

Palau independence day



Island hopping: The Koror-Meyuns Causeway SIM ADELBAI

Palau, Japan: true partners on the road to development, prosperity

Dr. Minoru Francisco Xavier Ueki
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau, I extend, on behalf of the people of Palau, cordial and respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, as well as to the government and people of Japan.

I also convey our most cordial greetings and congratulations to Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, and members of his Cabinet.

We celebrate this day every year to recommit ourselves to continue efforts to build Palau, to make it a progressive, prosperous and self-sustaining nation as envisioned by our founding fathers.

Since Palau's independence on Oct. 1, 1994, Japan had been

a major development partner and generous benefactor, making extensive contributions that include installation of needed capital infrastructure facilities and providing various humanitarian services that are crucial for development.

Palau values highly this warm partnership with Japan, and shares remarkable ties in history, values and interest. Palau served as the headquarters of Japan's administration of the South Seas prior to World War II and had accelerated development. Consequently, Palauan culture and customs exhibit the noticeable influence of Japanese practices, and the people have affinity toward the Japanese.

Palau is a thriving democracy under the new and dynamic leadership of H.E. President Johnson Toribiong. President Toribiong is the eighth president of Palau. He was elected in November 2008 and inaugurated in January 2009. The president is popular-

ly elected every four years in a nationwide election along with members of the Palau National Congress. The congress is a bicameral body consisting of the Senate, with 13 senators elected at large, and the House of Delegates, with 16 delegates elected among the 16 states.

Palau faces the daunting challenge of expanding its economy, which is primarily dependent on tourism, to a self-sustaining level. To accelerate expansion of the private sector to stimulate economic growth, President Toribiong has extended a standing invitation to any interested business people, companies and investors to invest in Palau. In this connection, I welcome readers of The Japan Times to visit Palau. The Embassy of the Republic of Palau stands ready to assist any prospective investor and interested visitors to explore investment opportunities.

May God bless beautiful Japan and its people, the Republic of Palau and its people.

Historic bonds cement true friendship

Johnson Toribiong
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Oct. 1 marks the 15th anniversary of our independence as a sovereign nation, and so we invite our friends from all over the world to join us as we rejoice and celebrate the sovereignty and independence that we achieved after a long and arduous journey through our history. And so we most cordially invite the people of Japan, with whom we shared an unforgettable historical experience, to celebrate this special day with us.

In this regard it should be noted that after my inauguration in January as president of the Republic of Palau, I made my first officially recognized state visit to Japan on behalf of the people of Palau to pay our respect, and offer our friendship and gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their



generous support and assistance extended to us over the years, particularly since our independence in 1994. We are most grateful to Japan for its support and assistance to Palau in many forms, including technical and humanitarian assistance offered by its volunteers, infrastructure improvements and private investments, to the Japanese tourists who grace our islands, which together have given

significant impetus to our economic advancement.

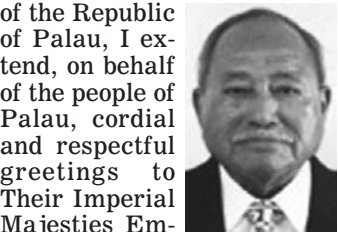
Knowing that Japan will join us in the spirit of friendship as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of our sovereignty and independence, the historical significance of our Independence Day will truly be enriched.

Finally, on behalf of the government and people of the Republic of Palau, I extend to Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama our congratulations and best wishes, with the hope that he will find time during his term to visit our island nation of Palau as our most welcome, special guest.

May God bless Japan and the Republic of Palau.



Ngardmau Falls: At 37 meters wide and cascading 30 meters down, the waterfall is the largest in Micronesia.



Seat of government: An aerial view of the Palau Capitol complex

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 15th Anniversary of Their Independence Day

We sincerely appreciate your good relationship over the last 110 years and hope for the same in the future.

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Congratulations EXCITING AMUSEMENT

on the 15th Anniversary
of the Independence Day
of the Republic of Palau

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