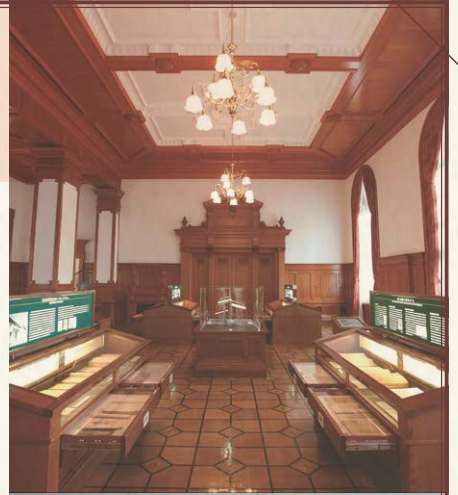




MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OF JAPAN

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

2026



Happiness Protected by Laws

In order to live in this community, rules and regulations are necessary. Such rules ensure that family relationships with parents and children or brothers and sisters are accurately registered, that people can live safely within the community, and that ordered materials can be obtained without fail.

Furthermore, to maintain peace and order in society, it is also essential that persons who harm others or commit crimes are appropriately punished.

The Ministry of Justice not only establishes the basic rules applicable to society but also creates the basic judicial framework to ensure that these rules are complied. The Ministry also assumes responsibility for a broad range of legal issues under which those who have been punished are supported in the rehabilitation processes.

In addition, the Ministry oversees the management of a system that helps citizens exercise their personal rights, such as the registration of real estate and notarization.

Other important duties of the Ministry of Justice are to ensure appropriate immigration control of those entering and departing from Japan, that the basic human rights of individuals are respected, and that intelligence activities are carried out for the purpose of public security.



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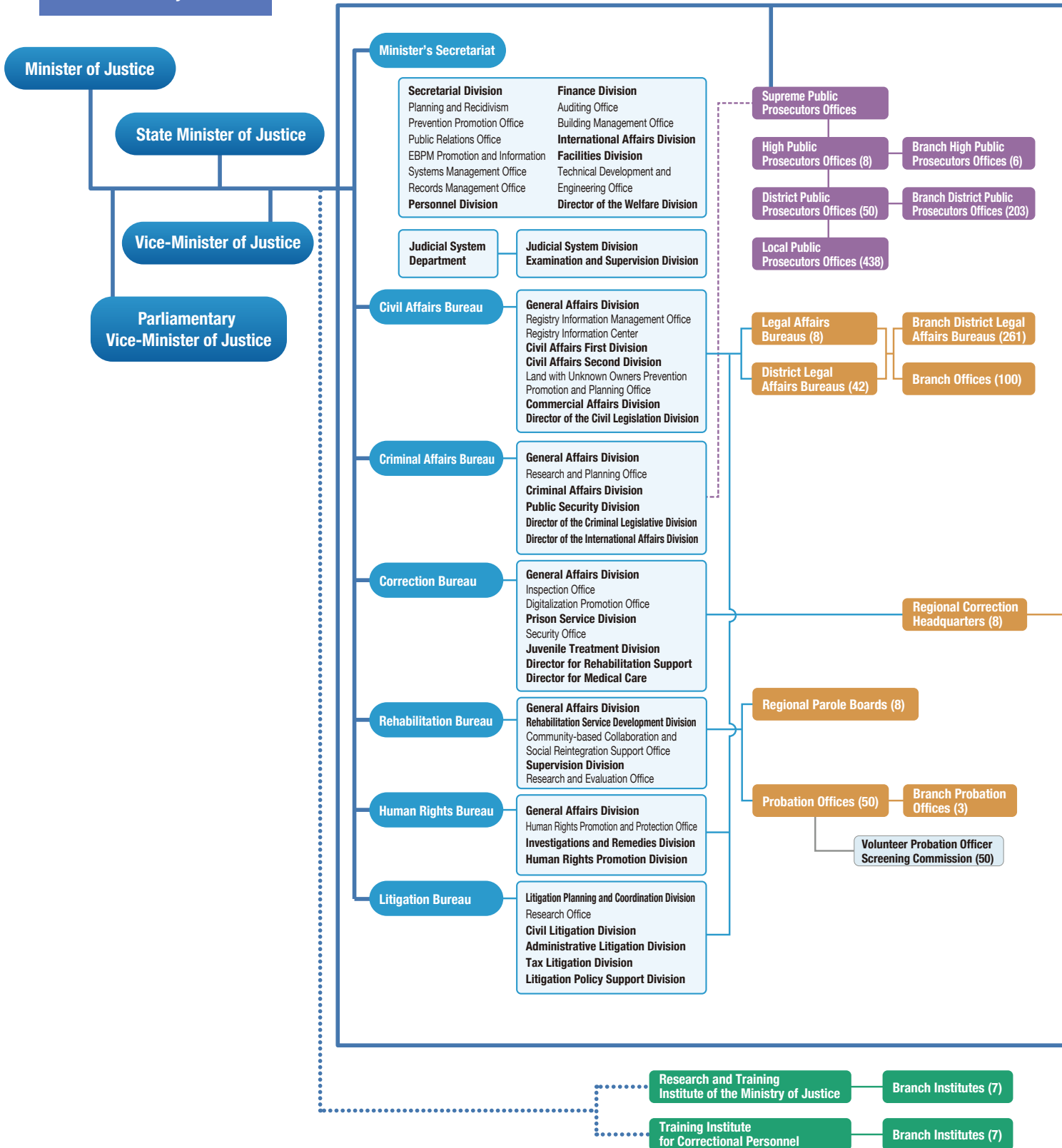
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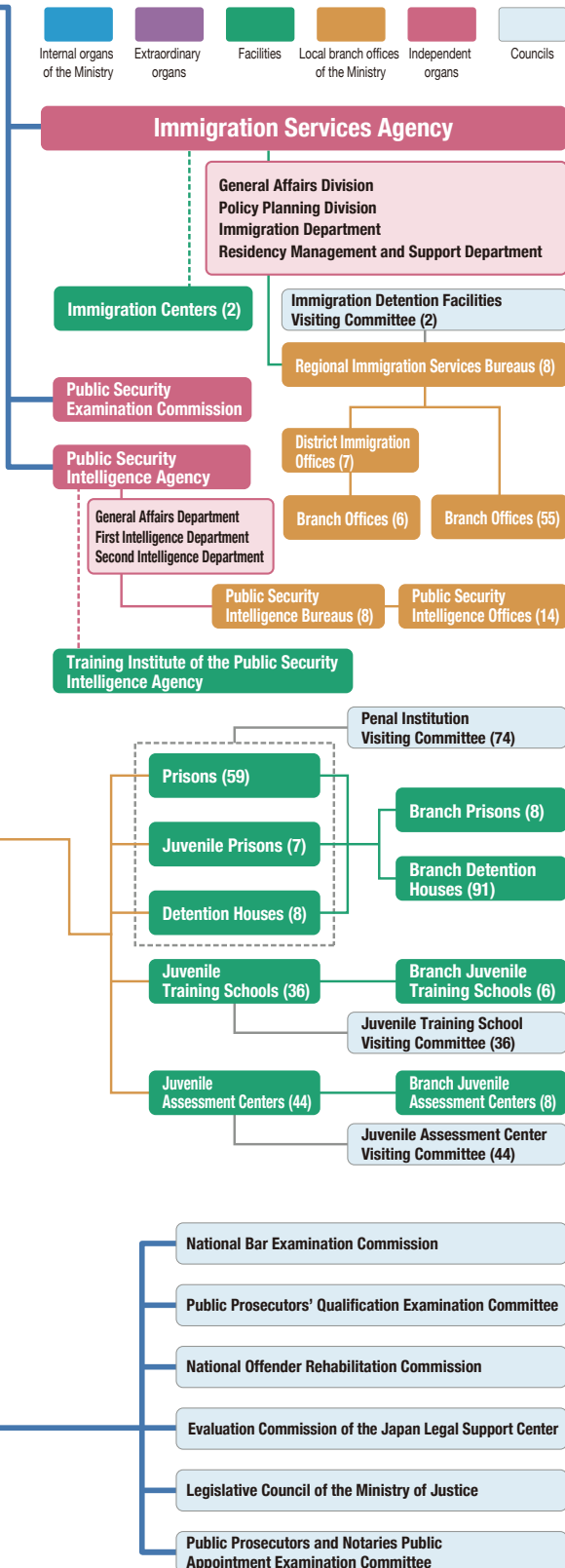
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About the Ministry of Justice

ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



Figures in parentheses show the number of organizations (as of Mar. 31, 2026)



Historical Background

- 1871 ● Shihosho established

- 1947 ● Separated from Shihosho, came under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

- 1948 ● Ministry of Justice

- 1949 ● Renamed Homufu (with 3 director-generals and 11 bureaus)

- 1952 ● Renamed the Ministry of Justice (with Minister's Secretariat and 7 bureaus)

- 2001 ● Reorganization of the central government (with Minister's Secretariat and 6 bureaus)

- 2015 ● Litigation Bureau established (with Minister's Secretariat and 7 bureaus)

- 2019 ● New establishment of Immigration Services Agency (with Minister's Secretariat and 6 bureaus)

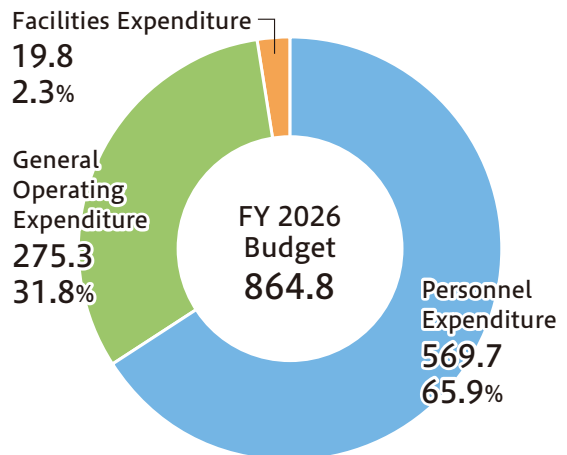
Staffing Levels (FY 2026)

Organization Name	Staffing Levels
Ministry of Justice	912
Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice	83
Legal Affairs Bureaus	9,014
Public Prosecutors Offices	11,860
Correctional Institutions	23,591
Probation Offices and Regional Parole Boards	1,877
Immigration Services Agency	6,677
Public Security Examination Commission	4
Public Security Intelligence Agency	1,849
Total	55,867

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

Budget (FY 2026)

The MOJ FY 2026 Budget comprises a general budget of 864.8 billion yen. Personnel Expenditure comprise 65.9% of the general budget.



Note: "Staffing Levels (FY 2026)" and "Budget (FY 2026)" are prepared based on the Cabinet decision on the government draft budget dated December 26, 2025.



Promotion of Measures for Realizing a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

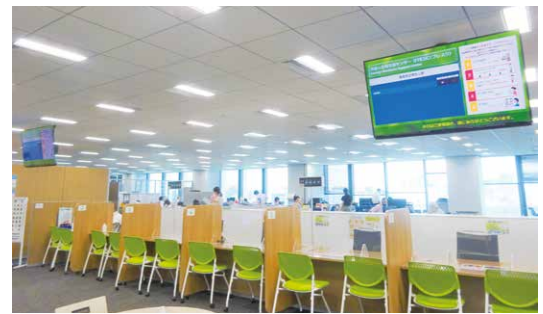
On April 1, 2019, the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice reorganized into the Immigration Services Agency of Japan, an external bureau of the Ministry of Justice, with the novel mission of improving the environment to receive foreign residents for the realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, in addition to addressing the issues of smooth and strict immigration examinations, proper management of foreign residents, and prompt protection of refugees.

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

Based on this opinion statement, the Ministerial Conference in June 2022 adopted the “Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals,” outlining Japan’s vision for a society of harmonious coexistence, as well as medium- and long-term issues that need to be addressed in order to realize such a society. The roadmap was partially revised in June 2025. It was also decided that the government would work as one to further promote the creation of an environment for the Realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals.



Counseling for foreign residents



Consultation counter at Foreign Residents Support Center

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



Main measures being implemented by the Immigration Services Agency

● LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH

In order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals, it is important that all people living in Japan deepen their interest in and understanding of the necessity and meaningfulness of creating such a society. Starting from 2024, the Ministry of Justice and the Immigration Services Agency have designated every January as “LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH,” an awareness month related to harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals. During this period, various promotional and educational activities and events are held to foster awareness aimed at realizing a society of harmonious coexistence, including “ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL,” an event that was the highlight of the month.



Main stage



Immigration Services Agency booth

See here for more information on
LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH





● Information necessary for daily life

The Immigration Services Agency, with cooperation from a wide range of sections of the government, compiled the “Guidebook on Living and Working,” which provides the basic information (residency procedures, labor-related laws, social insurance, crime prevention, traffic safety, etc.) necessary for safe and secure daily life and for the employment of foreign residents in Japan. The guidebook is available on the “A Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” page on the Immigration Services Agency’s website in 20 languages, including plain Japanese.

In March 2024, “the Videos for the Daily Life Orientation” were also released in 17 languages. (Available on the Immigration Services Agency’s website and the Ministry of Justice YouTube channel.)

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

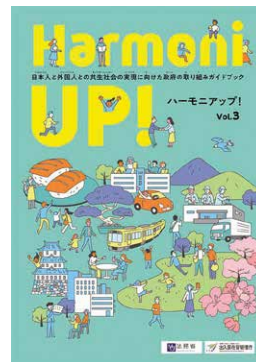


See here for
the **Videos for the Daily Life
Orientation**



● Information on coexistence initiatives

The guidebook named ‘HarmoniUP!’ aims to help more Japanese nationals and foreign residents become familiar with and understand the government’s coexistence initiatives to improve existing efforts and plan new ones with a solid understanding of these activities. It has a design that is visually easy to understand, so anyone can view it with ease.



See here for
information on
HarmoniUP!



● Consultations for foreign residents

The Immigration Information Center has been established at each Regional Immigration Services Bureau and its branch offices (excluding airport branch offices). It mainly provides information on immigration procedures related to residence status.

Due to the increasing necessity of assisting foreign residents with problems in everyday life in recent years, general advice is also available in addition to the usual immigration procedures.

The Foreign Residents Support Center (FRESC) opened in July 2020. At the Center, eight institutions of four ministries (Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Human Rights Department at Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau, Houterasu, etc.) offering residency services to foreign nationals are all located on a single floor where they work together to provide advice on residency status and legal trouble, etc., handle inquiries from a central consultation desk established by local governments, and provide training and information to local government employees.



Immigration Information Center

See here for information on
FRESC



Promotion of Measures for Realizing a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals

● Training and certification of Support Coordinator for Foreign Nationals

To train and certify professionals who can effectively connect foreign nationals with the appropriate support to navigate daily life challenges, the Immigration Services Agency offers programs for Support Coordinator for Foreign Nationals. These programs equip participants with the knowledge and skills to manage complex, multifaceted consultations and guide individuals toward practical solutions.

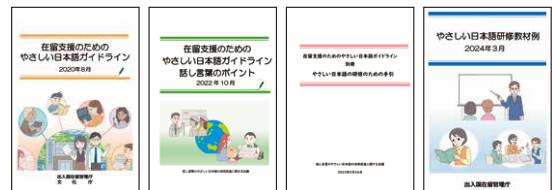


Training session

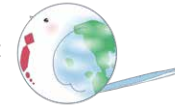
● Spreading the use of plain Japanese

In order to promote the use of plain Japanese by the national government, local governments, and other entities, the “Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Resident Support” was created in 2020 with a focus on plain Japanese written language. “Spoken Language Points” were created in 2022 with a focus on plain Japanese spoken language. These guidelines are available on “Daily Life Support Portal for Foreign Nationals” on the website of the Immigration Services Agency.

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



Plain Japanese Promotion Mascot Kotorin



See here for the Plain Japanese Guidelines for Foreign Resident Support



● Tokyo Immigration Forum

The Tokyo Immigration Forum is a periodic, international platform that enables immigration authorities of various countries and regions to share information and exchange opinions on issues they are facing. Last year at the fifth Forum (December 2025), there were 23 countries, 1 regional and 2 international organizations* in attendance, the highest number since the first Forum was held in March 2022. Through the Forum, immigration authorities of each country and region can strengthen the relationships with one another and exchange various information including the best practices, which leads to improve their respective immigration policies. We aim to achieve challenges in immigration and residency policies including smooth and appropriate acceptance of foreign nationals and realization of a society of harmonious coexistence with them where people can live together safely and comfortably.

*23 countries, 1 regional and 2 international organizations: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Canada, China, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, ROK, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Türkiye, USA, Viet Nam, European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), IOM, and UNHCR



See here for information on the Tokyo Immigration Forum



To Develop and Secure Human Resources in Industrial Fields with Labor Shortages

● Creation of the Employment for Skill Development Program

In recent years, Japan's labor shortage has grown more severely and the international competition to attract talent has also intensified. Furthermore, various issues have been highlighted with regard to the Technical Intern Training Program as it stands thus far, such as an estrangement between the program's objectives and its actual implementation and protection of the rights of foreign nationals.

In light of these issues, the law has been amended (enacted June 2024) to dissolve the Technical Intern Training Program and create an Employment for Skill Development Program with purpose to develop and secure human resources.

The Employment for Skill Development Program, will begin operation in April 2027, eliminate those issues with the Technical Intern Training Program that have been previously identified and ensure continuity between the Employment for Skill Development Program and the Specified Skilled Worker System. This is intended to create a readily-understood program/system under which foreign nationals can work in Japan while advancing their careers, and thus secure the talent who will support Japanese industry over the long term.

● Further optimization of the Specified Skilled Worker System

The Specified Skilled Worker System has been in operation since April 2019 for the acceptance of work-ready foreign nationals with a certain degree of expertise and skills in the industrial fields where it is still difficult to secure human resources, even if efforts have been made to improve productivity and secure domestic human resources, in order to cope with worsening labor shortages.

To ensure the smooth operation of the system, we are undertaking various initiatives such as preparing bilateral Memorandums of Cooperation (MOC) with foreign governments and holding information seminars on the Specified Skilled Worker System for foreign nationals who wish to work with the status of residence of "Specified Skilled Worker".

