



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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The Court congratulates HE Judge Shigeru Oda on his 100th birthday

THE HAGUE, 22 October 2024. Today, the International Court of Justice extends its heartfelt congratulations to HE Judge Shigeru Oda on his 100th birthday. The Court marks this extraordinary milestone by remembering his distinguished contribution to the judicial work of the Court, his openness and courteous collegiality, as well as his unswerving independence.

Born in Japan on 22 October 1924, Judge Oda has led a life as rich in experiences and achievements as it has been long and exemplary. As a Member of the Court for three successive nine-year terms, from 1976 to 2003, including a term as Vice-President from 1991 to 1994, he left an impressive legacy.

Judge Oda's independent spirit led him to publish a record number of separate and dissenting opinions, which continue to be pored over by scholars to this day. He is held in high esteem not only by his peers, but also by the many lawyers and students who have had the privilege of benefiting from his tutelage and his generous sharing of knowledge and enthusiasm for international law.

Judge Oda's wisdom and integrity continue to be a source of inspiration for legal scholars around the world.



Official portrait of Judge Oda as a Member of the Court.



Portrait of Judge Oda in a corridor of the Peace Palace.

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The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It was established by the United Nations Charter in June 1945 and began its activities in April 1946. The Court is composed of 15 judges elected for a nine-year term by the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court has a twofold role: first, to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States; and, second, to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by duly authorized United Nations organs and agencies of the system.

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