



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy, for everyone.



IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo

Democracy, Peace and Prosperity

Information Note

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The IPU first marked its commitment to supporting youth participation in politics in the resolution entitled *Youth participation in the democratic process*, adopted at the 122nd IPU Assembly (Bangkok, March-April 2010). In 2013, it established the Forum of Young Parliamentarians to enhance youth participation in parliament and provide a youth perspective to the IPU's work. In October 2014, the IPU organized the Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Geneva on the theme *Taking democracy to task*, offering a unique platform to discuss how to draw young people into the democratic process.

The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo aims to build on this success and address other areas in which youth engagement is crucial. It will therefore deal with peace and prosperity.

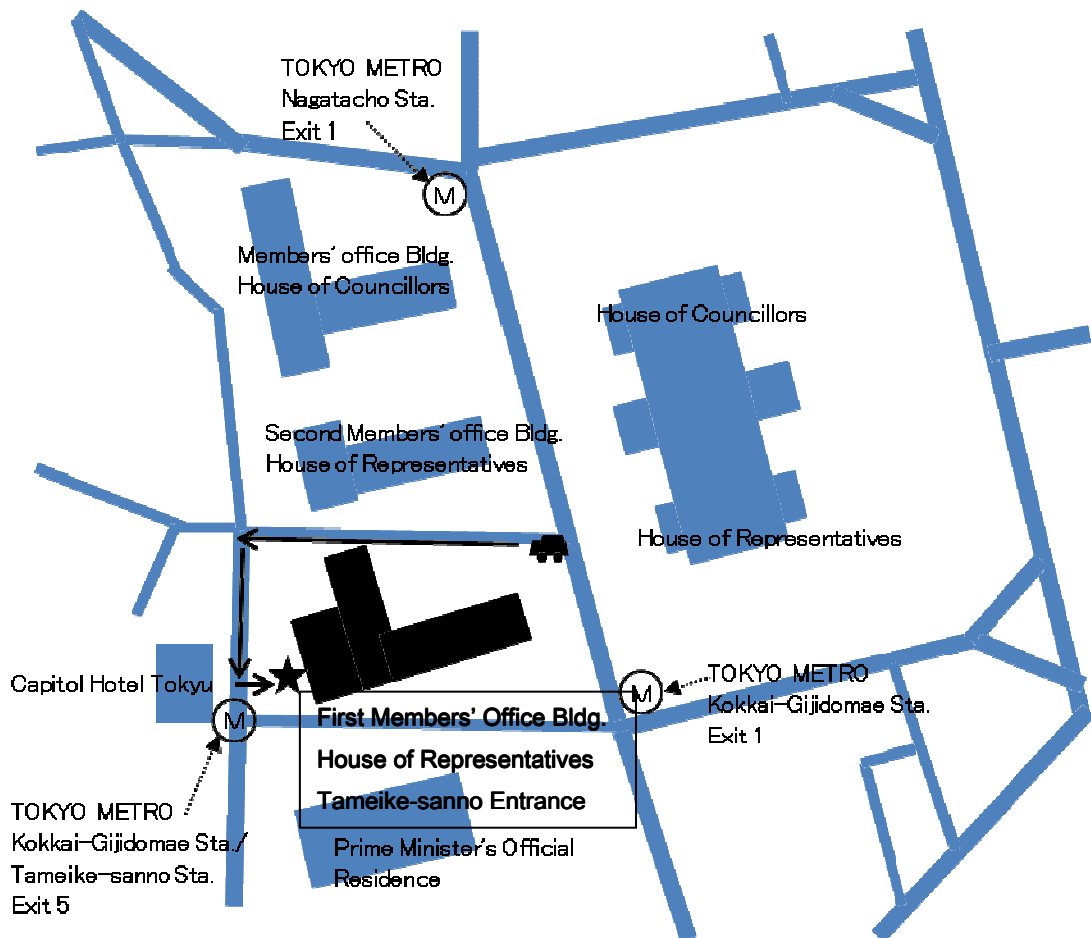
The economic and social crisis and the many conflicts we are witnessing today pose serious threats to the development of our societies. Young people between the ages of 15 and 25 account for one fifth of the world's population. At the same time, they are almost three times more likely than older segments of the population to be unemployed (in some countries the youth unemployment rate exceeds 50 per cent). The poor quality of education systems remains a huge challenge in many parts of the world. Young people are over-represented among the direct and indirect victims of violence – whether caused by crime, terrorism or armed conflict.

Prosperous, peaceful, inclusive and safe societies require the participation and engagement of young people. To strengthen links between young politicians and devise new and creative solutions for peace and prosperity, the IPU and the National Diet of Japan are hosting the IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians in Tokyo.

VENUE AND DATE

The Conference will take place on 27 and 28 May 2015 in the First Members' Office Building of the House of Representatives, the National Diet of Japan (Address: 2-2-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8981, Japan).

Please note that all participants are requested to enter the First Members' Office Building from the **Tameike-sanno** entrance (★ on the map).

