More than 1,000 years ago, Japan crafted Confucian and Buddhist approaches to resolving disputes. The Japanese Mediation Codification, a set of rules that guide the settlement of disputes, has survived in Japan despite the passage of time. This approach is a testament to the fact that Japan has a deep understanding of Asian and world cultures. Today, Japan is recognized as a leader in mediation services.

Since the end of World War II, theratification of the 1951 Geneva Convention allows the use of mediation in international disputes. Japan has been at the forefront of this development, with the International Mediation Centre – Kyoto (JIMC-Kyoto) playing a key role. The center promotes collaborative over adversarial processes, is central to future of commercial dispute resolution.

International investment disputes are considered the subject of current negotiations. The potential benefits of the promulgation of an instrument for the enforcement of international commercial settlement agreements resulting from mediation and possibly arbitral awards are considerable. The International Mediation Institute in 2016 found that across the globe, mediation in international disputes is gaining in business acumen and is widely used for understanding mediations. The center is working on various types of support to include proposing and operating mediation, providing facilities for international mediators, and administering mediations. The JIMC-Kyoto is expected to be a leader in international dispute resolution.

Simultaneously, the Japanese government actively promotes the use of mediation in domestic cases. JIMC-Kyoto will focus on international commercial mediations by offering various types of support to include proposing and operating mediations, providing facilities for international mediators, and administering mediations. The JIMC-Kyoto is part of a broader initiative to benefit from its international dispute resolution services in Japan.