Along with the establishment of the Employment for Skill Development Program, a legal amendment (enacted in June 2024) was made to optimize the Specified Skilled Worker System. The amendment restricts the outsourcing actor of support services for specified skilled workers to registered support organizations, while tightening registration requirements. It also instructs Employment for Skill Development Organization to provide consultation and support services for specified skilled workers and strengthens collaboration between host companies and local governments, further improving the system

See here for information on the Employment-for-Skill-Development Program



See here for information on the Specified Skilled Worker System



Hate Speech Measures

In the "Roadmap for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence with Foreign Nationals," which was decided in June 2022, the government indicates one of the three visions for an ideal society of harmonious coexistence with foreign nationals and promotes initiatives to achieve "A society where all people, including foreign nationals, respect each other's individual dignity and human rights and can live without discrimination or prejudice"

For example, "Respect the Human Rights of Foreigners" has been emphasized in activities for human rights awareness-raising year-round at the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice. To spread the word and eliminate hate speech, initiatives include lectures on promoting understanding and interest in the human rights of foreign nationals, distributing the awareness-raising booklet "Hate Speech in Our Daily Lives", making awareness-raising videos available on DVD and the Ministry of Justice YouTube official channel, and showing awareness-raising ads proclaiming "STOP! HATE SPEECH" on electronic billboards in major cities across the country.

These efforts aim to eliminate hate speech by promoting the idea that it is unacceptable.



"STOP! HATE SPEECH" outdoor ad shown on the YUNIKA VISION billboard in Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

特定の民族や国籍の人々を排斥する不当な差別的言動を助長したことはありません。こうした言動は、人としての尊厳を傷つけたり、差別意識を生じさせることになりかねず、許されるものではありません。違いを認め、互いの人権を尊重し合う社会を共に築きましょう。

詳しくは法務省HPへ ▶ https://www.moj.go.jp/JUNKEN/jinken04_00108.html

ヘイトスピーチ、許さない

法務省人権擁護局・全国人権擁護委員連合会



Promoting the Prevention of Recidivism

About the Ministry of Justice

Special Feature

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

Qualifications and Employment

Making the Ministry of Justice More Familiar

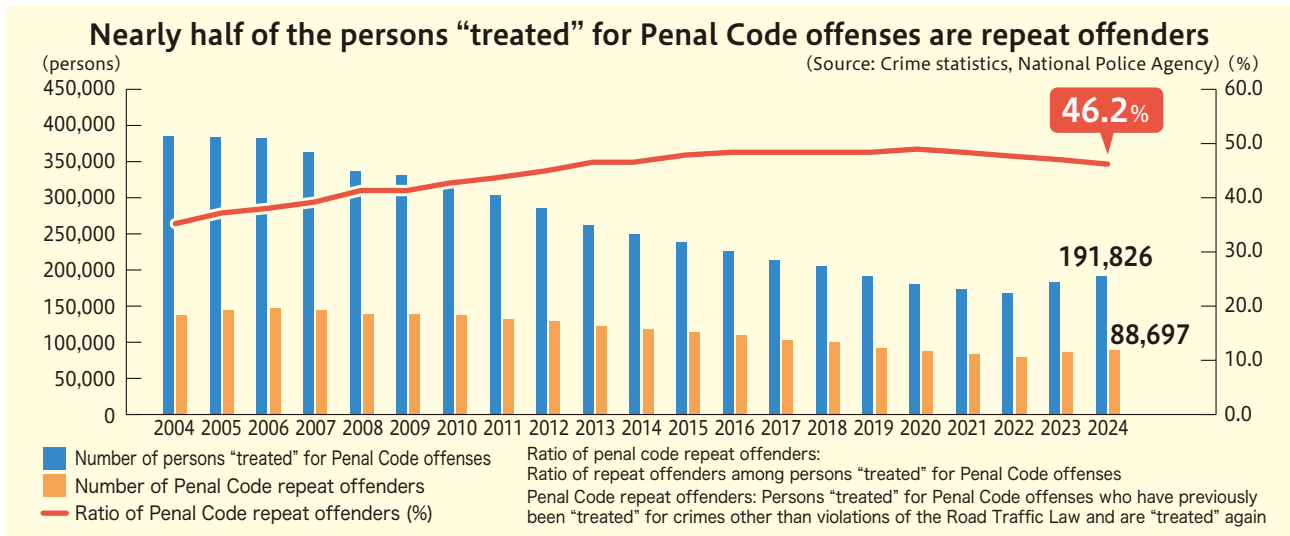
Achieving a Society Without Recidivism and Keeping People from Becoming Victims

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

Why is it Necessary to Prevent Recidivism?

The ratio of repeat offenders among those “treated” for Penal Code offenses has remained at nearly half, or 46.2 percent, in 2024. In other words, out of every two individuals “treated”, one is a repeat offender. As such, in order to reduce crime overall, it is important to implement measures to prevent recidivism.

Number and ratio of repeat offenders among those “treated” for Penal Code offenses



*“treated”;The phrase means the persons arrested, referred without arrest or dispositioned as trivial offenses.

The Act for the Prevention of Recidivism and Recidivism Prevention Plan

The Act for the Prevention of Recidivism was enacted and came into effect in December 2016. It establishes basic measures for preventing recidivism, along with basic principles and clarification of the responsibilities of the national government and local governments with regard to these measures. To promote comprehensive and systematic measures related to preventing recidivism in accordance with this law, the Government Cabinet approved the Recidivism Prevention Plan (First Plan) in December 2017. In line with the end of the plan, the Government Cabinet approved the Second Recidivism Prevention Plan (Second Plan) in March 2023. The Second Prevention Plan established the seven priority issues shown on the right, as well as 96 specific measures.

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

Priority Issues

- 1 Securing employment and housing
- 2 Facilitating the use of health, medical, and welfare services
- 3 Implementing educational support in collaboration with schools and others
- 4 Implementing effective guidance that is tailored to the individual attributes of persons who have committed offenses
- 5 Promoting activities of cooperating members of the private sector
- 6 Advancing community-based inclusion
- 7 Developing foundations for recidivism prevention

See here for the Act for the Prevention of Recidivism



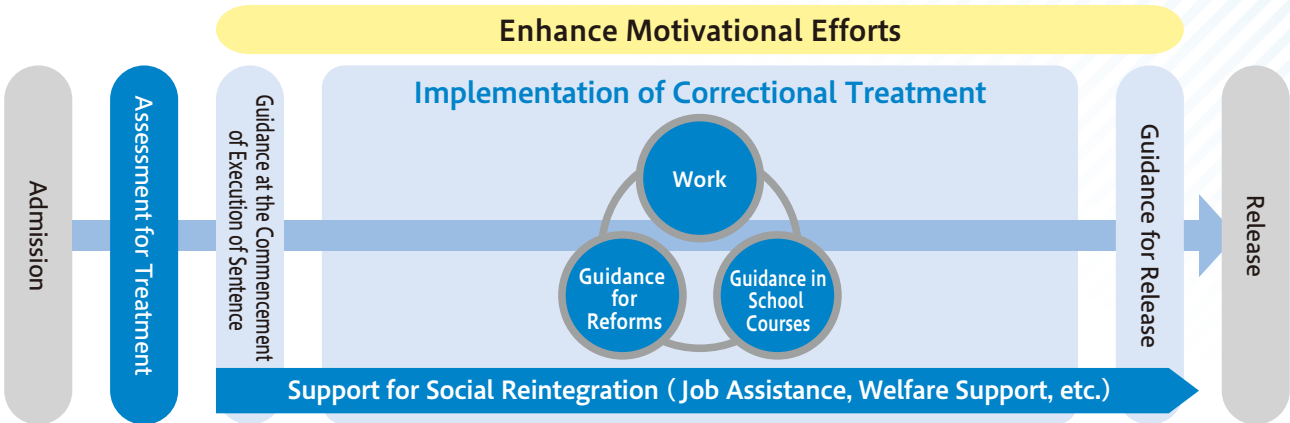
See here for the Recidivism Prevention Plan



See here for the White Paper on Recidivism Prevention



Introduction of the New “Imprisonment” and Enhancement of Treatment for Inmates



In June 2025, the new “imprisonment” was introduced in place of imprisonment with or without work. The law stipulates that those receiving “imprisonment” may be made to perform work or be provided with guidance that will help enhance rehabilitation. Under “imprisonment”, instead of having inmates do the same work as with imprisonment in the past, we are now better able to more flexibly combine work and guidance tailored to the needs of each inmate. We expect this will result in more effective rehabilitation and facilitate smooth reintegration into society.

To ensure treatment consistent with the purpose of “imprisonment”, it is essential to accurately assess each inmate’s individual characteristics, including their age, physical and mental condition, the sentence to be served, and any circumstances that may hinder their rehabilitation and smooth reintegration into society. Additionally, inmates with certain common characteristics have been classified into 24 categories (Correctional Treatment Groups) to implement a combination of necessary work, guidance, and support for reintegration into society (For details, please refer to “Correction Bureau (Correctional Treatment under the New “Imprisonment”) (page 31)”). During this process, inmates are further motivated regarding work and guidance so that they may fully understand its importance and participate in it.

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

What are HOGOSHI? Supporting Rehabilitation in the Community

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

There are currently approximately 46,000 HOGOSHI nationwide (As of January 1, 2025).

The main duties of a HOGOSHI are as follows (For details, please refer to “Rehabilitation Bureau (Organizations and Stakeholders for Offender Rehabilitation) (page 34)”).

Probation supervision

HOGOSHI conduct interviews with those on probation, assessing the person’s living conditions, providing necessary guidance, assistance with employment, and consulting on personal concerns.

Adjustment of living environment

For individuals housed in prisons or juvenile training schools, they help create a living environment suitable for post-release by looking into housing options, coordinating with family, potential employers, schools, and relevant organizations.

Activities to prevent crimes

They also engage in various public relations activities to help raise awareness, including through the “Yellow Feather Campaign” to promote understanding of the rehabilitation of people who have committed crimes or delinquent acts, and help prevent these from occurring in the first place.

See here for more information on HOGOSHI



See here for a true voice of a HOGOSHI



See here for a true story of a juvenile and a HOGOSHI



Anyone’s life can change What’s important

See here for a pamphlet on collaboration between schools and HOGOSHI





Support for Victims of Crime

Attorney-Based Victim Support System

The attorney-based victim support system established in the “Act Partially Amending the Comprehensive Legal Support Act” (Act No. 19 of 2024) began January 13, 2026, as part of services of the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu).

Key Points of the System

- Regarding various responses related to criminal, civil, and administrative matters, victims of crime and their families can receive comprehensive and continuous support from a contract attorney of Houterasu.
- In principle, the expenses are covered by Houterasu.

〈Examples of available support〉

- Legal consultation
- Preparation and submission of a damage report or first-hand crime report, responding to investigative agencies and courts, etc. (to judicial branches)
- Negotiations with offenders for damage compensation and legal representation in damages lawsuits (with perpetrator)
- Application procedures for the Crime Victims Benefit (to government agencies)
- Media Inquiry (to the press)

*Individuals may determine the required support upon discussion with the appointed attorney

Who Can Use the System?

〈Eligible victims〉

Victims of crimes occurring on or after January 13, 2026, to whom any of the following applies:

- Crimes causing death to a person through an intentional criminal act
- Specific sex crimes under the Penal Code
- Crimes causing injury to a person through an intentional criminal act (*)
 - * Injury or disease falling under any of the following:
 - Medical treatment of three months or longer is required
 - Aftereffects of level 1 to level 14 that are eligible for the payment of the disability benefit under the Benefit System for Crime Victim

〈Financial resources requirement〉

This system is for a victim and his/her spouse whose total financial resources (liquid assets such as cash, deposits, etc., belonging to the individual, same applies below) are three million yen or lower (Also, in some cases, the financial resources of the spouse are not added.).

However, the following items are not included in the applicant's finances:

- Medical expenses, etc., incurred due to injuries or illnesses from criminal acts (expenses expected to be incurred within one year from the date of application for this system)
- The Crime Victims Benefit and other benefits for victims of crime (including condolence payments)

Using the System

Operators at the Houterasu Crime Victim Support Hotline ask victims about the status of their injuries and introduce attorneys with experience and understanding of criminal victim support and who can help when a victim makes use of the system.

Houterasu also offers a variety of other programs (for details, please refer to “Support from the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)” on the following page), so make sure to call their Crime Victim Support Hotline.

See here for
Attorney-Based Victim
Support System



Houterasu Crime Victim
Support Hotline

☎ 0120-079714

*From an IP phone: 03-6745-5601

Weekdays : 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturdays : 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

(Closed on Sundays, national holidays,
and year-end/New Year holidays)

Other major Ministry of Justice initiatives supporting victims of crime

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

● Restitution order system

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

● Notification system for victims

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

● Victim participation system

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

● Opinion hearing system in parole examination

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

● Hearing and Communication System of Victims' Sentiments to perpetrators

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

● Support from the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

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



Dealing with Human Rights Issues Involving Children

Status of Children's Human Rights

Despite a downward trend in suicide rates in Japan in recent years, there were 529 suicides among elementary, junior, and senior high school children in 2024, which is the highest since statistics started being collected in 1980^{*1}. There were also 769,022 cases^{*2} of recognized bullying in FY2024, and 225,509^{*3} cases of child abuse consultations at child guidance centers in FY2023, an increase in both areas, which remain a cause for concern.

At the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, active efforts are underway to help save children, who are silent victims, by providing human rights consultations through various tools such as counseling in a chat format and in coordination with other relevant institutions. The number of counseling cases on human rights violations and the number of human rights violation cases brought to the attention of the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice during 2024 are shown in the table below.

*1: "Status of Suicides in 2024," National Police Agency and Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

*2: "Survey on Student Guidance Issues such as Problem Behavior Among Schoolchildren and Truancy," Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology

*3: "FY2023 Cases of Child Abuse Consultations at Child Guidance Centers," Children and Families Agency

The main number of counseling cases on child human rights violations

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bullying at school	5,568	6,539	5,885	6,878	6,944
Corporal punishment by school teachers	282	322	296	338	281
Violence and abuse against children	1,428	1,361	1,324	1,406	1,283

The main number of child human rights violation cases (Number of new open cases)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Bullying at school	1,126	1,169	1,047	1,185	1,202
Corporal punishment by school teachers	83	51	75	74	79
Violence and abuse against children	341	253	216	268	219

Examples of Remedied Human Rights Violation Cases

The following cases are examples of the cases that the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice dealt with regarding children's human rights issues.

Case 1 Bulling at an elementary school

This is a case in which a guardian of an elementary school student consulted with the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice, alleging that the student was bullied by classmates, such as being pushed from behind, and became unable to go to school but the school had not taken sufficient measures.

As a result of an investigation by the bodies, it was found that the school conducted an investigation on the bullying and gave due consideration so as to enable the student to come to school again, but such efforts made by the school were not sufficiently understood by the guardian.

Therefore, the bodies mediated a meeting between the school and the guardian, and compiled and told the guardian's requests to the school. The school expressed its intention to make school-wide efforts against bullying cases and continue taking measures to solve the problem regarding the student. The guardian showed some understanding of the school's responses and the relationship between them was improved.

Case 2 Abuse against a junior high school student

This is a case in which a junior high school student made a consultation using Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letter, alleging that the student had been abused by one of their parents, such as being forced to have sexual intercourse, but had no one to consult with.

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice promptly reported the case to the school in which the student is enrolled and to a child guidance center, and made adjustments for future measures.

As a result, the student was placed under the protection of the child guidance center and the student's physical and mental safety was ensured.

Materials for Human Rights Promotion

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are engaged in various activities for human rights awareness-raising, part of which is promoting the “Protect Children’s Human Rights” theme as a priority target for such initiatives with an awareness-raising booklet. This section introduces some of the materials for human rights promotion regarding the problems children face.

● Awareness-raising booklet: “Bullying - Never Permit or Overlook”

Because bullying is recognized as a serious human rights issue, children themselves, their families, and the community are being called on to raise awareness to ensure that bullying is not allowed or ignored.

This awareness-raising booklet mainly talks about the problem of bullying.



● Awareness-raising booklet: “An Easy Guide to the Convention on the Rights of the Child”

For children facing problems to be able to speak up, it is vital that they be made aware of their own rights.

To help promote such awareness, this awareness-raising booklet explains in easy-to-understand language the rights they have to life, survival, and development, and thinking on the best interests of the child as stipulated in the Convention.

● Awareness-raising video: “Are You OK? Let’s consider bullying!”

In recent years, bullying has taken place on the internet, including social media, making it difficult for schools and parents to notice, with many instances of small things leading to serious cases of bullying.

Based on examples, this awareness-raising video explains how to eliminate bullying, shows how to seek help from familiar adults, and introduces a consultation service when kids need help.



● Awareness-raising video: “Are You OK? Let’s consider child abuse!”

Consultations on child abuse at child guidance centers have been consistently on the rise across the country in recent years, underscoring the urgent need for society as a whole to prevent such crimes.

This awareness-raising video covers a variety of cases including emotional and physical abuse and neglect, and was created so that children and their guardians can gain correct knowledge on how to prevent child abuse.

Initiatives for early identification of human rights violations

It is believed that in many cases, children are unable to voluntarily talk to someone about the problems they are facing, such as bullying, abuse, and truancy. As a proactive outreach effort to help with early identification and handling of human rights violations children face, Human Rights Volunteers across the nation work with local governments and NPOs, visiting places where children gather, such as after-school classes and volunteer cafeterias for children, where they offer human rights lectures. Such initiatives allow volunteers to interact directly with children, which promises to provide a venue where they can easily talk about human rights and other concerns.





Promoting Measures against Unclaimed Land

What is Unclaimed Land?

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

Unclaimed Land

- 1 Land whose owner cannot be immediately identified from the real property register
- 2 Land whose owner cannot be contacted because their whereabouts are unknown

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

What Problems are Caused by Unclaimed Land?



Because searching for the owners of land is time consuming and costly, unclaimed land causes various problems such as obstructing the smooth progress of public works and recovery/reconstruction projects, thereby hindering private transactions and land use; and land being abandoned because it cannot be managed properly, negatively impacting adjacent land. As Japan's population continues to age and decline, addressing these problems is an urgent issue.

Measures to Prevent the problem of Unclaimed land

● Mandatory inheritance registration (enforced on April 1, 2024)

Inheritors are legally required to register their inheritance within 3 years from the day that they learn that they have inherited property (land/building).

If the inheritor fails to register their inheritance without justifiable grounds, a fine of up to 100,000yen may be imposed.

