



INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Press Release

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Judge Hisashi Owada (Japan) elected President of the International Court of Justice

Judge Peter Tomka (Slovakia) elected Vice-President

THE HAGUE, 6 February 2009. Judge Hisashi Owada (Japan) was today elected President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by his peers and Judge Peter Tomka (Slovakia) was elected Vice-President, each for a term of three years.

Biographies of President Owada and Vice-President Tomka, who have both been Members of the Court since 6 February 2003, are attached.

The International Court of Justice, composed of 15 Members, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. It adjudicates upon disputes between States and gives advisory opinions to United Nations organs and agencies. There are currently 14 cases on the Court's General List.

Following the election held on 6 November 2008 by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council to fill the five seats which were due to fall vacant on 6 February 2009 (see Press Release No. 2008/39), the composition of the Court is now as follows:

President	Hisashi Owada (Japan)
Vice-President	Peter Tomka (Slovakia)
Judges	Shi Jiuyong (China)
	Abdul G. Koroma (Sierra Leone)
	Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh (Jordan)
	Thomas Buergenthal (United States of America)
	Bruno Simma (Germany)
	Ronny Abraham (France)
	Kenneth Keith (New Zealand)
	Bernardo Sepúlveda-Amor (Mexico)
	Mohammed Bennouna (Morocco)
	Leonid Skotnikov (Russian Federation)
	Antônio Augusto Cançado Trindade (Brazil)
	Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf (Somalia)
	Christopher Greenwood (United Kingdom).

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Website of the Court: **www.icj-cij.org**

President Hisashi OWADA (Japan)

(Member of the Court since 6 February 2003;
President of the Court since 6 February 2009)

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). LL.D *honoris causa*, Waseda University, Japan (2004).

Entered the Foreign Service of Japan in 1955. Official, Legal Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1959-1963). First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (1968-1971). Private Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan (1971-1972). Director, United Nations Political Affairs Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1972-1974); Director, Treaties Division (1974-1976), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Japan (1976-1978). Minister, Embassy of Japan in Washington (1979-1981). Minister, Embassy of Japan in Moscow (1981-1984). 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).

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).

President of the Japan Institute of International Affairs (1999-2003). Senior Adviser to the President of the World Bank (1999-2000). Judge of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (since 2001).

Visiting Professor of International Law, Harvard Law School (1979-1981, 1987, 1989, 2000-2002). Adjunct Professor of International Law, University of Tokyo (1963-1965; 1971-1976; 1984-1988). Inge Rennert Distinguished Visiting Professor of International 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, New York University Global Law School (since 1999). Professor of International Law, Waseda University Graduate School (2000-2003). Visiting Fellow Commoner of Trinity College, Cambridge University (2002). Academic Adviser, Hiroshima University (since 2002). Honorary Professor, Leiden University (since 2006).

Member, l'Institut de Droit international. Honorary Member, American Society of International Law (2006). Member emeritus, Japanese Society of International Law. Member, Executive Council of the International Law Association.

Honours: Humanitarian Studentship in International Law, Cambridge University (1958-1959). Al-Istiqlal Order, First Degree, 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.

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Vice-President Peter TOMKA (Slovakia)
(Member of the Court since 6 February 2003;
Vice-President of the Court since 6 February 2009)

Born in Banská Bystrica, Slovakia, on 1 June 1956.

LL.M. (*summa cum laude*), Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague (1979). Doctor *iuris* (international law), Charles University, Prague (1981). Ph.D. in International Law, Charles University (1985). Faculty of International Law and International Relations, Kiev, Ukraine (1982). Institut du droit de la paix et du développement, Nice, France (1984-1985). Institute of International Public Law and International Relations, Thessaloniki, Greece (1985). Hague Academy of International Law (1988).

Assistant Legal Adviser (1986-1990); Head of the Public International Law Division (1990-1991), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prague. Counsellor and Legal Adviser (1991-1992), Permanent Mission of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations. Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative (1993-1994) and Ambassador, Acting Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations (1994-1997). Legal Adviser and Director of the International Law Department (1997-1998); Director General for International Legal and Consular Affairs and Legal Adviser (1998-1999), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bratislava, Slovakia. Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations (1999-2003).

Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Applications for Review of the Judgments of the Administrative Tribunal (1991). Vice-Chairman of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (1992). Chairman of the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law (1995). Chairman of the Meeting of the States Parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1996). Vice-President of the Sixth Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1996). Chairman of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the Fifty-second Session of the United Nations General Assembly (1997). Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the International Criminal Court (1998). President of the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1999). Chairman of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the International Convention against the Reproductive Cloning of Human Beings (2002). Member of the Ambassadorial Panel of Experts to advise the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Secretariat (2002).

