

Cross Border Business Law Blog

## Japan's Move Towards Recognizing Same-Sex Marriage?

on 11.13.15 | Posted in General

Last week, two of the 23 wards (local municipalities that form the central part of Tokyo) [issued the first certificates recognizing same-sex partnerships](#). This is not the same thing as recognizing same-sex marriage – marriage is governed by national law, and Japan's Family Code does not recognize same-sex marriages. These certificates, issued pursuant to ordinances in Shibuya and Setagaya wards, are not legally binding, so they can only request hospitals, landlords and other businesses to treat certificate holders as they would married couples. However, many view this as a symbolic step that will, at a minimum, trigger discussion.

**Tags:** Japan, same sex partnerships, Setagaya ward, Shibuya ward