In a case where the inheritor acquires property through the division of inherited property (discussion among inheritors), they are required to separately register their inheritance within 3 years from the day of the property division in accordance with the details of the property division. Property inherited prior to April 1, 2024 that has not been registered as inheritance must be registered by March 31, 2027.

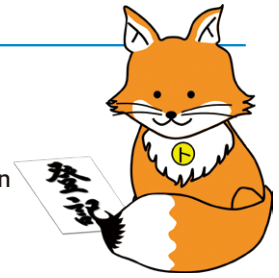
● Declaration-by-the-heir (enforced on April 1, 2024)

A new system, the "Declaration-by-the-heir", has also been introduced as a simple means for inheritors to fulfill their obligation to register their inheritance.

Under this system, inheritors are able to individually and simply submit a notification of their inheritance even in cases where it is difficult for them to register the inheritance due to disagreement among inheritors regarding the inheritance.

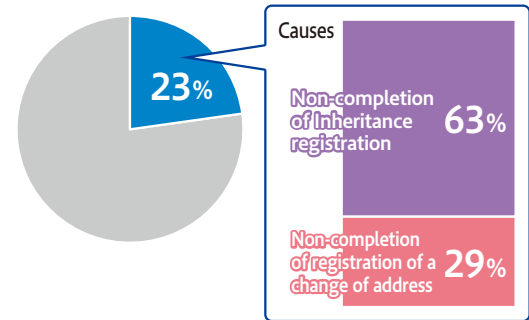
However, it must be kept in mind that it is not possible for inheritors to fulfill their obligation under the law to register their inheritance through the "Declaration-by-the-heir" once the division of inherited property has been concluded; and that the efficacy of the system is limited as rights related to the property are not made public.

Real Property Registration Promotion Mascot
Toukitsune



● Ration of Unclaimed land

(Research conducted by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism in 2024)



Real property registration promotion mascot
Shiranakattanuki



See here for
mandatory inheritance
registration



● **Establishment of a new system for certifying the registered real property the person owns (enforced on February 2, 2026)**

A new system has been established whereby the registrar creates and certifies a complete list of the properties for which a specific inheritee (deceased parent, etc.) is registered as the owner in the registry.

● **Mandatory change-of-name registration and change-of-address registration (enforced on April 1, 2026)**

The registered owner of real property legally required to register change-of-name and change-of-address within two years of date of change. If they fails to register change-of-name and change-of-address, without justifiable grounds, a fine of up to 50,000 yen may be imposed.

If they have changed their name or address before April 1, 2026, but have not been registered change-of-name or change-of-address, they must be registered by March 31, 2028.

“Smart Change Registration” is being introduced, changes along with mandatory registration of changes-of-name and change-of-address.

See here for
mandatory change-of-
name and change-of-
address registration




“Smart Change Registration”

To Because name and address information for natural persons (individuals) can be found in the Basic Resident Register, “Smart Change Registration” is being established that digitally connects the Legal Affairs Bureau’s Real Property Registration System and the Basic Resident Registration Network System, enabling the registrar to update property name and addresses with official authority without having to wait for the owners to apply for change-of-name or change-of-address. However, they have to provide searchable information, such as their date of birth, in advance.

In the case of corporations, “Smart Change Registration” is being prepared whereby the registrar is able to update property name and addresses with official authority by notifying information regarding changes to the name or address of corporations from the Commercial Corporation Register System to the Real Property Register System. However, their corporate registration number is registered, in advance.

This is expected to alleviate the burden of applying for the registration of a change in address.

● **The Inherited Land Treasury Return System (enforced on April 27, 2023)**

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

See here for
information on
The Inherited
Land Treasury
Return System



Procedure image

Procedure image of the Inherited Land Treasury Return System

1 Request for approval



【 Person with the right to request]
Person who acquires land by inheritance or bequest (limited to bequest to an heir)

2 Examination and approval by the minister of Justice (Legal Affairs Bureaus)

- The Minister has the right to implement the onsite survey
- The Minister can ask for survey cooperation from the responsible authority in charge of state-owned asset management.
- The Minister can request municipal government to provide documents and information.
- The Minister ensures the opportunity to receive donation of land and make use of it in the community by informing the relevant national and municipal governments of the request for approval.



3 The applicant pays a fee equivalent to 10 year land management cost.



4 The land goes into the national treasury.

● **Revision of the Rules in Civil Code (enforced on April 1, 2023)**


Since the use of land is hindered by the fact that some landowners are unknown or unlocatable, Civil Code were revised, and a new system was established to facilitate the use of the land.



〈Example〉

- Preparation of mechanisms for enabling the exclusion of co-owners whose whereabouts are unknown and managing common property.
- Establishment of mechanisms to enable an owner who co-owns a property to acquire the interests of a co-owner whose whereabouts is unknown.
- Establishment of a system for managing land/property with unknown owners and a system for managing mismanaged land/property to deal with cases in which the owner or their whereabouts are unknown, or cases when not properly managed.
- Establishment of mechanisms to ensure that any division of inherited property taking place more than 10 years after inheritance has begun is carried out uniformly according to the legal share of the inheritance.
- Preparation of mechanisms to enable the use of other land within the scope necessary for landowners to install lifeline utilities such as water and gas on their land.

See here for
a pamphlet on resolving
land with unknown owners





Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”

What is “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”?

The Ministry of Justice is promoting “Justice Affairs Diplomacy,” an initiative to promote across the globe fundamental values such as the rule of law and respect for human rights, which are the foundations for creating safe, secure societies where all people are protected by laws.

“Justice Affairs Diplomacy” contributes to sustainable development by promoting the establishment of legal infrastructure that underpins economic and social growth in various countries, thereby helping to establish the rule of law.

The importance of promoting “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” – which seeks to share values such as the rule of law that serve as the foundation of peace and security within the international community – has become more pressing than ever.

“Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum and its Outcomes

The Ministry of Justice hosted the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum in 2023. This consisted of the “ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers”, the “G7 Justice Ministers’ Meeting”, and the “ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers’ Interface”.

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



Photo at the “Justice Affairs Diplomacy” Ministerial Forum

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



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



● Outcomes of the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers:

→ Regularly holding the ASEAN-Japan Law Ministers’ Meeting

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

As a platform to continue ministerial-level dialogue in the field of law and justice that was established at the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers, the first ASEAN-Japan Law Ministers’ Meeting was held in November 2025. This meeting aims to further contribute to promoting the rule of law in the ASEAN region by following up at the ministerial level on the implementation of the “ASEAN-Japan Work Plan on Law and Justice” approved at the ASEAN-Japan Special Meeting of Justice Ministers. The Ministry of Justice will expand its cooperative relationship with ASEAN countries in the field of law and justice – which has primarily been bilateral – to include multilateral cooperation through this ministerial meeting and related initiatives.

Furthermore, in October 2025, the ASEAN-Japan Good Practice Seminar on Intellectual Property (JSIP Follow-up Seminar) was held. The seminar focused on countermeasures against counterfeit in e-commerce. Through the seminar, participants exchanged views by sharing information on their respective countries’ legal systems and practices.



ASEAN-Japan Law Ministers’ Meeting

● **Outcomes of the ASEAN-G7 Justice Ministers' Interface:**

→ Regularly holding the ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum

The ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum is held with the aim of promoting mutual understanding, building long-lasting relationships of trust and cooperation, and fostering cross-generational networks among young government officials (Next Leaders) in the field of law and justice from ASEAN and the G7 countries, while deepening their understanding of the importance of the rule of law.



ASEAN-G7 Next Leaders Forum

The second forum was held from September to October 2025, with around 40 young officials from around 20 countries and organizations attending. Participants exchanged views on policy issues faced by each country and discussed solutions to common challenges from the perspective of the rule of law.

● **Outcomes of the G7 Justice Ministers' Meeting:**

→ Regularly holding the Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine
(Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine: ACT for Ukraine)

The Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine was established based on the “Tokyo Declaration” adopted at the G7 Justice Ministers’ Meeting, with the Ministry of Justice serving as its secretariat. This Task Force aims to share and coordinate information on anti-corruption support measures for Ukraine by G7 countries, the United Nations, and others, ensuring adequate and balanced support from the international community.



Anti-Corruption Task Force for Ukraine

About 40 experts attended the fourth meeting held in Paris, France, in January 2026, including representatives from the justice ministries of each country, the EU, international organizations such as the United Nations, and Ukrainian judicial and law enforcement authorities.

Strengthening Relations with Pacific Island Countries and Central Asian countries

In July 2024, the Ministry of Justice hosted a symposium on “The Rule of Law and International Cooperation in Pacific Island Countries and Regions” as a commemorative event for the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10), engaging in discussions with justice ministers and senior officials of Pacific Island countries.



Symposium with Pacific Island Countries and Regions

Furthermore, as part of cooperation with Pacific Island countries and Central Asian countries in the field of law and justice, the Ministry of Justice engages in cooperative activities with Fiji, Samoa, Kyrgyz and Uzbekistan, including the sharing of information on our respective judicial systems and initiatives, based on the MOC and other frameworks.



Meeting between the Ministry of Justice of Japan and the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Ministry of Justice will continue to further strengthen cooperative relations with Pacific Island countries and Central Asian countries.

Column

Active Engagement of Officials of the Ministry of Justice in the International Arena

The Ministry of Justice actively dispatches its officials overseas. A number of officials from the Ministry of Justice serve as diplomats in other countries, mainly in Asia, North America and Europe, and as staff members of international organizations as well as long-term JICA experts.

Through these overseas assignments, the Ministry of Justice is advancing projects such as legal technical assistance for developing countries, while strengthening cooperation with international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to promote the rule of law.

Furthermore, by actively promoting dispatching young officials, the Ministry of Justice is also focusing on building the capacities of its officials, such as profound understanding of relevant international contexts and legal literacy.



Embassy staff and staff on secondment to international organizations in Thailand

Minister's Secretariat

Mission

The Minister's Secretariat is an organization established in all ministries responsible for general administrative duties such as secretarial, personnel, and finance, as well as overall coordination of policy planning and formulation. The Minister's Secretariat of the Ministry of Justice houses the Secretarial Division, Personnel Division, Finance Division, International Affairs Division, Facilities Division, Director of the Welfare Division, and Judicial System Department. (See page 21 onward for the duties of the International Affairs Division, Facilities Division, and Judicial System Department.)

Steering and Overall Coordination Within the Ministry

The Ministry of Justice is tasked with a wide range of policies relevant to the lives of people, such as maintaining and improving the basic legal system, maintaining law and order, protecting the rights of the people, ensuring the unified and proper handling of disputes related to the interests of the country, and fairly managing immigration and foreign nationals' residency.

In order to accomplish these missions, the affairs under its jurisdiction have been specifically subdivided, and the departments with jurisdiction have been defined. However, for diversified and complicated social situations, many of the policies involve multiple departments and policy issues that must be considered by the Ministry of Justice as a whole. Therefore, it is extremely important to play the role of "steering the Ministry of Justice" by coordinating the planning and drafting process of the various policies and formulating and implementing the Ministry of Justice's response policies within the Ministry and with related ministries and agencies under the leadership of the three political-level appointees, beginning with the Minister of Justice.

The Minister's Secretariat is responsible for the overall coordination among the various bureaus and departments to ensure the smooth operation of these legal administrations.

Activities of the Three Political-level Appointees

The main activities of the three political-level appointees are shared regularly in the photo news section on the Ministry of Justice website.



International conference



Overseas ceremony



Site visit to relevant facilities



Discussion with students

See here for
photo news



To Smoothly carry out Legal Administration by the People for the People

One of the characteristics of the Ministry of Justice is the large number of local institutions (Legal Affairs Bureau, Public Prosecutors Office, prison, probation office, Immigration Services Bureau, etc.) and the fact that more than 55,000 employees work throughout the country. The content of its work is also closely linked to the lives of individual citizens, including the operation of the registration system to help citizens realize their rights, human rights protection activities, and rehabilitation support for those who have committed crimes and delinquencies. Because of these characteristics the legal administration is called "administration by the people for the people."

Since creating an environment in which not only the Ministry but also local institutions are properly maintained and operated and in which each employee is able to perform assigned duties with vitality will eventually lead to the realization of a fair and just society in which everyone can live safely and securely, the Minister's Secretariat plays an important role in matters related to the overall structure and capacity of the Ministry of Justice, budget requests for implementing policies, and the maintenance of government buildings and other facilities.

ほうむSHOW

Houmu SHOW Editorial Office

The “Houmu SHOW” Editorial Office is a voluntary public relations team established in April 2021 with the aim of sharing information from a new perspective on the Ministry of Justice and its measures both domestically and internationally. The team consists of staff with a variety of experiences and skills who collaborate across departments.

Part of their initiatives includes participating in PR events such as Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga, creating mascot characters involving Ministry of Justice staff from across Japan, and other activities to contribute to making communication throughout the Ministry more active.

Some of the outcomes of their labors resulted in creating “Momojan” the PR mascot of the Ministry of Justice of Japan.



Children's Tour Day in Kasumigaseki

Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga

ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL

“Momojan” the PR mascot of the Ministry of Justice of Japan

There are a variety of characters at the Ministry of Justice; however, there were previously no mascots for overall public relations activities that were not linked to specific measures. To make the Ministry of Justice more familiar and make communicating its appeal more fun, all Ministry staff across Japan were called on to submit designs for characters that people would find appealing. In the end, Momojan was created to carry out new Ministry of Justice PR activities.

In the future, planning and dissemination of content utilizing Momojan will appear in various projects to introduce the initiatives and appeals of the Ministry to the public.

See here for more information on **MOMOJAN**



The PR mascot of the Ministry of Justice of Japan

MOMOJAN

Character introduction

“MOMOJAN” is a cheerful fairy who lives in the azalea hedges surrounding the Ministry of Justice of Japan. Every day “MOMOJAN” toddles around or floats through the air, exploring the grounds of the Ministry of Justice on a daily stroll.

“Nice to meet you, I am MOMOJAN! Hey, hey, what kind of place is the Ministry of Justice? What do you do for a living?”

“MOMOJAN” is still figuring it out, but is apparently curious about the staff working for the Ministry.

“I hope I can learn a lot of things with everyone!”

Discover!!

The charm of MOMOJAN

- “MOMOJAN” The name “MOMOJAN” includes “MOJ”, the initials of “Ministry of Justice”
- The fluffy fur has the same gentle red-brick color as the MOJ building.
- The eyes reflect azalea flowers. The yellow pattern symbolizes Libra♎, the scales representing equity and fairness.
- The cape’s clasp is inspired by the Japanese traditional crest (*kamon*) known as the *Gosan no Kiri* (Paulownia with five and three flowers).
- The fancy pattern on the belly is inspired by the design of the gate of the Ministry of Justice’s red brick building.
- The cape’s deep blue refers to the MOJ’s logo.
- You’ll spot the letters “MOJ” in the image! “M” for the ears, “O” for the face, “J” for the tail.

EBPM Initiatives by the Ministry of Justice

As seen in the rapid progress of digitalization, the society we live in changes significantly, and social issues are becoming increasingly more complex and difficult, making it difficult to predict the future. Even under these circumstances, the government must respond firmly to and resolve a variety of social issues.

Against this backdrop, it has been pointed out that there exists the so-called “myth of infallibility,” which is the tendency of the Japanese public administration to believe that the administration cannot be wrong and that the current system is not wrong. If you are caught up in infallibility, even if the environment changes and our policies do not adequately address social issues, you will easily continue to follow precedents, claiming that they have been right up until now.

In order to break free from this infallibility and respond to increasingly more complex social issues, it is necessary to establish a policy planning and evaluation system that allows us to learn and search for effective policies based on the premise that social conditions are constantly changing.

Consequently, the Ministry of Justice has been working on evidence-based policymaking (EBPM), which clarifies the logical linkage between policy objectives and measures as the basic policy framework. By clarifying the policy framework, it will be possible for the government and the various stakeholders to collaborate on increasingly more complex social issues with shared objectives and to verify and improve them after the fact. EBPM is an activity that will be the basis of policymaking in the future.

International Affairs Division

Mission

The International Affairs Division of the Minister's Secretariat was established on April 1, 2018, for the purpose of promoting "Justice Affairs Diplomacy", which is an effort to promote such values as the rule of law and respect for fundamental human rights internationally. The Division is responsible for planning and overall coordination of basic policies regarding international affairs of the Ministry of Justice, organizing international conferences, and coordinating courtesy calls by foreign government officials and others. The International Affairs Division responds to the various inquiries from relevant ministries, international organizations, and embassies, and conducts comprehensive planning for international policies of the Ministry of Justice based on a cross-ministry strategy.

See here for
the International
Affairs Division



Organizing International Conferences and their Outcomes

From the Kyoto Congress to the Abu Dhabi Congress

The 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (The "Kyoto Congress"), held in Kyoto from March 7 to 12, 2021, adopted the "Kyoto Declaration" as its outcome document. Five years later, the 15th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was held in the United Arab Emirates (Abu Dhabi) in April 2026.

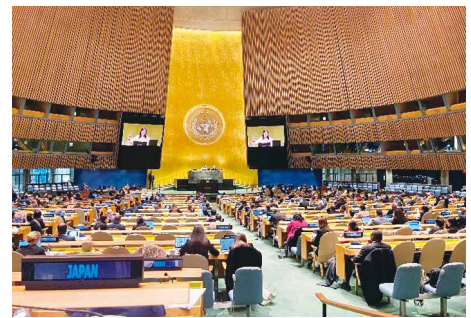
The Ministry of Justice continues implementing the following initiatives as the outcomes of the Kyoto congress, and takes a leading role to promote the rule of law.

● Leading the formulation of the "United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending - The Kyoto Model Strategies -"

The Kyoto Declaration includes detailed text on reducing reoffending, reflecting the strong interests expressed by various countries on this issue. Based on this, the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has led the formulation of the new United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending, known as the "Kyoto Model Strategies".

The Kyoto Model Strategies, adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2025, incorporate Japan's expertise in reducing reoffending through public-private partnerships and multi-stakeholder partnerships, such as the volunteer probation officer system ("*hogoshi*"). To contribute to enhancing measures to reduce reoffending globally, the Ministry of Justice aims to enhance the international recognition of, and contribute to making the best use of community volunteers, including *hogoshi*, or the volunteer probation officer system, as well as the new UN Model Strategies. The Ministry of Justice will also share insights on reducing reoffending measures in correctional facilities, including the initiatives of new imprisonment sentence, with other countries.

