to society of such individuals, etc.

Improvement and Enhancement of Treatment in Correctional Facilities

▶▶ Smooth Enforcement of Act on Penal Detention Facilities and Treatment of Inmates and Detainees

The Ministry of Justice conducts adequate treatment of inmates with respect for their human rights based on the "Act on Penal Detention Facilities and Treatment of Inmates and Detainees" which is the act enacted under a total revision of the Prison Law. Furthermore, to support the adequate treatment of inmates, the Ministry is making every effort to improve facilities and human resources, as well as to facilitate clerical rationalization and mechanization.

In addition, taking into consideration the experiences of foreign countries, the Ministry of Justice manages some penal institutions through joint operation between the public and private sectors using the PFI (Private Finance Initiative), which utilizes private capital, ingenuity and know-how. In those penal institutions, the Ministry is trying to enrich and develop correctional treatment by incorporating programs such as the Training Program for Guide Dog Puppies for the Blind, which has never been realized in prisons, in cooperation with the Japan Guide Dog Association (a public interest incorporated foundation).

The Ministry of Justice will tackle the issue of smooth implementation of the Act on Penal Detention Facilities and Treatment of Inmates and Detainees for the prevention of re-offending with persistent efforts to contribute to the realization of a safe society where the people can live with peace of mind.

▶▶ Enhancement of Assessments of Juveniles and Community Support Activities by Juvenile Classification Homes

Juvenile classification homes are working to enhance their ability of assessment on juveniles for recidivism prevention by developing and introducing a new assessment method, "Ministry of Justice Case Assessment Tool (MJCA)" in order to grasp the possibility of recidivism and educational needs of each juvenile.

The homes are also working to enhance the treatment for recidivism prevention by conducting assessment of juveniles under protective measures in response to requests from juvenile training schools, probation offices, etc.

Furthermore, the home provides counseling and consultation services to juveniles and their families on various youth problems (delinquency, misbehavior, family upbringing problems, troubles in a workplace or at school, problems with friends, etc.). Moreover, the staff of the home provides explanation about various topics such as delinquency, child-rearing, or educational and instructional methods for youth at workshops or lectures held at schools or youth related organizations.

If you are seeking help, please feel free to contact the nearby juvenile classification home.

PICK UP!

Further Improvement of Juvenile Correction



Recently, I frequently hear about juvenile crimes on the news. Have you been taking any measures?



The Ministry of Justice has been strengthening efforts toward the prevention of repeat offenses by changing laws.

● Strengthening Correctional Education Based on the New Juvenile Training Schools Act

In June 2015, the New Juvenile Training Schools Act was enacted. Under the New Juvenile Training Schools Act an Individual Plan for Correctional Education is drawn up and implemented for each individual juvenile in detention in accordance with their traits and issues, with regard to their records of drug use and delinquency, family relations situation, etc., and individual problems. Based on the new Act, appropriate correctional education is conducted with the aim of achieving higher levels of recidivism prevention.

● Legal provisions for Juvenile Training School support for rehabilitation in society

As a measure for recidivism prevention, it is important to not only provide a varied program of correctional education but also to provide support to aid in the delinquent juvenile's smooth return to society. The New Juvenile Training Schools

Act includes stipulations make the Juvenile Training Schools responsible for providing support for juveniles' rehabilitation when returning to society. In specific terms, this includes support in finding work as a specific part of the juvenile's life plan after release, conducting the high school education equivalency examination for juveniles in the Juvenile Training Schools and providing academic support, etc.

● Performing appropriate Classification under the Juvenile Classification Act

Besides the Juvenile Training School Act, a new Juvenile Classification Act has also been enacted. This new law makes it possible for juveniles in detention at Juvenile Training Schools to spend a certain amount of time at specialized institutions called Juvenile Classification Homes that specialize in determining the causes behind the juvenile's delinquency and drawing up an individual treatment plan, in order to enable more detailed classification.

PICK UP!

Measures for Smooth and Proper Immigration Inspections



I have heard that recently there has been a sudden increase in the number of foreign tourists coming to Japan. Have you been taking any measures with regard to the immigration inspections or procedures?

A In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of foreign tourists visiting Japan, and a further increase is expected in the future in anticipation of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in Japan. Under such circumstances, the Ministry of Justice has been working to implement measures included in the “2015 Action Program for the Realization of a Tourism-Oriented Country” and the “Japan Revitalization Strategy (Revised in 2015)” approved in June 2015. In the

future, it is important for us to proactively work on prompt implementation of the various measures aimed at realizing a tourism-oriented country and to proceed with efforts to prevent the entry of terrorists, foreign nationals who intend to stay illegally in Japan and other such suspect persons at the ports of entry in order to protect the security of Japan and the safety of the people.



▶▶ Principal Measures

Strict immigration inspections are being implemented for those foreign nationals with such motives as working illegally in Japan while various measures are also being taken to implement smooth immigration inspections for trouble-free foreign nationals in order to contribute to the realization of a tourism-oriented country.

In order to be able to facilitate the examinations, efforts have been made to reduce the waiting time for the inspections by assigning “booth concierges” to the inspection areas in the airports, and to promote the use of the automated gates by installing additional automated gates and by sending immigration officers out to the prefectural passport offices to provide on-site “mobile registration for use of the automated gates.”

In addition, the range of users of the automated gates is due to be expanded (to enter into effect in 2016) so as to include those foreign nationals designated “trusted travelers” who are deemed to be low risk in terms of immigration control and who frequently enter Japan.

Moreover, consideration is being given to the implementation of automated gates, which use facial recognition technology, in order to streamline the departure and return processes for Japanese nationals.

In addition, the immigration examination procedures for the increasing number of foreign passengers onboard cruise ships are being streamlined, such as through the introduction of a system of “Landing Permission for Cruise Ship Tourists” (entered into effect on January 1, 2015), which allows foreign passengers of cruise ships designated by the Minister of Justice to land through simplified procedures.



Photo of immigration inspections onboard a cruise ship



Registration for use of the automated gates

Immigration Control for Japanese and Foreign Nationals

On the basis of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (hereinafter referred to as “the Immigration Control Act”), etc., the Immigration Bureau provides for equitable control over the entry into or departure from Japan of all persons.

▶▶ Departure and Disembarkation (Returning) Inspections

Foreign nationals who intend to enter Japan are required to provide personal identification information (fingerprints and facial photographs), except for those who are exempt from this requirement, and must be interviewed by an immigration inspector. The immigration inspector conducts an inspection to check whether the foreign national meets the conditions for entry (disembarkation),

such as whether the passport and visa held by the foreign national are valid, whether his/her activities to be conducted while in Japan are legitimate and come under a status of residence prescribed in the Appended Tables of the Immigration Control Act, and for certain statuses of residence, the inspector checks whether the foreign national meets the criteria stipulated in the Ministerial Ordinance, and that the foreign national does not fall under the grounds for denial of entry; if the immigration inspector deems that these conditions have been met, the foreign national will be permitted to enter Japan. Foreign nationals who intend to depart from Japan must receive confirmation of departure from an immigration inspector. Immigration inspectors also confirm the fact of departure and return of Japanese nationals.

