

# Activity Report

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference on Technical Assistance in the  
Legal Field

25 June 2022

International Affairs Division of the Minister's Secretariat  
the Ministry of Justice

**1 What is “justice affairs diplomacy”?**

**2 Establishment of the International Affairs  
Division**

**3 Develop Outcomes of the Kyoto Congress**

**4 Japan-ASEAN Special Meeting of Justice  
Ministers**

# 1. What is “justice affairs diplomacy”?

## Meaning

Endeavors to convey to the world fundamental values such as the rule of law and the respect for basic human rights, which are necessary to achieve an all-inclusive society where every person can live safely and securely under rules, and spread them throughout the world from Japan

## Objective

To globally disseminate the rule of law and other universal values, and contribute to the realization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

## 2. Establishment of the International Affairs Division

Global issues in legal affairs administration

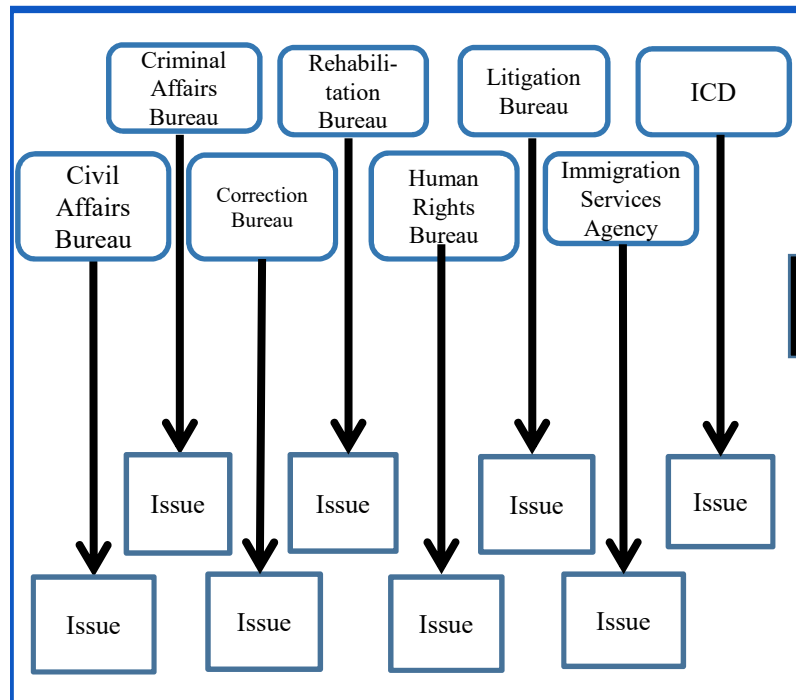
- ◆ Preparing for the Kyoto Congress 2020
- ◆ Developing a foundation necessary to energize international arbitration
- ◆ Further promoting strategic legal technical assistance
- ◆ Strategically dispatching legal professionals to international organizations, etc.



