# Palau National Day Special

## Close allies in battle against climate change

SURANGEL S. WHIPPS JR. PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



I join the people of Palau in extending warm greetings to Their Majesties **Emperor Naruhito** and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the national

leadership, and the people of Japan on this 29th anniversary of Palau's Independence Day.

It was such an honor to meet the imperial family twice last year and it is our sincere hope that they will be able to join us next year for Palau's 30th Independence Day anniversary, which will also mark 30 years of the remarkable partnership and friendship between our countries.

As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative for allies to strengthen cooperation in addressing challenges that still threaten to upend our economic gains and pose existential threats to communities across the globe.

This shared responsibility belies the indomitable spirit of the people of Palau and Japan, and has drawn us even closer together, strengthening our friendship and cooperation.

As has been demonstrated throughout our long history, Palau and Japan's alliance is based on our mutual belief in democratic principles, respect for human rights and our allegiance to the rule of law. These are the facets that forge the foundation of our friendship.

Our friendship goes back many years. You see it in our language, our names and our faces. Indeed, our two nations are bonded by family ties and shared history and values, as well as our commitment to regional peace and prosperity.

At the top of our shared threats is the issue of climate change. Unfortunately, both of our countries have seen the ill impacts of climate change, including more frequent and catastrophic weather events. While the challenges we face can sometimes seem daunting, Palau is confident that by working together we will overcome what is perhaps the greatest challenge of our time.

Allow me to also thank Japan for its continued support of Palau. Your assistance has been invaluable in helping us to build a better future for our people. From the peopleto-people exchanges conducted through the Japan International Cooperation Association's Volunteer Program and the Kyoto Sangyo University Palau International Career Development Research program, to the assistance rendered to improve our infrastructure — including the Palau-Japan Friendship Bridge and the Minatobashi Bridge, the power grid upgrade in Babeldaob and the construction of the Palau International Coral Reef Center — Japan remains an indispensable partner, and the Palauan people are grateful.

In August, the largest parliamentary delegation from Japan visited Palau under the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, further underscoring the close ties between our governments.

And in endorsing Japan's release of treated nuclear reactor wastewater into the Pacific Ocean, Palau is assured that Japan took all the necessary measures to ensure there is no threat to either marine or human life.

Palau is a small country, but we are rich in culture and heritage, which was made richer by our ties with Japan. As much as we call Japan our neighbor and partner, we truly are family.

We are also a nation of peace and sustainability. We are committed to protecting our environment and ensuring that our future generations can enjoy the same beautiful land and ocean that we do today.

Finally, I extend my profound well wishes to the continued well-being of the people and government of Japan, and further join my fellow Palauans in welcoming the imperial family and Japan's prime minister to the 30th Palau independence commemoration next year.

Until then, we are deeply honored to share this momentous occasion marking Palau's 29th Independence Day anniversary with our friends from Japan. Arigatō gozaimasu and mesulang.



President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pose to mark their summit in Tokyo in June. EMBASSY OF PALAU

# Mutual exchanges show strength of special bond



The Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge connects the islands of Koror and Babeldaob. EMBASSY OF PALAU

#### GUSTAV N. AITARO MINISTER OF STATE OF PALAU



Today, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude as we celebrate the 29th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau. On Oct. 1, 1994, Palau embarked on a

remarkable journey toward sovereignty as a free and independent nation, and just a month and a day later, on Nov. 2, Palau and Japan established diplomatic ties. Since then, Palau and Japan's tokubetsu na kizuna (special bond) has grown stronger

and closer in the years since. We have been very grateful to the people and government of Japan for all the support extended to Palau over the years that has helped develop and shape our nation since independence in 1994. We are deeply grateful to Japan's leadership in our shared geographic region, in the areas of maritime security, territorial integrity, rule of law, climate change and sustainable development, among others. We also support Japan's

vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific. In June, I had the honor to accompany President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. to meet with Prime Minister Fumio Kishida after the president visited the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant. Whipps expressed our trust and support to Kishida and Japan in their decision to release water treated with the advanced liquid processing system. We also requested Japan's support in re-establishing direct flights between Japan and Palau to help continue to revive our tourism industry.