Speedy Immigration Examination! The “Automated Gate”- Convenient for Overseas Business or Sightseeing Trips

Do you know about the “automated gates” that enable you to go through immigration inspection procedures speedily when you go on an overseas business or sightseeing trip? The automated gate system allows users to go through inspection procedures automatically by identifying them by their passports and fingerprints. If you complete the user registration for automated gates before departure, you can go through departure and entry (disembarkation) inspection procedures smoothly using an automated gate even when the inspection area is crowded with people.

For further details, please check the Ministry of Justice website.

▶ http://www.moj.go.jp/nyuukokukanri/kouhou/nyuukokukanri01_00111.html



Airports with Automated Gates

**Narita Airport, Haneda Airport,
Chubu Airport and Kansai Airport**

User registration is available at the above four airports, as well as at Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau, Nagoya Regional Immigration Bureau and Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau.



An Automated Gate (Haneda Airport)

▶▶ Residency Management of Foreign Nationals

Foreign nationals residing in Japan are allowed to engage in activities based on their status of residence and period of stay decided when entering the country. If those foreign nationals intend to change their status of residence, extend the period of stay, or obtain permission to engage in activities other than those permitted under the status of residence previously granted or re-entry permission, they need to take necessary procedures at the Immigration Bureau. In granting permission for the activities of foreign nationals in Japan, the Immigration Bureau strives to ensure the proper residency management of foreign nationals while paying due consideration to the interests of the Japanese people and to the security of Japan.

In addition, from July 2012, a residency management system for mid to long term residents was introduced, under which foreign nationals who are residing in Japan for a mid to long term period are issued with a residence card at the time of receiving permission relating to residence, such as landing permission, permission to change the status of residence or permission for extension of the period of stay. This residence card gives such details as the name, date of birth, sex, nationality or region, place of residence, status of residence and period of stay of the foreign national.

Moreover, with the introduction of this residency management system, the previous alien registration system was abolished. For further details, please check the Immigration Bureau website.

▶ For information about the residency management system please refer to the Ministry of Justice Immigration Bureau webpage

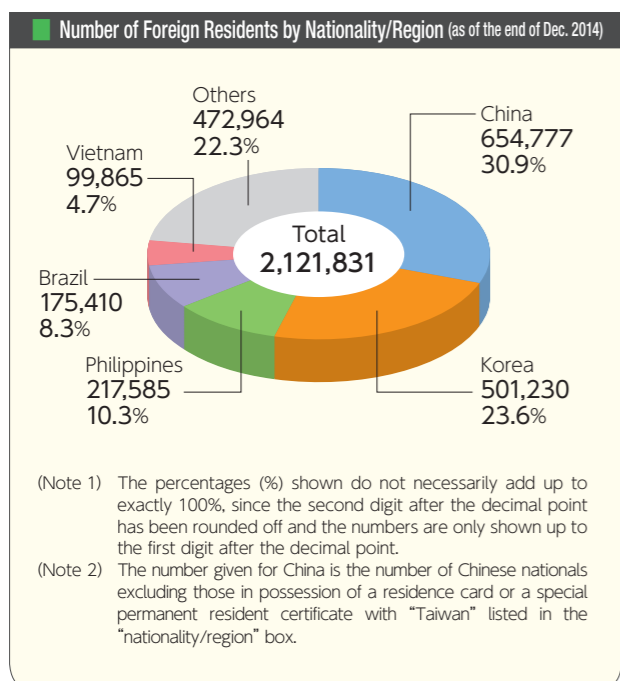
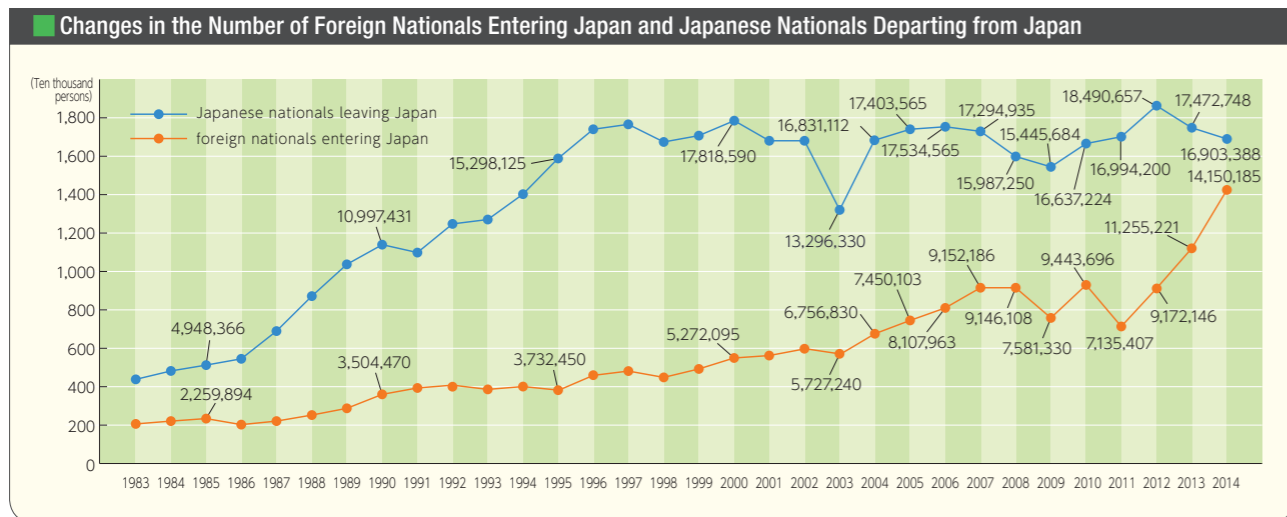
http://www.immi-moj.go.jp/newimmiact_1/index.html



▶▶ Deportation

Some of the foreign nationals residing in Japan include those who are considered undesirable by Japanese society, such as those who have illegally entered or disembarked in the country, those who have obtained entry permission but are illegally staying after the expiration of the period of stay or are engaged in activities other than those permitted, or those who are imposed certain punishments. The Immigration Bureau handles the prescribed procedures from detection to investigation, and initiates deportation procedures in cases where a final decision has been made to deport foreign nationals of the types mentioned above.

Foreign nationals who are in violation of the Immigration Control Act but who satisfy certain requirements may leave the country through simple procedures under the “departure order system.”



Recognition of Refugees

Japan has signed the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, and these arrangements became effective on January 1, 1982. Various protection measures, which were stipulated in the convention and protocol, were granted to refugees.

