

Palau independence day

Nation honored to help Japan

Johnson Toribiong
PRESIDENT, THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



On behalf of government and the people of the Republic of Palau, I extend our most cordial greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to wish them continued best of health and happiness.

The people of Palau cherish this friendship with the people of Japan and were greatly disturbed by the tragedies of March 11. Our people felt the suffering of the Japanese people as the suffering of their own brothers and sisters.

On behalf of the people of Palau, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to the victims of the March 11 disaster and those who were affected by the typhoon in the Kinki region from Sept. 1 to 3.

Considering all that Japan has done for Palau, our people felt deeply honored to help, conducting fundraising drives led by the government and holding prayer vigils for the people in affected regions of Japan. While these contributions are small on a world scale, our people were deeply honored to provide the assistance within the limits of their resources. The Japanese are strong, resilient and hard-working people. The unrelenting fighting spirit of the Nadeshiko Japan, women's soccer team, which made Japan the world champion, even during such a trying time, is a colorful illustration of Japan's resilience with which we are certain that the Tohoku region will soon rise and rebuild beyond its former glory. As we have witnessed, Japan

has demonstrated its resilience and ability to rise from hardship through its past troubles, becoming a stable and robust economic power.

Palau is truly fortunate to have a strong friendship with Japan. As we mark the 17th anniversary of our independence, we pay tribute to those whose contributions had been instrumental in the building of our nation. In this respect, I offer special recognition and gratitude to the government and the people of Japan for the generous support and assistance extended to Palau over the years. Palau has received various forms of assistance from Japan, including capital infrastructure improvements through Japanese official development assistance (ODA), humanitarian assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteers and exchange training programs. Currently, under the Japanese government's Cool Earth initiative, our airport facility is nearing completion of its solar power installation, and under the Pacific Environment Community (PEC) initiative, the island of Peleliu will receive solar power and a seawater desalina-

tion plant that will augment the island's source of water supply. These contributions help advance the quality of life for our people, improve administration and governance of our nation, and accelerate the growth of the private sector, which are critical to making Palau a self-sufficient nation. Even during this time of the reconstruction of the Tohoku region, Japan continues to extend assistance through seminars and training, and people-to-people exchange such as the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program in which Palau has a participant hosted by Hyogo Prefecture.

Our economy continues to rely on the tourism industry as the main revenue stream for the government and Japanese tourists constitute the main visitors to our islands. We welcome more Japanese tourists and businesses, and in this connection, I invite the Japanese to develop our private sector even further by investing in Palau. While Japanese investment in the tourism industry is extensive, there is enough room for more investment and expansion of this and other sectors of our economy, and in this regard I welcome Japanese

corporations and individual businessmen contemplating overseas expansion of their business enterprises to consider Palau. I appreciate all the Japanese visitors who grace our islands for vacation. They are most welcome as they are truly goodwill ambassadors promoting friendship and good will between our people.

I welcome investment in agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries or other business ventures as well as the establishment of retirement homes and communities for senior Japanese. Indeed, Palau offers many investment opportunities and I encourage, invite and



Natural beauty: A rock arch rises from the ocean near Koror, Palau. PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY

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welcome you to avail yourselves of this opportunity to help make Palau a close and lasting development partner of Japan.

Finally, I congratulate Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda for his election. I am looking forward to working with him in the upcoming sixth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 6) in Okinawa next summer for the common interests of Japan and the Pacific region. I sincerely hope His Excellency will find time during his term to visit our island nation as our most special guest.

We celebrate Oct. 1 every year to recommit ourselves to the visions of our forefathers, who as-

pired for an independent and sovereign nation. It is a time to look back over the past 16 years to see what we have achieved in the process and in this respect, I convey our profound gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their generous and enduring support since Palau's independence in 1994. Japan had been a major development partner and generous benefactor, making extensive contribution that include installation of needed capital infrastructure and providing various humanitarian services that are crucial for development. Palau attaches special value to this warm partnership with Japan. Because of this close partnership, the people of Palau were greatly distressed at the tragic loss of lives due to the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. In this respect, I reiterate our heartfelt condolences

to the people of Japan, especially bereaved families of victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake. I also convey our deepest condolences and sympathies to victims of recent typhoons and extend our prayers for their speedy recovery.

Palau is a thriving democracy under the new and dynamic leadership of President Johnson Toribiong, who became the eighth leader of the Republic of Palau in January 2009.

Since independence in 1994, Palau continues to face daunting challenges of expanding its tourism-driven economy to a self-sustaining level, accelerate expansion of other sectors of the economy, and to enhance benefits and participation of our people in the economic growth.

May God bless beautiful Japan and its people, and the Republic of Palau and its people.

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Becoming a thriving democracy

Minoru Francisco Xavier Ueki
AMBASSADOR OF PALAU

On the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau, I extend the most cordial and respectful greetings of the people of Palau to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and our wishes for their lasting health.



I also convey greetings and congratulations of the people of Palau to H.E. Yoshihiko Noda, the prime minister, and members of his Cabinet, and the government and people of Japan.

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Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Palau on the 17th Anniversary of Their Independence Day



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We sincerely appreciate your good relationship over the last 110 years and hope for the same in the future.



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