

ACTIVITIES

I. Activities of the International Law Association of Japan

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ACADEMIC CONFERENCE
(2021)

Date: April 24, 2021

Mode: Online

Theme: New Dispute Settlement

Chair: Masaharu Yanagihara, Professor, Open University of Japan

Speaker: Shotaro Hamamoto, Professor, Kyoto University

Speaker: Taro Hamada, Professor, Senshu University

Chair: Yasushi Nakanishi, Professor, Kyoto University

Speaker: Naoshi Takasugi, Professor, Doshisha University

Speaker: Yoshihisa Hayakawa, Professor, Rikkyo University

"Reform" of Investor-State Dispute Settlement: What Is to Be Reformed for What?

HAMAMOTO Shotaro

Professor, Kyoto University

Investor-State dispute settlement (ISDS) is a victim of its own success. Its rapid expansion and development in the 2000s were soon met by backlash from various quarters. This backlash included the Global South seeing themselves as the victim of the system, anti-globalism based on the "my country first" ideology, anti-USA movements that considered ISDS a tool of US "imperialism", and advocates of "democracy", which was being eroded, according to them, by ISDS. Against these backgrounds, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) started to consider possible reform options of ISDS in 2017. A number of issues are discussed in the UNCITRAL, but the one that is both fundamental and apparently irreconcilable is whether the reform should result in the establishment of a permanent multilateral investment court or the adoption of various reform options that would allow each State to select those it considers appropriate. This divergence of views arises not only from the political or economic priorities of each camp, but also from the difference in the conception of democracy that they harbor. Those criticizing the current arbitration system for undermining democracy because "privately" appointed arbitrators often reverse decisions adopted by sovereign States through the democratic process advocate the creation of a permanent court, while those who consider that such a court would undermine democracy with its quasi-legislative power prefer an incremental approach. The ongoing work

in the UNCITRAL is supposed to be completed in 2026, but no one knows where it is headed in the face of this philosophical cleavage.

Limited Functions, Constraints, and Recent Controversies of the WTO Dispute
Settlement Mechanism

Taro Hamada

Professor, Senshu University

The United States has fiercely criticized the WTO dispute settlement mechanism (DSM), and it still blocks Appellate Body (AB) member appointments. Japan has also expressed disappointment in this mechanism because of its failure to resolve the "Korea-Radionuclides (DS495)" dispute.

The United States alleges that the AB invented the authority to review the panel's fact-finding, contrary to the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Dispute (DSU), while Japan accuses the AB of failing to complete its legal analysis of the inconsistency of Korean measures based on the panel's fact-finding and the unchallenged facts of both disputing parties. Both countries agree that the AB's jurisdiction is limited to issues of law covered in a panel report and to the panel's legal interpretations, but they clearly differ on the AB's jurisdiction in the dispute.

The DSM is an efficient self-executed process that establishes de facto compulsory jurisdiction. The DSU establishes tight schedules at all stages to ensure expeditious proceedings. The complaining member cannot block the establishment of a panel, the adoption of the panel and AB reports, or the authorization of countermeasures.

However, the panel and the AB usually recommend that the defending member bring the measure into conformity with the WTO agreement, without suggesting specific ways to implement the Dispute Settlement Body's (DSB) recommendations (Article 19.1 of the DSU). Negotiations are not displaced, but are directed toward instrumental arrangements to implement DSB recommendations, particularly in the SPS agreement dispute, in that disputing parties agree to the phytosanitary import conditions to implement DSB recommendations. The long-standing hormone dispute was resolved through a satisfactory compensation agreed upon between the disputing parties; this poses another systemic issue of the characteristic of compensation.

Negotiations remain central to the DSM, similar to international judicial settlement procedures in the absence of effective enforcement mechanisms for binding judgments.

The Recent Trend in Resolution for International Commercial Disputes: From Arbitration to Mediation

Naoshi Takasugi
Professor, Doshisha University

Traditionally, the dominant method of resolving international commercial disputes has been arbitration rather than litigation. This is because arbitration has the advantage of ensuring a neutral and fair forum, as the parties can appoint reliable experts as arbitrators; arbitral awards are enforceable throughout the world under the 1958 New York Convention, and the disputes can be resolved confidentially and expeditiously under flexible procedures.