The Immigration Bureau handles administrative work concerning entry (disembarkation) permission for temporary asylum, refugee status and the issuance of refugee travel documents.

Point-Based Preferential Immigration Treatment for Highly Skilled Foreign Professionals

Objectives and Outline of the System

In order to promote entry of highly skilled foreign professionals, a point-based system that provides highly skilled foreign professionals with preferential immigration treatment was introduced on May 7, 2012.

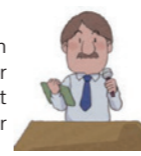
The activities of highly skilled foreign professionals are classified into three categories: advanced academic research activities,

advanced specialized/technical activities and advanced business management activities. According to the characteristic features of each category, points are set for each item, such as academic background, professional career, annual salary, research performance, and the like. If the total points reach 70, the foreign nationals will be recognized as a Highly Skilled Foreign Professional.

The three categories of activities conducted by highly skilled foreign professionals

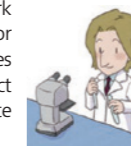
Advanced academic research activities

Activities like engaging in research, research guidance or education based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan



Advanced specialized/technical activities

Activities like engaging in work requiring specialized knowledge or skills in the fields of natural sciences or humanities based on a contract entered into with a public or private organization in Japan



Advanced business management activities

Activities like engaging in the operation or management of trade or other business activities of a public or private business organization in Japan



Details of the Preferential Treatment

The following preferential immigration treatment is to be granted to foreign nationals recognized as a Highly Skilled Professional (i) as a result of the points evaluation.

1. Permission for Multiple Activities During the Stay in Japan

Usually, a foreign national is only allowed to engage in the activities permitted under a single status of residence. However, a highly skilled foreign professional may engage in activities covered by multiple statuses of residence, such as simultaneously engaging in research activities at a university and in the management of a business organization related thereto.



2. Granting of a 5-Year Period of Stay

The legally permitted maximum period of stay (5 years) is granted uniformly to highly skilled foreign professionals.



3. Relaxation of Requirements for Granting of Permission for Permanent Residence Status in Japan

In principle, a foreign national needs to stay in Japan for more than 10 consecutive years in order to obtain permission for permanent residence. However, foreign nationals who have engaged in activities as highly skilled foreign professionals for approximately 5 years are eligible to obtain permission for permanent residence.



4. Permission for the Spouse of the Highly-Skilled Foreign Professional to Work

Usually, when a foreign national intends to engage in activities covered by a status of residence for work, such as Instructor or Engineer/Specialist in Humanities/International Services, he/she must satisfy certain requirements with regard to academic background, work experience and the like, as well as



obtaining the relevant status of residence. However, a spouse of a highly skilled foreign professional may engage in these activities even if he/she does not have the required academic background or work experience, etc.

5. Permission for Bringing Parent(s) to Accompany a Highly-Skilled Foreign Professional to Japan

Under the current system, parents of foreign nationals staying in Japan under a status of residence for work are not allowed to enter Japan with the intention of staying. However, the parent(s) of a highly skilled foreign professional or his/her spouse is allowed to enter and stay in Japan subject to the conditions detailed below: (i) where the parent(s) will take care of a child younger than 7 years of age of the highly skilled foreign professional or his/her spouse; or (ii) where the parent(s) will take care of a pregnant highly skilled foreign professional or a pregnant spouse of a highly skilled foreign professional.



6. Permission for Domestic Workers to Accompany the Highly Skilled Foreign Professional to Japan

Only those foreign nationals who stay in Japan under statuses of residence such as Business Manager, etc., may employ foreign domestic workers. However, a highly skilled foreign professional may bring foreign domestic worker(s) to Japan subject to certain conditions.



7. Preferential Processing of Entry and Residence Procedures

The entry and residence inspections for highly skilled foreign professionals will be swiftly processed through preferential treatment.



The period of stay for those foreign nationals who had been residing in Japan with the status of residence of "Highly Skilled Professional (i)" for a period of three years or more and have transferred to the status of residence of Highly Skilled Professional (ii) is for an indefinite period, and the foreign national is able

not only to engage in the activities of (i) but also in almost all the activities permitted to statuses of residence with the purpose of employment. Moreover, they are eligible for the preferential treatment listed in the above-mentioned 3 to 6.

PICK UP!

Promotion of Global Cooperation



How does the MOJ provide assistance to people in other countries?

A We have been supporting developing countries in Asia and other parts of the world by providing assistance to improve their legal systems so that the people in those countries can live with a feeling of assurance.

The Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice conducts various international cooperation activities, including the provision of legal technical assistance, to help establish and strengthen good governance based on the rule of law in developing countries. These activities contribute

significantly not only to the sound progress in developing countries and regional stability but also to the strengthening of measures against international crime and the promotion of economic activity in those countries.

Through these activities, Japan plays a cooperative role in the international community.



The Ministry of Justice has been contributing to the development of criminal justice policies and the capacity building of criminal justice practitioners in developing countries, mainly in the Asia-Pacific region, through the activities of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), which is operated under the joint auspices of the Japanese government and the United Nations.

Moreover, the Ministry has provided legal technical assistance to Asian countries such as Vietnam, Cambodia, etc., mainly through activities of the International Cooperation Department in cooperation with institutions concerned. The department has provided assistance with a focus on the drafting and amending of fundamental legal codes, as well as the establishment of systems and institutions necessary for the operation of law and developing the capabilities of legal practitioners.

At the G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial Meeting held in Tokyo in June 2008, the Ministers reaffirmed the importance of providing assistance for the development of capabilities in the legal realm for countries requesting support in the criminal justice field.

The Ministers also affirmed the importance of justice sector technical assistance for developing judicial systems and basic laws and training for legal professionals.

The government of Japan also recognized the importance of legal technical assistance and the need for its strategic implementation,

and as a consequence, the “Basic Policies on Legal Technical Assistance” (April 2009) was formulated. In May 2013, these policies were revised to set the additional objective of establishing favorable investment conditions for Japanese businesses abroad, while emphasizing the conventional strategy of strengthening the “all-Japan” support system based on cooperation between the government and private sector. Furthermore, “The Development Cooperation Charter” established by the Cabinet in February 2015 sets forth the importance of legal technical assistance, which involves the development of positive law and the training of legal and judicial experts. Legal technical assistance serves as a means of sharing universal values and realizing a peaceful and secure society, which is one of the priority issues in the Charter. With respect to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region, the target region of the International Cooperation Department, the Charter attaches priority to assistance that promotes the rule of law as the basis for stable economic and social activities.

Taking into account the potential number of requests from developing countries for such legal technical assistance (including training programs for criminal justice and other legal practitioners), the Ministry of Justice is determined to continue and further enhance its international cooperation activities in collaboration with the relevant organizations in order to help establish good governance based on the rule of law, especially in Asia.



The Ninth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries



Local Seminar in Laos (at the Ministry of Justice of Laos)

PICK UP!

