

May 2024

Upon Celebrating Constitution Memorial Day

TOKURA Saburo

Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

I take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt sympathies to all those affected by the Noto Peninsula Earthquake that occurred on January 1, 2024. I express my profound gratitude and respect to all individuals working diligently to support the recovery and assist local residents in rebuilding their lives under challenging circumstances in the affected areas. I sincerely hope for the swift and complete recovery and reconstruction of these regions.

We, at courts, have continued our efforts to maintain judicial functions in the affected areas. Looking ahead, it is an important challenge that we ensure the capacity to accurately address the various legal issues that may arise as recovery and reconstruction progress.

The judiciary upholds the rule of law by resolving disputes through fair and transparent procedures based on legal principles. To fully exert such function of the judiciary, it is essential to ensure public trust in the judiciary. Courts, which play a central role in the judiciary, need to accurately understand the changes in society and public awareness, and to make decisions and conduct proceedings in a manner highly reasonable with due consideration given to these changes. In addition, I believe it is important to ensure that our current efforts to digitalize

court procedures lead to enhance the convenience of access to justice for public, and by streamlining and rationalizing the entire litigation process, reduce procedural burdens and contribute to the realization of expeditious trial.

On this Constitution Memorial Day, I am once again aware of the importance of the principle of the rule of law embodied by the Constitution of Japan and the gravity of courts' responsibilities, and I will exert my best efforts to fully perform the role of the judiciary as entrusted by the people.