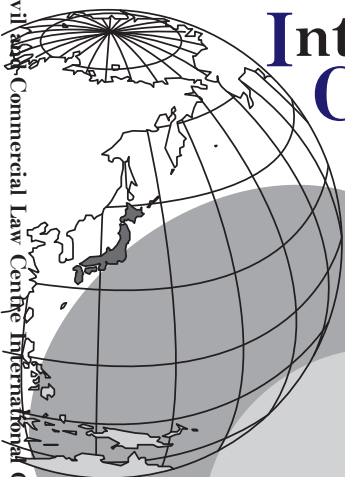


International Civil and Commercial Law Centre



ICCLC International Civil and Commercial Law Centre Foundation

Established in April 1996

Prospectus for the Establishment of ICCLC

Prospectus for the Establishment of ICCLC

In recent years, remarkable economic development and progress toward internationalization have been observed in Asia and its neighboring countries, particularly among the Newly Industrialized Economies (NIES) and ASEAN nations. However, within this region, some countries are striving to transition to market economies and to enter international markets following the end of the Cold War system.

In these countries that are undergoing this transition to market economies, legal systems are not functioning adequately in some areas due to insufficient development of civil and commercial laws essential for economic activity, as well as a lack of expertise and human resources to operate them. This has become one of the obstacles for such countries in their attempts to foster international economic activities. Under these circumstances, these countries are now seeking support and cooperation from the Japanese government to develop their own legal infrastructure.

If these countries develop the legal infrastructure, including the civil and commercial laws necessary for promoting international economic activities, and ensure that such legal infrastructure operates effectively, it will not only contribute to the prosperity of these countries, but it will also be highly beneficial for Japan.

Furthermore, in order to promote even greater economic ties with the NIES and ASEAN countries that are experiencing economic development and internationalization, and to walk the path to prosperity together, it is desirable for us to deepen mutual understanding of each country's legal systems and operations, and to explore better legal frameworks for international economic transactions.

For these reasons, we have decided to establish this Foundation, with the aim of supporting the development of legal infrastructure in these countries, in close collaboration with the Japanese government, by sharing the legal systems and operational know-how and knowledge that Japan has accumulated to date. Furthermore, through interaction among relevant parties in each country, we aim to deepen a common understanding of the legal systems involved in international economic transactions.

●History of the ICCLC

March 28, 1996: Meeting of Founding Committee held

April 16, 1996: Approved by the Minister of Justice for establishment of the Foundation

April 24, 1996: Registration of establishment of the Foundation

May 22, 1996: First Board of Directors Meeting and Inaugural Ceremony held

July 16, 1998: Certified as Specified Public Interest Promotion Corporation by the Minister of Justice

March 18, 2013: Certified as Public Interest Incorporated Foundation by the Prime Minister

April 1, 2013: Registration of transition to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

1 Legal System Development Support Projects

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is involved in assistance projects for the development of legal systems in Asian countries now transitioning to a market economy, which are carried out as part of Japan's grant aid project.

JICA commissions the Foundation to carry out support projects in the field of civil and commercial law. As well as promoting projects with the cooperation of its own directors and representatives from the Ministry of Justice (and other relevant stakeholders), the Foundation focuses on exchanges with personnel working in judicial fields, and project participants from partner countries, thereby building and maintaining friendly relations that will serve endeavors in this area in the future.

●●Vietnam

Japan first started a project to support the development of a legal system in Vietnam in 1996. Since then, Japan has continued support projects for over 20 years. The Project for Harmonized, Practical Legislation and Uniform Application of Law Targeting Year 2020 finished at the end of December 2020. Japan is expected to carry out the Project for Improvement of Quality and Efficiency in Development and Execution of Laws from January 2021 to December 2025.

●●Cambodia

Japan has been carrying out a project to support the development of a legal system since 1999 and has also cooperated in making drafts of the civil code and code of civil procedure of Cambodia. It carried out projects such as the Legal and Judicial Development Project (Phase 4) and the Legal and Judicial Development Project (Phase 5) and is expected to carry out the Legal and Judicial Development Project (Phase 6) from November 2022 to October 2027.

●●Laos

Japan has carried out a project to support the development of a legal system since 2003. It carried out projects such as the Project to Enhance Legal Personnel Training and the Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Lao P.D.R., and is expected to carry out the Project for Promoting Development and Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Legal Sector of Lao P.D.R. (Phase 2) from July 2023 to July 2028.