Litigation



I have heard that a litigation bureau has been set up. What does the bureau do in the first place?

A Litigation is the process of filing a motion with the court, making a claim, and/or bearing testimony on behalf of the national government. In litigation, the national government is the party (as plaintiff or defendant).

The Ministry of Justice uniformly and appropriately handles the administrative work for these types of lawsuits.



Lawsuits in which the national government is the party include an action for state compensation on the grounds of illegal activities of government employees who exercise public power or defects in installation and maintenance of public structures, civil lawsuits regarding management of government property, and administrative lawsuits to seek nullification or reversal of administrative punishment. The Ministry of Justice properly handles those lawsuits in cooperation with ministries and agencies that govern administrative work for lawsuits.

Among the lawsuits, there are many serious cases that may affect the basis of politics, diplomacy, public administration, and economics in the country and cases that may raise new social or legal questions.

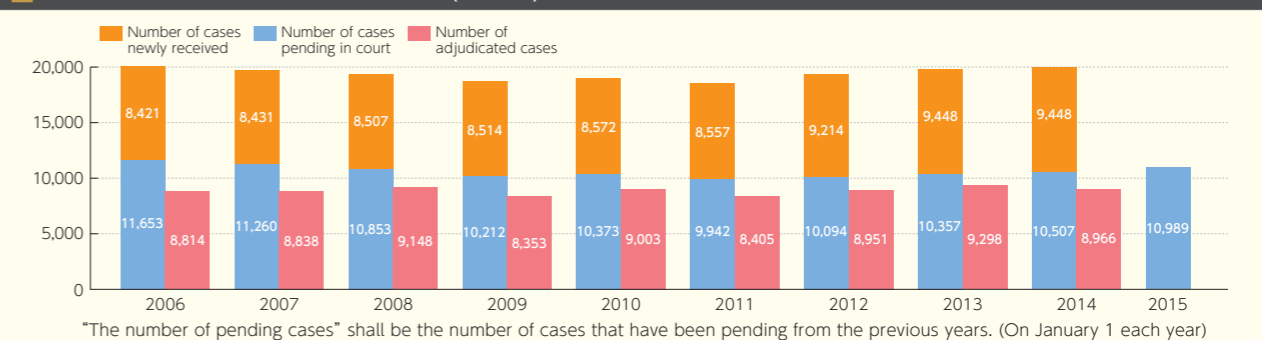
Complex and difficult cases have been submitted throughout the country. In particular, large-scale class action lawsuits, lawsuits concerning state compensations associated with the accidents of nuclear power plants; lawsuits concerning medicine and public health; environmental hygiene lawsuits concerning pollution; lawsuits that seek nullification of permission or punishment in

relation to the operation of airports, dams, roads, nuclear power plants and related facilities or seek an injunction against their operation; and lawsuits that demand compensation for damage caused during World War II, all of which have attracted remarkable attention from the society.

To properly make a claim and bear testimony in such lawsuits from the standpoint of the national government contributes to the realization of proper settlement based on the law and evidence. By making contributions toward this end, the maintenance of a suitable balance between the interests of the entire nation and the rights and interests of individuals is ensured and administrative principles are expected to be followed based on the law. The Ministry of Justice is striving for appropriate and prompt pursuit of lawsuits in order to meet people's expectations and demands for justice as an organization that plays a role in the judicial process.

Also, the litigation bureau is responsible for contributing to the appropriate settlement of legal matters, as well as preventing disputes by stating appropriate legal opinions from the perspective of the country as a whole.

Transition of the Number of Main Lawsuits (2006-2015)



The Litigation Bureau posts information about lawsuits of the national government on the Internet and publishes summaries of the major pending lawsuits, major judgments, and so on.

▶ **Summaries of the Major Pending Lawsuits**
http://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00024.html



▶ **The List of the Major Judgments**
http://www.moj.go.jp/shoumu/shoumukouhou/shoumu01_00023.html



▶ **The Database for Important Litigation Precedents**

(This system enables searches and browsing of precedents contained in the “Monthly Litigations,” which is the information publication of the Litigation Bureau)

http://www.shoumudatabase.moj.go.jp/search/html/shoumu/general/menu_general.html



Qualification Examinations

National Bar Examination

The national bar examination is designed to judge whether those who wish to become judges, public prosecutors or attorneys-at-law have the necessary knowledge and application abilities. In 2006, the national bar examination was replaced by the new national bar examination that is linked with the education provided in law school and training of legal apprentices.

The national bar examination can be taken by those who have completed law schools or passed the preliminary bar examination.

However, a time limit is set for taking the examination; the candidates are expected to take the examination within a five-year period beginning on April 1 after being qualified.

The examination consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions) and an essay test. All candidates take both tests concurrently.

The successful candidates will be qualified to enter the legal profession as judges, prosecutors and attorneys-at-law after being

trained in 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

Year	Candidates	Successful candidates	Average age of successful candidates	Successful percentage
2011	8,765	2,063 (478)	28.5	23.54%
2012	8,387	2,102 (545)	28.5	25.06%
2013	7,653	2,049 (477)	28.4	26.77%
2014	8,015	1,810 (408)	28.2	22.58%
2015	8,016	1,850 (399)	29.1	23.08%

Figures in parentheses show the number of women out of the total on the left.

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 enough knowledge, the ability to utilize such knowledge, and a basic grounding in legal practices equal to those who have completed a course at a law school. The preliminary bar examination consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions), an essay test, and an oral test. There are no qualification requirements for applicants.

► 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

Results of the Preliminary Bar Examination

Year	Candidates	Successful candidates
2011	6,477	116 (13)
2012	7,183	219 (22)
2013	9,224	351 (44)
2014	10,347	356 (37)
2015	10,334	394 (40)

Figures in parentheses show the number of women out of the total on the left.

Examinations to Become Judicial Scriveners or Land and House Investigators

A judicial scrivener represents a client and engages in the business involved in the various procedures for registration (commercial or real estate registration) or deposition, and on receiving authorization from the Minister of Justice, also represents a client in trials in summary court. Meanwhile, a land and house investigator takes charge of the business involved in investigation, surveying, and application procedures needed for registration of real estate, among other things.

The examinations are national examinations, and they determine

whether candidates have the necessary knowledge and ability to enter into these professions. These exams are administered under the authority of 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. On passing the oral test, they are deemed to have been qualified. The successful candidates are able to enter into the respective services after registration and admission procedures.