Member (1999-2003); Second Vice-Chairman (2000); Chairman of the Drafting Committee (2001), United Nations International Law Commission.

Delegate of Czechoslovakia to the XXVth International Conference of the Red Cross, Geneva (1986). Representative of Czechoslovakia to the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (1987-1992). Alternate Representative of Czechoslovakia in the United Nations General Assembly, Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Sessions, and Adviser at the Forty-fifth Session (1990-1992). Representative of Czechoslovakia on the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (1990-1992). Head of the Delegation of Czechoslovakia to the Meeting of the States Parties to the Antarctic Treaty, Madrid (1991). Head of the Delegation of Czechoslovakia to the CSCE Meeting of Experts on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes in Europe, Valletta, Malta (1991). Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations General Assembly, Forty-eighth to Fifty-seventh Sessions (1993-2002), and Deputy Head of Delegation at the Forty-ninth to Fifty-first and Fifty-fourth to Fifty-seventh Sessions. Representative of Slovakia on the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (1993-2002). Representative of Slovakia to the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (1993-1994). Head of the Delegation of Slovakia to the Assembly of the International Sea Bed Authority (1994-1996). Alternate Head of the Delegation of Slovakia to the United Nations Diplomatic Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (1998).

Agent of Slovakia before the International Court of Justice in the case concerning the *Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros Project (Hungary/Slovakia)* (1993-2003).

Expert of Slovakia in the ICSID case No. ARB/97/4, *Československá obchodní banka (ČSOB) v. the Slovak Republic* before the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Jurisdiction) (1997-1999).

Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague (since 1994). Arbitrator in the *Iron Rhine (Belgium/Netherlands)* case (2003-2005).

On the List of Arbitrators nominated under Annex VII to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (since 2004) and at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (since 2005).

Chairman of the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law, Council of Europe (2001-2002; Vice-Chairman 1999-2000).

Legal Adviser of the Czechoslovak Delegation at the negotiations on the withdrawal of Soviet military forces from Czechoslovakia (1989-1990). Legal Adviser of the Czechoslovak Delegation at the negotiations concerning the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact (1991).

Lecturer (1980-1984), Senior Lecturer (1984-1991), Public International Law, Charles University, Prague. General Course on Public International Law, Institute of International Relations, Comenius University, Bratislava (1998-1999).

Member (1981-1992) and Secretary (1986-1991) of the Czechoslovak Society of International Law. Member (1988-2001) and Secretary (1988-1991) of the Czechoslovak Branch of the International Law Association (ILA). Member (since 1982) and Honorary President (since 2003) of the Slovak Society of International Law. Member of the American Society of International Law (since 2000). Member of the European Society of International Law (since 2004). Member, Board of Editors of the journal *Právník (The Lawyer)*, published by the Czechoslovak Academy of Science (1990-1991).

Author of a doctoral thesis on the *Codification of International Law* (Charles University, Prague, 1984) and of a series of articles in Slovak and Czech on forms of codification of international law, the International Court of Justice, the peaceful resolution of international disputes in Europe, the establishment of the International Criminal Court, the Draft Code of Crimes against the Peace and Security of Mankind; co-author of a collection of *Documents for the Study of the Law of the European Communities* (1991). Publications in English and French: “The First Site Visit of the International Court of Justice in Fulfilment of its Judicial Function”, *American Journal of International Law*, Vol. 92, 1998, (co-author with S. Wordsworth); “Major Complexities Encountered in Contemporary International Law-Making”, *Making Better International Law: The International Law Commission at 50*, 1998; “The Special Agreement”, *Liber Amicorum Judge Shigeru Oda*, (N. Ando, E. McWhinney and R. Wolfrum, Eds.), Vol. I, 2002; “La Cour internationale de Justice en tant que l’Organe judiciaire principal des Nations Unies, Commentaire sur l’article 92 de la Charte”, *La Charte des Nations Unies, Commentaire article par article*, (J.-P. Cot and A. Pellet, eds.), 3rd ed., Vol. II, 2005; “Comment on the Unity and Diversity of International Law in the Settlement of International Disputes”, *Unity and Diversity in International Law*, (A. Zimmermann, R. Hofmann, eds.), 2006; “Are States Liable for the Acts of their Instrumentalities?”, *State Entities in International Arbitration* (E. Gaillard, ed.), 2006.
