Judge Hisashi Owada

Judge and former President of the Court from 6 February 2009 to 5 February 2012; re-elected as from 6 February 2012)



Download high resolution image

Born in Niigata, Japan, on 18 September 1932.

B.A., University of Tokyo (1955). LL.B., Cambridge University (1956). D. Phil. (honoris causa), Keiwa University, Japan (2000); LL.D. (honoris causa), Banaras Hindu University, India (2001), Waseda University, Japan (2004), and LL.D. D. Litt. Groningen University, the Netherlands (2009), University of Cambridge, U.K. (2015), University of Hiroshima, Japan (2016).

Honorary Professor, Leiden University, Professorial Academic Adviser, Hiroshima University. Professor, New York University Global Law School. Associé, l'Institut de Droit international (1995). Membre, l'Institut de Droit international (2001). Member, Permanent Court of Arbitration. Honorary Member, American Society of International Law. President, Asian Society of International Law. Member emeritus, Japanese Society of International Law. Honorary Member, Executive Council of the Japan Branch, International Law Association.

Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (1971-1972). Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Japan (1976-1978). Director General, Treaties Bureau (Principal Legal Adviser), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1984-1987). Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan to the OECD (1988-1989). Deputy Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1989-1991). Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs (1991-1993). Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (1994-1998). Special Adviser to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (1999-2003). President of the Japan Institute of International Affairs (1999-2003). Senior Adviser to the President of the World Bank (1999-2000).

Adjunct Professor of International Law, University of Tokyo (1963-1988). Visiting Professor of International Law, Harvard Law School (1979-1981, 1987, 1989, 2000-2002). Inge Rennert Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law, New York University Law School (1994-1998). Adjunct Professor of International Law, Columbia Law School (1994-1998). Professor, the Hague Academy of International Law (1999). Professor of International Law, Waseda University Graduate School (2000-2003). Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge University (2002).

Member of the Japanese Delegation to the Second United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1960). Alternate Representative of Japan to the United Nations Conference on the Law of Treaties (1968-1969). Head of the Japanese Delegation to the Committee on Peaceful Uses of the Sea Bed and Ocean Floor (1968-1972). Head of the Japanese Delegation to the Legal Sub-Committee of the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1968-1970). Head of the Japanese Delegation to the United Nations Special Committee on Friendly Relations (1968-1970); Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Special Committee (1970). Rapporteur of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session (1970). Member of the Japanese Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Twenty-third to Twenty-fifth Sessions (Sixth Committee) (1968-1970). Alternate Representative of Japan to the United Nations General Assembly, Twenty-seventh to Twenty-eighth Sessions (1972-1973). Alternate Representative of Japan to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (1973-1982). Adviser to the Japanese Delegation to the United Nations General Assembly, Thirty-ninth to Forty-first (1984-1986) and Forty-fourth to Forty-fifth Sessions (1989-1990). Representative of Japan to the United Nations General Assembly, Forty-ninth to Fifty-third Sessions (1994-1998). Representative of Japan to the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen (1994). Representative of Japan to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995). Representative of Japan to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, Organization of African Unity, 31st to 33rd Sessions (1995-1997). Representative of Japan to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (1996). Representative of Japan to the United Nations Security Council (1997-1998), President of the Security Council (1997, 1998). Representative of Japan to the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (1997-1998). Representative of Japan to the Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (1998). Head of the Japanese Delegation to the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (1998).

Honours: Humanitarian Studentship in International Law, Cambridge University (1958-1959). Al-Istiqlal Order, First Class, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1990). Officier, Légion d'Honneur, France (1992). Grand Cross of the Order of Merit, Federal Republic of Germany (1994).

Author of numerous publications on international law and international organizations.