

Ozaki, Kuniko (Japan)

[Original: English]

Note verbale

The Embassy of Japan in The Netherlands presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and, with reference to the Secretariat's note ICC-ASP/8/S/20 dated 13 May 2009, has the honour to inform the latter that the Government of Japan has decided to nominate Professor Kuniko Ozaki as a candidate for judge of the International Criminal Court, at the election to fill judicial vacancies, to be held during the eighth session of the Assembly of States Parties, scheduled for 18 to 26 November 2009 in The Hague, following the sudden passing of Judge Fumiko Saiga in April 2009.

The nomination of Professor Ozaki is made in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute.

Ms. Ozaki is a list B candidate for the purposes of article 36, paragraph 5, of the Rome Statute. Professor Ozaki has enjoyed a long and successful career, both as a highly competent career diplomat with expertise in international law, humanitarian law and law of human rights, including matters related to the International Criminal Court, and as a specialist in criminal law and refugee law in the Ministry of Justice. She also served as Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), from 2006 to 2009. In addition, Professor Ozaki has rich experience as an academic lawyer, having undertaken research and teaching as a professor in the fields of international criminal law, humanitarian law and law of human rights at various universities and institutions. She has written extensively in the relevant fields and has numerous publications. These experiences clearly demonstrate her qualifications as a person with "established competence in relevant areas of international law such as international humanitarian law and the law of human rights, and extensive experience in a professional legal capacity which is of relevance to the judicial work of the Court". It is also important to note that, following the passing of Judge Saiga, there remains only one judge (male, list A) from Asia, and no female and/or list B judge from Asia amongst the incumbent judges. The election of Professor Ozaki as a new judge of the Court would thus contribute significantly to improving regional and other balances in the composition of judges of the Court. The statement made in accordance with article 36, paragraph 4 (a), of the Rome Statute and the curriculum vitae of Professor Ozaki are attached herewith.

Japan has consistently supported the activities of the International Criminal Court since its establishment and, having formally become a State Party to the Rome Statute in October 2007, intends to remain a strong supporter of the Court. The decision of the Government of Japan to present the candidature of Professor Ozaki for election as a judge of the International Criminal Court reflects its firm commitment to continue exerting utmost efforts to facilitate the activities of the Court. The Government of Japan is fully confident that Professor Ozaki possesses the necessary experience, expertise and knowledge in relevant areas of international law, such as humanitarian law and the law of human rights, to add a strong contribution to the important work of the Court.

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