Most recently, we had the honor in August to host the first organized visit of the Youth Division of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party and the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League led by league Chairman Hakubun Shimomura. The visit marked the largest organized visit since we established our independence.

Next year will be even more monumental as we celebrate 30 years of independence and 30 years of diplomatic ties between Palau and Japan. I would like to invite as many of our friends from Japan as possible to visit our beautiful home to celebrate this milestone in the history of our country and our tokubetsu na kizuna. May our friendship and cooperation continue to flourish and be mutually beneficial.

Again, my heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Japan for supporting Palau for the past 29 years.

### Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Palau

#### Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Palau

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Palau

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



# Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Palau on the Anniversary of Their Independence



https://www.uha-mikakuto.co.jp/

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



https://www.sojitz.com/en/

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

We have been with Palau for 39 years since 1984.



URL: http://www.tokyu-land.co.jp

# Palau National Day Special

### Lawmakers' visits bolster relations

PETER ADELBAI AMBASSADOR OF PALAU



**Majesties Emperor** Naruhito and Empress Masako of Japan, as well as the imperial family.

Our deepest appreciation to H.E. Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, his Cabinet and the people and government of Japan for the warm friendship and support Japan has extended to Palau over the last 29 years. Our history dates back to 1821, when Jinja Maru from Yamada, Iwate Prefecture, on a voyage to Tokyo ended up

in Palau due to a typhoon. From 1914 to 1945, Palau was ruled by Japan, and many Palauans became Japanese descendants during that experience.

In 2015, Palau was blessed with the visit of Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita. Since then, the date of the imperial visit to Peleliu, April 9, 2015, has been officiated and celebrated annually as a Peleliu state holiday. In September last year, Palau President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. had audiences with the emperor twice during his two trips to Japan.

In June, the president held a summit meeting with Kishida after his visit to the now defunct Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant. At this meeting the president expressed his support to Japan's plan for the discharge of water treated using the advanced liquid processing system.

The Chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League Hakubun

Shimomura, accompanied by four other league members, visited Palau from Aug. 22 to 26. Another group of Japanese parliamentarians, the Liberal Democratic Party's Youth Division, headed by House of Representatives member Norikazu Suzuki, and over 60 members also visited Palau at the same time. Both groups had the opportunity to meet and exchange views with officers and members of the 11th Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK), or the Palau National Congress, made up of the Senate and House of Delegates. The 11th OEK hosted a reception to honor and celebrate the visit of both groups.

As Palau's ambassador to Japan, I thank the people of Japan for the warm hospitality extended to many of our citizens who are now living across Japan as residents, and those who are studying. Next year will be our 30th anniversary and we would like to invite every Japanese friend of Palau to visit.



Left: Members of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party Youth Division pay their respects at Peleliu Peace Memorial Park on Aug. 24. Right: A delegation from the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League poses to commemorate their visit. EMBASSY OF PALAU

### Many areas available for further cooperation

Japan's south in the Pacific Ocean. Palau is

an extremely important friendly country

fundamental values, as well as a profound

Especially as our island nations are sur-

for Japan as our nations share the same

#### YOHEI SASAKAWA

CHAIRMAN OF THE NIPPON FOUNDATION, HONORARY CITIZEN OF

THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

On the occasion of the 29th anniversary of the Republic of Palau's Independence Day, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to His Excellency President

Surangel S. Whipps

rounded by water, we are both aware of the importance of the ocean, which is a shared asset of humanity and indispens-

historical bond.

able for our survival and prosperity. I would like to pay my tribute to the global leadership exerted by Palau in the preservation and sustainable use of the oceans. The further development of Palau is essential for the stability and vitality of

Japan. There are a wide range of areas where our two countries can cooperate, including infrastructure development, agriculture, 

fisheries and people-to-people exchanges. But I believe that a comprehensive cooperation strategy should be presented as Japan's national policy, with an emphasis on the promotion of tourism in Palau by increasing the number of tourists from Japan, while encouraging collaboration between the public and private sectors to further promote this important bilateral relationship. We will continue to provide our maximum cooperation in the private sector.