Results of the National Examination for Judicial Scriveners

Year	Judicial Scrivener Examination candidates	Successful candidates
2011	31,228	879
2012	29,379	838
2013	27,400	796
2014	24,538	759
2015	21,754	707

Results of the National Examination for Land and House Investigators

Year	Land and House Investigator Examination candidates	Successful candidates
2011	6,310	390
2012	6,136	418
2013	6,017	412
2014	5,754	407
2015	5,659	403

Employment Examination for Services

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

Examination for Comprehensive Service

► Contact: Personnel Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice

Those who are employed from the category of public administration, politics/international matters, law, economics, engineering and culture are generally assigned to various departments of the Ministry and engage in planning measures and policies. Those employed from the human sciences category are assigned to local offices to make the most of their specialized knowledge.

Examination for General Service (college graduates and high school graduates)

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

Aside from those who are employed by the Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat (architecture, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering), those who are employed from the public administration category are generally assigned to the local offices outside the Ministry.

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

Correctional Psychology Profession

► Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Correctional psychologists work mainly at juvenile classification homes or penal institutions as professional staff (MOJ technical official (psychology)) making use of their specialized knowledge and skills. They provide guidelines for treatment of detained juveniles etc. based on the analysis of the causes of delinquency or criminal acts through interviews and psychological tests, and carry out improvement guidance programs in penal institutions.



Ministry of Justice Instructor

► Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Ministry of Justice instructors work mainly at juvenile training schools or juvenile classification homes to develop the individuality and abilities of juveniles and to ensure their smooth return to society based on the instructors' broad range of vision and expertise. To that end, they provide specialized education (correctional education), including lifestyle guidance and course education, and also conduct behavior observations. At prisons, the instructors are engaged in employment support instruction, course instruction, and so on.

Probation Officers

► Contact: General Affairs Divisions of Regional Parole Boards

Probation officers work at probation offices and regional parole boards with the aim of preventing criminals and juvenile delinquents from repeating offenses; they also provide support on social rehabilitation. Specifically, they provide criminals and juvenile delinquents with instruction through interviews and treatment programs as well as job assistance, etc., based on expert knowledge about psychology, pedagogy, welfare and sociology.

Immigration Control Officers Employment Examination

► Contact: General Affairs Division of the Regional Immigration Bureaus (Staff Division in the case of Tokyo Regional Immigration Bureau) Immigration Detention Centers

Immigration control officers are assigned to regional immigration bureaus, offices or branch offices, or to immigration detention centers. They perform tasks related to the detection of illegal immigrants or over-stayers, investigation of violations and treatment and deportation of detainees.



Prison Officers Employment Examination

► Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters

Prison officers are, in principle, assigned to prisons, juvenile prisons or detention houses. In prisons and juvenile prisons, the officers engage in various treatment programs for inmates to facilitate their rehabilitation and smooth resocialization.

The detention houses mainly confine those who are suspects or defendants in custody; meanwhile the officers prevent them from fleeing or attempting destruction of evidence as well as giving consideration to ensure fair trial.



Making the Ministry of Justice More Familiar

Visit Ministry of Justice Museum-Message Gallery



In the Museum-Message Gallery

The Ministry of Justice Museum-Message Gallery inside the red-brick building of the Ministry consists of a room restored to its original appearance (formerly used as the dining room of the Justice Minister's official residence) which retains the atmosphere of the Meiji era, and an adjacent room with brick walls. It exhibits various historical materials and data on the "modernization of the judiciary" and "architectural modernization" as well as information on promotion and publicity for the new justice system.



Modernization of the Judiciary

The Museum exhibits materials concerning the activities of the old Ministry of Justice including basic legislation that required urgent enactment in the first half of the Meiji era, such as the laws concerning the organization of the judiciary and criminal laws, as well as records related to the service rendered by the foreign jurists invited to Japan. In addition, the Museum displays the historical records of some sensational cases in the Meiji era as well as those related to the administration of justice.



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



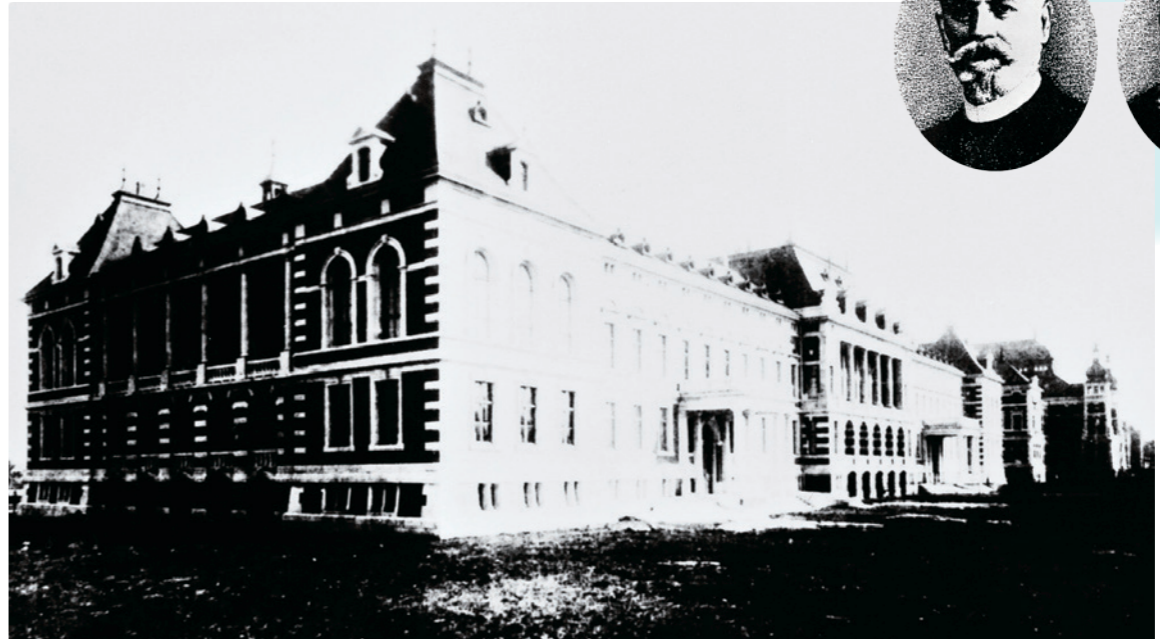
Architectural Modernization

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



Dining room of the old Justice Minister's official residence

German architects
Left: W. Böckmann
Right: H. Ende



Birth of the Red-Brick Building and Architectural Techniques

ACTION!

Materials related to the Saiban-in (lay judge) system and the Houterasu center are also on display

The Message Gallery corner displays materials concerning major public relations themes to promote national understanding of the judicial system, the administration of the Ministry of Justice, etc. At present, materials relating to the Saiban-in (Lay Judge) System and the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) are exhibited as topics concerning the new judicial system.



