

Personal

Name: Fumiko Saiga
Date of birth: 30 November 1943
Education: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies (graduated BA: March 1966)

Work relating to gender and legal issues

As part of the International Convention Division and the United Nations Policy Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, Judge Saiga was engaged in treaty negotiations and the process of ratification, as an official in charge of conventions such as:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

She became a member of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in November 2001, and served until 2007, having been re-elected twice, in 2002 and 2006. She is an internationally recognized expert on human rights law.

Furthermore, Judge Saiga served as Vice-Governor of Saitama Prefecture on the legislation of the Saitama Prefecture Ordinance for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which is the first ordinance for promotion of gender equality in Japan.

In 2005, Judge Saiga became the first Ambassador of Japan in charge of human rights.

January 1980 - June 1983

In charge of the preparation of the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the Government of Japan, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Convention Division, Treaties Bureau.

1985 Attended United Nations Conference on Women, Nairobi, Kenya and its Preparatory Meetings at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) (1984 and 1985).

1988 - 1989 As Deputy Director, had responsibility for, among other things, women's affairs including the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Japan, in cooperation with other ministries.

1996 - 1998 In charge of the Third Committee, including the Commission on the Status of Women, and the drafting of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

- 1998 - 2000 Deputy Governor, Advisor to the Governor of Saitama Prefecture on gender issues.
Advisor, Drafting Committee of the Regulation on Gender Equality in Saitama Prefecture.
- 2001 - 2007 Member, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- 2007 - present Judge, International Criminal Court (ICC).

Career

- January 1980 International Convention Division, Treaties Bureau.
- June 1983 First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.
- February 1988 Assistant Director, United Nations Policy Division, United Nations Affairs Bureau.
- March 1988 Deputy Director, Social Cooperation Division, United Nations Affairs Bureau.
- July 1989 Director, Ocean Division, Economic Affairs Bureau.
- August 1992 Counsellor, Embassy of Japan in Denmark.
- March 1996 Minister, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.
- May 1998 Deputy Governor of Saitama Prefecture, Japan.
- September 2000 Consul-General of Japan in Seattle, United States of America.
- July 2002 Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations.
- September 2003 - April 2007
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Norway.
- October 2003 - April 2007
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Iceland.
- December 2005 - April 2008
Ambassador in charge of human rights.
- December 2007 - present
Judge, International Criminal Court.

Other international meetings and conferences

- United Nations General Assembly (1983-1987, 1990-1991, 1996-1997)
- United Nations Economic and Social Council
- United Nations Commission on Human Rights
- United Nations Environment Programme (1983)

- International Labour Organization (1988)
- International Telecommunication Union (1988)
- World Health Organization (1988)
- United Nations Population Fund (1988)
- United Nations Conference for the Adoption of a Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Vienna (1988)
- International Maritime Organization (1991)
- Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Law of the Sea (1989-1992 in New York and Jamaica)
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992 in Rio de Janeiro)
- World Summit for Social Development (1995 in Copenhagen)