I would like to reiterate my sincere respect for the 29 years of independence that Palau has navigated. I sincerely hope that the friendship between Palau and Japan will be further strengthened, and I wish for the continued prosperity of Palau and the happiness of the Palauan people.

Strong partner in ocean conservation

ATSUSHI SUNAMI PRESIDENT, THE SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION



Policy Research Institute (OPRI), collaborates with the government of Palau on various policy initiatives and special occasions.

Building on the outcome of the seventh Our Ocean Conference held in Palau in April 2022, we jointly called for global concerted actions for ocean conservation. sustainable management of marine resources and sustainable "blue economies" at the eighth Our Ocean Conference held in Panama in March this year.

I was very pleased to welcome President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. to our office last June and appreciated him sharing his observations on his trip to Fukushima to verify the process for releasing water treated using the advanced liquid processing system into the ocean. I was at the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Summit in New York in September and had fruitful interactions with Palau's president, his Cabinet and delegation members. I also thought it admirable that Whipps with the support of his Palauan colleagues continue to serve as co-chairs of the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy, for which OPRI operates as a member of the advisory network.

Whipps has demonstrated his leadership through maintaining the regional institutional framework provided by the Pacific Islands Forum and having the Office of Pacific Ocean Commissioner hosted by Palau. Palau has been hosting various regional meetings on fisheries, marine plastics and ocean science. It is indeed very encouraging that the government of Palau, officials, experts and stakeholders continue to play a proactive role in forging regional cooperation for addressing the common interests of the region.

Palau and other Pacific island countries

are struggling to overcome various challenges. They need to revitalize their economies that have been adversely affected by the pandemic, promote sustainable tourism, suppress illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, eliminate marine plastic pollution, and deal with environmental changes and their impacts, such as the increase in typhoons and rainstorms, drought and ocean warming. OPRI has been working with the government of Palau and the Palau International Coral Reef Center to build capacity for promoting a sustainable blue economy and to assess marine and coastal ecosystem services and aquaculture potential.

OPRI, with the support of the Nippon Foundation, assists the government of Palau in advancing human resource development and strengthening maritime surveillance capability, and promotes community-based eco-tourism with people in the states. We look forward to strengthening our mutual friendship and continuing collaboration with the government and people of Palau, as together we aim toward safeguarding the global environment and advancing people's well-being around the world.

#### Determined to further deepen bilateral relationship HAKUBUN SHIMOMURA CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN-PALAU PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



of their independence.

A year and four months have passed since I became the chair of the friendship league, and during this time, there have been significant developments in Japan-Palau relations. First, H.E. President Surangel S. Whipps Jr.

traveled to Fukushima in June to visit Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant and a fish processing facility in Onahama. I would like to thank him once again for expressing his understanding and trust in Japan's sincere efforts to ensure the safety of the discharge of water treated using the advanced liquid processing system into the sea, and for praising the local community's efforts for the reconstruction of Fukushima during his stay in Japan. It was also a great pleasure for the friendship league to have a very fruitful exchange of views with the president and his delegation. In August, a delegation from the friend-

ship league, including myself, visited Palau. The visit was a long-cherished wish of the league, and I am delighted to have finally realized it. Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my sincere gratitude

for the warm hospitality that the Palauan side, including Whipps, Senate President Hokkons Baules and House Speaker Sabino Anastacio, generously extended to the delegation. Through the opportunities to speak personally with many dignitaries of Palau and experiencing Palau's beautiful nature, culture and history, I realized the tokubetsu, or special, relationship between our countries and Palau's passionate expectations for Japan once again, and thus renewed my determination to further deepen the bilateral bonds, or kizuna, toward the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2024.

In closing, I would like to express my best wishes for the continued good health of the people of Palau and the further development of the Republic of Palau. Mesulang. Arigatō gozaimashita.

Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government

Jr. and to the people of Palau. As you may be aware, Palau is a neighbor of Japan about 3,000 kilometers to

### Working to revive direct flights to Palau

#### NORIHIKO TSUKUI

HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU IN MISHIMA



of the Republic of Palau. Japan is currently facing intense criticism from some countries over the issue of treated water. Because of this, the president of Palau rushed to

Fukushima Prefecture to share with the world that Fukushima's treated water was safe. This gave a sense of security not only to the people of Palau, but also to countries around the world, and they quickly began to show their understanding of the treated water. It was a moment when we reaffirmed that Palau is a true tomodachi (friend) to Japan.

since Surangel S. Whipps Jr. was sworn in as the new president. The president has been advocating for Japan to bring back direct flights between Japan and Palau. However, for many reasons, including a weak yen and strong dollar, direct flights between Japan and Palau have not taken off yet.

One year and 10 months have passed

I will continue to work with the ambassador and the Palau government to ensure that Kobe Airport, which will be internationalized in 2025, will be able to offer direct flights to Palau in time for the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. We would like to ask for the continued cooperation of the city of Kobe and Hyogo Prefecture, and would like to continue working with Yoshihiro Seki of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League and Tatsuma Murakami of the Kobe City Council Members' Group, who have already supported us.

If direct flights are established, the pristine paradise of Palau, surrounded by some of the most beautiful seas in the world, will be spread out in front of Japan's eyes. Now that COVID-19 has just ended, everyone can enjoy the ocean as it is. Please visit the pristine paradise of Palau and I promise you will not regret it. In addition, as the honorary consul general of the Republic of Palau, I have opened an Honorary Consulate General in Mishima, Shizuoka Prefecture, and am mainly engaged in goodwill and public relations activities in the Chubu region. We look forward to your visit. We are also planning to open an information center in Utsunomiya, Tochigi Prefecture, to convey the charms of Palau to everyone in the northern Kanto region, too. I hope that more people can see what Palau has to offer. Thank you very much.

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

### Sea connection symbolizes long-standing friendship

independence and the enduring diplomatic

#### KOHTA FUJIKI

HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU IN YOKOHAMA



ticularly special as we had the privilege of hosting not just the second Japan-Palau Goodwill Dinghy Race in Palau as part of the Japan Fair, but also the prestigious 36th Port Yokohama Boat Tengoku Dinghy Yacht Race, which saw the enthusiastic participation of junior sailors from Palau. Looking ahead, next year marks the significant milestone of Palau's 30th anniversary of

relations between Palau and Japan. In commemoration of this milestone, we are thrilled to announce the upcoming 2024 Japan-Palau Goodwill Yacht Race, in which two open-ocean yacht races connecting three islands will be held. Following the race from Yokohama to Malakal port in Palau, there will also be a race from Palau to Okinawa, journeying from the paradise of the South Pacific to the southern islands of Japan. All participating yachts will be equipped with water sample collectors to study the presence of microplastics in the ocean. This vital research will be carried out in collaboration with the Japan Agency for Marine Earth Science and Technology. As fellow islands in the Pacific, our shared

connection to the ocean both symbolizes and commemorates the historic and future friendship between Japan and Palau.

Throughout the years, I have personally witnessed and experienced the strengthening of the robust bilateral bonds between Palau and Japan. In my capacity as the honorary consul general of Palau in Yokohama and as the chairman of Fujiki Transportation and Stevedoring Co., I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to actively contribute my knowledge and expertise in port operations, transportation, logistics, tourism and hospitality to support Palau's ongoing development. May our cooperation continue to thrive, and may we nurture our unique and cherished relationship. Thank you.

### Congratulations to the People of

the Republic of Palau on the Anniversary of **Their Independence** 



TSUNEISHI FACILITIES&CRAFT CO.,LTD.

Tel: +81-848-73-5282 info.tfc@tsuneishi-fc.com



Popular with divers, the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon area is registered as a mixed UNESCO World Heritage Site. DAVID KIRKLAND

#### Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Palau on the Anniversary of Their Independence





Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Palau

on the Anniversary of Their Independence

Energy Management Technologies

Solution Partner of Siemens AG

http://www.intersystem.jp

Building Technologies





**Congratulations** 

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the People of the Republic of Palau on the Anniversary of Their Independence



Emina Bldg. 4F, 1-8-7, Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083, Japan PHONE: 03-6256-8141 / FAX: 03-6256-8142 / www.nbk.co.jp