

# Philippine President's Visit Special

## Strategic partnership built on friendly, long-standing ties

**FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.**  
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



As a young man, I had occasion to visit Japan many times. On each visit, I never failed to marvel at Japan's astounding postwar transformation into one of the world's economic power-

houses in such a short time.

Not only did this point to the extraordinary will of a people to rise above adversity and change their destiny, it was also remarkable for the fact that this economic might was harnessed to drive the development of many Southeast Asian countries.

Much has already been said of a vastly different Asia in the 1960s. Though the challenges were no less exacting then, tensions pulling us apart were driven by the forces we either roundly rejected or aligned with, undermining the clarity of our decisions.

Today, all aspects of our lives are intertwined in complex ways that render our ties virtually impossible to unravel and our calculations more difficult to make. And in

the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, we often forget that the engagements that have brought us the greatest benefits repose upon a collective set of values, rules, laws and institutions that have guaranteed our postwar peace and prosperity. They, in turn, are established on truths we all affirm. Trade helps economies thrive. Investments enrich people's lives and knowledge. Education empowers. Wanton exploitation of the environment is more costly than it is beneficial. Friendships among nations are founded on the strength of their people-to-people exchanges. Enduring peace and security will never emerge from threats and the use of force, and people will not cower but fight back in the face of the threat to use nuclear weapons. Might does not make right.

These accomplishments, we should not abandon or undermine. And we are here to work with Japan on these issues.

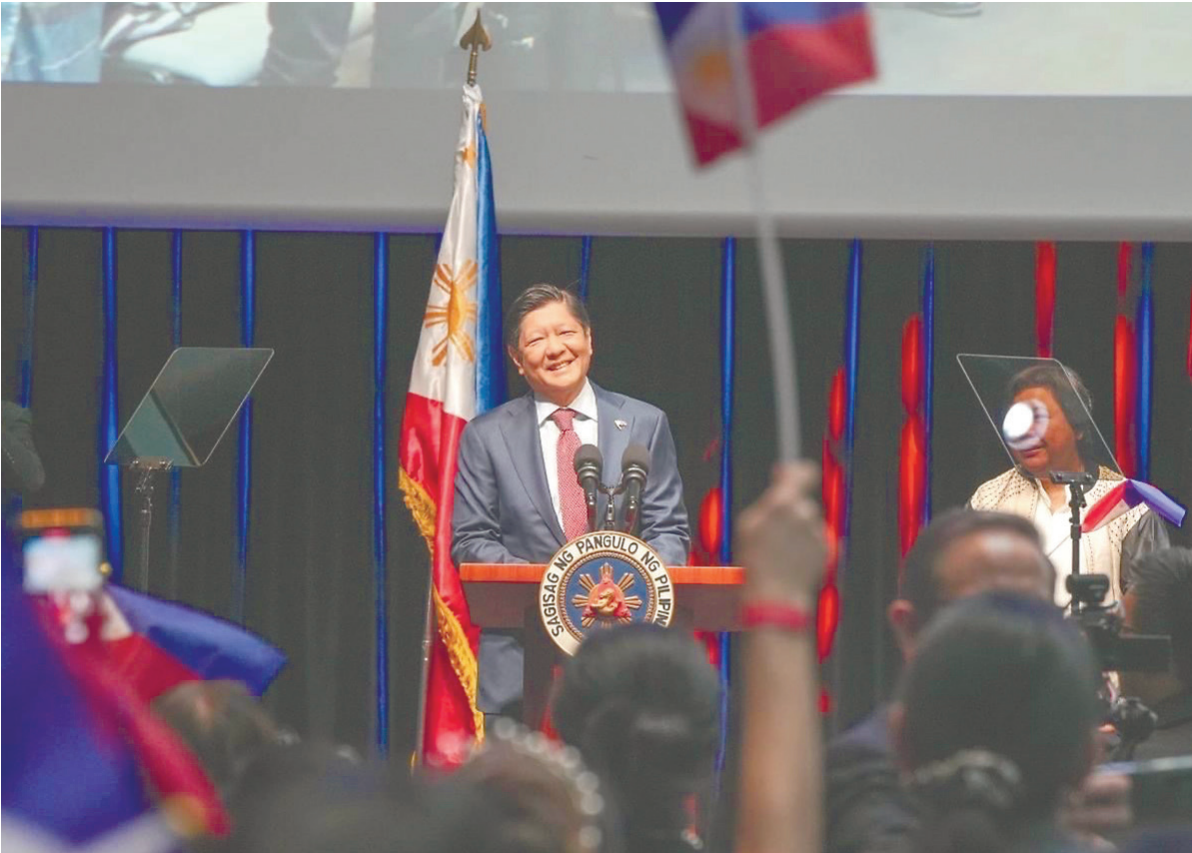
For the Philippines, Japan has been a valued friend and partner. Anyone who has ever traveled to Japan knows its pull on each one of us: the power of its industry, the grace of its heritage, the strength of its infrastructure and its inexhaustible creativity. But for many Filipinos, we see Japan's one great asset — the resilience of its people amid the most brutal disasters — as a

strength that invigorates and inspires us.