●●Indonesia

Japan started a project to support the development of a legal system in 2007. It carried out the Project on Intellectual Property Rights Protection and Legal Consistency for Improving the Business Environment, etc. and is now expected to carry out the Project for Efficient and Fair Disputes Resolution Mechanism and Legislative Drafting Capacity Development for Improving Business Environment from October 2021 to September 2025.

●●Other Countries

Training is provided to Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, and Sri Lanka in addition to the above countries for the purpose of supporting their legal system. The Foundation gives support for the training provided by JICA and the Ministry of Justice of Japan.

2 Symposia, Seminars, etc.

We organize and hold under joint sponsorship public symposia and seminars to deepen mutual understanding among relevant persons in judicial, legal, and scientific sectors in Japan and Asian countries, including countries receiving our support, in the field of civil and commercial law.

●●Japan-China Civil and Commercial Law Seminar

Every year since its establishment in 1996, the Foundation has held seminars alternately in Japan and China. These seminars are a way of enhancing our understanding of China with particular reference to the complementary fields of civil and commercial law. As well as providing participants with up-to-the-minute information from Chinese experts on prevailing trends related to China's legal system, this also gives Chinese attendees the opportunity to learn about Japan's legal system.



Held in November 2019 (Tokyo)

●●Symposia on Legal Systems in Asia-Pacific Countries

We hold symposia relating to the fields of civil and commercial law, with the participation of academics, lawyers, and businesspeople from Asia-Pacific countries. These symposia are where we announce the results of research on the legal systems of Asia-Pacific countries.

●●Asia Business Law Forum

The Asia Business Law Forum (ABLF), of which our Foundation is a founding member, was established in 2019. It aims to serve as a bridge connecting Asia and Japan, the public and private sectors (specifically, public entities like courts and the Ministry of Justice, and private entities like lawyers, academics, and corporate legal professionals), and different generations. Its purpose is to provide a forum for sharing knowledge and engaging in multifaceted discussions on Asian laws, covering a broad spectrum from business laws to human rights. In 2023, ABLF held two symposia, including one themed "The Potential and Risks of Generative AI."

●●Symposium related to Business and Human Rights

The Government of Japan named the week starting July 3, 2023 as the week of "Business and Human Rights," and held a number of sessions and events related to Business and Human Rights. The Foundation organized the Business and Human Rights symposium in the 50th year of ASEAN-Japan friendship and cooperation, where foreign experts, government officials, corporate stakeholders and other persons involved were invited to hold a discussion focused on the practice of human rights due diligence, protection of minorities, role of lawyers, etc. in the field of Business and Human Rights. The Foundation also provided assistance as a co-organizer of the public symposium on Business and Human Rights, a special event organized by the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice for "Justice Affairs Diplomacy" Ministerial Forums.

3 Studies and Research

We collect and make public materials relating to research on specific themes in the field of civil and commercial law and relating to the field of business and human rights, in Asian countries.

● Research on Legal Systems in Asian and Pacific Countries

With support mainly from academics, lawyers, and businesspeople in the Kansai area of Japan, study groups have been formed and the following research has, so far, been conducted.

1. Legal System for Insolvency in Asian and Pacific Countries
2. Corporate Bankruptcy and Security Law in Asian and Pacific Countries
3. ADR in Asian and Pacific Countries Now and in the future
4. Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Asian Countries
5. Japan's Perspective on International M&A in Asian Countries
6. Current state of Shareholders' Lawsuit system in Asia and Shareholder Protection
7. Current State and Challenges of Audit Systems in Asia
8. Current State and Challenges of Provision Systems of corporate Information
9. Corporate governance in four countries in southeast Asia
10. Joint venture legislation and practices in four countries in Southeast Asia
11. Real estate legislation and practices in four countries in Southeast Asia

Since fiscal 2024, a two-year study has been conducted on the theme "country-by-country comparison of labor legislation and practices" in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Malaysia.

● Japan-Korea Partnership Joint Research

Every year since 1999, Korean researchers selected from court officials and Japanese researchers selected from officials of the Legal Affairs Bureau, the Ministry of Justice and court officials have conducted joint research mainly on the civil law administration system. The researchers from both countries visit each other's countries in two sessions, the Japan Session and the Korea Session, to conduct joint research.