However, it has recently become apparent that arbitration has drawbacks as well. The losing parties often do not voluntarily comply with arbitral awards. Instead, they file an action for setting aside the awards or resist the enforcement of the awards. Arbitrators must be more careful in conducting arbitral proceedings to minimize the possibility of the awards being set aside or not enforced. Those factors increase time and costs, and this characteristic of arbitration leads to the most dissatisfaction. These drawbacks are attributable to the adversarial nature of arbitral proceedings and hence, they can be eliminated by using amicable procedures, *i.e.*, "mediation".

In 2014, the UNCITRAL initiated the preparation of an international instrument to promote mediation by granting enforceability to mediated settlement agreements, like the New York Convention grants enforceability to arbitral awards. As a result, the Singapore Convention on Mediation was drawn up and a signing ceremony was held in 2019; 46 countries signed the Convention. The Convention entered into force in 2020 in three countries. Japan has not signed the Convention, but is considering enacting domestic legislation based on the Convention.

Mediation centers, such as SIMC (Singapore International Mediation Center) and JIMC-Kyoto (Japan International Mediation Center in Kyoto), have been established worldwide to assist in international commercial mediation. In the future, it will be crucial to devote more attention to education in mediation law and the training and capacity building of personnel involved in international mediation, such as mediators and mediation lawyers.

Sport Arbitration — Rule-Making Dynamics of Anti-Doping Policies

Yoshihisa Hayakawa
Professor of Law, Rikkyo University

One significant phenomenon in sport law is the dynamics of the rule-making activities in the field of anti-doping. The World Anti-Doping Code was created by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), and it is regularly revised and universally

adopted by almost all international and national federations for various types of sports.

Anti-doping disputes are resolved by an anti-doping disciplinary panel, as the first-tier decision-making body, which is established by each international federation for international-level athletes, or which is established in each country for national-level athletes. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) or a sport arbitration institution in each country serves as the appellate body.

There is an apparent difference between the tendency of the decisions issued by the first-tier bodies and that of the decisions issued by the appellate bodies. Real experts on anti-doping comprise the arbitrator candidates in the first-tier bodies. The arbitrators for a case are automatically selected from the candidates without any intervention from the parties.

On the other hand, candidates in the appellate bodies are open to experts on sport law in general. Each party can choose one of the arbitrators. The system enables an athlete to strategically choose an arbitrator who is not familiar with the complicated anti-doping rules. Consequently, an application or interpretation of the anti-doping rules by an appellate body sometimes differs completely from the aims of the WADA.

As a reaction or countermeasure, the WADA tries to clarify its aims in the regular revision of the anti-doping rules. The CAS, however, poses additional challenges, and the dynamics are never ending.

OFFICE ACTIVITIES IN 2020

1. The 79th ILA Biennial Conference

The Japan Branch hosted the 79th ILA Biennial Conference. Originally it was planned to be held from 23 to 27 August at the Kyoto International Conference Center. However, due to the spread of COVID-19, it was changed into the online Conference from 29 November to 13 December 2020.

The Online Conference was successful with 489 participants. At the Opening Plenary on 29 November, the Branch President YANAI Shunji spoke as follows:

The Right Honorable Lord Mance, Honorable President Dr. Ward, distinguished members of the International Law Association and its Branches, distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a distinct privilege and pleasure for me to say a few words of welcome on behalf of the ILA Japan Branch at the Opening Plenary Session of the 79th Biennial Conference of the ILA, the 2020 Kyoto Conference. We had been looking forward to welcoming you in person to the historic city of Kyoto in August. However, the worldwide spread of COVID-19 made that impossible. After close consultations with the ILA Headquarters and

other Branches, the decision was made to go online a few months later in the year. Even so, the event is still called “the 2020 Kyoto Conference”.

Allow me to tell you a bit about the history of the Japan Branch which was founded in 1920. This year's Closing Plenary Session will be held on December 13th, the very date on which the Japan Branch was founded 100 years ago. A British lawyer, Thomas Baty, was instrumental in establishing the Japan Branch. He was a legal advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. The Japan Branch has steadily expanded its activities ever since and has contributed to the development of international law. It has grown to 332 members.

Back in 1964, the Japan Branch hosted the ILA's Biennial Conference in Tokyo, Japan. We had planned to host the conference for a second time in 2014, that time in Kyoto. However, the earthquake and tsunami disaster of 2011 made that extremely difficult. As a result, the Biennial Conference in Kyoto was rescheduled for 2020 and the 2014 conference was held instead in Washington D.C. I take this opportunity to once again thank the American Branch for graciously hosting the 2014 conference in spite of short notice.

