



Parliamentarians for Global Action Japan Chapter

Tokyo, April 27, 2007

Statement of Rep. Mayumi Moriyama on Japan's Accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

We are greatly delighted to witness Japan's completion of its legislative process to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The bill that approves Japan to join the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was passed in the House of Councilors, the National Diet of Japan today after passing the House of Representatives earlier on March 29.

The Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a unique network of 1,300 legislators from 117 parliaments including Japan, has been promoting the universal ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) that entered into force on July 1st, 2002 as one of its principal programs. The latest notable result of this campaign is Japan's ratification. Japan is expected to become the 105th State Party that has ratified and acceded to the Rome Statute.

Despite the fact that the most serious violations of international humanitarian law, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, are the greatest calamity for humanity, they have often been committed with impunity. The International Criminal Court (ICC) established at The Hague in the Netherlands by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court prosecutes and tries individuals who commit these offenses that grossly violate human rights in order to help put an end to impunity and close the loopholes in national laws.

One of the major objectives of the PGA's 28th Annual Forum held in Tokyo in December 2006, where a constructive discussion was made on the necessity and significance of all members of the United Nations to join the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, was to encourage the Asian countries including Japan to ratify the Rome Statute at the earliest possible date.

Since Japan has successfully completed the law-making process towards accession to the Rome Statute, in the years to come we shall take the next step to develop and strengthen our support to increase ratification by the Asian and African countries. We shall also pay keen attention to reflect Japan's perspectives to the management of the ICC, an independent and permanent court that tries persons accused of the most serious crimes of international concern so as to deter gross violations of international humanitarian law in the future.

Representative Mayumi Moriyama

President, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) Japan

Note for editors: Rep. Moriyama is a member of the LDP Party, a former Minister for Justice and the first woman to become a Member of the Cabinet of Japan (in the early 1980ties). In 2005 and 2006, Rep. Moriyama chaired the organizing committee of the PGA's 28th Annual Parliamentary Forum, which took place in Tokyo on 4-5 December 2006 and coincided with the holding of the IV *Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC and the Rule of Law*, a major project of the PGA ICC Campaign.