

Marshall Islands national day

Long, hard road to freedom means achieving peace

Jiba B. Kabua
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
MARSHALL ISLANDS TO JAPAN

This day (May 1) each year, the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands celebrate the “official” expression and claim of their freedom that was sealed in the style of the present-day government in 1979. As their ambassador to this beautiful country and its great people, I take this opportunity to once again express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for Japan’s generosity that is qualitatively demonstrated by its continued support to our country’s efforts toward greater economic development and security of our people.



In our humble recognition of Japan’s generous support, I should like to further qualify this in conveying also that my

country is extremely appreciative of the so-called official role of Their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko, and that of the many fine officials of the government of Japan in every aspect of how they execute their duties and responsibilities in terms of Japan’s exercise of its international assistance and cooperation. In addition, may I also add my profound appreciation of the professional support and the friendship extended to my country’s mission, as well as to me, from many Japanese organizations, companies, and especially from many Japanese friends, in these hard times of special challenges. In view of this fact, our people indeed observe and commemorate their National Day with this recognition and deep appreciation of the assistance from the government of Japan and the friendship of the people.

Freedom is once again cele-

brated today, and for our nation of 59,000 people, we are reminded of its meaning and we recognize that it is humanity itself in these descriptive words: respect of others and compassion. But it is also an immense and heavy duty and responsibility that is placed on the shoulders of enlightened men and women of every country to make sure it is shared and preserved for ev-

eryone regardless of race, religion or culture. Freedom also means to our people being free from having to choose war over dialogue and cooperation. Freedom means to us that life itself is a right that is so fundamental it is not a relative or situational term. It is peace itself.

Therefore, upon reflection of Japan’s gifts to my country through its ODA policy, we not

only feel that we are being assisted economically, but that through this gesture of friendship and cooperation by Japan, we are drawn to also recognize distinctively how fortunate our position is, in comparison to many people around the world whose freedom have been wrongfully stolen from them.

The road to freedom is long and hard, and if my country

can be that small bridge to connect to the next segment of human understanding, cooperation and friendship, I believe we are also, like the Japanese people, ready to extend our hands in friendship, our way.

For freedom and peace, for the eradication of weapons of mass destruction and for compassion, long live the Republic of the Marshall Islands.



New design: The capitol building in Majuro was the site of the second annual Taiwan-Pacific Allies Summit in 2007.



Education Culture Center EMBASSY OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Congratulations
and Best Wishes to the Government
and People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
on the 31st Anniversary of Their Constitution



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