**MOJ-wide response**

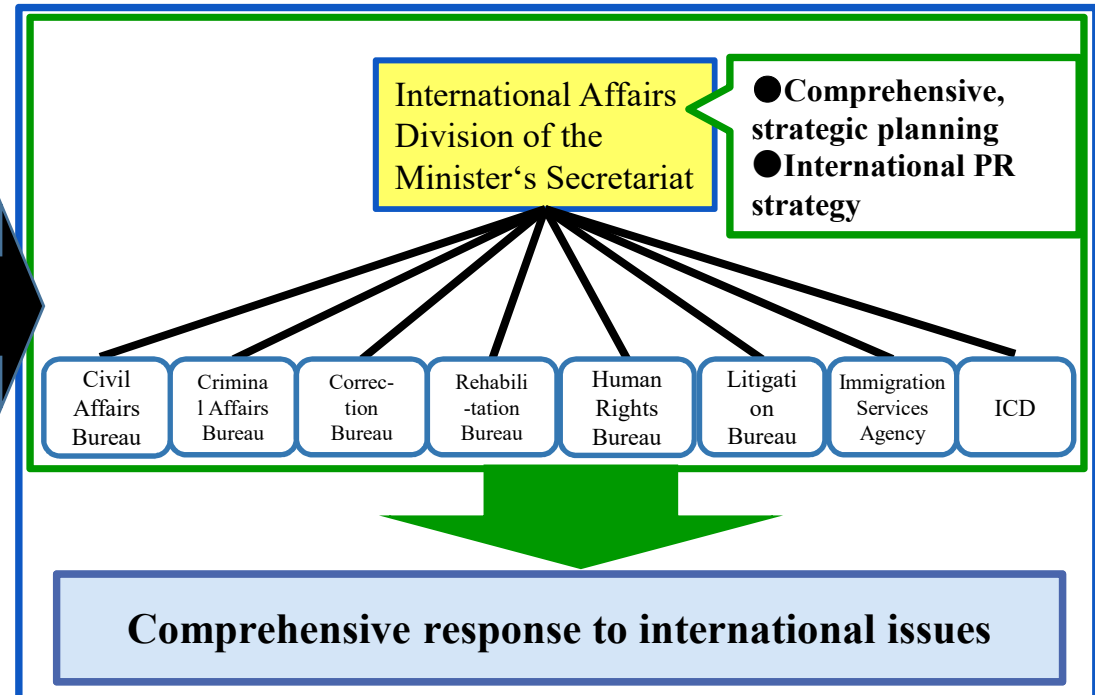
In the past

Vertically structured response by each department



Since April 2018

**Establishment of a command post for promoting justice affairs diplomacy**



<p><b>International Relations</b> Unit 1, 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ General coordination of international matters</li> <li>◆ Acceptance of diplomats' visits (courtesy calls, etc.)</li> <li>◆ International PR</li> <li>◆ Support for official trips by ministers, state ministers, parliamentary vice ministers, etc.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership for international PR strategies</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Memorandums of Cooperation (MOC) with various countries</b></p>
<p><b>International Policy</b> Unit 1</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Planning, drafting, etc. basic general policies</b></p> <p>Matters related to MOJ staff overseas assignments, and affairs under the jurisdiction of Criminal Affairs Bureau, Correction Bureau and Rehabilitation Bureau</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership in reviewing human rights treaties</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Global human resource development      Strategic staff assignments to overseas government offices, international organizations, etc.</b></p>
<p><b>International Policy</b> Unit 2</p>	<p>Matters related to affairs under the jurisdiction of Civil Affairs Bureau, Human Rights Bureau and Litigation Bureau</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Energizing international arbitration</b></p>
<p><b>International Policy</b> Unit 3</p>	<p>Matters related to affairs under the jurisdiction of Immigration Services Agency (ISA)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Support for important ISA international affairs</b></p>
<p><b>International Policy</b> Unit 4</p>	<p>Matters related to affairs under the jurisdiction of Minister's Secretariat and International Cooperation Department (ICD)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Legal technical assistance (drafting mid-to-long-term plans, etc.)</b></p>
<p><b>International Planning</b> Unit 1, 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Planning conferences held in Japan and general policies concerning specific matters</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Outcomes and development from the Kyoto Congress</b></p>
<p><b>International Planning</b> Unit 3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Planning conferences held in Japan and general policies concerning specific matters</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ASEAN-Japan special Justice Minister meetings and outcomes/development</b></p>

# Courtesy calls to Minister of Justice H. E. Yoshihisa Furukawa



Ukraine's Ambassador to Japan  
11 March 2022



Poland's Ambassador to Japan  
30 March 2022

# An overseas visit to Poland by State Minister of Justice H. E. Jun Tsushima

1–5 April 2022



# Japan's Ministry of Justice staff around the world

**Total: 92**  
**members**  
**(94 planned)**

**Europe: 24**  
**members**

Italy  
UK  
Netherlands  
Kazakhstan  
Sweden  
Slovakia  
Serbia  
Tajikistan  
Czech Republic  
Germany  
Finland  
France  
Poland  
Russia

