

## **Centenary of the Polish Branch of the ILA**

**Honorable President Jerzy Menkes and distinguished members of the Polish Branch of the ILA,**

**I am Shunji Yanai, President of the Japan Branch. On behalf of the Japan Branch, I wish to congratulate you on the centenary of the Polish Branch and express our highest appreciation of its outstanding contributions to the development of international law. In 2020, the Japan Branch hosted the 79<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Kyoto during which it celebrated its centenary. Our Branch is slightly older than yours and I am pleased to say that we are good brothers.**

**We know that your Branch has been always actively participated in various ILA events, and recall that you hosted the 63<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference in Warsaw in 1988. Many of my colleagues of the Japan Branch attended that Biennial Conference and were charmed by the beauty of Warsaw. They still keep fond memories of that experience.**

**For many years, Poland and Japan have been enjoying very close and friendly relations, and it is gratifying to note that the direct flights between our two countries operated by the Polish Airlines further contribute to the strengthening of our close ties.**

**I would like to add that I was very honored and pleased to join the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea with Judge Stanislaw Pawlak in 2005, and to have worked closely together for eighteen years, but our terms of office just ended in September this year, and in October, ITLOS welcomed a new Polish judge, Mr. Konrad Jan Marciniak.**

**In closing, I wish you another very successful hundred years.**

**Thank you.**