The main theme of the 79th Biennial Conference remains “Bridging for the Future”. The Kyoto Conference is intended to bridge the past, present and future while connecting the East, West, North and South. Japan's fundamental foreign policy is devoted to establishing and strengthening the rule of law in international relations. I trust that the Kyoto Conference will contribute to promoting this goal.

The Committees and Study Groups are the main engines that carry out the substantive work of the ILA. With close collaboration with the Headquarters, this time 14 Committees and 5 Study Groups will meet also online in the two weeks between the Opening Plenary and the Closing Plenary. In addition, the Headquarters will host a series of Panels. Three of them will be specifically devoted to the work of selected young scholars, with December 9th designated as “Young Scholars Day”. I'm happy to report that 348 participants have already registered including 26 scholarship students. Holding these meetings online presented new challenges to all of us. I would like to recognize the tremendous efforts to meet them under the leadership of Professor Bodeau Livinec, Director of Studies of the ILA. I look forward to seeing the final reports and resolutions to be presented by several Committees for consideration and adoption by the Plenary. These documents will be the main products of the 2020 Kyoto Conference.

With the help of the ILA Headquarters and Branches concerned, the Japan Branch has made every effort to prepare for a fruitful Biennial

Conference. One advantage of the online format is that it allows many people to participate from all over the world without requiring expensive international travel. On the other hand, it entails inevitably the problem of time differences. For instance, a convenient schedule for London and Kyoto is the middle of the night in some other places. To deal with that complication, we are making video recordings of all parts of Plenary sessions available so that participants can view them at convenience. This is based on the good suggestion of Lord Mance. Another positive aspect of going online is that it opens the doors of the ILA Biennial Conference, and even those of the ILA itself, to a wider range of participants, especially young scholars and practitioners.

For more than two years leading up to May 2020, the Japan Branch had spent a significant amount of time, as well as human and financial resources, preparing for the originally planned August Kyoto Conference in the usual in-person format. The unavoidable switch to the online format made much of that planning moot and created additional difficulties, especially in finance and conference organization. I would like to thank the ILA Headquarters and many Branches for kindly understanding these difficulties and offering various forms of help, including financial assistance. Their invaluable support has allowed the Japan Branch to go forward with the Conference and into the future.

We had planned to open the Kyoto Conference with a cultural performance, as was done in Sydney in 2018. However, with the move online, we had to cancel it. We also very much regret the loss of the opportunity to host ILA members, family, and guests from abroad in the beautiful city of Kyoto. I earnestly hope that another chance will arise for us to do so in the near future.

At the Closing Plenary held on 13 December, the centenary date of the Japan Branch, the following message from His Excellency Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan was read by Mr. OKANO Masataka, Director-General, International Legal Affairs Bureau/Legal Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, let me extend my heartfelt congratulations on successfully holding the conference in an online format despite a difficult situation caused by COVID-19. Since its foundation in 1873, the ILA has been contributing to the development of international law and promoting goodwill and understanding among lawyers around the world. 1873 is also known as the year, when a Japanese term “Kokusai-ho” referring to “international law” was coined. I would also like to congratulate the Japan Branch of the ILA on its 100th anniversary. I wish the Japan Branch of the ILA will continue to prosper in the future, building upon its

centenary history. I heard productive discussions had taken place for the last two weeks at the conference under the theme of "Bridging for the Future". I highly respect the ILA for its activities that contribute to the development and promotion of international law in the international community. Today, the international community is facing various challenges, including the spread of COVID-19 on a global scale, unilateral attempts to change the status quo, and the rise of protectionism. Japan is determined to continue to play a proactive role in establishing a free and fair order and international rules based on the rule of law. Last month, the election of the judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was held, and a Japanese candidate, Judge IWASAWA Yuji, who is now serving as a Vice Chair of ILA, was re-elected. In addition, Judge YANAI Shunji of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) serves as the President of the Japan Branch of the ILA. These are the testaments to how much importance Japan attaches to the "rule of law". The role of international law will remain extremely important in the "With COVID-19 era" as well as the "Post COVID-19 era", and we hope to continue to closely work with the ILA. Finally I sincerely pray for the development of the ILA and I wish you and your family all the best. Thank you.

