



**INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
TRIBUNAL INTERNATIONAL DU DROIT DE LA MER**

Press Release

PARLIAMENTARY SENIOR VICE-MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN, MR. SHUJI KIRA, VISITS THE TRIBUNAL

Hamburg, 8 November 2012. The Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr Shuji Kira, accompanied by Ms. Kikuko Kato, Director of the Ocean Division, and Mr. Setsuo Kosaka, Consul General of Japan in Hamburg, paid a visit to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea today at the invitation of the President of the Tribunal, Judge Shunji Yanai.

The President received the delegation in his office. He was accompanied by the Registrar, Mr Philippe Gautier. The President and the Registrar briefed Senior Vice-Minister Kira on the activities of the Tribunal. Mr Kira expressed his pleasure for being the first elected official of the Japanese Government to visit the Tribunal and highly commended the role played by the Tribunal in the establishment of the rule of law over the seas and oceans through the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes. Mr Kira also renewed Japan's support to the Tribunal. On behalf of the Tribunal, the President expressed his appreciation for the continuous support extended by Japan to the Tribunal.



The Senior Vice-Minister signed the visitor's book and then was invited to a guided tour of the building.

Note: The press releases of the Tribunal do not constitute official documents
and are issued for information purposes only.

The press releases of the Tribunal, documents and other information are available on the Tribunal's
websites (<http://www.itlos.org> and <http://www.tidm.org>) and from the Registry of the Tribunal.
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