



Chamber of the House of Councillors

Located on the second floor of the National Diet Building, this Chamber is the venue for the plenary sittings of the House of Councillors. Arabesque-patterned stained-glass squares adorn the ceiling. The Chamber is 32 meters long and 23 meters wide, and the ceiling is 13 meters high. The podium and the President's seat face the Members' seats which fan out in a semicircle around the podium. There are 460 Members' seats although the legal number of Councillors is 242.

The President's seat is the one with the high back in the center of the dais, and the Secretary General sits to the President's right. Seated below the podium are the stenographers. Behind the President's seat is the Throne of His Majesty the Emperor, for use by His Majesty the Emperor when he attends the Opening Ceremony. A white curtain hangs behind the Throne. There are also two rows of seats flanking the President's seat to the left and right. The seating in the front row is for Ministers of State, and the Prime Minister's seat is the front-row seat immediately to the President's right. The second row of seats is for the staff of the Secretariat of the House of Councillors.



Public Gallery

In principle, the deliberations of both Houses are open to the public. Visitors and members of the press may watch the proceedings from the Public Gallery on the second floor.



Stained-glass ceiling in the Chamber of the House of Councillors