

Micronesia Independence Day

Joint efforts made toward strengthening relations

John Fritz
AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA



On the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of the Independence of the Federated States of Micronesia, I am most pleased to convey, on behalf of H.E. President Peter M. Christian, the leaders and people of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), most profound and heartfelt felicitation to Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. To them and the members of the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, as well as the leaders and people of Japan, I extend our best wishes for continued good health, peace and prosperity in the years to come.

It is also with great pleasure that I extend warm greetings to all the FSM citizens and our many friends in Japan and throughout the Asian region. I extend our most sincere appreciation to the many friends and supporters of the FSM in Japan for their tremendous assistance in promoting and maintaining the good and strong friendly relationship between our peoples.

Bilateral ties

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our independence and in reflecting back on the years since the FSM formalized diplomatic ties with Japan, I want to recognize and acknowledge the tremendous support that Japan has contributed toward expanding and strengthening the goodwill and kizuna, or ties, between our two countries and our peoples.

Japan was the first Asian country to recognize and for-



President of the Federated States of Micronesia Peter M. Christian shakes hands with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo during his visit to Japan in November last year. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

malize relations with the FSM and since then the FSM has been benefiting from and is, therefore, grateful for the government of Japan's official development assistance, which has contributed positively to the overall development of the FSM.

This assistance has contributed toward the development and expansion of some of our basic infrastructure such as airports, roads, utilities, ports and harbors, health and educational facilities, as well as facilities supporting our fishing industry. Its technical assistance programs, which include dispatching of technical experts under the Japan International Cooperation Agency Senior Volunteer and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volun-

teers programs and the Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation projects, have contributed significantly to our development efforts.

Not only has the government of Japan been forthcoming with respect to grant aid and other forms of assistance, but the FSM has also been receiving consistent support from the private sector and non-government organizations that have positively impacted on the economic and social lives of our people. These contributions and assistance are most profoundly appreciated and valued.

Economic relations

Additionally, our public and private sectors continue to collaborate in exploring new

and innovative ways to get the optimal value from the FSM's unique set of resources.

Our regulatory framework is established to ensure rule of law and standards, providing a welcoming and friendly environment for additional investment in the FSM by Japanese firms to complement the contributions and assistance Japan has been providing. The FSM welcomes and prioritizes investment in the fisheries, tourism, agriculture and new and renewable energy sectors. Value-adding investments in the first three areas are very much encouraged.

We are very much buoyed not only by Japan's continued involvement in the development of our fisheries sector,



National leaders and representatives pose at the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, known as PALM7, in May 2015. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE



The ruins of Nan Madol, a city on the island of Pohnpei, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. AKIHIRO SUGIURA

Exchanges increase on multiple levels

Keiji Furuya
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-MICRONESIA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

On behalf of the Japan-Micronesia Parliamentary Friendship League, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to H.E. President Peter M. Christian, the government, the congress and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of their country's Independence.

I am very pleased to see the FSM, a friend that has historic and cultural ties with Japan, developing steadily since its independence. Exchanges between the two countries have been growing briskly not only at the government level, but also at the people-to-people and private levels. This convinces me that the friendly relationship between the two nations is more solid than ever.

Since I became chairman of the Japan-Micronesia Friendship Parliamentary League in

2013, I have given much thought as to how the league can help the Japanese people become better acquainted with the beautiful nature and friendly people of the FSM, a group of self-governing islands in the western Pacific. I trust that, to some degree, this has been attained through the various exchange programs that the two countries have been carrying out over the years.

As a developing island nation in the Pacific region, the FSM needs to overcome a host of challenges to make autonomous economic progress. It is my hope that the FSM will show leadership for the peace and progress of the region and continue to extend its cooperation with Japan in many areas.

May the Federated States of Micronesia prosper further.



Critical player in Pacific region

Takahiro Kitano
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN PACIFIC ISLANDS ASSOCIATION

I express my heartfelt congratulations on the 30th Anniversary of the Independence of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). I also pay my respect and appreciation for the tremendous contribution to fostering friendship and goodwill between Japan and the FSM for many years to His Excellency Ambassador John Fritz.

Since its independence, the FSM has been an extremely important and friendly nation for our country as a neighbor in the Pacific Ocean and as a



country with a history of ties to Japan that hosts generations of Japanese descendants. Because of these important connections, not only has the Japanese government, but also us in the private sector, in full force have promoted a wide variety of activities to deepen exchanges in the people, cultural and economic fields. This milestone of 30 years is a joy for us if the current bilateral ties and strong bonds are the fruits of such

past activities.

The importance of the roles played by island states have grown day by day in recent years in the areas of marine resources, environmental issues and security in international relations regarding the Pacific Ocean. Therefore, we continue to support further the development and prosperity of the FSM. Furthermore, we are determined to make additional efforts to more greatly strengthen bilateral ties with the Federated States of Micronesia.

exerted in this area.

We also welcome the good people of Japan to our shores to share with us the joy of our beautiful, safe and comfortable haven for their rest, recreation and relaxation. Tourism is a thriving industry in the FSM and we invite investors and visitors who will seek out and appreciate the beauty of the islands while keeping intact the unique cultures and the natural beauties of the land and sea.

Grass-roots interactions

Over the course of the past years, we have witnessed increasing exchange visits by high-ranking officials and political leaders of both countries. We are also encouraged by increasing interactions at the grass-roots and people-to-people levels, including youth and student exchange programs between our two countries, and Japan's involvement in our human resources capacity building.

With these past and ongoing interactions, we strongly believe these activities demonstrate that the historic

partnership of the FSM and Japan continues to be vibrant and extremely beneficial.

Multilateral activities

This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the FSM's becoming a member of the U.N. The FSM has committed and will continue to collaborate with all members and partners on challenges facing the U.N., including climate change, global crises and U.N. reform. The FSM welcomes the important progress made in the ratification of the Paris Agreement, which enables its early entry into force before the end of 2016.

For a relationship to be dynamic and lasting, it must be mutually beneficial. The FSM has considered Japan and its people among its close friends and strong supporters and it has consistently supported Japan's candidatures for important posts at the U.N. and other international organizations. Both countries have also collaborated closely on issues of importance to the region and

Japan through multilateral arrangements and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF).

We are encouraged by Japan's commitment for enhancing cooperation and pursuing a new vision for Japan's diplomacy toward the Pacific island countries. As the current chair of the PIF, the FSM is committed to work with Japan in promoting Japan-PIF relations.

Conclusion

The people and government of the Federated States of Micronesia take pride in their historic and traditional link with the people of Japan that goes back over a century. We sincerely welcome the opportunity to further strengthen and enhance the friendly relations that our two peoples have come to enjoy over the years.

It is my belief that a relationship based on mutual understanding and true friendship will be a lasting one that our people can benefit from and be proud of.

Congratulations

on the 30th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia

We've enjoyed our strong relationship since 1973



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Congratulations

on the 30th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia



Japan Judo Therapist Association
<http://www.shadan-nissei.or.jp/>

Congratulations

to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia on the 30th Anniversary of their Independence Day

Hoping to strengthen the people-to-people relationship

Kochi-Micronesia Friendship Exchange Association
Konan City, Aichi Prefecture
NGO Friends of Micronesia
NGO Association for Micronesia Development

Congratulations

on the 30th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia



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Congratulations

on the 30th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia

We sincerely appreciate your good relationship over the last 125 years and hope for the same in the future.



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The Federated States of Micronesia is surrounded by rich nature and visitors can enjoy seeing beautiful tropical fish. EMBASSY OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Congratulations

on the 30th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia



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