**Asia: 37 members**

India  
Indonesia  
Thailand  
Republic of Korea  
China  
Philippines  
Viet Nam  
Malaysia  
Myanmar  
Mongolia  
Taipei  
Cambodia

**North America: 5**  
**members**

USA

**Middle East: 4**  
**members**

Afghanistan  
Iran  
Saudi Arabia  
Turkey

**Central/South**  
**America: 3 members**

Brazil

**Japanese government**  
**representatives: 6 members**

ASEAN  
United Nations  
Vienna  
Geneva  
European Union

**Legal technical assistance:**  
**8 members**

Viet Nam  
Cambodia  
Lao PDR  
Myanmar  
Indonesia

**International organizations: 5 members**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)  
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)  
**United Nations Commission on International Trade Law**  
**(UNCITRAL; planned)**  
**International Organization for Migration (IOM; planned)**

As of 1 April 2022

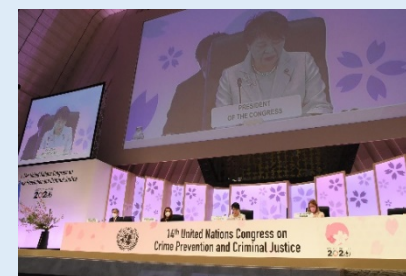
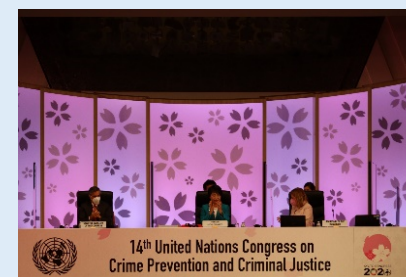


### **3. Develop Outcomes of the Kyoto Congress**

# Overview of the Kyoto Congress

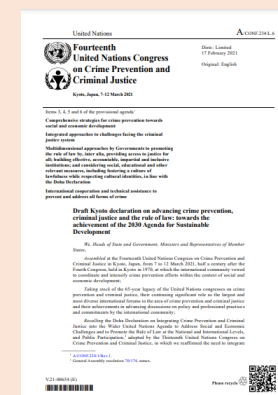
## Outline of event

- Over 5,000 people from 152 countries were registered for participation (record high)
- Government delegations including cabinet-level officials or those of higher rank from **13 countries** came to Japan.
  - \* Republic of Azerbaijan, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Republic of Armenia, Republic of Iraq, Republic of Uganda, Republic of Ecuador, Republic of Zambia, Republic of Korea, Republic of Togo, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, The Republic of South Sudan, Republic of Maldives
- Cabinet-level officials from 90 countries shared remarks in the High-level Segment (**record high**)
  - \*Including the following 15 G20 countries/regions: EU, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UK, China, Argentina, France, Canada, India, Australia, Republic of Korea, Russia, Italy, Brazil (order of speaking)
- At the closing ceremony, there were acknowledgments from **24 countries**
  - \*Including the following 11 G20 countries: Australia, USA, UK, Canada, China, France, Indonesia, Russia, India, South Africa, Argentina (order of speaking)
- There were no persons infected by COVID-19 or reports of suspected infections.



## Outline of Kyoto Declaration

- Confirming that the **rule of law** is the cornerstone of sustainable development
- **Strengthening of international cooperation** in the criminal justice field
- **Promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships** for crime prevention, etc.
- **Promoting engagement of youth** who will lead the future of criminal justice (empowerment)
- **Promoting digitalization** in criminal justice triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic



# Initiatives to develop outcomes of the Kyoto Congress

To take a lead in implementing the **Kyoto Declaration** adopted by the Kyoto Congress (The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice), the following **3 key initiatives** are actively being developed to spearhead the formation of a new international order backed by the rule of law.

