

**Video Message by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Yoshimasa,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
for Tokyo International Law Seminar 2023**

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Welcome to the Tokyo International Law Seminar 2023!

First, I would like to express my gratitude to the Japan Federations of Bar Associations, Japanese Society of International Law, the UN University, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization and the sponsoring law firms. This seminar would not have been possible without valuable assistance from these co-organizers and supporters.

In January, I chaired an open debate of the Security Council on "Rule of Law among Nations", and called for the unity among the UN Member States around the principle of the rule of law among nations.

In May, the G7 leaders met leaders from Asia, Africa and other regions in Hiroshima and discussed how we should respond to the challenges to peace that international community is currently facing. All the leaders shared recognition on the importance of just and durable peace based on respect for international law and the principles of the UN Charter. They also recognized the importance of striving for the free and open international order based on the rule of law.

This Tokyo International Law Seminar is launched for providing a platform for international lawyers from Indo-Pacific region and beyond to learn together. We have identified key areas of international law that constitute the basis for rule of law among nations, including various tools for dispute settlement based on international law, and invited top-class experts in these areas.

This seminar should give you a valuable opportunity to study these key aspects of international law and make friends with other participants. I sincerely hope that through fostering common knowledge of international law and friendly relationship among international lawyers, the Tokyo International Law Seminar can make a contribution to the realization of peace guided by the rule of law in the future.

Thank you.