This attraction to Japan is well-served by its continuing commitment to be a beneficial presence in Southeast Asia, and its engagement with the rest of the world as a peaceful nation. We have seen Japan successfully perform this constructive role. Hence, our desire that we share our future as strategic partners, in business, in science and technology, in emerging sectors, in culture and in the peace and prosperity of the region. "The rains of summer join together, how swift it is." So goes an excerpt from a Matsuo Basho haiku. To me, these words profoundly capture my faith that the Philippines and Japan are stronger together.

Today an older and more determined man, I remain enchanted by this beautiful nation. As leader of 110 million Filipinos, I am here to convey our desire to work with true friends like Japan to expand the space for peace, and deepen our actions that demonstrate the truths we adhere to. Together with my delegation, I hope to explore the levers of our peace and prosperity so that our strategic partnership with Japan can be truly game changing not only for our country, but also for the region.

Thank you for the warm welcome.  
*Mabuhay!*



**President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.**  
EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

## Important trade and investment allies

**MYLENE J. GARCIA-ALBANO**  
AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF THE PHILIPPINES



Over the past few decades, Japan and the Philippines have fostered deep bilateral relations through years of cooperation grounded in common values, interests and goals.

Among the pivotal moments of our relationship are the reciprocal visits of our leaders, whose conversations build synergies and confidence, consolidate agreement on issues, goals and strategies that our nations can potentially tackle together, and help in unlocking the combined energies of our peoples. The visits also provide an avenue to move the partnership toward uncharted domains and new areas for cooperation.

This week, the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, our two Consulates-General in Nagoya and Osaka and the more than 280,000-strong Filipino community in Japan welcome President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. to Japan for an official visit. It will be his first visit to this beautiful country since assuming the presidency in 2022, after winning an impressive victory in our presidential elections.

In a sign of our deep friendship and strategic relations, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida sent Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi as a special envoy to the inauguration of the president in June 2022. In September, the two leaders met on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where they were able to touch upon topics in current need of discussion. These include economic cooperation, measures for a strong post-pandemic recovery and our shared challenges in the region.

Following a courtesy call made by the prime minister's special adviser Masafumi Mori, our president conveyed his wish to cooperate with Japan on areas such as climate change, food security, infrastructure development and maritime domain awareness. Those conversations not only consolidated agreement on and affirmed the achievements of years of cooperation, but also crucially enabled both sides to speak

of their aspirations for the future.

Our relationship with Japan has been an incontrovertibly transformative one. Philippine economic development and employment have flourished from decades of Japanese investment. Countryside progress has accelerated through years of Filipino farmers' access to the Japanese fruit market, one of our biggest. Philippine infrastructure and the modernity of our cities have emerged with the sweeping presence of Japanese expertise and capital in our development. The aspiration of Filipinos in Mindanao to achieve enduring peace and stability, largely won through their own determination and wisdom, was encouraged by our friends and partners, and the quiet and patient support of Japan. Maritime safety and security, maritime domain awareness, our progress in building a blue economy and new frontiers of collaboration, have demonstrated tangible successes, and are set to expand in the coming years.

Today, Japan serves as the Philippines' top source for bilateral overseas development assistance, and is one of our most consequential trade and investment partners. Japan is also the force behind the Philippines' first subway system, affectionately referred to as the "project of the century," one that is envisioned to assist 500,000 commuters daily.

This week, we look forward to an opportunity for both our countries to articulate a shared vision and leverage our strategic partnership in the face of a changed world where conflict defies our long-held commitment to peace. This visit provides us a chance to reaffirm our belief in the importance of a rules-based international order,

and offer support to each other and the region to maintain stability in the face of uncertainty and worry. Significantly, it will be a chance to refocus on a longer and more commanding horizon, in the face of new technologies, as younger generations join the work force, one where we have to act upon the many compelling and painful lessons that a global health crisis has taught us.

During this visit, the president will be engaging in talks with leaders, influential entrepreneurs and stakeholders from different industries to spur investment and business opportunities in the Philippines. One of the most important parts of the president's official visit will be dedicated to meeting the Filipino community in Japan to bring them the good news from back home and listen to the aspirations of this silent, but potent force of national development.

The strength of the current Philippine-Japanese relationship is a culmination of decades-long cooperation and friendship between our nations. It is a bond that each generation has been careful to nurture, and has been the basis of such enduring stability. We welcome this visit as a symbol of the mutual respect and support our nations have extended to each other, a statement that we will continue to work together to create wealth and improve the standard of living for our people, open up new opportunities for the future and cultivate enduring peace in the region.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the president, first lady Louise Araneta-Marcos, and the Philippine delegation for this official visit of the president to Japan.  
*Mabuhay!*



**Left: Dancers perform at the annual MassKara festival in Bacolod, Negros Occidental province. Right: A climber takes in the sights from the summit of 2,954-meter Mount Apo, the highest mountain in the Philippines.**  
TOURISM PHILIPPINES



## Our Heartiest Welcome

to H.E. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.,  
President of the Republic of the Philippines,  
on His Official Visit to Japan



**TSUNEISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (CEBU), Inc.**

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**Siglo Modern Filipino serves up a spread in Cavite, Cavite province.**  
TOURISM PHILIPPINES

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