President YANAI Shunji's closing address was as follows:

The Right Honorable Lord Mance, Honorable former President Dr. Ward, distinguished members of the International Law Association and its Branches, Honorable Director General Okano, distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank Mr. Okano for conveying the congratulatory message of His Excellency Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, Foreign Minister of Japan, to the 79th Biennial Conference of the ILA and to the Japan Branch on its centenary. It is a great honor and pleasure for all members of the Japan Branch to be celebrating the 100th anniversary of its foundation on this very day, December 13th, at the Closing Plenary Session of the 2020 Kyoto Conference. We are delighted to reach this landmark in the presence of many members of the ILA Headquarters, its Branches, and participants in the Conference. I wish to thank Lord Mance for having given us additional information about the background and activities of Dr. Thomas Baty, who helped found the Japan Branch. In 2004, we held a commemorative seminar entitled "Contributions of Dr. Thomas Baty and Their Reappraisal" at the University of Tokyo. The Japan Branch has steadily expanded its activities in public and private international law and has grown to more than three hundred members.

This year, when the decision was made not to hold the Kyoto Conference in August as originally planned, I was really concerned. I was

not sure if the meetings of the Plenary and committees could be held smoothly online, and even if they could, I was afraid the event would turn out to be quite modest. So, I am glad to report to you that everything turned out fine. 488 participants registered and, over the past two weeks, 14 committees and five study groups were held very successfully. This was made possible only with considerable help from the Headquarters and the Branches concerned. I thank Lord Mance, Professor Bodeau-Livinec, Professor Tzanakopoulos, Ms. Martin, Ms. Tridgel and other officers of the Headquarters for their extraordinary efforts to overcome difficulties presented by the online format. I also wish to recognize the contributions of Mr. Kunzelmann and other hard-working reporters. My thanks also go to Professor Asada, who chaired the Organizing Committee of the Japan Branch, Professors Furuya, Shibata, Teraya and Ko as well as to other members of the Japan Branch for their thorough preparations and efficient conference management.

At the Full Executive Council meeting this week, I heard that Lord Mance would retire from the Chair of the ILA by November next year and that the 2020 Kyoto Conference would be his last Biennial Conference. Since 2009, I have had the pleasure of working under his able leadership at Executive Council meetings and Biennial Conferences. I always admire not only his legal mind, but also his administrative skills with which he resolves the most difficult issues. Moreover, he does so in a gentle manner. I take this opportunity to once again thank him for having rescued the Japan Branch not once but twice. Once Lord Mance helped us out when our Branch had to postpone the holding of a Biennial Conference in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami disaster of 2011. He rescued us for a second time this year under the most difficult pandemic situation. I can hardly imagine the ILA without Lord Mance as its Chair, but I hope that he will continue to help us with his wisdom.

In addition, I would recognize the tireless efforts made by the chairpersons and members of the Committees and Study Groups to achieve their mandates and decide on future programs of work. Just a few minutes ago, the Plenary adopted seven resolutions endorsing the reports of six Committees and one Study Group. These resolutions constitute the main outcome of this Biennial Conference. The topics of these resolutions are: "Procedure of International Courts and Tribunals", "Global Health Law", "Implementation of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", "The Role of International Law in Sustainable Natural Resources Management for Development", "Nuclear Weapons, Non-Proliferation and Contemporary International Law", "Intellectual Property and Private International Law", and "Content and Evolution of the Rules of Interpretation".

Another highlight of this Biennial Conference has been the active participation of young scholars. We exempted the scholarship students from the registration fee to encourage participation. I am happy to tell you that 26 scholarship students registered. At the business part of the Closing Plenary, we heard excellent presentations by three young scholars, Ms. Julia Emtseva, Dr. Constantinos Yiallourides, and Ms. Aylin Yildiz. I welcome them to the 2020 Kyoto Conference and congratulate on their successful work. I would like to thank Mr. Mauleverer, Patron of the ILA, for his initiative to promote participation of young scholars in the work of the ILA and for his strong support of the program for them. In this connection, I would like to recall that December 9th was designated as "Young Scholars Day". I also wish to stress the importance of this program, as young scholars are the ones who will carry the future of the ILA on their shoulders. They are indeed bridging for the future.