Furthermore, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), operated by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the United Nations, will promote capacity-building for criminal justice practitioners in various countries through international training programs and other activities related to the Kyoto Model Strategies.



Adoption at the UN General Assembly

● Regularly holding the "Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness"

The Kyoto Declaration highlighted the importance of youth empowerment for crime prevention. To follow up on this commitment, the Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), has convened the Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness for youth from around the world on a regular basis.

Most recently, the fourth forum was held in March 2026 under the theme of "Youth and Community Engagement in Preventing Re-offending through Social Reintegration". Through this forum, the Ministry of Justice aims to promote youth empowerment, an important element in fostering a culture of lawfulness, and to strengthen the rule of law in the international community.



The Global Youth Forum

See here for
Outcomes of the
Kyoto Declaration



For details, please refer to “Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”(Justice Affairs Diplomacy) (page 17)”.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations with Partner Countries

To promote “Justice Affairs Diplomacy,” it is essential to strengthen strategic cooperation with partner countries that share values such as the rule of law. The Ministry of Justice is enhancing cooperation with partner countries by continuously engaging in dialogue in the field of law and justice, taking into account the cooperative relationships built in this field and the international situations.

*For details, please refer to “Promotion of “Justice Affairs Diplomacy”(strengthening relations with Pacific Island countries and Central Asian countries) (page 18)”.

Promoting the Rule of Law in the Fields of International Civil and Commercial Law

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

The Ministry of Justice actively contributes to the development and dissemination of international rules in the fields of civil and commercial law.

At the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Japan proposed a project to research and analyze trends in the digitalization of dispute resolution practice. Based on such research and analysis, concrete discussions on the development of international rules regarding the digitalization of arbitration proceedings are underway.

In addition to actively participating in these discussions, the Ministry of Justice contributes in various ways, including dispatching its personnel to the UNCITRAL and hosting a forum in collaboration with UNCITRAL.



An arbitration event in Malaysia

● The promotion of international arbitration

International arbitration has become the global standard for a dispute resolution mechanism in cross-border commercial transactions. International arbitration has many advantages, for example:

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

The promotion of international arbitration helps Japanese companies expand their overseas businesses and contributes to promoting foreign investment. Therefore, the Ministry of Justice engages in various promotion activities on the use of international arbitration, in collaboration with arbitration-related organizations including foreign arbitral institutions, such as raising awareness concerning arbitration and mediation procedures and capacity building of arbitrators and arbitration counsels.



Promoting Legal Technical Assistance

Through activities primarily conducted by the International Cooperation Department (ICD) of the Research and Training Institute, the Ministry of Justice has contributed to promoting the rule of law and strengthening good governance by providing legal technical assistance to developing countries for many years. In a range of fields including civil, commercial, and Penal Code, the Ministry of Justice has been providing bilateral assistance to countries mainly in Southeast Asia for around 30 years. This assistance encompasses drafting and amending laws and regulations, strengthening the functions of legal/judicial institutions, and conducting capacity-building of legal professionals while carefully responding to the actual situation and needs of each country. In recent years, the Ministry of Justice has initiated assistance to Ukraine including anti-corruption measures against the backdrop of Russia’s invasion, while expanding our partner countries to Central Asia, Pacific Island countries, and Africa. Furthermore, through the activities of the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established under an agreement with the United Nations, the Ministry of Justice has provided international training in the field of criminal justice for around 60 years, along with providing bilateral assistance.

Legal technical assistance contributes to the development of judicial systems in partner countries and the dissemination of the rule of law. Furthermore, legal technical assistance also leads to strengthening the relationship between Japan and partner countries as a means of face-to-face international cooperation. It is an important initiative for promoting “Justice Affairs Diplomacy.”

Moving forward, the Ministry of Justice will further promote legal technical assistance, including cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary assistance based on the increasingly complex needs of partner countries.



Technical Assistance Program for Anti-Corruption Forensic Investigation in Ukraine



UNODC/UNAFEI Workshop in Cambodia

Facilities Division

Mission

In order to efficiently provide facilities and services that meet the objectives of the Ministry of Justice, the Facilities Division of the Minister's Secretariat conducts administrative work related to the development and management of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice, and provides international cooperation in the development of correctional facilities in foreign countries. With a view to ensuring the smooth execution of the entire range of administrative work of the Ministry of Justice, and in order to keep the Ministry's buildings where such work should be performed in optimal condition, the Facilities Division carries out facility management based on the key concepts of security, humanity, and harmony, while mobilizing all of the technical and creative abilities that has been accumulated over the years.

Facility Development and Management

The Facilities Division is responsible for the development of the facilities of the Ministry of Justice and undertakes the construction (including planning, designing, and construction supervision) of detention facilities (e.g., prisons, detention houses, and juvenile training schools) and office buildings (e.g., legal affairs bureaus, public prosecutors offices, and immigration bureaus). The Division also conducts all operations related to the ministry's facilities, from management to maintenance of the constructed facilities as government assets.

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



Detention facility
(Niigata prison)



Office building
(Tokushima Ministry of Justice office complex)

How We Manage Our Facilities

The total number of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice (e.g., prisons, detention houses, public prosecutors offices and legal affairs bureaus.) is 768 (as of April 1, 2025). The Division is working on reconstruction, long life renovation, repairing and preservation of the facilities to ensure that these facilities can be used in a sound condition. In addition, introducing wooden structures and wooden interior decorations as one of the initiative for achieving carbon neutrality.

Introduction of wooden structure and wooden interior decoration

In line with the enforcement of the "Act for Promotion of the Use of Wood in Buildings, etc. to contribute the Realization of a Decarbonized Society" on October 1, 2021, the Ministry of Justice also formulated the "Plan for Promotion of the Use of Wood in Public Buildings" in the same year and has promoted the introduction of wooden structures and wooden interior decoration in the facilities (excluding some detention facilities) developed by the Ministry.



Official residence of Matsuyama prison
(Introduction of the wooden structure)



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

Reconstruction

In the event of reconstruction, the Division tries to integrate the facilities of several agencies into one facility. By reducing the number of buildings and promoting the joint use of common spaces and facilities, the Division can save on the costs for facility management and maintenance.

The International Justice Center has been developed for facility integration by relocating the facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice from many places across Japan and bringing them together on the government-owned land located in Akishima City, Tokyo (the Akishima District of the former site of Tachikawa Air Base), in an area of approx. 126,000m². Based on local residents' ideas, in the International Justice Center, a greenway is provided on the west side of the premises so that the center blends with the scenery of the Musashino District surrounded by greenery and Showa Kin'en Park. As a result, the Division has achieved administrative objectives and developed attractive facility.



The International Justice Center (Completed in 2019)



Green road blending into the local landscape

International Cooperation

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

Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities, Architects, and Planners (ACCFA)

ACCFA allows participants to present and discuss issues faced by each country to share the latest information on correctional architecture. As a coordinator, Japan has taken a leadership role in the management of the ACCFA. The eighth conference was held in Japan with the participation of four organizations and 13 countries. The next one will be held in Thailand.



The 8th ACCFA 2019 (Japan)

Technical cooperation with the Kingdom of Thailand

The Division participated in the grants-in-aid project for constructing the Sirindhorn Vocational Training School led by the Japanese government, from the initial stages of field survey and basic design, and thus made a great contribution to the construction of this school. The Division also dispatched personnel to Thailand as JICA experts, and provided advice on the construction of correctional facilities, such as juvenile training schools and prisons, nation-wide.



Sirindhorn Vocational Training School

Our Training Programs

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

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

Official mascot character

- **Name** : SHISETSU KAME
- **Title** : Public Relations (Facilities Division official character)
- **Habitat** : Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice (16th floor, Building A, Central Government Building No. 6)



See here for
Facilities Division



Judicial System Department

Mission

The Judicial System Department of the Minister's Secretariat is responsible for matters related to laws and regulations, which are the foundation of the country. In particular, the Department is responsible for conducting research and studies, as well as the drafting of laws and regulations on the judicial system; clerical work related to collecting, filing, compiling, and publishing of data on laws and regulations, court precedents, and legal affairs; the administration of the Legislative Council of the Ministry of Justice; the compilation of statistics on the work handled by the Ministry; matters concerning comprehensive legal support; matters concerning law-related education; matters concerning the translation of Japanese laws and regulations; matters concerning the qualification of attorneys-at-law (*bengoshi*) certified by the Minister of Justice; matters concerning foreign lawyers registered as *Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi* (Gaiben); matters concerning the examination of license and authorization and the supervision of claim management and collection companies (servicers); and matters concerning the certification and supervision of private dispute resolution services.

Training in Legal Professions to Support Japan's Judicial Foundation

With the reform of the judicial system in 2001, the "processes" of legal training were established with graduate school of law at its core, in order to train a large number of quality people in the legal professions. The Ministry of Justice, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) and other relevant organizations, is implementing the necessary measures that reflect on the current state of all systems of legal training in the legal professions, and the expansion of activities in relevant legal professions, to make legal services more accessible to the various fields of society.

See here for
Portal site about the
Legal Professions



Promotion of Law-Related Education

Law-related education aims to enable citizens who are not legal professionals to understand the laws, the judicial system, and the values that underlie the legal system, such as respect for fundamental human rights, and the rule of law. In a modern society where values are becoming more diverse and complex, it is important to cultivate the ability to live together as members of society while maintaining a firm grasp on one's own ideas and respecting the ideas of others through law-related education. The Ministry of Justice is taking a wide range of actions to further promote law-related education.

◆ Fostering Leaders in Law-Related Education

By sponsoring law-related education seminars and dispatching instructors to the various teacher training programs, the Ministry of Justice conveys the significance of law-related education and how to implement it, as well as cultivating leaders in law-related education.

◆ Support for making it easier to implement Law-Related Education

The Ministry of Justice prepared law-related education materials for each developmental stage, which has been made available on the Ministry of Justice website (including examples of model classes and explanatory videos). Personnel of the Ministry of Justice are sent to schools to offer special classes in response to requests.

◆ Public Relations and Awareness-raising of Law-Related Education

Hourisu-kun, a mascot for law-related education, made law-related education more familiar to the general public.



For elementary and junior high school

For high school



Law-Related Education mascot,
"Hourisu-kun"

See here for
X account



Promotion of Translation of Japanese Laws

In order to ensure that Japanese laws are widely and accurately understood, the Ministry of Justice is actively translating Japanese laws into foreign languages, and is rapidly moving ahead with a system to publish the translations on its dedicated website (JLT: Japanese Law Translation). Over 1000 English translations of the laws, including the Civil Code and Companies Act, are published on the Japanese Law Translation website, along with English translations of the outlines of amended laws in an easy-to-follow and timely manner.

See here for the
JLT



Attorney Certification System

In order to obtain the attorney qualification, a person is required to complete a legal apprentice training course after passing the national bar examination in principle. However, as an exception to this, the attorney qualification through the Attorney Certification System with the approval of the Minister of Justice shall be given to those who have passed the national bar examination and have acquired a certain level of actual legal practice experience in a corporation, etc.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the certification of the attorney qualification.

Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi (Registered Foreign Lawyers)

The Gaikokuho-Jimu-Bengoshi system is designed to permit a person qualified as a lawyer in a foreign jurisdiction to handle specific legal services in Japan as a registered foreign lawyer without the qualification examinations. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for work concerning the approval of qualifications for registered foreign lawyers.

Claim Management and Collection Companies (Servicers)

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for reviewing the approvals of claim management and collection, as well as for supervising servicers to ensure appropriate practices through on-site inspections.

System of Certified Dispute Resolution

In order to promote the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR), the Ministry of Justice certifies private dispute resolution services (such as those for conciliation and mediation of civil disputes conducted by private businesses) that are deemed appropriate and that meet the standards and requirements set forth in laws and regulations.

◆ Promotion of Online Dispute Resolution

In March 2022, the Ministry of Justice formulated the Basic Policy for Promoting Online Dispute Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Policy”) in order to promote online dispute resolution (ODR), which uses digital technology for private dispute resolution online. In addition to ODR with the features of ADR (such as flexibility of procedures, simplicity, speed, nonpublic nature, and the use of specialists in the field of the dispute), it also brings the additional advantages of not requiring face-to-face meetings and not being limited by time and location. In recent years, an increasing number of certified dispute resolution business operators have adopted online meetings for conciliation and mediation.

The Ministry of Justice is implementing a wide range of initiatives, including those in line with the Basic Policy, to make private dispute resolution by certified dispute resolution business operators more accessible to the general public.



See here for
ADR website



Comprehensive legal support centering on Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu)

Houterasu was established under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice in April 2006 for the purpose of promptly and appropriately rendering a comprehensive legal support service. While working to build and strengthen networks with a variety of different organizations, Houterasu provides the following five services as stipulated in Article 30, Paragraph 1, of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act. Houterasu also provides aid services entrusted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

1. Information Service

Provision of free information on legal systems and consultation services for the settlement of legal problems

2. Civil Legal Aid

Free legal consultations for persons of limited means or people with a low income or to make an advance payment of fees for the services of an attorney or judicial scrivener

3. Services Related to Court-Appointed Attorneys

Notification of candidates to act as a court-appointed defense counsel to court, and the calculation and payment of the fees to court-appointed defense counsel

4. Measures for Areas with Limited Legal Services

Establishment of regional offices and regular placement of staff attorneys to offer general legal services in areas where legal services are hard to access

5. Services Related to Crime Victim Support

Provision of supportive information for crime victims, introduction of attorneys who are well-versed in assisting victims and their families, implementation of legal consultations for the victims of specific acts of trespass against the person (meaning spousal violence, stalking and child abuse), and notification of candidates for court-appointed participating victim's attorneys to courts.

▶ Please refer to [Special Feature 3: Support for Victims of Crime] (page 11) when you would like to know more information about an attorney-based victim support system.



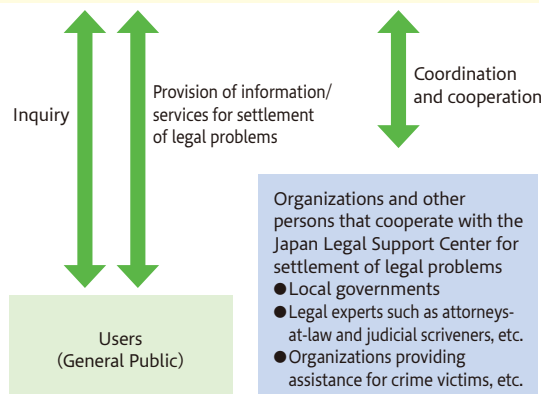
Houterasu
Support Dial

☎ 0570-078374

Crime Victim
Support Line

☎ 0120-079714

See here for
Japan Legal Support Center
(Houterasu) website



Civil Affairs Bureau

Mission

The Civil Affairs Bureau is responsible for handling affairs related to registration systems for companies and real estate, family registration, nationality (citizenship), deposit services, storage of wills, the Inherited Land Treasury Return System, notarizations, judicial scriveners, land and house investigators, and the planning and drafting of civil legislation, such as the Civil Code, the Commercial Code, and the Code of Civil procedure, with the aim of protecting the rights and property of citizens.

Establishment of Civil Basic Legal Systems

The Civil Affairs Bureau administers the fundamental laws on civil affairs and is working to improve them.

The fundamental laws on civil affairs refer to civil laws that broadly govern the rights and obligations between private individuals, including the subjects (including corporations), content, and procedures for enforcing such rights and obligations.

These laws cover legal relationships concerning contract, such as the sale of goods or lease; family relationships, such as marital and parent-child relationships; and legal relationships concerning succession and wills.

Examples include the Civil Code, Commercial Code, Companies Act, and Code of Civil Procedure.

As change in socioeconomic situations, these laws, which establish fundamental matters concerning civil law, may need to be revised.

Furthermore, regarding specific areas within civil law, other ministries and agencies may enact laws establishing special provisions to the basic laws based on certain policy objectives.

In such cases, the Civil Affairs Bureau either amends the laws under its jurisdiction or cooperates with other ministries and agencies in their deliberations from the standpoint of the agency responsible for the basic laws.

The following are recent examples of amendments to the fundamental laws on civil affairs.

① Amendment of the Rules related to Child-Rearing after Divorce

Considering the serious impact of divorce on child-rearing and the diversification of the circumstances of child-rearing, for the purpose of ensuring the interests of children, the Act partially amending the Civil Code related to child-rearing after divorce was enacted, and came into effect on April 1, 2026. The main points are as follows:

- The amended Civil Code clarifies that parents have the following responsibilities to raise their children, regardless of whether they have parental responsibility or marital status. Parents have a responsibility to raise their children while respecting the individuality of their children. Also, parents have a responsibility to support their child so that the child can maintain a standard of living equivalent to that of the parents. Furthermore, parents must respect one another's individuality and cooperate in the interests of their children.
- It is possible for parents to share joint parental responsibility after divorce.
- The parent who continues to have primary custody of the child from the time of divorce may claim a fixed amount of "statutory child support" from the other parent, even if no child support agreement was made at the time of divorce. In addition, a "Statutory Lien" is established to prioritize child support claims, meaning that even in the absence of a title of obligation, it is possible to initiate seizure proceedings and give priority child support creditors over other general creditors up to a fixed amount.
- In order to ensure parent-child visitation in an appropriate manner after parental separation or divorce, trial implementation of parent-child visitation has been established during the course of family court proceedings and rules for parent-child visitation when married parents are living separately have been clarified.

② Digitalization of Civil Court Proceedings

Civil court proceedings include civil litigation proceedings (the proceedings for final resolution of civil disputes by judgment), civil enforcement proceedings (the proceedings to seize and realize assets or transfer assets), and bankruptcy proceedings (the proceedings for liquidating the assets of insolvent debtors).

To achieve full digitalization of these proceedings, laws such as the Code of Civil Procedure and the Civil Enforcement Act have been amended.

Regarding digitalization of the civil litigation proceedings, the Act to Amend the Code of Civil Procedure is scheduled to come into force by May 2026. By this amendment, it becomes possible to file all complaints online, utilize web conferences for court hearings and case records are digitalized. The act to amend other civil court proceedings is scheduled to come into force in stages by June 2028.

Efforts to address cases of people not recorded in the family register

Prior to the amendment to the Civil Code in 2022, if a woman gave birth during marriage or within 300 days after divorce, the (ex-)husband was presumed to be the father of the child (presumption of children born in wedlock). As a result, some births were not reported such cases as where the biological father was not the (ex-)husband, leaving the child unrecorded in the family register.