- Location** Ministry of Justice Red-Brick Building, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
- Access**
 - 10-minute walk from JR Yurakucho Station (Yamanote Line/Keihin-Tohoku Line)
 - 1-minute walk from Tokyo Metro (Yurakucho Line) Sakuradamon Station
 - 3-minute walk from Tokyo Metro (Marunouchi Line/Hibiya Line) Kasumigaseki Station
 - 5-minute walk from Tokyo Metro (Chiyoda Line) Kasumigaseki Station
 - 6-minute walk from Toei Subway (Mita Line) Hibiya Station
- Open** From Monday to Friday/Free admission (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays)
- Open hours** From 10:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. (No admission after 5:30 p.m.)
- Reservations** Please make a reservation by phone or the Internet when arriving in a group of ten or more. Reservations will be accepted three months in advance. For reservations, please inform us of the name of your group (or the name of the representative), the time of your arrival, and the number of visitors.

Ministry of Justice Museum
Tel: 03-3592-7911
E-mail: renga1@moj.go.jp

Ministry of Justice Website "Welcome to the Ministry of Justice Museum-Message Gallery" (Japanese-only)
http://www.moj.go.jp/housei/tosho-tenji/housei06_00004.html



Let's Visit
the Ministry of Justice!

(Visit)

A Field Trip to the Ministry of Justice



The red-brick building seen from the Sunken Plaza



Photo of an official explaining the duties of the Ministry in the briefing room

The Ministry of Justice provides tours on requests from students like you so that you can deepen your understanding of the role of the Ministry.

The officials will explain what the Ministry does as well as answer your questions. Also, we will take photos at a square called Sunken Square. You can also take a look around the Ministry of Justice Museum-Message Gallery, which is located inside the red-brick building.

Let's Participate in these Events



A human rights class

Tour of Kasumigaseki for Children

The Ministry of Justice holds events for elementary and junior high school students during summer vacation for the purpose of deepening young people's understanding of the Ministry. In 2015, public prosecutors performed mock trial suspect questioning sessions, a program was held in collaboration with the NHK television program "Knock out Bullying," juvenile detention home employees performed a computerized personality analysis test, and a class conducted by a civil rights officer was held to teach students about human rights.



Knock out Bullying



A mock trial suspect questioning session



Photo of the "Mock Trial with Legal Professionals!"

JAPAN LAW DAY FESTA
-Feel Law Close to You-

To coincide with Law Day (Oct. 1), a day officially designated as a time for citizens to think about the role and importance of law, events are held each year on the first Saturday of October. In 2015, a "Law Education in Red-Brick Building" event was held in which participants teamed with legal professionals to stage mock trials or experience the educational programs conducted at juvenile detention homes, and among other events were ones for elementary school students where law instructors taught students about the importance of rules.

Host: Ministry of Justice/Supreme Public Prosecutors Office

Contact information for tours and events of the Ministry of Justice

Public Information Office, Ministry of Justice
(Secretarial Division, Minister's Secretariat)

TEL: 03-3580-4111 (2053)

Please check the latest information about the events on the Ministry of Justice website.

Ministry of Justice website



Let's Visit the Ministry of Justice! "Kids Room"



Main Weekly and Monthly Events
of the Let's Visit
the Ministry of Justice!

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

→ CONSTITUTION WEEK (May 1-7)

Every year, one week from May 1 to 7 around "Constitution Day" on May 3 is designated as "Constitution Week". During this Week, various programs and events are conducted on a nationwide scale designed to spread knowledge and public understanding about the spirit of the Constitution, the functions of the justice system and other related matters. Constitution Week is conducted under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

→ HUMAN RIGHTS VOLUNTEERS' DAY

In commemoration of the day of enactment of the Human Rights Volunteers Act (June 1, 1949), the 1st of June was named "Human Rights Volunteers' Day." Every year around this day, human rights volunteers carry out activities nationwide by setting up special human rights consultation booths and conducting activities for human rights awareness-raising.



Poster "Human rights volunteers"

→ THE BRIGHTER SOCIETY CAMPAIGN

~The power of community action to prevent crime and delinquency, assisting in the rehabilitation of offenders~

The purpose of this nationwide campaign is to help people understand the importance of the prevention of crime and delinquency and rehabilitation of offenders so as to combine the efforts of people in their respective positions in the community to build a brighter society that is free from crime and delinquency.

The highlights of the campaign are a variety of activities rooted in local communities that are held around the month of July each year across the country. And these activities call for cooperation in and understanding of the rehabilitation of offenders.



Forum

● Constitution Week ●

● Illegal Work Prevention Campaign
● Human Rights Volunteers' Day ●
● Nationwide Children's Rights Hotline Promotion Week

● The Brighter Society Campaign ●

→ JAPAN LAW DAY WEEK October 1-7

"Japan Law Day" originates from "Judicial Memorial Day (Shiho-kinenbi)" which was inaugurated on October 1, 1929 to commemorate enactment of the Jury Law on October 1 of the previous year, and on June 24, 1960, the Cabinet decided to designate the 1st of October every year as "Law Day".

Every year, the week starting on October 1, Japan Law Day, is designated as "Japan Law Day" Week. During the Week, various programs such as lectures, free legal counseling services and other related programs are organized all across the country in order to promote respect for law, protection of fundamental human rights and establishment of an orderly society through the rule of law. Japan Law Day Week is conducted under the joint auspices of the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

● Nationwide Promotion Week for Counseling on the Human Rights of the Elderly and the Disabled

● Japan Law Day ●
● Notarization Week ●
● Nationwide Legal Affairs Bureau Holiday Counseling

→ NOTARIZATION WEEK October 1-7

Every year, one week from October 1 through 7 is designated as Notarization Week, and in order to publicize the notary system, public information activities through the media such as newspapers and TV, display of posters, distribution of leaflets, holding of lecture meetings and consultation services are extensively carried out in all parts of the country.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and Japan National Notaries Association

● Nationwide Women's Rights Hotline Promotion Week

● Human Rights Week ●
● The North Korea Human Rights Abuses Awareness Week

→ HUMAN RIGHTS WEEK

The United Nations designated December 10 as "Human Rights Day" at its 5th General Assembly on December 4, 1950 in commemoration of December 10, 1948, the day that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted at its 3rd General Assembly and recommended that member states perform commemoration ceremonies. In Japan, the week ending on December 10 each year was designated as "Human Rights Week" in 1949, the year following the adoption of the Declaration, and awareness-raising activities for human rights have been carried out throughout the country since then.

Sponsored by the Ministry of Justice and The National Federation of Associations of Human Rights Volunteers



Symposium



Poster "Human Rights Week"

Kids Room

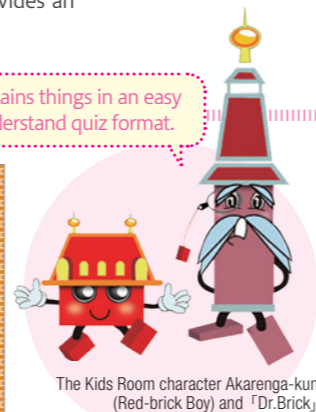
This page is designed to give elementary and junior high school children an easy to understand introduction to the Ministry of Justice. When read together with the "Kids Room" page on the Ministry of Justice website, it provides an even deeper understanding of the Ministry.

