

## **Minister of Justice, Takashi YAMASHITA attended the 57th Annual Session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO)**

### **1 INAUGURAL SESSION**

The inaugural session of the 57th Annual Session of AALCO was held at the Tokyo Prince Hotel on Tuesday, October 9, 2018. Minister of Justice, Takashi YAMASHITA delivered the opening remarks. Participants from 33 member countries and region were in attendance.



Minister Yamashita delivering the opening remarks at the inaugural session

At the annual session, Minister Yamashita expressed Japan's commitment towards the universal promotion of the rule of law and "Justice Affairs Diplomacy". He also called for broad participation in the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the Kyoto Congress), the largest and most diverse UN conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, to be held in April 2020 in Kyoto.

### **2 Bilateral Ministerial Meetings**

On October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Minister Yamashita held four bilateral ministerial meetings as the Justice Minister of the host country, focusing on cooperation in legal affairs administration with the heads of delegation of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Ms. Atukorale, Minister of Justice and Prison Reform), the Republic of South Africa (Mr. Masutha, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services), the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal (Mr. Bhanubhakta Dhakal, Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs), the Republic of Mauritius (Mr. Maneesh Gobin, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms), and the Republic of Indonesia (Mr. Yasonna Hamonangan Laoly, Minister of Law and Human Rights). Minister Yamashita also accepted a courtesy visit from Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, the Executive Director of the Thailand Institute of Justice.



Minister Atukorale (Sri Lanka, right) and Minister Yamashita (left), shaking hands



Minister Atukorale (Sri Lanka, right) and Minister Yamashita (left), having discussions



Minister Masutha (South Africa, left) and Minister Yamashita (right), shaking hands





Minister Masutha (South Africa, right) and Minister Yamashita (left), having discussions



Minister Dhakal (Nepal, second from left) and Minister Yamashita (center), shaking hands



Minister Dhakal (Nepal, second from right) and Minister Yamashita (left), having discussions



Minister Gobin (Mauritius, right) and Minister Yamashita (left)

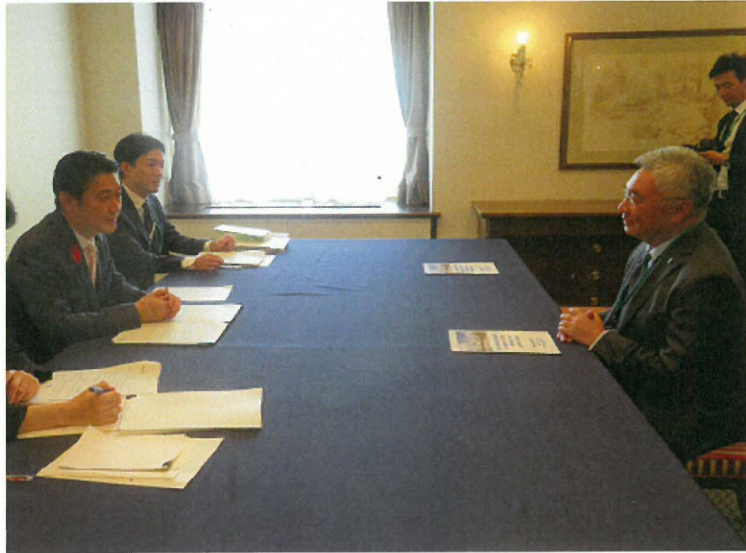


Minister Gobin (Mauritius, right) and Minister Yamashita (left),



Dr. Kittipong (Thailand Institute of Justice, right) and Minister Yamashita,  
shaking hands





Dr. Kittipong (Thailand Institute of Justice, right) and Minister Yamashita (left),  
having discussions

During the bilateral meeting with Mr. Yasonna, Minister of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia, Minister Yamashita hosted a signing ceremony for the Indonesia-Japan Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), establishing a comprehensive framework for cooperation in the field of legal affairs administration between the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Indonesia and the MOJ.



Minister Yasonna (Indonesia, left) and Minister Yamashita (right),  
exchanging the signed documents of MOC



Minister Yasonna (Indonesia, right) and Minister Yamashita (left), having discussions

The bilateral meetings with the ministers contributed to the establishment of the platform of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”, which is a series of domestic and international policies of justice affairs that the MOJ is working on holistically and strategically with a view to permeating the rule of law throughout the world.

### 3 Reception hosted by the Minister of Justice

Minister Yamashita hosted a welcome reception at the Tokyo Prince Hotel on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, inviting the Heads of Delegations and other high-level participants.

In his welcome remarks, Minister Yamashita underscored Japan’s active engagement in, and continued support for, the Asian and African regions. He also expressed his appreciation for AALCO’s valuable and ongoing contributions to the field of international law.



Minister Yamashita giving his remarks at the reception



Kagami-biraki