People not recorded in the family register may face significant difficulties in their daily lives, including limited access to certain public and administrative services. For this reason, it is imperative to eliminate unregistered status as soon as possible.

In response, the Civil Code was partially amended to revise the provisions related to the presumption of children born in wedlock. Under the amended law, for children born on or after April 1, 2024, not only the (ex-)husband but also the mother and the child may bring an action to deny paternity.

For more detailed information, please visit the Ministry of Justice website.

See here for
people not
recorded in the
family register



Efforts to Solve the Issue of Unclaimed Land

Unclaimed land is difficult to use and manage, which impedes public works projects and disaster recovery. New systems to solve these unclaimed land problems have come into effect sequentially from 2023. (For details, please refer to “Promoting Measures against Unclaimed Land (page 15) ”)



Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau



State of the Legal Affairs Bureau

Responsibilities of the Legal Affairs Bureau

As a regional organization of the Ministry of Justice, the Legal Affairs Bureau is responsible for civil administrative affairs that protect the property and identity of citizens, such as registration, family register, nationality, deposit and storage of wills, Inherited Land Treasury Return System, and the litigation work relevant to the interests of the state and the human rights affairs that protect basic human rights.

See here for
“Legal Affairs
Bureau website.”



Organization of the Legal Affairs Bureau

The Legal Affairs Bureaus are divided into eight blocks nationwide, with a Legal Affairs Bureau in charge of each block (8 bureaus), and placed under these Legal Affairs Bureaus are the District Legal Affairs Bureaus, which are generally responsible for prefectural units (42 bureaus).

Moreover, Branch District Legal Affairs Bureaus and Branch Offices have been placed under the Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus. The Legal Affairs Bureaus, District Legal Affairs Bureaus and Branch District Legal Affairs Bureaus are responsible for registration, family register, nationality, office deposits, storage of wills, Inherited Land Treasury Return System, litigation, and human rights affairs, while Branch Offices are mainly responsible for registration.

Topics

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

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

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

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

(従来の登記情報)

役員に関する事項	東京都千代田区一丁目1番1号
代表取締役	法務太郎



(非表示措置後の登記情報)

役員に関する事項	東京都千代田区
代表取締役	法務太郎

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

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

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

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

See here for
the system of address
confidentiality measure for the
representative of company



Criminal Affairs Bureau

Mission

The Criminal Affairs Bureau is responsible for the planning and drafting of criminal legislation, such as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure; affairs regarding prosecution; and affairs regarding the extradition of criminals and fugitives as well as mutual international legal assistance. The Criminal Affairs Bureau comprises the General Affairs Division, Criminal Affairs Division, Public Security Division, Criminal Legislative Division, and International Affairs Division, which are responsible for operations and measures related to the affairs under their respective jurisdictions. The Criminal Affairs Bureau is committed to its daily work of achieving social justice by ensuring that those who should be punished are appropriately penalized.

Improvement of the Criminal Legal System in Line with the Times

The Criminal Affairs Bureau conducts the necessary studies and reviews of criminal laws and regulations such as the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure in order to develop a criminal legal system that responds to changes in social conditions and public awareness in line with the times.

In recent years, in order to prevent the escape of defendants on bail or those who have been sentenced, to ensure their appearance at trial dates and the execution of their sentences, to protect the names and other information of crime victims throughout the criminal process, to develop laws to strictly deal with sex crimes and to digitalize criminal procedures, amendments were made to the Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedures.

Regarding developing laws to digitalize criminal procedures (2025), regulations have been established to enable the creation, management, and transmission of documents handled in criminal proceedings and other related matters using digital data, to enable wider utilization of video link systems for procedures conducted face-to-face between parties involved in criminal proceedings and other related matters, to appropriately address criminal cases arising from advances in information and communication technology.

Promoting Digitalization of Criminal Procedure

In response to legal reforms that advance the digitization of criminal procedures, efforts are underway to reduce the burden on the public involved in these procedures and to expedite them. Those efforts include the development of systems that facilitate the digitization of documents used in investigations and trials, as well as procedures that enable the online exchange of such electronic data.

International Cooperation in Criminal

In order to accurately respond to the internationalization of crimes associated with the international trafficking of people and goods and advances in information and communication technology, and to strictly address such crimes, it is necessary to more effectively gather evidence from abroad and strengthen cooperation between foreign investigative authorities and those of Japan.

Examples of such enhancement of cooperation include the treaties and agreements between Japan and the United States of America (entered into force on July 2006), the Republic of Korea (entered into force on January 2007), the People's Republic of China (entered into force on November 2008), the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China (entered into force on September 2009), the European Union (entered into force on January 2011), the Russian Federation (entered into force on February 2011), and the socialist Republic of Viet Nam (entered into force on August 2022), as well as the Convention on Cybercrime (entered into force on November 2012), the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (entered into force on August 2017) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (entered into force on August 2017). These treaties, agreements, and conventions enable communication for the collection of evidence directly between the Ministry of Justice or the National Police Agency and the judicial authorities of the respective countries or regions, which expedites the process as opposed through diplomatic channels. The Ministry of Justice is committed to further strengthening international cooperation.

Public Prosecutors Office

The Public Prosecutors Office consists of Supreme Public Prosecutors Offices, High Public Prosecutors Offices, District Public Prosecutors Offices, and Local Public Prosecutors Offices, which correspond to their respective courts. In the Public Prosecutors Office, public prosecutors and assistant public prosecutors are proud to perform their duties of realizing social justice and protecting law and order, which is the foundation of civil life and the social economy.



The Public Prosecutors Office offers on-demand lessons and study camps. The details of the lessons can be arranged depending on the purpose. Feel free to contact your nearest Public Prosecutors Office to apply for the lessons.

See here for
Public Prosecutors
Office Website



See here for
Public
Prosecutors
Office Brochure



Public Prosecutors Office's
PR character
Saiban Inko



Public Prosecutors

A public prosecutor investigates cases referred by the police and decides whether the case should be prosecuted in court. In addition, a public prosecutor attends trials for prosecuted cases to prove that the accused (prosecuted person) committed the crime. After the conclusion of the examination of evidence, public prosecutors present their opinions to the court regarding the punishment that should be imposed on the accused. After the accused is found guilty, public prosecutors command the execution. As a representative of the public interest, the public prosecutor further completes the administrative duties specified by laws and regulations.



See here for a
Public Prosecutor



Assistant Public Prosecutors

Assistant public prosecutors are involved in criminal procedures from the criminal investigation to the court proceeding and punishment execution by giving assistance to or receiving direction from public prosecutors. They are also involved in clerical work for general and personnel affairs and accounting.



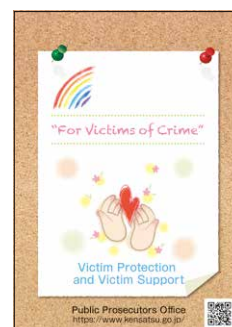
Support for the Efforts of the Public Prosecutors Office

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

(1) Support for Crime Victims

To protect and support victims of crimes, a variety of support systems are in place for each stage of the investigation and trial. For more details, please access the Ministry of Justice website via the two-dimensional code on the right.

See here for
information of
Crime Victims
Support Services



(2) Recidivism Prevention in the Public Prosecutors Office

The Public Prosecutors Office, in cooperation with the Probation Office, bar associations, welfare agencies, and medical institutions, implements efforts to bridge social services upon release from custody entrance support. In addition, in order to ensure the smooth implementation of support, a department in charge has been established in each prosecutor's office, with public prosecutors and public prosecutors' assistant officers in charge, and initiatives have been promoted by hiring social workers as social welfare advisors and obtaining their advice as needed.

Correction Bureau

Mission

The Correction Bureau conducts administrative work related to the operation of correctional facilities for the purpose of preventing recidivism and reoffending by providing guidance according to age, disability, and problems caused by the crime so that people who have committed crimes or delinquent acts can reflect on their crimes and smoothly re-entry society.

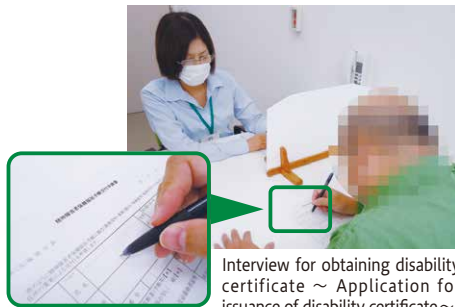
Correctional Treatment under the New “Imprisonment”

Based on the purpose of the new “imprisonment”, 24 correctional treatment groups have been established for groups of sentenced inmates with certain common characteristics, considering age, physical and mental condition, term of sentence, and circumstances that may hinder reformation and rehabilitation and smooth re-entry into society. Sentenced inmates are assigned to appropriate groups according to their individual characteristics and are treated in groups at institutions implementing those treatments, enabling effective and efficient treatment.

Correctional Treatment Group	Inmates	Correctional Treatment Group	Inmates															
D	Group for Persons Sentenced to Penal Detention Persons sentenced to penal detention	O	Open House Treatment Group Persons who are deemed suitable for a treatment in an open-house facility/Traffic offenders															
Jt	Group for Persons Eligible for Juvenile Training School Among juvenile persons under 16 years of age, for whom correctional education in a juvenile training school is expected to be effective	ST	Group for Short Term Persons Persons whose sentence to be served is less than 6 months															
I	Group for Persons Serving Imprisonment Without Work Persons sentenced to imprisonment without work	A	Addiction Recovery Group Persons who have drug abuse history, and are deemed appropriate to go through an intensive addiction recovery program															
F	Group for Foreign Persons Foreign persons who have difficulties in being treated similarly to Japanese inmate	DS	Group for Senior Persons Requiring Daily Care Persons who are approximately 70 years of age and over, having difficulties in managing their daily lives independently due to dementia, physical disability and other reasons															
FX	Group for Foreign Persons Requiring Special Needs Foreign persons who fall under F Group criteria and requiring further special consideration	DH	Group for Handicapped Persons Requiring Daily Care Persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or with equivalent needs															
FZ	Group for Foreign Persons under Certain Treaties Foreign persons who fall under F Group criteria and requiring certain treatment based on treaties or agreements	DM	Group for Persons with Mental Disorder Requiring Daily Care Persons with mental illness or disability, who do not require being committed to a medical prison, etc., but having difficulties in managing their daily lives independently															
J	Group for Juvenile Persons Juvenile inmates who do not require commitment to a juvenile training school	<p>New perspective to replace conventional AB treatment index Judging on 2 axes (Recidivism Risk and Readiness for Treatment*) (4 Levels)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Treatment Level</th> <th>Recidivism Risk</th> <th>Readiness for Treatment</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Level 1</td> <td>Low</td> <td>High</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 2</td> <td>Low</td> <td>Med - Low</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 3</td> <td>High</td> <td>High - Med</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Level 4</td> <td>High</td> <td>Low</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>* Degree of attitude towards correctional treatment, and readiness for reformation and rehabilitation</p>		Treatment Level	Recidivism Risk	Readiness for Treatment	Level 1	Low	High	Level 2	Low	Med - Low	Level 3	High	High - Med	Level 4	High	Low
Treatment Level	Recidivism Risk	Readiness for Treatment																
Level 1	Low	High																
Level 2	Low	Med - Low																
Level 3	High	High - Med																
Level 4	High	Low																
Y	Group for Youth Persons (LV 1-3) Persons whose age is between 20 and 26 years of age, who are assigned to LV 1-3 according to their Treatment Level																	
L	Group for Long Term Persons (LV 1-4) Persons whose term of imprisonment to be served is 10 years and more, who are assigned to LV 1-4 according to their Treatment Level																	
G	Group for General Persons (LV 1-4) Persons who do not fall under any other Program criteria, who are assigned to LV 1-4 according to their Treatment Level																	



Example of treatment for DS Group
To maintain or improve cognitive and physical functions, functional improvement work is performed under the guidance of an occupational therapist.



Example of treatment for DH Group
To ensure smooth access to welfare services after release, interviews for obtaining various disability certificates are conducted during incarceration.



Example of treatment for DM Group
Disease education (psychoeducation) is provided to help individuals gain a proper understanding of their own illnesses and symptoms, and to enhance their self-management skills for post-release life situations and treatment.

Redefining the Social Mission of Correctional Administration

“With the power of belief in rehabilitation, toward a safer and more prosperous society.”

This is the mission of Japan’s correctional administration.

Those who have committed crimes or delinquent acts often carry a troubled and traumatic past, along with various problems that are difficult to resolve on their own. They are placed in prisons, detention centers, juvenile training schools, or juvenile classification homes. Even at this very moment, we correctional officers are working face-to-face with each individual, making continuous efforts and taking practical steps to help them confront their own offenses, achieve rehabilitation, and reintegrate into society.

In 2023, Hearing and Communication System about the Sentiments of Victims was introduced. In 2025, the new type of criminal penalty, “imprisonment,” was implemented. The role that correctional administration plays in society is changing.

To flexibly respond to these changes and realize a correctional administration suited to the times ahead, in 2025 we announced our guiding principles—Mission, Vision, and Values—and the medium-term administrative policy to achieve them, known as “National Strategy for Correctional Administration 2030.”

“With the power of belief in rehabilitation, toward a safer and more prosperous society.” To realize this mission, we correctional officers—together with all members of society—will work to envision and achieve the future of correctional services.



See here for
**Correctional
Mission, Vision,
and Values**



See here for
**National Strategy
for Correctional
Administration 2030**



Introduction of Correctional Institutions

Penal institutions

Penal institutions consist of prisons that confine inmates sentenced to new “imprisonment” etc. (for a while, inmates sentenced to imprisonment with or without work); juvenile prisons that confine juvenile inmates sentenced to such imprisonment; and detention centers that mainly confine defendants or suspects whose innocence or guilt has not been determined or whose criminal sentences have not been confirmed.

See here for
**Pamphlet of Penal
Institutions in Japan**



Juvenile Assessment Centers

Juvenile assessment centers confine juveniles who have been referred by a family court when the court orders protective measures and conduct assessments of these juveniles. They also provide consultation services to the general public, schoolteachers, and other concerned parties on delinquency, bullying, domestic violence, and other issues to prevent acts of delinquency and crimes in the community.

See here for
**Pamphlet of Juvenile
Assessment Centers**



Juvenile Training Schools

Juvenile Training Schools confine juveniles who have been sent from a family court as protective measures that provide correctional education and reintegration support.

See here for
**Pamphlet of Juvenile
Training Schools**



Training Institute for Correctional Personnel

The Training Institute for Correctional Personnel of the Ministry of Justice provides the necessary work training programs for personnel engaged in correctional services, as well as evidence-based research on correctional treatment.

See here for
**webpage of Training
Institute for Correctional
Personnel**



Rehabilitation Bureau

Mission

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

Community Corrections

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



Group Session (image)

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

Contribution to Local Community

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

- The probation office responds to consultations from local residents, including from those who have committed offenses, and related organizations and provides information, advice, and other assistance using its expertise in offender rehabilitation. This initiative is referred to as assistance to local community members for offenders reintegration.
- For those who left offender rehabilitation facilities and now live in the community, the offender rehabilitation facilities personnel provide ongoing support until they get their lives back on track, such as visiting them for consultation and accompanying them through the various procedures necessary for life in society.
- In some areas, the probation office has commissioned the private sector with specialized expertise to develop a community support scheme involving local stake-holders like municipalities, the private sector and volunteers, and are assisting their activities.

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

Learn more assistance to local community members for offenders reintegration



Mobilizing Eligible Persons to Serve as Hogoshi

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

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

See here for the Rehabilitation Bureau



Organizations and Stakeholders for Offender Rehabilitation

Government sectors

Regional Parole Boards

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

Probation Offices

Probation Offices are located in 50 cities nationwide and are at the front line of supervising adult/juvenile supervisees and conducting medical treatment and supervision.

Probation Officers

Probation officers are government officers of the Ministry of Justice who work at the Secretariat of the Regional Parole Board or the Probation Office. With expertise in medicine, psychology, pedagogy, sociology, and other areas, they work with *hogoshi* to conduct supervision and re-entry coordination of inmates.

Rehabilitation Coordinators

Rehabilitation coordinators are government officers with qualifications as mental health social workers who work in probation offices. They provide mental health supervision, re-entry investigations, and re-entry coordination in cooperation with relevant local institutions. These services are for subjects with regard to the system of medical treatment and supervision for persons who have committed a designated serious harmful act under the state of insanity or diminished capacity.

National Centers for Offender Rehabilitation

The National Center for Offender Rehabilitation provides fundamental necessities such as accommodation and meals to supervisees who are discharged from correctional facilities without any support from their families or relatives. The Center is operated by probation officers, and they conduct direct and intensive supervision, and attentive employment assistance support to the supervisees who do not have enough social capital to enhance their smooth reintegration into the society. There are 4 such centers nationwide.

Private sectors

Hogoshi (Volunteer Probation Officers)

Hogoshi are private citizens commissioned by the Minister of Justice to support people who have committed crimes or delinquencies in the community in their efforts to rehabilitate. *Hogoshi* have the status of part-time government officers but do not receive a salary, except for all or part of the actual expenses needed to exert their duties.

Women's Association for Rehabilitation Aid

Women's Associations for Rehabilitation Aid are engaged in a wide range of activities for crime prevention, youth development, childcare support, and support for offender rehabilitation facilities.

BBS Association

Big Brothers and Sisters Associations are youth volunteer organizations that provide support for the healthy growth of juveniles by interacting with them as friendly older brothers or sisters.

Cooperating Employer

Cooperating employers are private business owners who are willing to, or actually do, employ offenders to help them return to society and live independent lives.

Offender Rehabilitation Facilities

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

Self-Reliance Support Homes

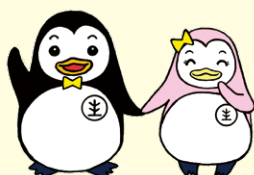
Self-reliance support homes provide accommodations for persons without residences or families or relatives on whom they can depend through use of vacant rooms, such as those of nonprofit organizations registered with probation offices, and they assist in the establishment of their independent lives.

Rehabilitation Aid Association

Rehabilitation Aid Associations contribute to the building of networks of support and connections to the local community, as well as subsidize and provide training programs to the organizations for offender rehabilitation. Moreover, the Associations implement their duties to raise public awareness of offender rehabilitation within the local community.