## Establishing a network of practitioners in various regions to promote international cooperation

### Current situation and issues

- In the Asia-Pacific region, **international cooperation is lacking/inefficient** due to **insufficient understanding** of systems/operation of mutual legal assistance and **insufficient information sharing/collaboration** for technical assistance projects.  
(No **framework for sharing information or exchanging opinions** exists in the Asia-Pacific region.)

### Countermeasure

#### Establishing the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific

- **Periodically hold meetings to resolve issues** through international cooperation and **information sharing/opinion exchange among judiciary authorities** in the Asia-Pacific region.
  - **Achieve effective international cooperation** by promoting **mutual understanding**, building/maintaining **mutual trust**, **systematically collecting knowhow**, and promoting **identification of issues** needing technical assistance.

## Developing youth who will lead criminal justice of the next generation

### Current situation and issues

- The importance of international affairs in the legal field is increasing due to the progression of **globalization of crime and legal disputes**.
- There is an urgent need to develop **human resources** possessing the ability to resolve global legal disputes according to rules.

### Countermeasure

#### Periodically holding youth forums

- Foster/secure **international legal professionals possessing legal minds** rooted in the rule of law and the **ability to resolve legal disputes according to rules**.
- Get young people **interested in international affairs** in the legal field.
- Provide youth with opportunities to develop an international outlook and build **partnerships that may link to the future** through communication.
- **Reflect the opinions of youth** in expert discussions.

## Promoting recidivism prevention throughout the world

### Current situation and issues

- **Specifics regarding recidivism prevention** were provided in the **Kyoto Declaration**.
- **No internationally recognized standards exist**, and there is a great need to draw up UN rules\*.  
\*UN rules: Basic guidelines for member nations and standards necessary for implementation of the guidelines (Nelson Mandela Rules, etc.)

### Countermeasure

#### Leading the drafting of UN rules for recidivism prevention

- **Kyoto Model Strategy (provisional name)**
  - Incorporate Japan's knowledge on **rehabilitation systems**, etc. in the new rules so that more countries may **share the same philosophy with Japan**.
    - Utilize the new rules to **help enhance recidivism prevention measures in various countries** (through support by IDE-JETRO).

# Outcomes and development from the Kyoto Congress: The Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific (Crim-AP)

## Commitment of the international community (Kyoto Declaration)

- Bolster international cooperation to fight crime and build a regional network to promote collaboration among criminal justice practitioners (Kyoto Declaration paragraphs 5, 63)

## Issues in criminal justice in the Asia-Pacific region

- Mutual legal assistance: Sufficient international cooperation is not being achieved due to insufficient understanding of systems/practical implementation among countries.
- International cooperation in rehabilitation and reintegration support for criminals: Technical assistance needs are not sufficiently identified and information exchange among donors are insufficient.

## Holding Crim-AP

Working group for mutual legal assistance

Working group for offender treatment and rehabilitation

- Promote mutual understanding of legal systems/practical implementation.
- Build/maintain mutual trust
- Identify practical issues needing implementation of technical assistance

Mutual understanding

Fostering trust

Capacity building

## Outline of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Criminal Justice Forum for Asia and the Pacific

- Held on Monday, 14 February and Tuesday, 15 February 2022 at Tokyo International Forum
- Jointly held by MOJ and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Cabinet ministers or vice ministers/practitioners from 20 countries/organizations participated (hybrid in-person/online format)

### Overall theme

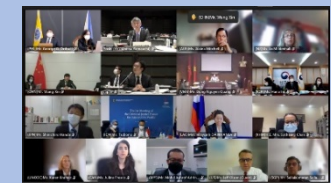
“Implementing the Kyoto Declaration: Strengthening International Cooperation against Crime in the Asia-Pacific”

### Working group themes

- ✓ Working group for mutual legal assistance (WG-MLA)
  - “Understanding how our central authorities work: Sharing key principles and good practice for effective mutual legal assistance”
- ✓ Working group for offender treatment and rehabilitation (WG-OTR)
  - “Challenges and development regarding prison management and the treatment of offenders under the COVID-19 pandemic”

