

Video Message by H.E. Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu,
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan,
for Tokyo International Law Seminar 2026

Good morning, distinguished guests, esteemed participants of the Tokyo International Law Seminar 2026! I am Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, the Japanese Society of International Law, the Ministry of Justice, the United Nations University, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) and the sponsoring law firms for their tremendous support.

Today, the world is facing profound structural changes driven by the shifting balance of power and

the intensifying conflicts and confrontations. As the international order that we have built is under an array of challenges, we are living in a critically important era that will determine whether the international community as a whole can defend a free and open international order based on the “rule of law”.

Japan attaches great importance to the role of international judicial institutions in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of legal order, and has been actively engaged in strengthening these institutions. Our collective efforts are reflected in the Presidency of both the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) held by Japanese judges.

In order to anchor the “rule of law” in the

international community, it is essential to foster human resources and promote exchanges and coordination beyond borders. It is based on such belief that the Tokyo International Law Seminar was launched to serve as a platform where next-generation practitioners of international law from Asia and Africa can deepen their knowledge through engagement with one another as well as with leading experts.

Now in its fourth year, the Seminar has steadily established itself as an intellectually vibrant forum providing opportunities for learning and interactions. I would like to encourage all participants to make the most of the Seminar as an opportunity to deepen your understanding of international law, as well as to foster common knowledge and awareness among international lawyers from various countries, and to forge close ties with one another.

I sincerely hope that this Seminar will steadily contribute to the realization of peace guided by the “rule of law”. On that note, I conclude my remarks.