As I said at the Opening Plenary Session, the unavoidable switch to the online format of the Conference made many of the preparations for the originally planned August Kyoto Conference moot and created additional difficulties, especially in finance and conference organization. I would like to thank, once again, the ILA Headquarters, Professor Hofmann, Treasurer of the ILA, and many Branches for kindly offering various forms of help. I am especially grateful to the Headquarters as well as to the American, Australian, British, Dutch, French, German and Portuguese Branches for having given the Japan Branch generous financial assistance which allowed it to go forward with the 2020 Kyoto Conference and into the future.

My thanks go as well to the Kyoto International Conference Center for waiving the cancellation fee for the conference rooms. We also are grateful to a number of Japanese institutions that made financial contributions to support the Conference in the online format. These include: the Egusa Foundation for International Cooperation in the Social Sciences, the Tokyo Club, the Suenobu Foundation, the 21st Century Public Policy Institute, the Soka Gakkai International and the Nippon Foundation. Additionally, we thank the Polaris Secretaries Company for providing us with excellent conference services at the preparatory stage and for the meetings of the Plenary and committees during the past two weeks.

We in the Japan Branch are particularly happy that the next 80th ILA Biennial Conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, because Portugal is the first European country that Japan encountered almost five centuries ago. The first contact occurred in 1543, when a Portuguese ship became stranded at Tanegashima, a small Japanese island South of Kyushu. The local people rescued the crew and saw new things from Europe, including muskets. This later changed the balance of power among feudal lords in

Japan. Japan has enjoyed friendly relations with Portugal ever since those times.

As for me, it is a great honor to serve as President of the ILA until the 80th Biennial Conference in Lisbon in 2022. I see daunting task ahead, but my predecessor, Dr. Ward, had given me a fine example to follow. After the Kyoto Conference, I would like to share my experience with the biennial conference with Professor Manuel de Almeida Ribeiro. He will begin making arrangements for the Lisbon Conference right after the closure of the Kyoto Conference. I earnestly hope that the Portuguese Branch will be able to host the event in the normal in-person format. Nevertheless, our experience with the online meetings might be useful in the early stages of preparations. I would like to be optimistic, but COVID-19 seems determined to continue at least through much of next year. My mid-term goal is to strengthen the worthwhile program for young scholars. Looking long term, one of my main goals for the ILA is strengthening the structure by encouraging more private international law scholars and practitioners to join us. And I certainly welcome the role of the Standing Steering Committee on Studies in support of the Committees and Study Groups that are the main engines of the substantive work of the ILA.

The 2020 Kyoto Conference is coming to an end. In my view, the substantive work has been done quite successfully. For that, we have all the participants to thank. Your full cooperation allowed us to persevere, despite constraints of the online format. Nevertheless, I do have a few regrets. I am sorry we were not able to give any lunches, dinners, receptions, cultural performances, and excursions. And I have a confession to make: I started singing opera lessons about 15 years ago when I was 68, and had been looking forward to singing a few Italian arias to entertain you at the closing reception. I very much regret the loss of that opportunity. But perhaps you may not.

In closing, on behalf of the Japan Branch, I would, once again, like to thank all the members of the ILA and its Branches as well as all participants for their kind understanding and strong support. Without that, the 2020 Kyoto Conference could not have been a success. I also extend my best wishes to Professor Manuel de Almeida Ribeiro, President of the Portuguese Branch, for what I am sure will be a splendid Conference in 2022.

2. The General Meeting of the Japan Branch was held on 6 June 2020 at AP Ichigaya, Tokyo.
 - a. With regard to fiscal year 2019:
 - (i) The financial account of the Japan Branch for fiscal year 2019, au-

