



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0)70 302 2323 Fax: +31 (0)70 364 9928

[Website](#) [X](#) [YouTube](#) [LinkedIn](#)

Press Release

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Visit of the Emperor of Japan to the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration

THE HAGUE, 18 June 2026. His Majesty Emperor Naruhito of Japan today paid a visit to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the seat of both organizations.

HM Emperor Naruhito was accompanied by a high-level delegation led by HE Mr Ishiba Shigeru, Member of the House of Representatives and former Prime Minister of Japan. The delegation also included HE Mr Michii Rokuichiro, Ambassador of Japan to the Netherlands, and HE Mr Gilles Beschoor Plug, Ambassador of the Netherlands to Japan.

Emperor Naruhito and his delegation were welcomed on behalf of the ICJ by HE Judge Iwasawa Yuji, President of the Court, and HE Mr Philippe Gautier, Registrar, and on behalf of the PCA by HE Mr Marcin Czepelak, Secretary-General, and Mr Martin Doe and Mr Garth Schofield, Deputy Secretaries-General.

At the start of the visit, Emperor Naruhito was shown the artwork in the PCA's Administrative Council Chamber (also known as the Japanese Room), and in particular the Kawashima tapestries donated to the Peace Palace by Japan.

President Iwasawa then gave a brief tour of the Great Hall of Justice, the ICJ's courtroom, and of two adjacent rooms where the portraits of former ICJ President Owada Hisashi and former President of the Permanent Court of International Justice Adatci Mineichirō are displayed. The President also presented several historical objects connected to Judge Adatci.

During the visit, Emperor Naruhito signed the Visitors' Book of the International Court of Justice.

Photographs of the visit are available in the [Multimedia](#) section of the Court's website.

Note: The Court's press releases are prepared by its Registry for information purposes only and do not constitute official documents.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

Information Department:

Ms Monique Legerman, First Secretary of the Court, Head of Department: +31 (0)70 302 2336

Ms Joanne Moore, Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2337

Mr Avo Sevag Garabet, Associate Information Officer: +31 (0)70 302 2481

Email: media@icj-cij.org