

Provisional Minutes of the 19th Meeting of the Family Law Subcommittee of the Legislative Council (provisional translation)

On August 30, 2022, the 19th meeting of the Family Law Subcommittee of the Legislative Council was held at the Ministry of Justice (in person and online). Nearly all the members and non-voting members attended the meeting. The Chairman, Prof. OMURA Atsushi, presided over the meeting.

At the meeting, with reference to the meeting materials, the Subcommittee deliberated the contents of the draft interim proposal as well as the time by which the interim proposal should be summarized and the general manner of holding discussions in the future.

First, Subcommittee members and non-voting members expressed their views on the best possible way to summarize the interim proposal: (i) the Subcommittee should reaffirm that it is a meeting body established at the request of the Minister of Justice to have discussions by members with academic backgrounds; (ii) the draft interim proposal should summarize the discussions of the Subcommittee; (iii) when deliberating legislative reforms of family law, it is important that the Subcommittee members and non-voting members listen to public opinion; (iv) the Subcommittee needs to ensure that the draft interim proposal is easy for the public to understand; and (v) the summary of the draft interim proposal does not need to be prepared in a hurry.

In addition, regarding the contents of the interim proposal to be summarized, many members agreed that the general framework of the draft interim proposal given in the meeting materials should remain unchanged. On the other hand, there were opinions that (i) the Subcommittee should consider the further revision of the draft interim proposal to improve comprehensibility, and (ii) the Subcommittee should prepare materials explaining the contents of the draft interim proposal in an easy-to-understand manner.

As a result of the discussions, instead of finalizing the interim proposal, the Subcommittee decided to deliberate the contents thereof again at the next meeting.

※These provisional minutes are the summarized results of the subcommittee meeting and are to be provided by the Secretariat of the Subcommittee in both Japanese and English on an as-needed basis. The official meeting minutes (in Japanese) will be published at a later date.