

OPENING REMARKS

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It is a great pleasure for me, as the President of Japanese Association of International Law, to welcome you to this Symposium, on the Law of International Relations. And I am extremely delighted to have with us for this meeting from overseas so many eminent scholars of global reputation in the area of international law. We are truly convinced that, with their participation, our meeting will bring forth more remarkable results than expected and give more brilliance to the results here to be achieved.

This conference has been planned and prepared by a committee headed by Professor Ando of the Faculty of Law, Kyoto University, which has made a careful choice of issues and topics best suited for this year of the centennial since our Association's establishment in 1897. This year, they considered, could offer an excellent opportunity for us, as Japanese experts of international law, to examine the State practice of our own nation in these hundred years, with special reference to the rules of law in the international community, to make a proper appraisal or objective evaluation, in our attempt to learn from our past. Looking back into our history, we wonder what our government had in mind when they deviated from and neglected the rules of conduct then widely received among nations. What were the rules of international law as perceived by the government, and what did they take that law to mean?

As we have observed, many events of global importance are now taking place almost everywhere in the world today, and the issues or topics chosen to be discussed here might appear rather local or even parochial in their nature and perspective. If one takes this, however, as an area or case study regarding one State, we will be able to draw some significant guidelines for making up proper standard of conducts for one nation to follow and to keep to, in the coming next century. Wishing this Symposium will offer a forum for a lively discussion or exchange of opinions, with active contribution by all of the participants for that end, I now declare this conference open.