● Business and Human Rights Planning

The Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights approved by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights is penetrating the international community as the guide on global criteria for business practices which are now sought by all countries and companies regarding business and human rights. The Foundation translated and makes public on its website the Guidance on Interpretation drawn up by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) concerning the part related to companies' responsibilities of the Guiding Principles, with the aim of carrying out enlightenment activities to a wide range of parties, including companies that are developing business in various countries in Asia. The Foundation has drawn up the Guidance on Companies' Responsibilities and Interpretation regarding Respect for Human Rights and made that Guidance public as well.

We also translated the Human Rights Explanation 2.0 Business Guidebook provided by the OHCHR, created the Utilization Guide for the Guidebook, and made them public on our website.

● Joint Research Related to Support for the Development of Laws

In connection with support for the development of laws, the Foundation is cooperating with Japan's Ministry of Justice in joint research with Asian countries.

Public Relations and Announced Materials

The Foundation's website (<https://www.icclc.or.jp>) contains a lot of information, including the following:

- Foundation's activities and financial condition, including the details of board meetings and council meetings, the business plan and budgets, business reports, financial results, in the bulletin "ICCLC"
- Deliverables, such as seminars and symposia, in the form of the newsletter "ICCLC NEWS"
- Materials relating to operations and financial affairs
- Articles contributed by the Foundation's officers

Homepage URL **<https://www.icclc.or.jp>**



New Members Welcome

■ Corporate members annual subscriptions

The fee is 200,000 yen per membership, with a minimum of one membership per company. For inquiries about joining, please contact the Secretariat.

■ Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

ICCLC has been granted Public Interest Incorporated Foundation status by the Prime Minister.

March 18, 2013: Certified as Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

April 1, 2013: Registration of transition to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation



Chairman
Kuniharu Nakamura

Special Adviser,
Sumitomo Corporation

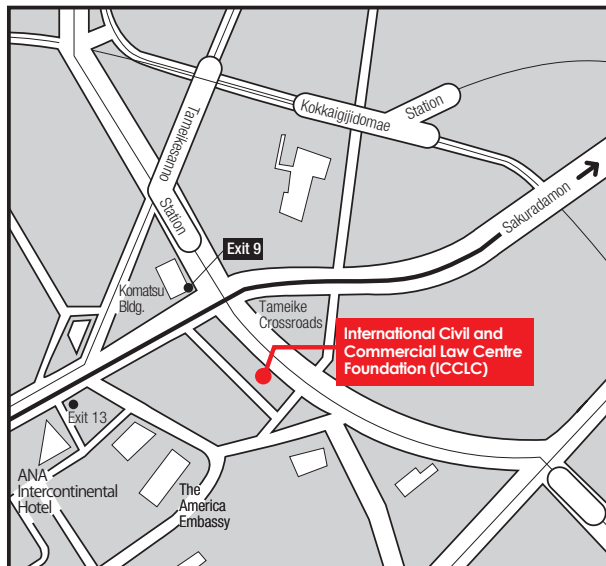
I assumed the post of chairman in March 2024. Since the Foundation's establishment in 1996, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, JICA, and other related organizations, we have been actively participating in and cooperating with support projects for Asian countries, such as the improvement of legal systems, the establishment of means of dispute resolution, and the training of legal personnel, from our standpoint in the private sector. The environment surrounding our legal development support has been changed significantly through the economic development of the countries concerned, progress in the development of their legal and judicial systems, and other relevant changes. Through addressing the changing circumstances, the Foundation will provide cooperation and support accordingly. We would like to ask for your ongoing understanding and support.



President
Kotaro Ohno

Lawyer
Former Vice-Minister of Justice
and Attorney General

I assumed the post of president in June 2017. In the increasingly globalized world, the exchange of people, goods, and information has become quicker and wider. While their movement has produced immeasurable affluence, it has been pointed out that the movement has brought about widened regional gap between the rich and poor as well as a deteriorating global environment. In order for Asian countries to attain a balanced development to benefit each other, it is important to improve functions to prevent and resolve disputes as we verify common-law principles and rules. The purpose of the Foundation is to be active in contributing to the exchange of information, support for the development of laws, and human resource nurturing and training as basic conditions therefor. Support and cooperation from many relevant persons would be appreciated.



Ginza and Nanboku Subway Lines (Tameike Sanno Station)

Exit 9 (Tameike Crossroads) - 3 minutes on foot

ICCLC

International Civil and Commercial Law Centre Foundation

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(September 2025)