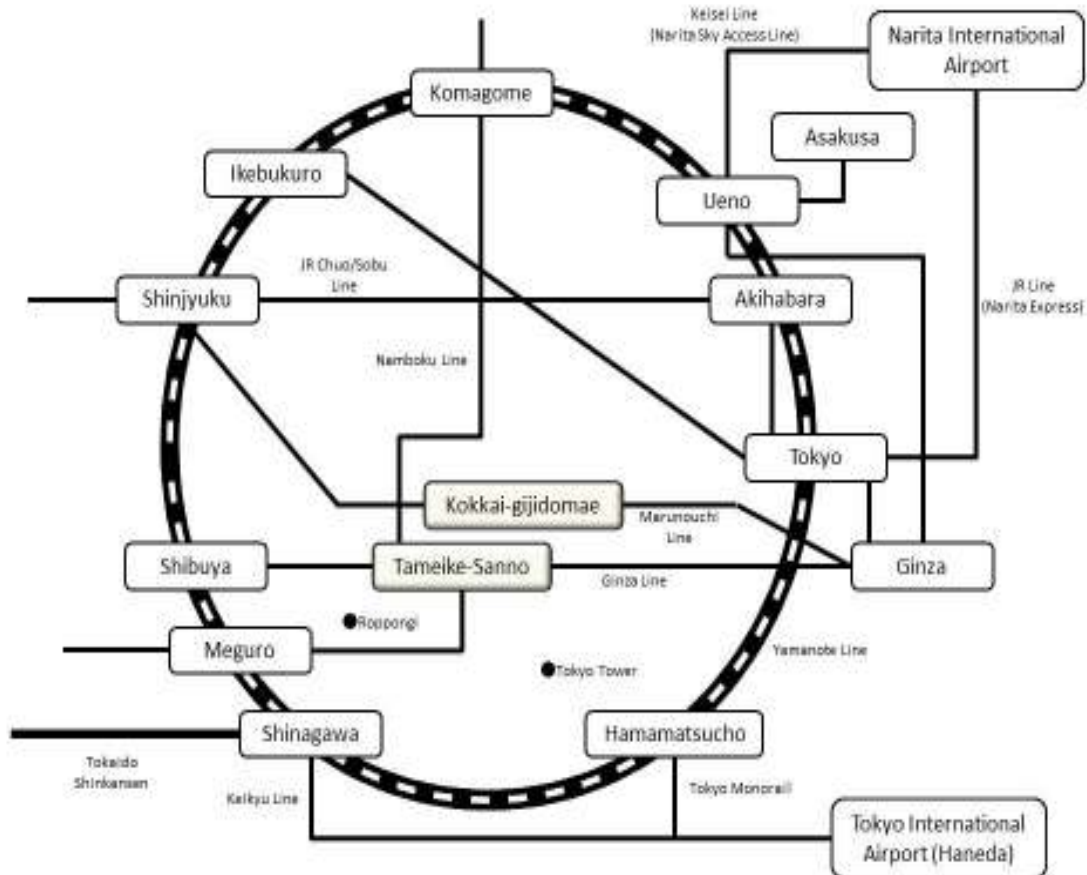


If you travel by the Tokyo Metro, the nearest stations are Kokkai-gijidomae (Chiyoda and Marunouchi Lines) and Tameike-sanno (Ginza and Namboku Lines).

A shuttle bus will run between two of the official hotels (Hotel New Otani Tokyo and Toshi Center Hotel Tokyo)¹ and the Conference and reception venue in the morning and evening on 27 and 28 May. Relevant details will be posted on the IPU website before the Conference.

¹ The Capitol Hotel Tokyu is located just across the street from the Conference venue.

Participants are advised to use the shuttle bus or the Metro because of the traffic conditions around the National Diet.



PARTICIPATION

The Conference is open to young members of national parliaments under 45 years of age. Parliaments are invited to send a gender-balanced delegation of a maximum of four members, including their youngest members of parliament.

IPU Associate Members and Observers that work on youth-related matters are also invited to take part in the Conference.

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In keeping with standard IPU practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. In order to ensure that the discussions are as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following rules will apply.

- There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. After the resource persons have introduced an agenda item, the floor will be open to participants for questions and comments.

- Experience has shown that this kind of meeting does not lend itself to the reading out of prepared statements. Subject to arrangements that chairpersons of sessions may make to suit the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed three minutes. Participants may speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.
- The Conference sessions will include presentations by resource persons, debates in working groups and interactive discussion panels in moderated plenary sessions.

Two co-rapporteurs will sum up the work of the Conference at its concluding session.

DOCUMENTS

Participants will receive the written texts of the presentations by the resource persons as they become available. Documents will be distributed in English and French where possible.

To the extent possible and for the information of participants, the IPU Secretariat will make available background documentation on the issues under discussion.

Participants wishing to distribute relevant documents to their colleagues will be required to provide them in sufficient quantities and to place them on a table set aside for that purpose.

