

**PRESS RELEASE****VISIT OF HIS MAJESTY EMPEROR NARUHITO OF JAPAN**

THE HAGUE, 18 JUNE 2026

On Thursday, 18 June 2026, the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), H.E. Dr. Hab. Marcin Czepelak, had the honour of welcoming His Majesty Emperor Naruhito of Japan to the Court's headquarters at the Peace Palace for a joint visit to the PCA and the International Court of Justice (ICJ).



Pictured (from left to right): Messrs. Martin Doe and Garth Schofield, Deputy Secretaries-General of the PCA; H.E. Dr. Hab. Marcin Czepelak, Secretary-General of the PCA; H.M. Emperor Naruhito of Japan; H.E. Judge Iwasawa Yuji, President of the ICJ; H.E. Mr Philippe Gautier, Registrar of the ICJ.

Following an initial exchange of views, His Majesty Emperor Naruhito was given a tour of the Administrative Council Chamber of the PCA, with particular attention devoted to the set of nine Japanese silk tapestries that adorn its walls and have led the chamber to be informally known as the “Japanese Room”. These remarkable works were presented as a gift from Japan, which commissioned the Imperial firm Kawashima Jimbei of Kyoto to create tapestries of the highest artistic and technical quality for the PCA’s headquarters.

Entitled “*A Hundred Flowers and a Hundred Birds in Late Spring and Early Summer*”, the tapestries were handwoven in the traditional Tsuzure Nishiki technique, employing fine silk loops and the expertise of 48,600 skilled Japanese artisans over a period of four years.

In honour of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito’s visit, the preparatory designs for the tapestries were exceptionally displayed, alongside portraits of His Majesty Emperor Meiji of Japan and members of the Japanese delegation to the First Hague Peace Conference.



During the visit, the Secretary-General and His Majesty Emperor Naruhito discussed the enduring and special relationship between the PCA and Japan, one of the Court’s Founding States, reflecting on the longstanding ties that have linked Japan to the PCA since its establishment in 1899.

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Background on the Permanent Court of Arbitration

The Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental organization established by the 1899 Hague Convention on the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes. The PCA has 128 Contracting Parties. Headquartered at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the Netherlands, the PCA facilitates arbitration, conciliation, fact-finding, and other dispute resolution proceedings among various combinations of States, State entities, intergovernmental organizations, and private parties. The PCA's International Bureau is currently administering seven inter-state arbitrations, one other inter-state proceeding, 90 arbitrations arising under bilateral or multilateral investment treaties or national investment law, 101 arbitrations arising under contracts involving a State or other public entity, and 11 other proceedings. More information about the PCA can be found at www.pca-cpa.org.

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