Mascot characters of Offender Rehabilitation

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



See here for
"Hogo-chan" & "Sara-chan"



The Yellow Feather

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



See here for the
"Yellow Feather Campaign"



Human Rights Bureau

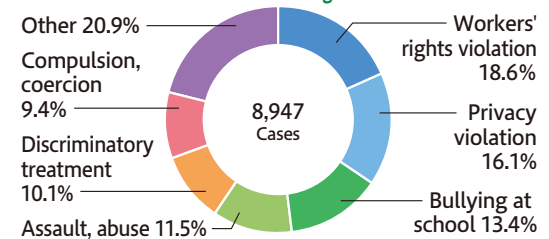
Mission

The Human Rights Bureau provides consultations on a variety of human rights issues and offers advice according to the details of the consultation, investigates and resolves human rights violations such as bullying or sexual harassment, and conducts a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities to improve each citizen's awareness and understanding of human rights.

Human Rights Counseling, Investigation and Resolution of Human Rights Violations

Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide offer human rights counseling by phone and via the Internet (including a chat app). Therefore, depending on the case, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice may provide *assistance* in the form of legal advice, *coordination* in the form of mediation of discussions between the parties concerned, or *instructions* and *recommendations* to demand improvement from persons who committed the human rights violation in an effort to remedy and prevent further damage.

Breakdown of the Number of Human Rights Violation Cases in 2024



Children's Human Rights Issues

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice distribute the Children's Rights SOS Mini-Letters (letter paper with a pre-stamped envelope for human rights counseling). In addition, a dedicated consultation phone, the Children's Rights Hotline (toll-free number 0120-007-110 [from anywhere in Japan]) has been set up, and Legal Affairs Bureau personnel and Human Rights Volunteers are available for consultations with children. In addition, the Ministry of Justice has established the Human Rights Counseling Service on the Internet (Children's Rights SOS-e mail) on its website and provides human rights counseling through a chat app, among other means, in an effort to detect human rights violations involving children at an early stage.



Children's rights SOS mini-letters (for elementary school students)

Countermeasures against Human Rights Violations on the Internet

Legal Affairs Bureaus nationwide provide human rights counseling regarding human rights violations on the Internet. If they suspect a human rights violation during a consultation, they will conduct investigation based on the consulters' intentions. If the investigation finds a violation of human rights, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice will take measures, such as requesting that the providers delete the information.

Human Rights Counseling Services

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English Chinese Korean Filipino Portuguese Vietnamese Nepalese Spanish Indonesian Thai 	Human Rights Hotline	0570-003-110 <small>(nationwide)</small>
	Children's Rights Hotline	0120-007-110 <small>(nationwide toll-free number)</small>
	Foreign-language Human Rights Hotline	0570-090-911 <small>(nationwide)</small>

PC Smartphone Mobile

Human Rights Counseling service on the Internet

About the Ministry of Justice

Special Feature

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

Qualifications and Employment

Making the Ministry of Justice More Familiar

Human Rights Awareness-Raising

In order to convey the importance of mutual respect for human rights, the human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities, such as sponsoring symposiums, providing human rights lectures and various forms of training, publishing awareness-raising materials, and distributing advertisements via the Internet.

1. The Priority Goal of Awareness-Raising Activities “It’s not someone else’s problem.”

In Japan, there are a variety of human rights problems related to children, persons with disabilities, minorities, Buraku discrimination (Dowa Issue), and human rights violations on the Internet. However these are never someone else’s problems nor are they unrelated to your life. The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice conduct a variety of human rights awareness-raising activities by setting “It’s not someone else’s problem” as a priority goal of the awareness-raising activities so that everyone is aware of these human rights problems, recognize the importance of mutual respect for human rights, and take action with consideration for the human rights of others.

2. National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

The National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students has been held since 1981 for the purpose of enabling junior high school students, an important future generation, to deepen their understanding of the importance and necessity of human rights and to foster an awareness of human rights by writing essays on human rights issues.



Human Rights Lecture



“The Priority Goal of Awareness-Raising Activities” poster



Winning essays collections in the 43rd National Essay Contest on Human Rights for Junior High School Students

Who are Human Rights Volunteers?

Human rights volunteers are private citizens appointed by the Minister of Justice. Currently, approximately 14,000 human rights volunteers are assigned to each municipality in Japan (including special wards in Tokyo). The Human Rights Volunteer System was established in 1948 based on the concept that it is desirable for people from different fields to share the importance and to protect human rights in the local communities. Human rights volunteers, together with Legal Affairs Bureau and District Legal Affairs Bureau officials, have taken advantage of each other's strengths and carried out human rights counseling and activities to raise the awareness of human rights.

See here for
Human Rights Volunteers
Special Page



Column

What is Hate Speech?

Hate speech is discriminatory speech and behavior intended to exclude people of certain ethnic groups or nationalities. Hate speech not only causes anxiety or repugnance in people but could also violate human dignity or generate a discriminatory environment. Such speech and behavior will not be tolerated in seeking to realize a mature, inclusive society where diversity is respected and there is no unfair discrimination or prejudice. Let us work together to build a society that recognizes differences in ethnicity and nationality and one that respects each other's human rights.



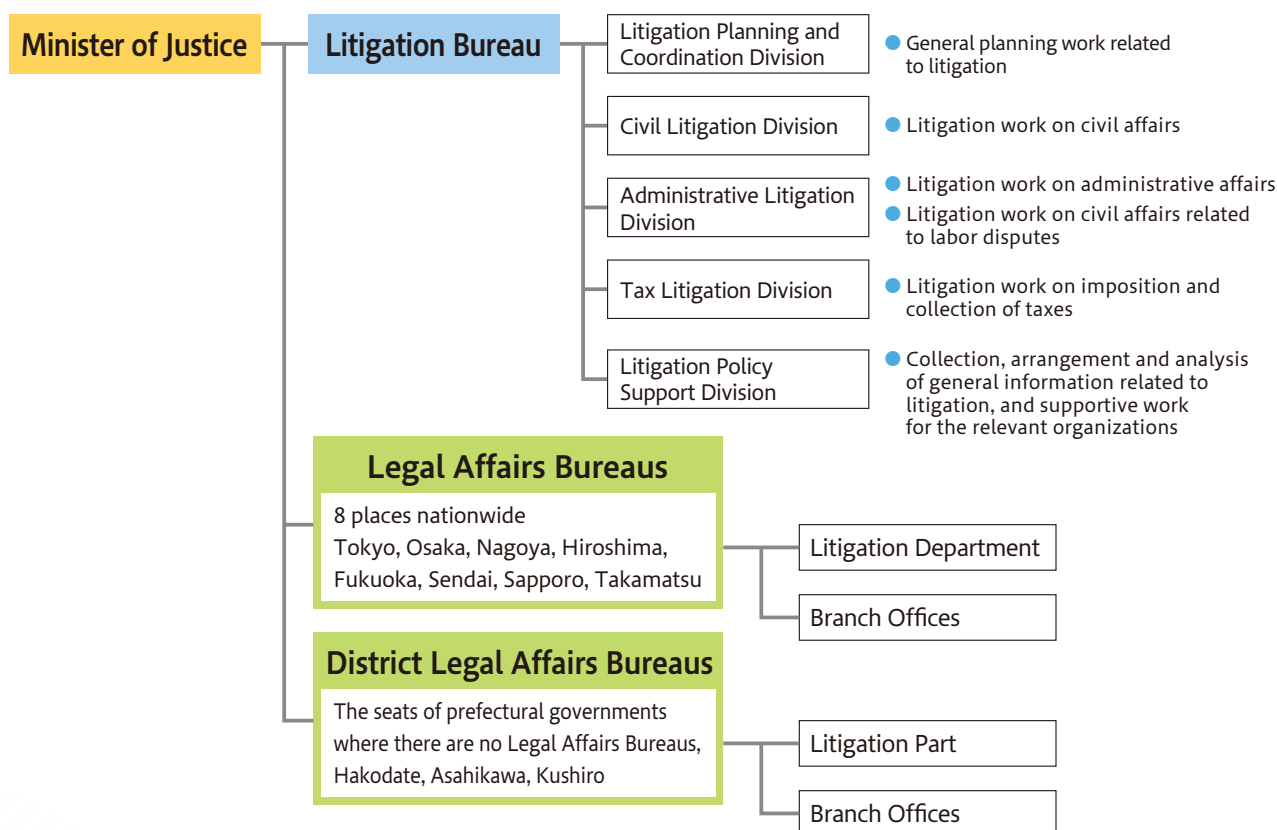
Litigation Bureau

Mission

For the purpose of the unified and appropriate handling of national litigation, the Litigation Bureau handles civil and administrative lawsuits in which the state is a party and is also responsible for providing legal advice at the request of government ministries and agencies concerning cases that may lead to legal disputes (so-called Preventive Legal Support System). Among lawsuits involving local governments, incorporated administrative agencies, and other public corporations specified by cabinet order as a party to the lawsuits, those where the state has a deemed interest shall also be handled by the Bureau upon request.

Litigation Organization

The litigation organization from the Minister of Justice on down consists of the Litigation Bureau located within the Ministry of Justice, and the Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus as local implementation organizations.



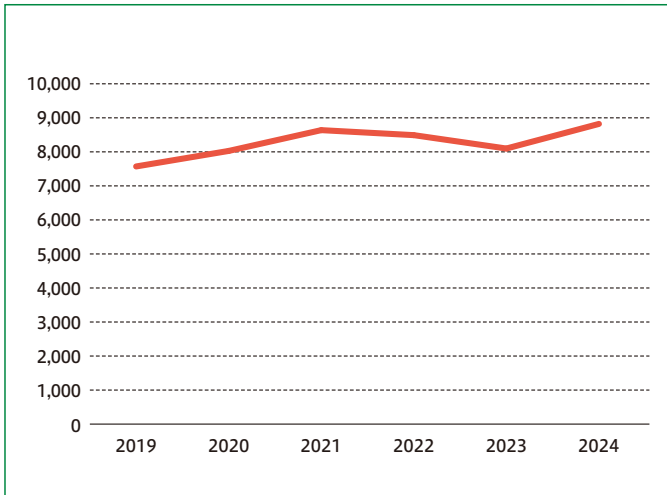
※Legal Affairs Bureaus and District Legal Affairs Bureaus are in charge of processing the cases that the courts within their jurisdiction handle or should handle.

Pursuit of Lawsuits

Lawsuits in which the Japanese government is a party include civil lawsuits claiming damages against the state and administrative lawsuits seeking the cancellation or invalidation of administrative action. Among such lawsuits, the proportion of serious and large-scale cases that may potentially have a profound impact on the politics, administration, and economy of the state has been increasing in recent years.

The Ministry of Justice, as an essential component of the justice system, contributes to the achievement of the appropriate resolution of disputes based on laws and the rules of evidence by producing evidence and constructing a unified and appropriate argument from the viewpoint of the state. This ensures that the interests of the people as a whole and those of individuals harmonize properly and thereby secures the administrative principles based on rule of law.

The number of pending court cases involving the Japanese government



Major Pending Lawsuits

- Lawsuit over asbestos damages
- Lawsuit over bases
- Lawsuit over Minamata diseases
- Lawsuit over hepatitis C
- Lawsuit over hepatitis B
- Lawsuit over atomic energy
- Lawsuit over reparation by the national government related to Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant accidents
- Lawsuit over land reclamation in Isahaya Bay
- Lawsuit over reparation by the national government on the Japanese security legislation

Preventive Legal Support System

The Litigation Bureau operates the Preventive Legal Support System where the Litigation Bureau, as legal advisors within the Japanese government, provide advice to administrative bodies on the appropriate way to handle the various legal problems that they face. The Litigation Bureau's advice is based on expertise gained through the handling of past litigious matters. The purpose of the Preventive Legal Support System is to enable the Litigation Bureau to pre-assess the legitimacy of a policy or measures proposed by governmental administrative bodies from a legal perspective in order to prevent, where appropriate, any negative impact on the rights of Japanese citizens, including the rights related to life, body, and property, and the advent of legal disputes and trials. Thus, the Preventive Legal Support System is implemented to support the efficient realization of *administration based on the rule of law* and to protect the rights and interests of Japanese citizens.

Providing Support in Dealing with International Legal Dispute

The progress of globalization in the political, economic, and other realms will likely increase the risks of the Japanese government becoming involved in legal disputes before foreign courts or the legal proceedings of international organizations. The Litigation Bureau, with its skills and expertise on legal strategies such as interpreting laws and presenting arguments gained through domestic and foreign litigation practices, provides support in order to prevent such disputes in advance or to deal properly with those disputes in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant ministries and agencies.

Learn More about Litigation Bureau

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

See here for
Summaries of Major Pending Lawsuits



See here for
List of Recent Major Court Decisions



See here for
Database of Important Litigation Precedents

This database enables you to search and browse precedents contained in the Monthly Litigation Report (the information magazine issued by the Litigation Bureau).



Immigration Services Agency

Mission

The Immigration Services Agency of Japan is responsible for fair management over all those who enter and depart from Japan, the residency of foreign nationals living in Japan, and procedures for refugee recognition based on the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act. The Immigration Services Agency is also responsible for implementing planning, policy development, and general coordination regarding the development of an environment for the acceptance of foreign nationals.

Smooth and Strict Immigration Examination

Fair immigration control for all persons

Whether or not to grant permission to foreign nationals to land and reside in Japan is determined by confirming the purpose of entry and length of stay, as well as by examining the possibility of risks to the livelihood of Japanese nationals in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations. The administrative work by the Immigration Services Agency responsible for immigration control procedures becomes even more important as interactions between people become increasingly promoted.

The Immigration Services Agency not only ensures that those who intend to visit Japan for a valid purpose enter Japan smoothly and stay without problems but works to protect the lives and safety of Japanese nationals, as well as the industrial interests and benefits to the lives of Japanese nationals, from foreign nationals who should not be permitted to stay in Japan.



Entry examination



BioCart



Facial Recognition Automated Gates



Integrated KIOSKS

Proper and Smooth Acceptance of Foreign Nationals

Residency management of foreign nationals

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

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



Residence examination counter

Online Residency Procedures

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

PR character "Rasppi"
for online residence procedures



These are some
of the benefits!

See here for
Applying online for
residency procedure



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

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



A consultation taking place at a one-stop consulting counter

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

Some of the foreign nationals in Japan are persons who entered or landed in Japan illegally, persons who overstayed beyond their authorized period of stay or are engaged in unauthorized activities, or persons who have been punished for certain crimes.

The ISA works to realize a safe and secure society, by deporting such foreign nationals, who have violated laws and regulations, in accordance with laws and regulations.



Proper Protection and Support of Refugees

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

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

Moreover, the GOJ has also accepted refugees through resettlement.

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

The ISA provides support for these refugees and other individuals, to help them achieve self-reliance in Japan.

This support includes a settlement support program offering Japanese language instruction and life guidance, along with employment support and other services.



Examination by refugee inquirer

To Promote Immigration Control and Residency Management Throughout the Nation

In addition to the ISA of Japan, an external bureau of the Ministry of Justice to deal with immigration control and residency management administration, there are Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (8 bureaus), District Immigration Services Offices (7 offices), Branch Offices (61 offices), and Immigration Centers (2 centers).

See here for
Immigration Services
Agency Website



Mascot character "Immigu" for Immigration Services Agency

Public Security Intelligence Agency

Mission

The Public Security Intelligence Agency (PSIA) assumes the duty of ensuring the public security of Japan under the Subversive Activities Prevention Act and the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder (the Act on the Control of Organizations). Specifically, the PSIA conducts surveillance of the so-called Aum Shinrikyo and, as a core member of Japan's intelligence community, collects and analyzes information on domestic and international trends, including trends related to economic security, threats in cyberspace, international terrorism, situations in neighboring countries and regions (such as North Korea, China, and Russia), and movements of domestic organizations. By providing information (intelligence) to the relevant governmental agencies, the PSIA contributes to the policies and measures of the Japanese government.

Economic Security

Within the international community, it is becoming increasingly more important to tackle security challenges related to the economy and advanced technologies. In Japan as well, there have been cases in which attempts were made to acquire technologies, information, and products owned by Japanese entities such as companies and universities, under the guise of appropriate economic and research activities; therefore, prevention of leak of such technologies, information, and products is vital to the nation.

The Public Security Intelligence Agency collects and analyzes information on suspicious moves targeting technologies, information, and products owned by Japanese entities; movements of countries of concern to exert undue influence through economic activities; and movements of foreign capital to acquire real estate surrounding important facilities. In addition to providing information to the government and the relevant governmental agencies, the PSIA is working to raise public awareness through lectures to business organizations, companies, and other institutions, publishing educational videos and pamphlets, and other means.



Lecture at an economic security-related event

Collection and Analysis of Cyber-Related Information

As cyberattacks aimed at stealing confidential information and acquiring money have become common at home and abroad, moves by malicious actors in cyberspace pose a serious threat to the safety and security of people's lives. Advanced cyberattacks involving or sponsored by states are of particular concern. The Public Security Intelligence Agency investigates cyberspace activities involving or sponsored by countries of concern (or other malicious entities). In the investigations, the PSIA collects and analyzes information on the actual state of cyberattacks and the threat actors behind such attacks. By providing information to the relevant governmental agencies in a timely and appropriate manner, the PSIA contributes to the policies and measures of the Japanese government.

Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Terrorism

The international terrorist organizations such as "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" (ISIL) and "Al-Qaida" currently continue their activities overseas, and the threats posed by these organizations still remain. There have been cases causing collateral damage of Japanese nationals by terrorist incidents overseas, which requires, continued vigilance. The Public Security Intelligence Agency collects and analyzes information on the activities of international terrorist organizations in other countries, the presence or absence of individuals and organizations in Japan that may have relationships with international terrorist organizations, and suspicious moves by such individuals and organizations.

Surveillance Disposition on and Other Measures Against Aum Shinrikyo

Thirty years have passed since the sarin gas attack in Matsumoto City, Nagano, and the another sarin gas attacks on the subway in Tokyo were both conducted by Aum Shinrikyo (organization), and the organization has split into three groups—Aleph, the group led by Yamada, and Hikari-no-Wa—and continues its activities. These groups retain their

dangerous nature because they explicitly or implicitly maintain an absolute devotion to and are under the influence of Chizuo Matsumoto (also known as Shoko Asahara), who was the mastermind of the aforementioned both sarin gas attacks in Matsumoto and in Tokyo and other crimes.

