

## ILA JAPAN Branch History

Kazuhiro Nakatani  
ILA Japan Branch Secretary General

The International Law Association Japan Branch (*Kokusaiho Kyokai Nihonshibu*) was established on 13 December 1920 at the inauguration meeting held at Chuo-tei Restaurant, Tokyo. Thomas Baty (1869-1954) helped the creation of the Japan Branch. Baty, a British lawyer, served as the legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry of Japan.

The founding members of the Japan Branch included Nagao Ariga (1860-1921, legal adviser at the Japan-China War and the Japan- Russia War), Tasuku Egi (1873-1932, Minister of Justice), Minoru Fujii (1880-1963, Ambassador to Chile), Hidei Fukuoka (1871-1932, Professor, Tokyo School of Foreign Studies), Yasushi Hijikata (1859-1929, Professor, Tokyo Imperial University), Takuzo Itakura (1879-1963, Professor, Keio University), Masaharu Kato (1871-1952, Professor, Tokyo Imperial University, President of the Chuo University), Komaji Kikuchi (1878-1935, Counselor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Kazuo Matsubara (1877-1956, Professor, Chuo and Nihon Universities), Yosuke Matsuoka (1880-1946, Foreign Minister), Arata Ninagawa (1873-1959, Professor, Doshisha and Komazawa Universities), Takenosuke Nozawa (1866-1941, Member of the House of Representatives), Fujitaro Oshima (1866-1931, Minister to Mexico), Sakutarō Tachi (1874-1943, Professor, Tokyo Imperial University, legal adviser of the Foreign Ministry), Setsuzo Sawada (1884-1976, Ambassador to Brazil), Yotaro Sugimura (1884-1939, Ambassador to Italy and France), Kenzo Takayanagi (1887-1967, Professor, University of Tokyo), Shiro Terada (1886-1977, Professor, Sophia University), Toru Terao (1859-1925, Professor, Tokyo Imperial University), Tsunejuro Tomioka (1865-1943, Member of the International Commission of Inquiry between United States and Uruguay), Saburo Yamada (1869-1965, Professor, Tokyo Imperial University, President of the Japan Academy) and Tadao Yamakawa (1873-1962, Chief of Cabinet Legislation Bureau). Ariga, Baty, Fukuoka, Tachi, Terao, Tomioka, Yamada and Yamakawa acted as Members of the Council. Baty, Tachi and Yamakawa acted as Directors. There was no President. In 1922, Fukuoka and Yamada joined as Directors. Fukuoka acted as Treasurer. Yamakawa and Hikomatsu Kamikawa (1889-1988, Professor, Tokyo Imperial University) acted as Honorary Secretaries.

The annual membership fee was 6 JPY which included the registration fee sent to the headquarters (12 shilling 6 pence per member).

Art. 1 of the original Rule of the Japan Branch provided as follows: " The purposes of the Branch is to research and consideration of subjects relating to international law in keeping contact with the International Law Association and to take measures which are considered to be useful for making close relationship with academic societies of international law in foreign countries. " In Japan, the Japanese Society of International Law (JSIL, *Kokusaiho Gakkai*) was established on 4 March 1897 at Fujimiken Restaurant in Tokyo. The ILA Japan Branch was in close relationship with the JSIL. The core members of the Branch and the JSIL overlap. Art. 2 of the Rule of the Branch provided that Branch members were admitted among the JSIL members. Art. 12 provided that the Branch office was placed at the JSIL office at the University of Tokyo.

The Japan Branch ceased its activities during WWII and its old records were burnt away due to the bombardments in Tokyo. It was in the middle of 1950s when the Japan Branch resumed its activities. Shigeru Kuriyama (1886-1971, Ambassador to Belgium. When Supreme Court Justice) attended the 1954 International Legal Conference held in New Dehli as the representative of Japan, he discussed the question of the re-constitution of the Japan Branch with Mr. Harvey Moore, ILA Honorary Secretary General. The discussion resulted in the reestablishment of the Japan Branch in 1955, when Kuriyama was elected as President of the Branch. Reestablishment of the Japan Branch was its new statute was formally acknowledged by the ILA Executive Council on 23 July 1955. The number of the Branch members reached 65 at the end of 1955.

The Officers of the Japan Branch in 1955 was as follows.