What is the Kids Room?

It is a website for introducing the Ministry of Justice to elementary and junior high school students. In the "What kind of place is the Ministry of Justice?" and the "Ministry of Justice in Photographs" sections illustrations and photographs are used to help explain the jobs of each Ministry department and agency. Once you get a better understanding of the Ministry, try taking the "Ministry of Justice Quiz"!



It explains things in an easy to understand quiz format.



The Kids Room character Akarenga-kun (Red-brick Boy) and Dr. Brick.

きつするーむ
http://www.moj.go.jp/KIDS/

検索



What are laws for?

Laws are things that make us happier. Laws are rules that help us all live together by respecting each others' individuality and cooperating together.

By protecting our rights and clearly showing what rules we have to obey, laws make it possible for us to live and act freely and enjoy a more fulfilling life.

What kind of place is the Ministry of Justice?

The Ministry of Justice is a place where people do work that is necessary to make our society safe and bright.

For example, it makes the basic rules that lets everyone live with a feeling that they are safe, and when someone commits a crime and goes to prison or a juvenile detention home, the Ministry helps make sure that they never commit a second crime by educating them there and then helping them return to the society as people who can lead

better lives.

Also, when people's human rights are violated by things like bullying, the Ministry investigates to find ways to stop the bullying from happening again, and it also does a lot of other things to help make life better in our society, like investigating both Japanese people and foreign people when they go in and out of Japan.

Did you learn something about the Ministry of Justice? Let's look at what the Ministry of Justice does in our daily lives!

The Ministry of Justice in our lives

We have friends all around the country!

Friends of the Ministry of Justice

There are more than 70 unique mascots that reflect the regional characteristics of the features and locations of each administrative agency of the Ministry of Justice around the country, such as the Legal Affairs Bureau, the Public Prosecutors Office and the Probation Office, etc. Let us introduce some of the mascots.



"Jakkun" of Nagasaki District Legal Affairs Bureau



"Appuri" of Aomori District Public Prosecutors Office



"Entora-kun" of Osaka Regional Immigration Bureau



"Katakuri-chan" of Asahikawa Prison



"Akaruine" of Osaka Probation Office

Use it together with *The Ministry of Justice in our lives* and you'll learn more!

WORK GUIDE

1	Civil Affairs Bureau	The Civil Affairs Bureau conducts work involving registration, family registration, nationality, deposit services, notarization, etc. The Bureau also manages and operates the Legal Affairs Bureau and the District Legal Affairs Bureau, as well as drawing up bills regarding basic civil laws such as the Civil Code, the Commercial Code and the Code of Civil Procedure, etc.
2	Criminal Affairs Bureau	The Criminal Affairs Bureau plans and drafts bills to inflict punishment on those who committed crimes, asks for cooperation from foreign countries or responds to requests for cooperation from foreign countries to investigate cases as well as providing assistance for the activities of the Public Prosecutors Office.
3	Correction Bureau	The Correction Bureau is responsible for giving guidance or supervision to correctional institutions such as prisons or juvenile training schools so that the treatment (such as security, prison work, classification, assessment, education, medical treatment, hygiene, etc.) of inmates is performed properly. The Bureau is also responsible for conducting research and studies on new treatment methods.
4	Rehabilitation Bureau	The Rehabilitation Bureau is responsible for giving living guidance or livelihood support in cooperation with private citizens to juvenile delinquents who committed crimes in order to help them rehabilitate in local communities without letting them turn to delinquency again. The Bureau is also responsible for conducting crime prevention activities such as "The Brighter Society Campaign" and work related to parole from prisons or juvenile training schools.
5	Human Rights Bureau	The Human Rights Bureau handles various human rights problems regarding discrimination, abuse, bullying, violation of privacy, etc., and conducts activities such as human rights counseling, and investigations and resolution of human rights violation cases, as well as human rights awareness-raising in cooperation with human rights volunteers, who are private citizens.
6	Litigation Bureau	The Litigation Bureau conducts work as "attorneys for the national government." The Bureau files a motion with the court, makes a claim and/or bears testimony on behalf of the national government in lawsuits where the government is the plaintiff or the defendant.
7	Immigration Bureau	The Immigration Bureau is responsible for work involved in inspections when Japanese nationals or foreign nationals enter or depart from Japan, proceedings for foreigners staying in Japan, and deportation of illegally over-staying foreigners. The Bureau is also responsible for proceedings for refugee recognition when foreigners seek asylum in Japan for fear of persecution in their own countries.
8	Judicial System Department	The Judicial System Department conducts a wide range of work related to the judicial system, including the structure of the court, measures to make the court more accessible to the general public, how to settle disputes by means other than a trial, the lawyer system, and training of legal professionals. The Department also promotes efforts for enrichment and development of law-related education so that all citizens can gain a good understanding of the importance of laws and judicial process.
9	Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice	The Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice is responsible for compiling the outcomes of the studies and research on crimes in the "White Paper on Crime" as well as providing training for the officials of the Ministry of Justice. Also, the Institute helps to create laws for those countries where laws are not yet well prepared as well as providing international training for the prevention of crimes in cooperation with the United Nations.
10	Public Prosecutors Office	The Public Prosecutors Office investigates crimes in cooperation with the police and decides whether or not to bring indictments against criminals to the court, and when decided, the Office asks for proper punishment against criminals by the court.
11	Public Security Examination Commission	The Public Security Examination Commission is responsible for fair investigations and decisions from neutral viewpoints upon requests from the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency for control measures against subversive organizations that pose threats to the safety of the country and the citizens through violence.
12	Public Security Intelligence Agency	The Public Security Intelligence Agency conducts work to protect the safety of the country and the citizens from organizations that make their assertions with violence, such as terrorist organizations. For example, the Agency is undertaking an investigation into an organization called Aum Shinrikyo which committed indiscriminate mass murder in the past so that similar incidents will never happen again.

