

In Memory of Late Chairman Kenichi Ito

ITO Kenichi, Chairman of The Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), passed away on March 14 from aspiration pneumonia at the age of 84.

The Japan Forum on International Relations, which was founded with Ito playing the leading role, marked its 35th anniversary in March. As a private, independent foreign affairs think tank, we have been conducting research, hosting exchanges, and proposing a path for Japan as a member of the international community. Ito's argument for "Positive Pacifism" has become a major guiding principle for Japan's diplomacy. Ito devoted his working life to providing acute insights into Russia and made a persuasive case for his position. Russia is currently invading Ukraine, disrupting the status quo by force right before our eyes. Russia's action, along with the rise of China, is an indication that the world must now fundamentally rethink its postwar international order. Thus, the significance of The Japan Forum on International Relations has never been greater. We will fulfill our mission as an institution with a public mandate and pass on Ito's aspiration to the next generation. We pray that he rests in peace.

March 2022

President of the Japan Forum on International Relations

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