

# Palau National Day Special

## Mutual values spur thriving relations

**TOMMY E. REMENGESAU JR.**  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



On Oct. 1, 2018, Japan will again occupy a prominent seat at the 24th Independence Day commemoration of Palau's young democracy.

The gesture is not by coincidence, but an affirmation of the strong ties between the people of Palau and the people of Japan. The countries' alliance is deep-rooted, spanning more than 70 years. Japan built Palau's first infrastructures and established the island's economy through fisheries, agriculture and mining. Schools and health care, employment and other public services were also introduced for the first time.

Japan has continued to play a significant role in Palau's economic miracle, demonstrated through its generous assistance for infrastructure and technical developments over the last two decades. But even more so, the two allies share the same democratic values that form the foundation of our relationship. These shared principles help nurture the strong bond between Palau and Japan.

Japan also shares our vision and commitment to renewable energy, our dedication to marine preservation and our policy of resource conservation. It supports our leadership in environmental stewardship and climate change mitigation.

The close cooperation between Palau and Japan was further strengthened by the visit of Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko in April 2015. Each year, the people of Palau commemorate the event with a ceremony in Peleliu.

Today, as our friendship has matured, our two countries have embarked on a new chapter — with cooperation based on a private-public partnership scheme intended to usher in shared prosperity and economic advancement. This is now the cornerstone of the Palau-Japan cooperation for the years to come.

Internationally, Palau will continue to work with Japan and our allies to promote stability, peace, and security around the world. As recent developments threaten the present regional order, Palau will continue to align with Japan and other freedom-loving countries to protect our common interests in the region and on the international stage. Like Japan, Palau will not compromise its democratic principles in exchange for checkbook policies.

Palau joins Japan in demanding the release of Japanese citizens held in North Korea, the denuclearization of the Korean

peninsula, long-needed reforms in the United Nations Security Council and the objectives of the Indo-Pacific Strategy.

Let me also take this opportunity to again extend our heartfelt sympathies for the loss of life, injuries and damage to property due to the natural disasters that have struck your country in the past three months. Palau stands by its good friend, and is confident that in due time the people of Japan will rise from these calamities, emerging stronger and more resilient.

In looking ahead, I am optimistic about the future of our bilateral relationship, and as president, I will continue my efforts to further strengthen the friendship between the people of Japan and the people of Palau.

I invite the growing Japanese community in Palau to join us and our fellow friends in celebrating the 24th anniversary of our independence.

*Mesulang!*



The Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge acts as the main artery of the country. The bridge connects Palau's two major islands: Koror and Babeldaob. EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

## Sustainability upheld by versatile exchanges

**FRANCIS MARIUR MATSUTARO**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



Today, Oct. 1 marks the 24th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Palau and the 24th year of diplomatic relations with Japan. On behalf of President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., the government and the people of Palau, it is my high honor to extend our warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government of Japan, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the good people of Japan.

The people of Palau will forever hold dear in their hearts the thrill and privilege

of welcoming and receiving of Their Majesties during their historical visit to Palau in April of 2015. Today, on the occasion of the birth of our nation, we all join together in offering our best wishes for good health, prosperity and peace to Their Imperial Majesties.

Following the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) held in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, in May, let me express our appreciation to the government of Japan

for their continuous support in deepening our relationship through partnerships such as sustainable development, facilitation of trade and investment, people-to-people and cultural exchanges and local government network with the Pacific countries.

With the coming of the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and through the Host Town Initiative, Team Palau athletes have initiated their training programs in Zao, Miyagi Prefecture, and Hitachiomiya, Ibaraki Prefecture. Palau is grateful for the bonds formed with Mayor Hideto Murakami of Zao and Mayor Shin-ichiro Mitsugi of Hitachiomiya and their continued support of our athletes. This initiative is seen as the beginning of a great

opportunity in sports diplomacy beyond 2020 for sports development not only in Palau, but also in the Pacific region.

Let me take this opportunity to extend my greetings on this national day to the Honorary Consul Generals of Palau to Japan, Kohta Fujiki based in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, and Norihiko Tsukui of Mishima, Shizuoka Prefecture, to the Chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, Nobuteru Ishihara, and to the Palau honorary goodwill ambassadors, business partners, colleagues and associates for your continued friendship and partnership. We invite you and all the friends of Palau and the embassy to celebrate this day with us.