The Ministry of Justice in our lives

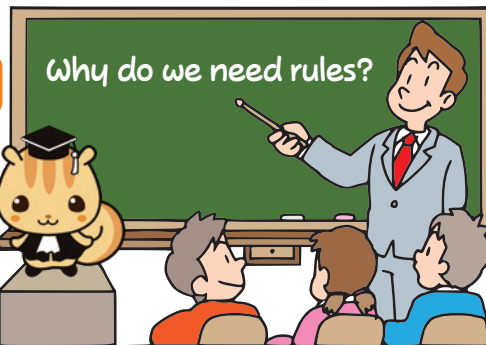
The Immigration Bureau examines Japanese and foreign nationals whether they have any problems or not when they enter or depart from Japan. [Work Guide 7]



The Research and Training Institute conducts international work by helping the countries where laws are not well prepared create laws. [Work Guide 9]

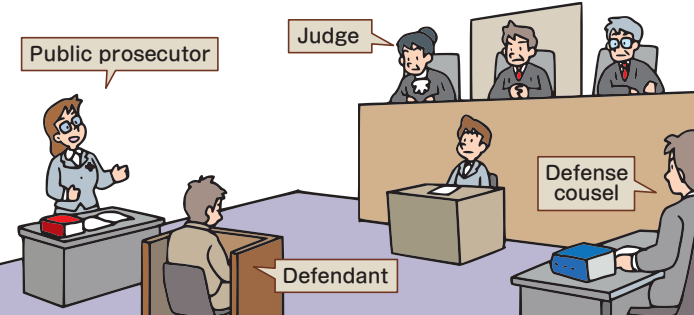


The staff of the Ministry of Justice gives lessons, creates teaching materials, etc. to communicate the importance of law. [Work Guide 8]

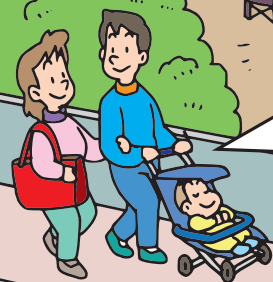


The mascot for the law-related education "Hourisu-kun"

The Public prosecutor investigates cases, express their opinions by submitting evidence to the court, etc. so that punishment is properly imposed. [Work Guide 10]



The mayor of the municipality registers information such as when the person was born, who the parents are, when the person got married, etc. under the family registration system. [Work Guide 1]



Information on the name of the company and its address, what kind of work the company does, etc. are published under the commercial registration system to safely conduct economic activities. [Work Guide 2]



In collaboration with local volunteers, we support persons who have committed crimes and juvenile delinquents for reintegration to society by providing consultation on daily issues as well as encouraging them to work on activities which can help society. [Work Guide 4]

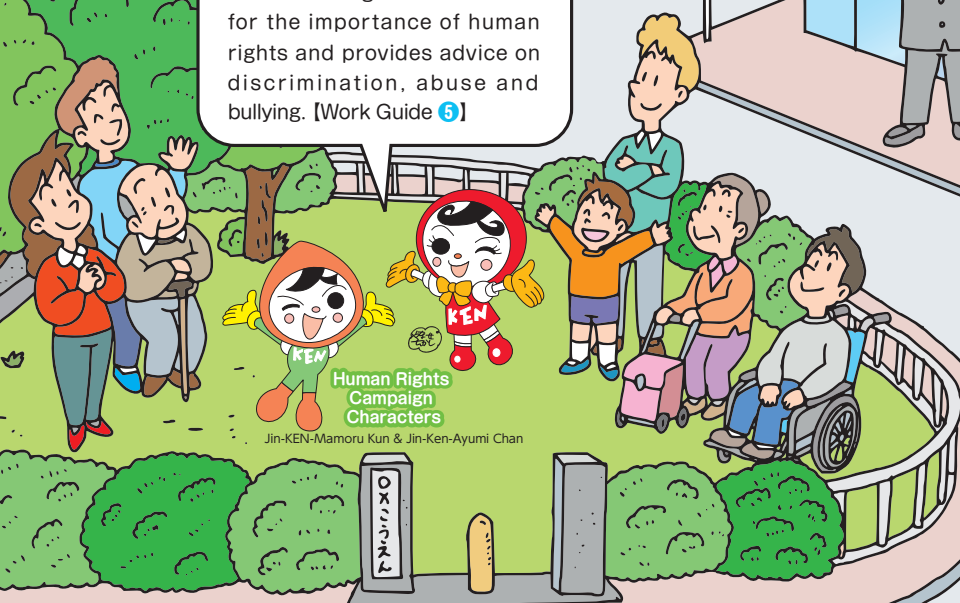


A "rehabilitation penguin" "Hogo-chan"

The Correction Bureau manages facilities for rehabilitation (prisons, juvenile training schools, etc.) that confine those who have committed crimes or turned to juvenile delinquency. [Work Guide 3]

The Rehabilitation Bureau is seeking private employers who willingly hire offenders and provide cooperation so that the offenders can return to society. [Work Guide 4]

The Human Rights Bureau works for the importance of human rights and provides advice on discrimination, abuse and bullying. [Work Guide 6]



Human Rights Campaign Characters

Jin-KEN-Mamoru Kun & Jin-Ken-Ayumi Chan



The Ministry of Justice Building (Central Government Office Complex No. 6-A and the Red-Brick Building)

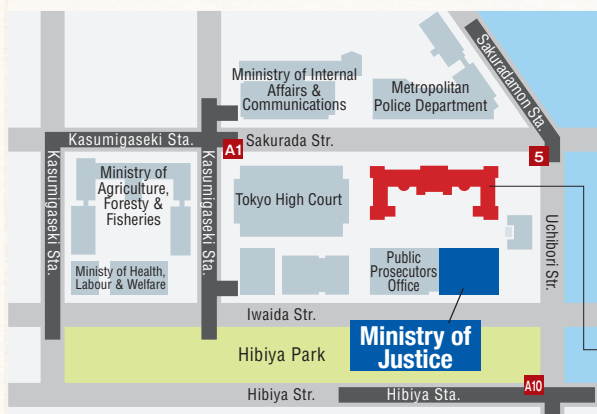
History of the Ministry of Justice Building

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 and the “Public Prosecutor Offices zone” on the south side. The outer wall of the building is covered with dignified reddish 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. During its construction, the preservation and restoration of the old Ministry of Justice building (the present red-brick building of the Central Government Office Complex No. 6) was discussed, and it led to the conclusion that the building should be preserved and utilized-As the only remaining historical building among the Central Government Building Integration Project drawn up in the Meiji era, the retention of the building is

essential for the setting of the Kasumigaseki district. As for the external appearance, it was restored to its original state.

The original red-brick building, designed by the two German architects W. Bockmann 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 in March 1945 (the 20th year of Showa) during World War II, but the red-brick walls remained intact. When the structure was renovated through the restoration work conducted from 1948 (the 23rd year of Showa) to 1950 (the 25th year of Showa), some alterations were made in the materials and the shape of the roof. The present red-brick building has, however, been restored completely to the original appearance it had in 1895, and its exterior was designated as a national important cultural property on December 27, 1994.



ACCESS TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

- 10-minute walk from JR Yurakucho Station (Yamanote Line/Keihin-Tohoku Line)
- 1-minute walk from Tokyo Metro (Yurakucho Line) Sakuradamon Station
- 3-minute walk from Tokyo Metro (Marunouchi Line/Hibiya Line) Kasumigaseki Station
- 5-minute walk from Tokyo Metro (Chiyoda Line) Kasumigaseki Station
- 6-minute walk from Toei Subway (Mita Line) Hibiya Station

Red-Brick Building



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

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@MOJ_HOUMU