LANGUAGES

Simultaneous interpretation will be available into and from Arabic, English, French, Japanese and Spanish.

REGISTRATION

Parliaments are requested to send their list of participants attending the Conference no later than 27 April 2015 using the enclosed Registration Form. Please send the Form to both addresses below:

Inter-Parliamentary Union
5, chemin du Pommier
case postale 330
1218 Grand-Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland
e-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org
Tel.: +41 22 919 41 50
Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

Inter-parliamentary Relations Division
House of Representatives
National Diet of Japan
1-7-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-0014, Japan
e-mail: ipujapan@shugiinjk.go.jp
Tel: +81 3 3581 5685
Fax: +81 3 3581 2900

VISAS

The National Diet of Japan, through the competent national authorities, will, in principle, ensure that visas are issued free of charge to all persons invited to the Conference.

A list of countries whose nationals are exempted from visas for short stays in Japan can be found at the following link:

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/visa/short/novisa.html

Visas will not be issued upon arrival in Japan. Participants who need a visa are required to obtain it in advance. Please attach a copy of the invitation letter to the Visa Application Form. For further information on visas, please contact the visa section of the Japanese Embassy or Consulate-General that handles matters related to your country or region.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Delegates will bear the costs of their air transport, accommodation and subsistence allowances.

Delegates are advised to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible, as this will be a busy season for the hotels near the Diet.

The National Diet of Japan has designated the following as official hotels of the Conference and pre-booked rooms at preferential rates:

- The Capitol Hotel Tokyu
- Hotel New Otani Tokyo
- Toshi Center Hotel Tokyo

If you are interested in reserving rooms at any one of the above hotels, please refer to the list sent by email.

As the number of hotel rooms is limited, please make your reservation as soon as possible.

Please pay the hotel directly. Detailed information on the official hotels (addresses, room types, etc.) can be found in the list of hotels.

In keeping with the practice of hotels in Tokyo, only reservations made with a credit card guarantee will be confirmed.

TRANSPORT

Participants will be expected to organize their own transportation, upon arrival, from the airport to their hotel (private cars, public transportation, taxis).

The National Diet of Japan will facilitate ground transfers between the official hotels and the conference and reception venue.

RECEPTION

The National Diet of Japan will provide a buffet lunch, a welcome reception on 27 May and a farewell cocktail on 28 May for all participants. The reception on 27 May will include a traditional Japanese cultural programme. More details will follow in due course.

ONE-DAY EXCURSION

The National Diet of Japan invites delegates to participate in a one-day excursion to Kyoto, the ancient capital, on 29 May 2015.

Delegates are requested to check the box on the enclosed Registration Form and return it, as indicated under Registration above, by 27 April 2015 (Japan time: GMT +9 hrs.) at the latest.

This is a strict deadline, as the number of participants must be confirmed soon after.

Participants in the excursion will leave Tokyo on the morning of 29 May and go to Kyoto by Shinkansen Super Express. The excursion is planned to last 12 hours. It will start around 8 or 9 a.m. in Tokyo. Please make your hotel and flight reservations in the light of the above schedule if you plan to take part in this excursion.

The host will bear expenses such as transportation, lunch and any entrance fees. A shuttle bus service will be provided between the official hotels and Tokyo station for those participating in the excursion.

More details will follow in due course.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

During the Conference, first-aid facilities will be available at the venue. All other medical services and prescriptions will be at the participants' own expense.

INSURANCE

Participants are recommended to take out appropriate insurance before leaving for Japan. The National Diet of Japan is not liable should a participant fall ill or have an accident while in Japan.

REGISTRATION DESK

The Registration Desk will be located at the **Tameike-sanno entrance** of the First Members' Office Building. It will be open on:

- 26 May from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- 27 May from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- 28 May from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants should register on arrival at the First Members' Office Building. They will be provided with a conference badge and bag when they register.

SECURITY

All participants are requested to wear their conference badges during the Conference and the receptions.

Security arrangements at the National Diet of Japan are very strict, and participants are required to go through security checks involving an X-ray scanner and a metal detector when entering the First Members' Office Building. Since congestion is expected on both mornings of the Conference, please allow sufficient time for entering the Building.

MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

- Information Desk
- Business centre
- Multi-faith room
- Lunch and coffee break (in Large Conference Hall)
- Pigeonhole for each delegation

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

(a) Time Zone

Local time is GMT +09 hours.

(b) Climate

The average temperature in Tokyo in late May varies between 15 and 24°C. Average rainfall in May is 137 millimetres, and humidity 70%.

(c) Electricity

The power supply in Tokyo is 100 volts, 50Hz, with type A 2-flat-pin sockets.

(d) Currency

The official currency is the Japanese yen (JPY). Major foreign currencies can be exchanged for Japanese yen at the official hotels.

More information for your stay in Tokyo is available on the following website:

Japan: the Official Guide (Japan National Tourism Organization)

<http://www.jnto.go.jp/eng/arrange/essential/>