## Lifting camaraderie to even greater heights

**NOBUTERU ISHIHARA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PALAU  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



As the chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the 24th Anniversary of the Independence of the

Republic of Palau.

Japan and Palau are important partners bound by warm friendship based on long history and people-to-people exchanges.

Japan held the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, in May. Japan announced at PALM8 the implementation of human resource development and people-to-people exchanges for more than 5,000 people from the Forum Island Countries (FICs) over the next three years, based on the recognition that investment in human capital is the most effective, efficient and enduring form of support for the bright future of the FICs. I believe that invigorating bilat-

eral exchanges among the younger generations is important to further cement our bilateral relationship.

During PALM8, the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League held a luncheon to welcome President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. We were very pleased with the opportunity to have a fruitful discussion with the president.

This year, Japan has been seriously damaged by a series of natural disasters. Following the heavy rains in western Japan, the Palau Red Cross Society initiated fundraising activities among the people of Palau. This not only deeply empowered the Japanese people, including those who were affected by the disaster, but also gave us an occasion to reaffirm our friendship. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the gracious donations from the people of Palau.

Next year marks the 25th anniversary of both the independence of Palau and the establishment of Japan-Palau diplomatic relations. As the chair of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I will make the utmost effort to elevate the partnership between Palau and Japan to a higher level, and would like to visit Palau again.

*Sulang.*



The West Pacific Ocean Monument to the War Dead at the Peleliu Peace Memorial Park built by the Japanese government to commemorate those who lost their lives during World War II on Peleliu Island. ONGERUNG KAMBES KESOLEI



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe poses for a photo with Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. and the delegation of the country during the Eighth Pacific Island Leaders Meeting (PALM8) held in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, on May 18. EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



Palau's location in relation to Japan has made it easier to foster strong ties. EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Republic of Palau  
on the 24th Anniversary of Their Independence

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**Congratulations**  
to the People of the Republic of Palau  
on the 24th Anniversary of Independence

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

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Emina Bldg. 4F, 1-8-7, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Japan  
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日本・パラオ国際友好協会設立30周年記念

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of Their Independence

**ANA**

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**Zao town**

**Hitachiomiya city**

We are supporting athletes of  
the Republic of Palau at the Tokyo  
2020 Olympic Games.

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TOKYO OFFICE: Phone: 81-3-5510-1991 Fax: 81-3-5510-2002  
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# Palau National Day Special

## Promoting friendship and a lush, revitalized environment

**KOHTA FUJIKI**  
HONORARY CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF PALAU



I heartily congratulate the Republic of Palau on its 24th Independence Anniversary marked on Oct. 1.

Next year marks the 25th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Palau and the 25th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Palau and Japan. In connection to this, we plan to organize a friendship-enhancing yacht race connecting Yokohama and Palau later next year.

In the area of tourism, it is necessary to increase charter flights and reestablish a

direct flight from Japan, as well as build new hotels to accommodate increased numbers of visitors. Alongside this, I would like to promote ecotourism in regions revitalized by citizens of each area, reconfirming the value of the resources surrounding them. By promoting "Pristine Paradise, Palau" as an ecotourism destination, the unblemished environment and value of the resources are preserved while tour-

ists enjoy the beauty throughout the country. Also, I look forward to promoting public-private partnerships that aim for tourism with a low impact on the environment.

Our bilateral relations are deepening year by year. As the honorary consul-general of Palau in Yokohama, I look forward to continued cooperation with Palau to reach out to various sectors.

I hope to continue this everlasting relationship. Thank you.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*



Palau's Rock Islands Southern Lagoon was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2012. The islands are a collection of limestone islands in the lagoon between Koror, one of Palau's two main islands, and Peleliu Island. The waters surrounding these islands are the country's world-famous diving destinations. PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY

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1-3-11-803, Fujimi, Chiyoda-ku,  
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### Congratulations

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the Republic of Palau  
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We have been with Palau for 34 years since 1984.



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1 Sakae-cho 1, Takasaki-shi, Gunma-ken 370-0841, JAPAN  
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