- dited by Mr. Masaki Orita and Mr. Akira Kawamura, Auditors, as prepared by Mr. Yoshio Kumakura, Treasurer, was submitted and approved at the Meeting.
- (ii) The general affairs of the Branch during this term were reported on by Professor Kazuhiro Nakatani, Secretary-General.
- (iii) The academic activities of the Branch during this term, as prepared by Professor Masaharu Yanagihara, Director of Planning, was reported on by Professor Kazuhiro Nakatani Secretary-General.
- (iv) The publication of Volume 62 of the Japanese Yearbook of International Law, as prepared by Professor Koichi Morikawa, Editor-in-Chief, was reported on by Professor Kazuhiro Nakatani Secretary-General.
- b. With regard to fiscal year 2020:
- (i) The budget for fiscal year 2020, as prepared by Mr. Yoshio Kumakura, Treasurer, was submitted and approved at the Meeting.
- (ii) The general affairs scheduled for this term were presented by Professor Kazuhiro Nakatani, Secretary-General.
- (iii) The academic activities scheduled for this term, as prepared by Professor Masaharu Yanagihara, Director of Planning, was reported on by Professor Kazuhiro Nakatani, Secretary-General.
- (iv) The progress of the editorial work for Volumes 63 and 64 of the Japanese Yearbook of International Law, as prepared by Professor Koichi Morikawa, Editor-in-Chief, was reported on by Professor Kazuhiro Nakatani Secretary-General.
- (v) The following 15 persons were admitted as new members of the Branch: Ikuo Shoji, Embassy of Japan, Czech Republic; Shiho Tsuchiya, Associate Professor, Takushoku University; Miho Shin, Associate Professor, Meiji Gakuin University; Nanako Shimizu, Associate Professor, Utsunomiya University; Shiho Kato, Associate Professor, Hiroshima University; Kiyotaka Fukui, Senior Assistant Professor, Meiji University; Masaki Kihara, Professor, Kobe Gakuin University; Tomohiko Kobayashi, Professor, Otaru University of Commerce; Ryosuke Sato, Associate Professor, Seijo University; Shinji Sawada, Professor, National Defense Academy of Japan; Hiromichi Matsuda, Assistant Professor, International Christian University; Chizu Arashima, Associate Professor, Kobegakuin University; Toshiya Nishikata, Professor, Kyoto University of Advanced Science; Nao Seoka, Associate Professor, Kindai University; Takuya Inoue, Director, Adachi Memorial Foundation
- (vi) The following 27 persons were admitted as Council Members of the Branch: Jun'ichi Akiba, Masahiko Asada, Masato Dogauchi, Shuichi Furuya, Kazuya Hirobe, Yuji Iwasawa, Atsuko Kanehara, Yoshio Kumakura, Yosiro Matsui, Tadashi Mori, Koichi Morikawa, Shinya Murase, Kazuhiro Nakatani, Masataka Okano, Naoya Okuwaki, Hisashi Owada, Hironobu Sakai, Shigeki Sakamoto, Yoshiaki Sakurada, Masatsugu Suzuki, Koji Teraya, Junko Torii, Toshiya Ueki, Kimio Yakushiji, Koresuke Yamauchi, Masaharu Yanagihara, Shunji Yanai
- (vii) The following 2 persons were admitted as Auditors of the Branch: Masaki Orita and Akira Kawamura
3. Three Council Meetings were held by mailing method due to the spread of COVID-19 during fiscal year 2020 and dealt with the following matters:
- a. At the First Council Meetings held in April:
- (i) The financial account of the Branch for fiscal year 2019 and its budget for fiscal year 2020 were presented;
- (ii) The general affairs of the Branch for fiscal year 2019 and the program for fiscal year 2020 were approved;
- (iii) The academic activities of the Branch during fiscal year 2019 and the program for fiscal year 2020 were approved; and
- (iv) The publication of Volume 62 of the Japanese Yearbook of International Law and the progress of the editorial work for Volumes 63 and 64 of the Japanese Yearbook of International Law were reported on.
- b. At the Second Council Meeting held in June after the General Meeting:
- (i) The Branch officers were elected as follows:
 Chairman of the Council: Shunji Yanai
 Vice Chairman of the Council: Naoya Okuwaki
 Treasurer: Yoshio Kumakura
 Secretary General: Kazuhiro Nakatani
 Vice Secretary-General: Koji Teraya
 Editor-in-Chief: Koichi Morikawa
 Co-Editor-in-Chief: Tadashi Mori
 Director of Planning: Masaharu Yanagihara
- (ii) The financial condition of the Branch was presented;
- (iii) The general affairs of the Branch were presented;
- (iv) The academic activities of the Branch were presented; and
- (v) The progress of the editorial work for Volumes 63 and 64 of the Japanese Yearbook of International Law was presented.
- c. At the Third Council Meeting held in November 2020:
- (i) The financial condition of the Branch was presented;

- (ii) The general affairs of the Branch were presented;
- (iii) The academic activities of the Branch were presented; and
- (iv) The progress of the editorial work for Volumes 63 and 64 of the Japanese Yearbook of International Law was presented.

Kazuhiro Nakatani