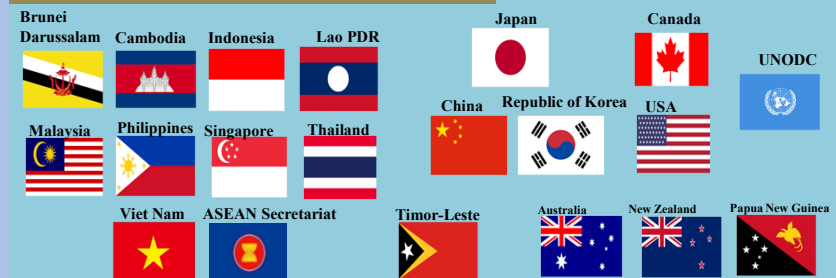


Meeting photo



Working group photo

## Participating countries/organizations



# Outcomes and development from the Kyoto Congress: Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness

## The Kyoto Congress Youth Forum

- Held on 27–28 February 2021 at Kyoto International Conference Center
- Approx. **150** participated from **35 countries/regions** (hybrid in-person/online format)
- Discussion results adopted as “**Recommendations**” were submitted to the **Kyoto Congress**
- The international community **highly praised the Youth Forum**.

## Commitment of the international community (Kyoto Declaration)

- Hold **youth forums**, etc. to empower youth (Kyoto Declaration paragraph 30)

## Periodically held youth forums

- **Foster/secure international legal professionals** possessing **legal minds** rooted in the rule of law.
- Offer opportunities to build **partnerships** that may link to the future.
- **Reflect the opinions of youth** in expert discussions.

▼  
**Strive for an international community permeated by the rule of law**

## Outline of the 1<sup>st</sup> Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness (Col-YF)

- Held on 9–10 October 2021 at Tokyo International Forum
- Approx. **120** participated from **41 countries** (hybrid in-person/online format)
- Overall theme  
**The role of youth in achieving a diverse and inclusive society**
- Group session themes  
Group Session 1: “**Reaching the Age of Adulthood and Participation in Society**”  
Group Session 2: “**Crime Prevention and Crime Justice in the Post-COVID-19 World**”
- Discussion results were adopted as “**Recommendations**” consisting of 19 items.  
⇒ **Submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)**



Opening ceremony  
(opening remarks by the  
Minister of Justice of Japan)



Group session discussions

\*A “**culture of lawfulness**” refers to a culture in which a country’s citizens trust that laws and their enforcement are fair and just, and therefore respect them.

# Outcomes and development from the Kyoto Congress: Leading the drafting of UN rules for recidivism prevention

## Outcomes of the Kyoto Congress

【The Kyoto Declaration】  
With growing interest in recidivism prevention in various countries, specifics regarding recidivism prevention were provided.

## Development of outcomes

Proposal of the **Kyoto Model Strategy (provisional name)**, UN rules for preventing recidivism, and promotion of their establishment.

## Promoting justice affairs diplomacy

- Incorporate Japan's knowledge on **rehabilitation systems**, etc. into rules so that **more countries may share the philosophy with Japan**.
- The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) use the rules to **help enhance recidivism prevention policies** in various countries.



**Boost Japan's presence**

**UN rules:** Basic guidelines for member nations and standards necessary for implementation of the guidelines. They are referred to when drafting legislation and policies in various countries.  
(At left is "United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners: The Nelson Mandela Rules.")



May 2024  
**United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

From October 2022–September 2023  
**UN Intergovernmental Segment**

Adoption of rules

A **substantive agreement** among member nations

April 2022  
**UN Group of Governmental Experts**

UNODC creates a **draft**

May 2021  
**United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

**Resolution** to start drafting the rules (Japan proposes resolution)

March 2021  
**The Kyoto Congress**

Adopts the **Kyoto Declaration**

## Provide Japan's insights

### Initiatives for recidivism prevention through multi-stakeholder partnerships

- Collaboration between correction institutions and private corporations, welfare organizations, etc.
- A rehabilitation system that has approx. 130 years of history
- Regional volunteers such as BBS, cooperative employers
- Sustained support through collaboration with regional public bodies, etc.