Since 2000, the Public Security Intelligence Agency has conducted surveillance on Aum Shinrikyo (by receiving reports on the current status of the organization and its activities, conducting on-site inspections of its facilities, and other means) under the Act on the Control of Organizations and shared the results with the heads of relevant local governments. In addition, for the purpose of alleviating fears and anxieties among residents, the PSIA has held meetings to exchange opinions with residents to explain the current status of Aum Shinrikyo and the results of on-site inspections.

In addition, since Aleph has failed to report some of the matters required by the Act on the Control of Organizations and thereby made it difficult to assess the risk of the group engaging in acts of indiscriminate mass murder, the PSIA, since January 2023, has six times requested that the Public Security Examination Commission take a recurrence prevention action against the group. In response, the Commission decided to take the disposition, and thereby Aleph is prohibited from using all or a part of land or buildings it owns or manages and from receiving gifts of money, goods, or any other economic benefits (as of December 2025).

The PSIA will continue conducting investigations and implementing regulatory measures under the Act on the Control of Organizations in an appropriate and strict manner, thereby ensuring the public security, including people's peaceful day-to-day lives.



On-site inspection

See here for
Aum Shinrikyo
Special Page



Website of the Public Security Intelligence Agency

The website of the Public Security Intelligence Agency shows the relevant laws and regulations under its jurisdiction, its history, and its tasks and disseminates information on situations at home and abroad, in each of the following categories: "Special Feature on Aum Shinrikyo," "Situations Occurring Tied to Terrorism and Relevant Affairs in the World," and "Recent Domestic and International Situations." Digital pamphlets on the PSIA's aforementioned efforts and initiatives are available on the website.



See here for
Public Security Intelligence
Agency Website



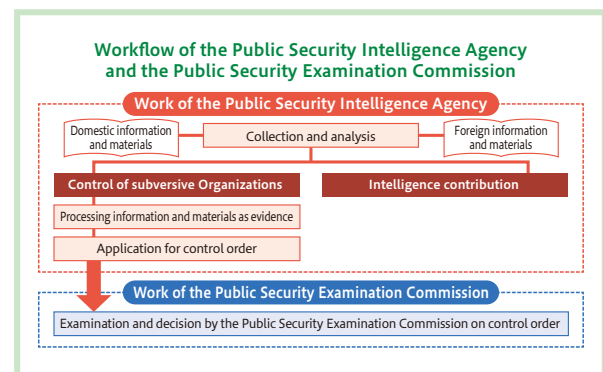
See here for
Published
documents



Public Security Examination Commission

Mission

The Public Security Examination Commission has been established as an extra-ministerial bureau of the Ministry of Justice with the aim of ensuring public safety. Upon receiving an application from the Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency for regulatory actions on subversive organizations as stipulated in the Subversive Activities Prevention Act or the Act on the Control of Organizations Which Have Committed Acts of Indiscriminate Mass Murder, the Commission examines the application from an objective and neutral viewpoint and makes decisions on whether control measures are necessary, and if so, what control measures should be implemented.



Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice

Mission

The Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice conducts a wide range of activities, including:

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

Publication of the White Paper on Crime and Research Department Report

The *White Paper on Crime* is published once a year. The report consists of a routine part and a special feature. The routine part covers general matters of criminal justice, such as crime trends and offender treatment of the previous year based on an analysis of the related statistics. The special feature covers themes according to current criminal policy issues. In addition, for international dissemination, we have also published the English version of the White Paper on Crime.

Recent Special Feature

- 2025 Version Actual Circumstances of Crime Victimization
- 2024 Version Actual Conditions and Treatment of Female Offenders
- 2023 Version The Juvenile Delinquents and their Growing Environments

The Research Department Report compiles the results of surveys and studies on criminal policy, conducted by the Research and Training Institute, across the fields of prosecution, courts, corrections, and rehabilitation services. Both Japanese and English versions can be easily accessed on the Ministry of Justice website.



See here for
White Paper on
Crime Website



See here for
Research
Department
Report



Promotion of International Cooperation

The Ministry of Justice provides legal technical assistance to developing countries with a view to establishing the rule of law to realize secure and peaceful societies in these countries. Promoting and enhancing good governance based on the rule of law in developing countries significantly contributes to the sound development of these countries and the stability of the region as well as the strengthening of countermeasures against transnational crime and the promotion of economic activities, which serves the national interests of Japan in the end.

The United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), established by an agreement with the United Nations and operated by the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice, has held training courses and seminars in the field of crime prevention and the treatment of offenders for criminal justice practitioners from developing countries around the world since 1962. Many UNAFEI alumni now play leading roles in the field of criminal justice in their respective countries and regions. UNAFEI's alumni network is the foundation of successful relationships among criminal justice practitioners in Japan and many other countries.

The International Cooperation Department (ICD) cooperates with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and academia in accordance with government policies. The ICD contributes to the establishment of the rule of law and the improvement of the business environment by providing legal technical assistance (such as drafting legislation and regulations, improvement of legal and judicial systems, and capacity-building of legal practitioners) mainly in Asian countries.

See here for
UNAFEI
Website



See here for
ICD
Website



UNAFEI alumni promoted to high-ranking positions

 China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Justice, The Supreme People's Court Grand Justice of the Second Rank, The Supreme People's Court 	 Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Justice Prosecutor General
 Indonesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Chief Justice 	 Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Deputy State Prosecutor, Department of Justice Commissioner, National Police Commission Administrator, Parole and Probation Administration, Department of Justice
 Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal Senior State Counsel of the Criminal Justice Division, Attorney General's Chambers 	 Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister of Justice President, Supreme Court Attorney General Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice
 Nepal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Justice, Chairman, Council of Ministers Prime Minister Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Constituent Assembly Affairs Secretary, Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority 	 Timor-Leste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Director of Prison Services and Social Reintegration, Ministry of Justice
 Pakistan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director General, National Police Bureau, Ministry of Interior 	 Sri Lanka	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary to the Ministry of Justice Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice
 Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of International Cooperation Division, Federal Prosecution Service 	 Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director of Probation and Aftercare Services, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government Director of Children's Services, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
 Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge of the International Criminal Court 	 Costa Rica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costa Rican Ambassador to Japan
 Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Supreme Court Justice 	 Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President of the United Nations Human Rights Council Deputy Prosecutor, International Criminal Court



International Training Course (UNAFEI)



Group Workshop for International Training Course (UNAFEI)



Seminar in Japan for Ukrainian officers (ICD)



Seminar in Japan for Indonesian officers (ICD)

Partner countries cooperated by ICD (As of December 2025)



Cooperation in the Preparation of a Commentary on Administrative Law, Training on the Civil Code, etc.

Joint Study on the Digitalization of Administrative and Judicial Procedures, etc.

Ukraine: Joint Study on Protection of Children's Rights, Cooperation in Anti-Corruption, etc.

Nepal: Cooperation in the Implementation of New Laws such as the Civil Code and the Criminal Procedure Law, Cooperation in Amendment to Civil Code and Improvement in the Implementation, etc.

People's Republic of Bangladesh: Training on Mediation Systems and Enhanced Case Management, etc.

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka: Cooperation in Resolution of Delays in Criminal Proceedings

United Republic of Tanzania: Research on the Existence and Content of Legal Issues, the Conclusion of Memorandums Of Cooperation (MOC), etc.

Kingdom of Cambodia: Joint Study on Legal Professional Training, JICA Project for Legal and Judicial Development

The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste: Cooperation in Drafting the Real Property Registration Law, the Cadastral Information Law, etc.

Republic of Fiji: Joint Study on Countermeasures against Prolonged Civil Trials, etc.

Mongolia: Cooperation in Drafting the Commercial Law, Joint Study on Judiciary-Related Statistics, etc.

Socialist Republic of Vietnam: JICA Project for Enhancing the Quality and Efficiency of Developing and Implementing Laws in Vietnam

Republic of Indonesia: Project for Legal and Judicial Reforms to Improve the Business Climate

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

Please refer to the following brochures for details of the work of the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice.

- Brochure of the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice
- Brochure of UNAFEI
- Brochure of ICD

See here for Visit the MOJ website.



Official character of Research and Training Institute Jinbee-kun



UNAFEI & ICD

Qualifications and Employment

Qualification Examinations

National Bar Examination

The national bar examination is designed to determine whether those who wish to become judges, public prosecutors, or attorneys have the necessary knowledge and practical abilities. The present national bar examination has been administered since 2006. Until 2022, in order to take the bar examination, a prerequisite was completion of law school or passing the preliminary bar examination. However, from the bar examination of 2023, students of law schools will be allowed to take the bar examination if they meet certain conditions (eligibility to take the examination while still in school). However, there is a time limit, and candidates can take the examination within a five-year period from the first day of April after gaining the appropriate qualifications. (Students of law schools who gain eligibility can take the examination until they complete or withdraw from law school, but the period until that day from the first day of April in the year when applicants first take the examination under the same

eligibility should not exceed a five-year period.)

The examination consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions) and an essay test, and all candidates take both tests at the same time. Successful candidates will be qualified to enter the legal profession as judges, prosecutors, and attorneys after training at the legal training center of the Supreme Court. (For details on the training, please contact the Recruitment Division, Personnel Affairs Bureau, Supreme Court.)

Results of the National Bar Examination

	Candidates	Successful candidates	Average age of successful candidates	Successful percentage
2021	3,424	1,421 (395)	28.3	41.50%
2022	3,082	1,403 (389)	28.3	45.52%
2023	3,928	1,781 (524)	26.6	45.34%
2024	3,779	1,592 (481)	26.9	42.13%
2025	3,837	1,581 (479)	26.8	41.20%

Note) Numbers inside () mean female successful candidates.

Preliminary Bar Examination

The purpose of the preliminary bar examination is to judge whether a person who intends to take the national bar examination has the knowledge, practical ability, and a basic grounding in legal practices equal to those who have completed law school and consists of a short-answer test (including multiple-choice questions), an essay test, and an oral test. There are no qualification requirements for candidates.

Results of the Preliminary Bar Examination

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2021	11,717	467 (102)
2022	13,004	472 (73)
2023	13,372	479 (79)
2024	12,569	449 (95)
2025	12,432	452 (102)

Note) Numbers inside () mean female successful candidates

- For further information, please contact the National Bar Examination Commission

Address: The Ministry of Justice, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8977 Tel: 03-3580-4111

Judicial Scrivener Examination and Land and House Investigator Examination

A judicial scrivener represents a client in procedures, such as an oral deposition, and with authorization from the Minister of Justice may also represent a client in a summary court trial. A land and house investigator performs investigations, surveying, and application procedures needed for registration of real estate. The Judicial Scrivener Examination and Land and House Investigator Examination are national examinations that determine whether candidates have the necessary knowledge and ability to enter into these professions and are administered by the Minister of Justice. Both examinations consist of written and oral tests, and those who pass the written test are entitled to take the oral test. Successful candidates can start work immediately after registration as a judicial scrivener or a land and house investigator respectively.

Results of the National Examination for Judicial Scriveners

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2021	11,925	613
2022	12,727	660
2023	13,372	695
2024	13,960	737
2025	14,418	751

Results of the National Examination for Land and House Investigators

	Candidates	Successful candidates
2021	3,859	404
2022	4,404	424
2023	4,429	428
2024	4,589	505
2025	4,824	489

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

Employment Examinations for Services

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

Examination for Comprehensive Service

● **Contact:**
 [Ministry of Justice] Personal Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice
 [Immigration Services Agency] General Affairs Division, Immigration Services Agency
 [Public Security Intelligence Agency] Personnel Affairs Division, General Affairs Department, Public Security Intelligence Agency

Those employed in the category of administrative work such as public administration, politics, international matters, humanities, law, economics, culture, and the category of engineering are generally assigned to different departments of the Ministry and are involved in planning measures and policies, while gaining experience in various positions. Those employed in the human sciences category are mainly assigned to local offices to make the most of their specialized knowledge, but they may also be assigned to departments of the Ministry in the same way as those employed in the category of administrative work.

In addition, those hired by the Immigration Services Agency are generally assigned to the headquarters, where they are involved in planning measures and policies, regardless of the examination category.

After a certain period, each employee will follow an individual career that reflects their own preferences and aptitudes.

Examination for General Service

● **Contact:**
 General Affairs Section, Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat (electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and architecture)
 Local offices below (public administration)
 Legal Affairs Bureaus Officers: Legal Affairs Bureaus
 Assistant Public Prosecutors: District Public Prosecutors Offices
 Immigration Inspectors: Regional Immigration Services Bureaus
 Public Security Intelligence Officers: Public Security Intelligence Bureaus

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

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

Correctional Psychology Profession

● **Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters**

Correctional psychologists work at juvenile assessment centers, penal institutions or juvenile training schools as professional staff (MOJ technical official [psychology]) make use of their specialized knowledge and skills to provide guidelines for the treatment of detained juveniles based on an analysis of the causes of delinquency or criminal acts through interviews and psychological tests, and carry out treatment programs in penal institutions and juvenile training schools.

Ministry of Justice Instructors

● **Contact: Personnel Section, Regional Correction Headquarters**

Ministry of Justice instructors work mainly at juvenile training schools or juvenile assessment centers to provide specialized education (correctional education), including lifestyle guidance and school course guidance, as well as observation of juveniles to develop the juveniles' individuality and abilities and ensure the smooth return to society based on the instructors' broad perspective and expertise. MOJ instructors also provide employment support instruction and course instruction in the prisons.

Probation Officers

● **Contact: General Affairs Divisions of Regional Parole Boards**

Probation officers work at probation offices and regional parole boards to provide those who have committed crimes and juvenile delinquents with instruction through interviews and specialized treatment programs, as well as job assistance, based on expertise in psychology, pedagogy, welfare, and sociology and are responsible for preventing recidivism and supporting rehabilitation within society.



Recruitment Examination for Prison Officers

● **Contact: Correction District Official Division**

Prison Officers generally work in prisons, juvenile prisons, or detention centers. Prisons and juvenile prisons give the inmates treatment through instruction to rehabilitate convicts and ensure a smooth return to society. Detention centers mainly house suspects and defendants in detention to prevent them from escaping or destroying evidence and to ensure that they receive fair trials.



Recruitment Examination for Immigration Control Officers

● **Contact: General Affairs Divisions, Regional Immigration Services Bureaus (Personnel Division, Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka Regional Immigration Services Bureau)
 General Affairs Division, Immigration Centers**

Immigration control officers are assigned to regional immigration services bureaus, district immigration offices, branch offices, and immigration centers. They are responsible for detecting and investigating violations related to illegal entrants or illegal overstayers and for treating and deporting detainees.

History of the Red-Brick Building of the Ministry of Justice

The only surviving building from the Meiji government's construction plan to concentrate government offices

The original red-brick building, designed by the two German architects W. Böckmann and H. Ende, was completed in December of 1895 (the 28th year of Meiji) after about seven years of construction to serve as the Ministry of Justice building. The roofs and floors of the building were destroyed by fire during World War II, but the red-brick walls remained intact. When the structure was renovated through the restoration work from 1948 to 1950, some alterations were made in the materials and the shape of the roof. The present red-brick building has, however, been restored completely to its original 1895 appearance after the restoration work of 1991, and its exterior was designated as a National Important Cultural Property on December 27, 1994.



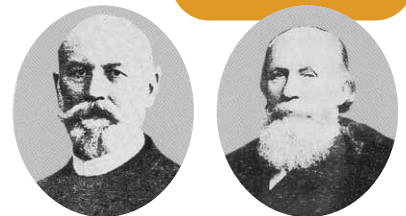
Red-Brick Building and Central Government Office No.6-A



Red brick building at the time of its founding



Building-construction techniques



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

The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery

The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery inside the red-brick building of the Ministry consists of a room restored to its original appearance (formerly the dining hall of the Justice Minister's official residence), which retains the atmosphere of the Meiji era, and an adjacent room with brick walls, and exhibits various historical documents and data on the modernization of the judiciary and architectural modernization.

In addition, the Museum displays materials about major public relations that promote a deeper understanding of the judicial system and the Ministry of Justice among citizens, and currently exhibits materials relating to the Saiban-in (Lay Judge) System and the Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu).



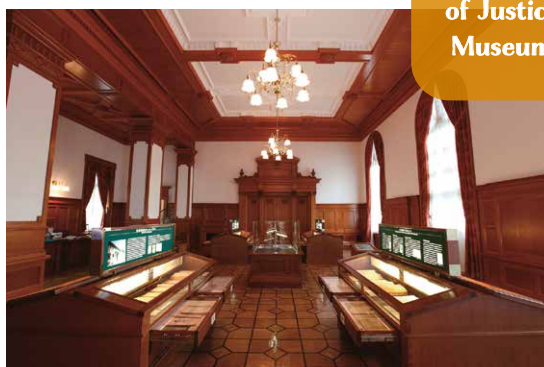
Judicial Legislation

Modernization of the Judiciary

The Ministry of Justice Museum

The Museum exhibits materials concerning the activities of the old Ministry of Justice, including basic legislation requiring urgent enactment in the first half of the Meiji era, such as the laws on the organization of the judiciary and criminal laws, and records of the contributions of the foreign government advisors, in addition to displaying historical records of sensational cases in the Meiji era as well as those related to the administration of justice.

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



Dining hall of the old Justice Minister's official residence



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

Tour Guide

The Ministry of Justice Museum

Location	3F Ministry of Justice Red-Brick Building, 1-1-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Access	Please refer to the back cover for directions
Open days	From Monday to Friday (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, national holidays, the year-end and New Year holidays/Free admission)
Open Hours	From 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (No admission after 5:30 p.m.) *3rd Friday of the month opens from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (No admission after 3:30 p.m.)
Reservations	Please make a reservation by phone or email when arriving in a group of ten or more. Reservations will be accepted three months in advance.
Contact information	Direct Phone Number: 81-3-3592-7911 Email: tenji-yoyaku@moj.go.jp

Ministry of Justice Website
 "The Ministry of Justice Museum and the Message Gallery"



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

2026.4
▼
2027.3

International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration

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

Houterasu Day

The Japan Legal Support Center (Houterasu) provides free legal consultation meetings throughout Japan around April 10, the anniversary of the center's establishment, in commemoration of "Houterasu Day."

Constitution Week

The week from May 1 to 7, which includes Constitution Day (May 3), is designated as "Constitution Week." During this period, various programs and events aimed at thoroughly raising awareness of the spirit of the Constitution, functions of the justice system, and related matters are held nationwide.