Honorary President : Saburo Yamada, Honorary Vice President : Tadao Yamakawa,  
President : Shigeru Kuriyama, Vice-President: Kenzo Takayamagi, Honorary Treasurer:  
Hisao Yanai, Honorary Secretary : Masao Ichimata

Kuriyama served as the President of the Branch until 1970.

The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Japan Branch are as follows.

#### Presidents:

1955-1970 Shigeru Kuriyama (ILA President 1964-1966)  
1970-1993 Kisaburo Yokota (1896-1993, Professor, University of Tokyo, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court)  
1993-1995 Takeso Shimoda (1907-1995, Ambassador to the United States, Supreme Court Justice)  
1995-2000 Shigejiro Tabata (1911-2001, Professor, Kyoto University)  
2000-2003 Yasuo Ishimoto (1924-2015, Professor, Osaka City University and Sophia University)  
2003-2009 Shigeru Oda (1924- , Professor Tohoku University, Vice President, International Court of Justice)  
2009-2012 Shunji Yanai (1937- , Ambassador to the United States, President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea)  
2012-2014 Shinya Murase (1943- , Professor, Sophia University, Member of the International Law Commission)  
2014-2016 Naoya Okuwaki (1946- , Professor, University of Tokyo)  
2016-present Shunji Yanai (see above)

#### Vice Presidents

1955-1966 Kenzo Takayanagi (1887-1967, Professor, University of Tokyo)  
1967- 1992 Takeo Suzuki (1905-1995, Professor, University of Tokyo)  
1993-2000 Suetaka Ikehara (1919-2000, Professor, University of Tokyo)  
2000-2009 Toshijiro Nakajima (1925-2011, Ambassador to China, Supreme Court Justice)  
2009-2012 Shinya Murase (see above)  
2012- 2014 Shunji Yanai (see above)  
2014-2016 Masato Dogauchi (1955- , Professor, Waseda University)  
2016-present Naoya Okuwaki (see above)

On 6 January 1960, the Japan Branch was authorized as an Incorporated Association (*Shadan Hojin*).

From 16 to 22 August 1964, the Japan Branch hosted the ILA 51<sup>st</sup> Biennial Conference in Tokyo. The Conference was a great success with a total of 567 participants (419 from foreign countries) representing 34 countries. The record book of the Conference including photos is available at [http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/tokyo\\_1964.pdf](http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/tokyo_1964.pdf)

The Japan Branch published Japanese Annual of International Law from Number 1 (1957) to Number 50 (2007) and publishes Japanese Yearbook of International Law from Volume 51 (2008) to Volume 62 (2019). As to the history of the Annual and Yearbook, see Keiichiro Niikura and Koichi Morikawa, The History, Development, Function, and Future of the Japanese Yearbook (Annual) of International Law, *Netherlands Yearbook of International Law 2020 (forthcoming)*,

The contents of the *Japanese Yearbook (Annual) of International Law* are available at <http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/contents.htm>

On 9 April 2004, the Japan Branch held the Commemorative Seminar for Dr. Thomas Baty “Contribution of Dr. Thomas Baty and Their Reappraisal.” at the University of Tokyo. For details, see [http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/baty\\_e.pdf](http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/baty_e.pdf)

On 1 April 2012, the Japan Branch was authorized as a General Incorporated Association (*Ippan Shadan Hojin*).

The 79<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference which the Japan Branch hosted was planned to be held from 23 to 27 August 2020 at the Kyoto International Conference Center. However, due to the widespread COVID-19 infection, the Conference was rescheduled as Online Conference from 29 November to 13 December 2020 (the centenary date of the establishment of the Japan Branch) .

The information of the Japan Branch is available in English at [http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/english\\_top.htm](http://www.ilajapan.org/doc/english_top.htm)



Japan Branch Council Meeting on 15 December 2019 in Tokyo



The University of Tokyo Faculty of Law Building where the Branch Office is situated

#### References

*Kokusaiho Gaiko Zasshi* (Journal of international Law and Diplomacy), vol. 20 No. 1 (1921), pp. 124-126.

Masao Ichimata, *Nihon no Kokusaihougaku wo Kizuuta Hitobito* (People who Established International Legal Studies in Japan) (Nihon Kokusai Mondai Kenkyujo, 1973), pp. 139-140.