

Palau independence day

Hoping to shift from recipient to donor nation

Johnson Toribiong
PRESIDENT OF PALAU

On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Palau, I extend to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko the most heartfelt greetings and wishes for their continued best of health and happiness.

I also extend to H.E. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, his Cabinet, and the government and people of Japan the most cordial greetings and wishes for success and prosperity.

Today, as we celebrate the 18th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau, I wish to recognize Japan for her enduring friendship, support and contributions to Palau over



the years as a development partner. From capital infrastructure improvement through Japan's official development assistance (ODA), humanitarian assistance through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) received over the years, Palau is now in a position to accelerate



Natural wonder: The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, which encompasses 100,200 hectares including 445 limestone islands of volcanic origin, are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY

pursuit of economic development. A most recent assistance is a 2 megawatt power generator that went online this past April, and a 10 MW power plant to be delivered next year. These will greatly enhance Palau's power generation capacity for years to come, and I thank Prime Minister Noda and his government for this generous assistance.

Other infrastructure facilities Palau has received over the years include improvement and up-

grading of our airport facilities, roads, harbors and, just recently, the upgrading of our electrical power system. Through many exchange programs organized by various government and non-government organizations many Palauans have acquired skills and knowledge in Japan and are now serving our country in various fields including education, health, tourism, disaster management, marine surveillance security and other service areas

in the government and private sectors. Under the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program, Palau has two participants teaching in high schools in Hyogo and Mie prefectures.

In 2009, I attended the PALM (Pacific Islands Leaders' Meeting) 5 Summit in Hokkaido and in May this year PALM 6 was in Okinawa, and I thank Japan for the provision of solar energy and seawater desalination facilities that Palau will receive under

declarations of both summits.

I appreciate the warm hospitality of the people and government of Japan for hosting many of our citizens residing in Japan as dependents of Japanese spouses, students, trainees, and participants of programs and activities sponsored by the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other organizations. I wish to recognize the support of the Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Peace Foundation for facilitating the enhancement to our marine law surveillance capacity with the provision of a patrol boat and associate training.

As I stated during the PALM 6 Summit in Okinawa, we are grateful as a recipient country for the support Japan has extended

National legacies: A traditional war canoe and paddlers from Ngiwal state appear at the Pacific Festival of Arts in 2004 in Palau. Below, with half of the world's oceanic shark population at risk of extinction, Palau is pioneering the creation of a shark sanctuary, protecting about 600,000 sq. km of the ocean. PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY / BLAS LAWRENCE, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Memorable, lasting influence of Japan on beautiful Pacific nation

Minoru Francisco Xavier Ueki
AMBASSADOR OF PALAU

On the occasion of the 18th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau, I extend, on behalf of the government and the people of Palau, our most cordial greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. I also convey greetings to H.E. Yoshihiko Noda, the prime minister, and members of his Cabinet, and the people and the government of Japan.



Oct. 1 is a very special day for Palau, marking its independence from foreign rule. In our history, Japan had the longest rule of Palau, which lasted for 30 years of memorable and lasting influence on the people of Palau that is still a part of our culture and language even to this day.

Palau is only a 4½-hour flight away from Tokyo and is also accessible via Guam, Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines. Palau's tourism industry has grown tremendously in past years, reaching 100,000 visitors last year with over 30,000 visitors from Japan. Palau is most popular for its diving spots such as Blue Corner, German Channel, Peleliu Corner and many others, but just recently in July, the rock islands in Palau's Southern Lagoon, which consists of 445 uninhabited limestone islands of volcanic origin, was registered by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Palau, I express our deep appreciation to the Japanese tourists who have visited our island and hope that many more Japanese people will make Palau a choice destination in the future.

In closing, I would like to convey our prayers and hopes for the continued smooth recovery for the people of the Tohoku region. May God bless the beautiful nation of Japan and its people, and the Republic of Palau and its people.

to Palau over the years, but it is not our aim to remain a recipient country. We would like to be able to develop our country to become a donor country someday, to help other nations, and we are looking forward to working with Japan on this robust partnership toward that goal.

In closing, I wish to extend our appreciation to all the Japanese tourists who have visited Palau. They are truly ambassadors promoting good will between our people. I invite Japa-

nese investments in the development of agriculture, aquaculture and fishery, and tourism sectors, particularly the establishment of retirement homes and silver-hair cities. I also wish to congratulate Prime Minister Noda for his successful re-election as president of the Democratic Party of Japan, and I sincerely hope His Excellency will find time during his term to visit our island nation as our most special guest.

May God bless Japan and the Republic of Palau.



Congratulations

on the 18th Anniversary of the Independence
of the Republic of Palau

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Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Palau on the 18th Anniversary of Their Independence



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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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to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 18th Anniversary of Their Independence

Chairman of Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League
and Member of the House of Representatives

Akira Uchiyama