2026

4

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

5

- Constitution Week (May 1-7)

6

- Human Rights Volunteers' Day (June 1)
- Month to Promote Proper Employment of Foreign Nationals for the Realization of a Society of Harmonious Coexistence

7

- "Yellow Feather Campaign" Awareness Month
- Offender Rehabilitation Day (July 1)
- Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month

8

- Children's Tour Day in Kasumigaseki (Late July - early August)
- Nationwide Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week

9

"Yellow Feather Campaign" Awareness Month

The "Yellow Feather Campaign" is a nationwide initiative aimed at promoting understanding among citizens of crime and delinquency prevention and the rehabilitation of criminal or delinquency offenders so as to build, through combined efforts in their various positions, safe, secure, positive communities that keep people from becoming victims or perpetrators. Centered on Awareness Month in July, promotional activities are carried out year-round to ensure broader awareness and promote better understanding of the issues.



75th "Yellow Feather Campaign" poster

Nationwide Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week

The human rights bodies of the Ministry of Justice are working to strengthen various consultation activities to protect children's human rights. The Bureau will hold "Nationwide Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week" during the period around the end of the summer vacation. During the week, the counseling hours are extended and consultations are available on Saturday and Sunday.



FY 2025 Children's Rights Counseling Promotion Week poster

Children's Tour Day in Kasumigaseki

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

Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month

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



Recidivism Prevention Awareness Month poster

Human Rights Volunteers' Day

June 1 was designated as Human Rights Volunteers' Day to commemorate the enactment of the Human Rights Volunteers Act on June 1, 1949. On the day before and after, ad-hoc human rights counseling centers are opened, and activities for human rights awareness-raising are conducted nationwide to help promote a better understanding of human rights.



Human Rights Volunteers System poster

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

In order to realize a society of harmonious coexistence in which both Japanese and foreign nationals can live safely and securely, educational activities are carried out to raise awareness of not only measures to prevent illegal employment, but also important points to note when hiring foreign workers.



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

About the Ministry of Justice

Special Feature

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

Qualifications and Employment

Making the Ministry of Justice More Familiar



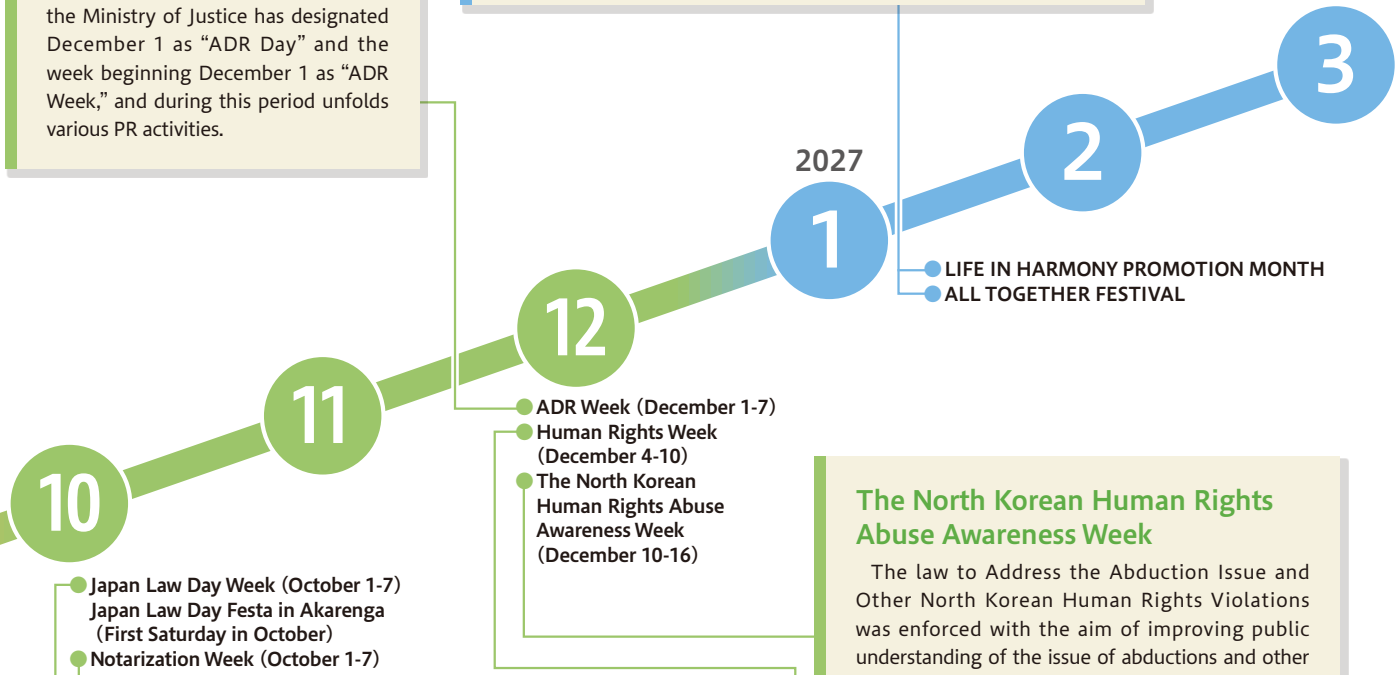
ADR Week

ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution) is a process that is aimed at flexibly resolving civil disputes through discussions involving a fair and neutral third party (such as conciliation or mediation), without a trial. Furthermore, conducting ADR online is called "ODR."

To make ADR and ODR familiar ways of dispute resolution for all citizens, the Ministry of Justice has designated December 1 as "ADR Day" and the week beginning December 1 as "ADR Week," and during this period unfolds various PR activities.

LIFE IN HARMONY PROMOTION MONTH ALL TOGETHER FESTIVAL

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



- Japan Law Day Week (October 1-7)
Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga (First Saturday in October)
- Notarization Week (October 1-7)

Notarization Week

The purpose of the notarization system is to prevent problems in the future with important contracts involving the lending/borrowing of money, buying/selling of property, leases, or the creation of wills through notaries appointed by the Justice Minister preparing "notarized documents" that are recognized as having extremely strong evidential capacity in legal terms. With the support of the Ministry of Justice, the Japan National Notaries Association has designated the week beginning October 1 as "Notarization Week" and is endeavoring to spread awareness of the notarization system.

Japan Law Day Week/ Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga

Japan Law Day (October 1) was established with the aim of promoting respect for the law, protecting fundamental human rights, and establishing an orderly society through the rule of law. The week beginning October is designated as "Japan Law Day Week," and lectures, free counseling, and various other events are held nationwide during this period.

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



FY 2025 Law Day Festa poster

The North Korean Human Rights Abuse Awareness Week

The law to Address the Abduction Issue and Other North Korean Human Rights Violations was enforced with the aim of improving public understanding of the issue of abductions and other human rights violations by North Korean authorities. The Law designated the week from December 10 to 16 every year as the North Korean Human Rights Abuse Awareness Week. During the Week, various activities are conducted, including holding events and PR activities using various media.

Human Rights Week

The United Nations designated December 10 - the day on which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted - as "Human Rights Day" and recommended that member states further promote the development of human rights. In Japan, the week ending on December 10 each year was designated as "Human Rights Week" and human rights awareness-raising activities have been carried out throughout the country.



77th Human Rights Week poster

KidsRoom

This page is designed to give elementary and junior high school students an easy-to-understand introduction to the Ministry of Justice.

What is the role of the Ministry of Justice?



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



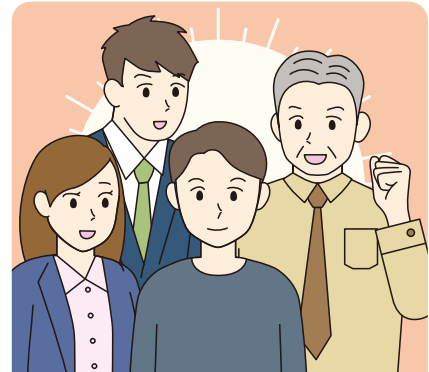
Work to protect rights and property

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



Investigation and court proceeding

Prosecutors investigate a case, and decide whether or not to prosecute the suspect (bring them to trial). They also attend criminal proceedings (procedures for determining whether a suspect is guilty or innocent) for prosecuted cases.



Preventing recidivism

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



Activities to protect human rights

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



Immigration examinations

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



Law-related education

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

What are laws for?



What do you imagine when you hear the word “laws”? It may sound difficult, but laws can make us happier.

Laws are rules that help us all live together through cooperation and respect for each other’s individuality. By protecting our rights and showing clearly what rules we must follow, laws make it possible to live and act freely and enjoy a more fulfilling life.

Is the Ministry of Justice in charge of all Japanese laws?



Many people think that the Ministry of Justice is in charge of all Japanese laws, but in fact, it is not. For example, the Ministry of Finance is responsible for laws related to taxes; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is responsible for laws related to education and schools. Likewise, each ministry is responsible for laws related to the duties of those ministries and agencies.

In some cases, several ministries and agencies work together on a single law.

The Ministry of Justice is in charge of a number of basic social rules, including the Civil Code, which regulates property matters, and the Penal Code, which regulates crime and punishment. The Ministry works on a variety of issues in order to realize a safe and secure society.

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

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

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



Stop worrying alone! Talk to us anytime!!

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

Contact us by phone

If you would like to talk to us immediately, please dial the following number

0570-090911

Weekdays (closed on New Year holidays) 9:00-17:00

Contact us by e-mail

See here for the consultation service

*We may take several days to respond.



Characters for
Human Rights
Promotion Activities
Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun
Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan

Contact us by Mini-Letter

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

To you who are troubled by the divorce of your father and mother

My mother and father are quarreling ... are they going to break up... You are having a hard time right now. Don’t put up with your problems alone; instead, talk to the people around you. There are some places where you can consult someone about your problems. Family life may change, but the relationship between you and your father, mother, grandpa, and grandma will not change.

Here are some things you might want to know about your mother and father’s divorce.



More

Want to Learn about MOJ?

Come visit the Ministry of Justice!

For elementary, junior high, and high school students!



Everyone is welcome!



Come visit on a school field trip!

- Held year-round

Apply here!



We offer tours as part of school educational programs. Students can tour the Ministry of Justice and learn about our work.



Visit the Ministry of Justice Museum!

- Held year-round

See page 47 for details on the Ministry of Justice Museum!



Join us for an event!

For elementary, junior high, and high school students!



Children's Tour Day in Kasumigaseki

- Every year from late July to early August

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

See here for photos of last year's event!



Let's learn about these well-loved characters at the Ministry of Justice!

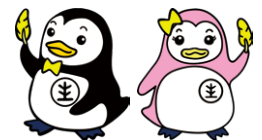
There are many characters who help people learn about the work done at the Ministry of Justice.



Correctional officer characters
Mamoru-kun Mima-chan



Characters for Human Rights
Promotion Activities
Jin-KEN-Mamoru-Kun Jin-KEN-Ayumi-Chan



Rehabilitation penguins
Hogo-chan Sara-chan

Find us online!



● Ministry of Justice website



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

● Ministry of Justice X account



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

● Ministry of Justice official YouTube channel



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

● Social media accounts of various departments



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

Don't miss our magazine

Ministry of Justice Akarenga Magazine

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



Various pamphlets, leaflets, and posters

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



Everyone is welcome!



Japan Law Day Festa in Akarenga

● First Saturday of October every year

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

See here for photos of last year's event!



Law-Related Education mascot, "Hourisu-kun"



Official character of Research and Training Institute Jinbee-kun



Public Prosecutors Office's PR character Saiban Inko



Facilities Division official character SHISETSU KAME



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



Family register system mascot character Kosekitsune



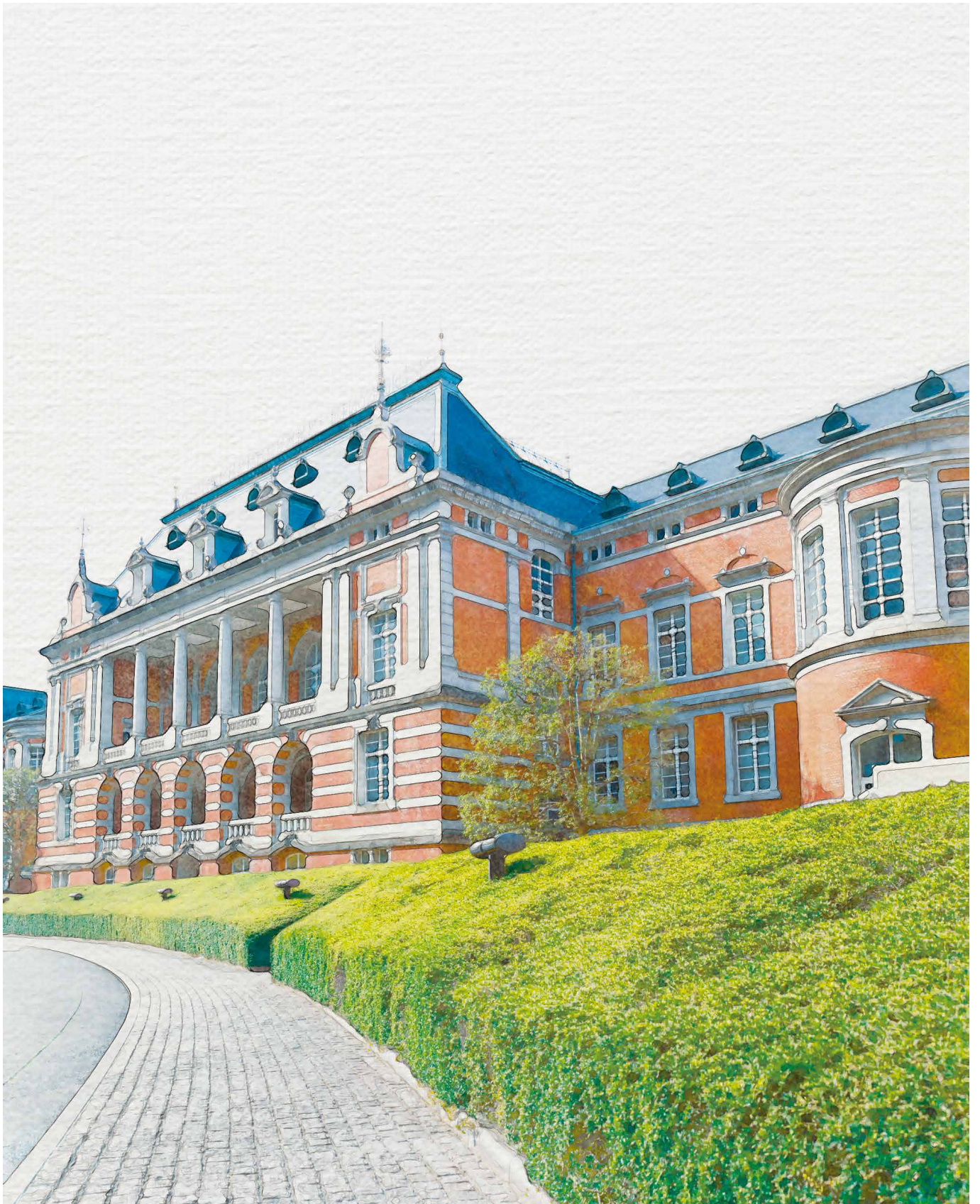
Real Property Registration Promotion Mascot Toukitsune



Human Rights Volunteers system PR character Tabamin



Mascot character "Immigu" for Immigration Services Agency





Central Gov't Bldg. No.6

Central Government Office Complex No. 6-A, which houses the Ministry of Justice, consists of 21 floors and 4 basement floors. The building is functionally divided into two zones: the Ministry of Justice zone on the north side (right on the photo) and the Public Prosecutor Offices zone on the south side (left on the photo). The outer wall of the building is covered with dignified red granite from Canada that harmonizes well with the red-brick walls.

The building was completed on June 30, 1990 as the new Ministry of Justice building.

ACCESS TO THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

● Metro

Yurakucho Line

1-minute walk from Sakuradamon Station

Marunouchi Line / Hibiya Line

3-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station

Chiyoda Line

5-minute walk from Kasumigaseki Station

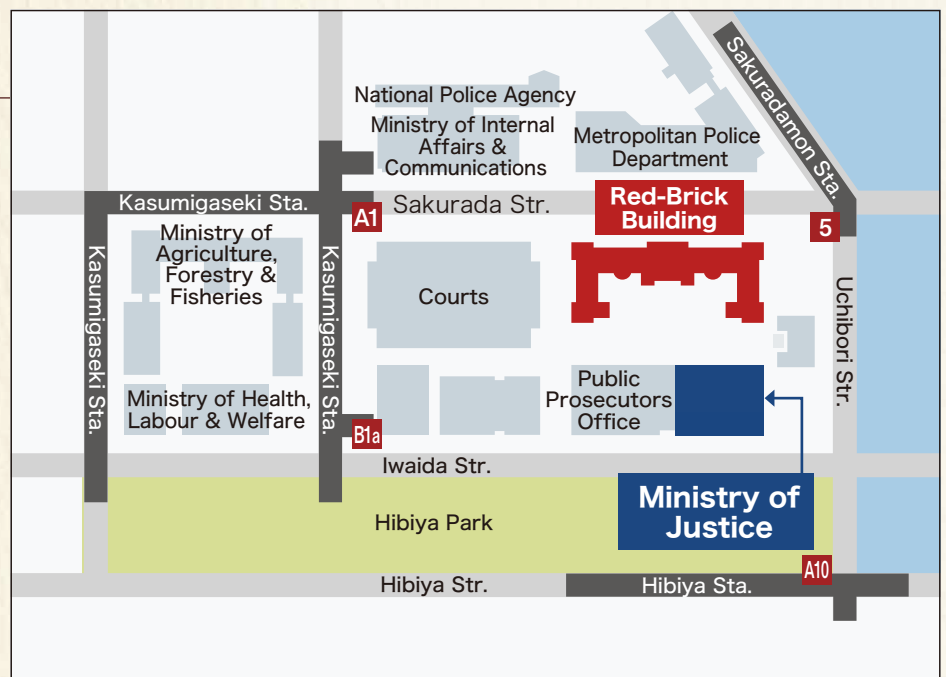
Toei Mita Line

6-minute walk from Hibiya Station

● JR

Yamanote Line / Keihin Tohoku Line

10-minute walk from JR Yurakucho Station



MOJ MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

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Tel. 03-3580-4111

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Secretarial Division,
Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice



Ministry of Justice
website



@MOJ_HOUMU
Ministry of Justice
X account



YouTube Official
Channel of the Ministry
of Justice MOJ Channel



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