

Opening of the Business Court

I am pleased to announce the opening of the new courthouse “Intellectual Property High Court and Nakameguro Branch of Tokyo District Court” (commonly called as “the Business Court”), in which the Intellectual Property High Court and three specialized divisions of the Tokyo District Court – the Commercial Division, the Insolvency Division and the Intellectual Property Divisions – moved from Kasumigaseki. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the support provided so far.

The Business Court is the first Japanese central court for business-related cases. Recently, the Court has been pushing forward the digitalization of the judicial procedures in civil, criminal and family cases. As to the civil procedures, the Diet passed the amendment bill of the Code of Civil Procedure this May, which will strengthen the function of “e-court” by gradually expanding the scope of proceedings where parties may attend through web conference system without physically appearing before the court. In addition, “e-management” and “e-filing” function will be implemented by FY2025, when court records are fully digitalized and parties may file documents including complaints through internet.

Amid rapidly advancing digitalization of the court proceedings, the Business Court starts its operation at exactly the right time with the most advanced ICT facilities for web conferences in nation.

The Court bears responsibility, under increasingly globalized and borderless business environment, to provide more expeditious, high-quality and predictable judicial service to resolve business-related disputes. In order to meet high expectations of the users and establish “the Court in New Era”, all the Divisions of the Business Court will cooperate mutually and make utmost efforts

to enhance expertise, share experience and knowledge, and resolve disputes with wider international perspective by taking advantage of ongoing digitalization. To meet your expectations, the Business Court shall make every effort.

Finally, Nakameguro area, where the Business Court is located, is blessed with natural environment. Cherry blossoms in full bloom along the Meguro River in spring are so gorgeous and breathtaking. Harmonized with the surrounding landscape, the design of the Business Court is gentle as well as stylish. I hope that the Business Court will become familiar and close not only to business community but also to the whole citizens.

October 2022

President of the Tokyo District Court

HIRAKI Masahiro