## **4. Japan-ASEAN Special Meeting of Justice Ministers**

# 2023 Japan-ASEAN Special Meeting of Justice Minister and their outcomes/development

Further intensifying longstanding endeavors such as legal technical assistance/implementation of various types of training

⇒ Promoting strategic justice affairs diplomacy

2023

**50<sup>th</sup> Year of Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation**

50<sup>th</sup> year of Viet Nam-Japan diplomatic relations

70<sup>th</sup> year of Cambodia-Japan friendly relations

2022

**Japan-ASEAN Secretariat Meeting  
Japan-ASEAN Senior Officials'  
Meeting**

2021

**Japan-ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting**

2020 (first year of justice affairs diplomacy)

**Participation in ASEAN judicial affairs meeting**

Development of outcomes

2030



**Japan-ASEAN Special Meeting of  
Justice Ministers**



Strong political commitment

Action plan or joint declaration based on mid-to-long-term view

⇒ **Actively and strategically engage in “bolstering international order based on rules” in the ASEAN region and lead the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).**

At the end of 2023, a special summit meeting is planned as the culmination of sectoral top-level meetings (★).

⇒ **By including the outcomes of special Justice Minister meetings in the summit meeting, measures implemented by MOJ are positioned as the cornerstone of Japan’s strategies toward Asia.**

★ In the 40<sup>th</sup> Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation in 2013, high-level meetings were held by the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Finance, Japan Coast Guard, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, National Police Agency, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs



# 2023 Japan-ASEAN Special Meeting of Justice Minister

## Significance of meetings

### ASEAN's strategic importance

- ◎ Population of 650 million, flourishing economy
  - ◎ Geopolitical strategic location, cornerstone of FOIP
  - ◎ Intensifying economically dependent relationship
  - ◎ Central to regional cooperation in Asia
- ⇒ **A region key to Japan's peace and prosperity/growth strategy**

2023  
50<sup>th</sup> Year of Japan-ASEAN Friendship and Cooperation

### Accumulation of longstanding MOJ endeavors

- Legal technical assistance
  - Implementation of various types of training etc.
- ⇒ **Strong trusting relationship and human networks**



## Japan-ASEAN Special Meeting of Justice Ministers



- ◆ Inviting ministers of judicial affairs/justice from ASEAN member nations
- ◆ Issuing Japan-ASEAN justice ministers' joint declarations
- ◆ Holding the first justice minister meeting with countries outside of the ASEAN region

### Jointly hold auxiliary events

- Global Youth Forum
- International arbitration symposium, other

\*Scheduled to be held around summer 2023 in Tokyo



\*Photo: the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-Japan Summit (2018)

## Anticipated outcomes

### Japan-ASEAN Justice Ministers' joint declaration

- ◎ Discuss cooperation in judicial affairs/legal fields between Japan and the ASEAN region and present a mid-to-long-term view.
- ◎ Share universal values such as the rule of law and the respect for basic human rights.
- ◎ Collaboration switching from ODA to equal partnerships.
- Conduct initiatives to promote strategic collaboration with the ASEAN region in judicial affairs/legal fields.
- Conduct initiatives to further intensify longstanding endeavors including legal technical assistance, implementation of various training, etc.

● **Demonstrate Japan's strong political commitment in the ASEAN region**  
⇒ **Actively and strategically engage in "bolstering international order based on rules" and lead the Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).**

● **Provide insights to the Japan-ASEAN special summit meeting**  
⇒ **Position MOJ measures as the cornerstone of Japan's strategies toward Asia.**

**Promote strategic justice affairs diplomacy**

# Thank you for your attention.

Notice:

Please visit the frequently updated webpage for the International Affairs Division on the MOJ website.

[http://www.moj.go.jp/kokusai/kokusai03\\_00002.html](http://www.moj.go.jp/kokusai/kokusai03_00002.html)