

Palau independence day

Strong bilateral relationship



Tommy E. Remengesau Jr.
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Oct. 1, 2014 marks the 20th Anniversary of the Republic of Palau's Independence. It also marks the 20th anniversary of our nation's close ties with Japan. This is a proud moment for our nation and on behalf of all the Palauan people I want to offer our gratitude to the Japanese people for your significant support and faithful friendship over the years.

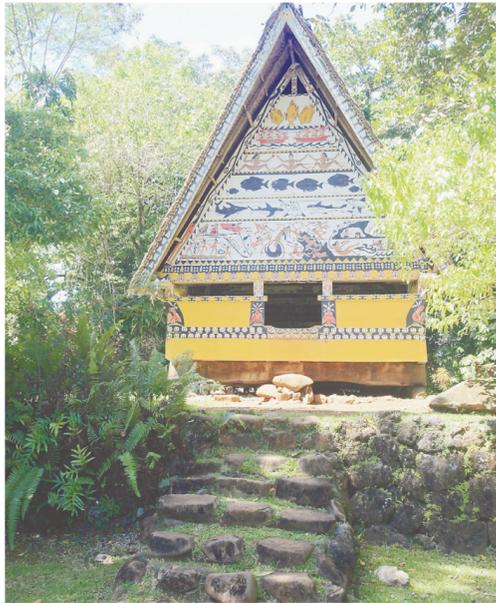
Japan's support for our development as a nation has been generous and effective. Assistance from the Japanese people has improved our roads, our bridges and our airport. Japanese volunteers offer their expertise to us on matters ranging from elementary education to master planning our

development as a nation. These efforts have aided our development and have contributed to the rising standard of living enjoyed by our people.

In addition to your support, Palauans greatly value the friendship of the Japanese people. Our two nations have a shared history and the Japanese culture has influenced the Palauan culture. Japanese words fill our language, Japanese food graces our tables and Japanese social customs influence the way we treat one another. Throughout our islands you will find Japanese people not only on vacation, but living and working here among us.

After two decades of independence, Palau has become a much stronger and more self-reliant nation. This is clearly due in part to the great friendship we share with Japan. Today the Palauan people are setting our own course, taking strong measures to protect our environment and to develop in such a way that does not threaten our cherished way of life. We seek to build a Palau that will last—a country which our children and our children's children will be proud to call home.

The Palauan people hope you will share in the joy of this momentous occasion with us. And of course we also hope to see you in Palau one day soon.



Clockwise from above, Palau's Rock Islands Southern Lagoon is listed as UNESCO World Heritage site; one of the major tourist attractions in the Rock Islands is Milky Way cove, which is known for being a natural mud bath; the traditional Palauan abai (meeting house) was first used only by men, but is used as a community center to host meetings and other activities today. EMBASSY OF PALAU, PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY, NPO SOUTH SEA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Tourism an important element of Palau's development, growth

Francis Mariur Matsutaro
AMBASSADOR OF PALAU

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Palau today, Oct. 1, it is my great privilege to have this opportunity once again to extend my sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to the government and the good people of Japan for the warm friendship we have enjoyed over these past twenty years between our countries.



It is my high honor to offer on this day, on behalf of H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, the government and the people of Palau, our deepest sincere respect to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko with our warmest greetings and best wishes for their continued good health, peace, prosperity and lasting happiness.

Let me also convey our cordial greetings to H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, his Cabinet, the government and people of Japan and extend our appreciation and gratitude for the assistance and support Japan has so generously provided to Palau over the years. I wish as well to extend our goodwill greetings to all Palauans in Japan, to all the friends of Palau throughout Japan and to the individuals, business partners, private organizations and associations, whose support and friendship have been a cornerstone of our warm ties with the people of Japan.

This year, Palau celebrates its 20th Independence Day as a young nation. It is also the 20th anniversary of formal relations between Palau and Japan. And next year will be the 70th anniversary of the WW II Battle of Peleliu. I take this special opportunity to greet our friends and the good people of Japan in the spirit of celebration and respect to these significant events.

Palau is growing as a popu-

lar tourist destination for divers and nature lovers. Lured by the islands' pure white sands, clean air, pristine waters, gorgeous lush green rock islands and abundant underwater marine life in bursts of mesmerizing colors, we welcome an ever-increasing number of visitors every year.

Renowned as a paradise for divers, Palau has been named the last three years as the best diving area at the annual Marine Diving Fair in Japan.

Palau's Rock Islands Southern Lagoon was listed in 2012 as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. The Rock Islands' marine lakes are home to thousands of stingless golden jellyfish found nowhere else in the world. Floating in the lake surrounded by these gentle, tender marine creatures is a one-of-a-kind experience. The Milky Way is a cove of surreal fine milky silt deposits believed to have rejuvenating properties for the body and skin. To experience being covered in this magical milky paste is quite a sensational treat.

Tourism is Palau's biggest industry and it depends on a clean and healthy environment to sustain it. Remengesau has always said: "Our environment is our economy. And our economy is our environment." We adhere to this belief as we invite and receive visitors to our shores.



One of Palau's 16 states, Ngardmau is home to many rivers and waterfalls. PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY

Japan is our largest tourist market. Every year we welcome upward of 35,000 visitors from Japan, making up a third of total annual arrivals. We duly note the friendly relations between our countries as a key contributing factor. We note also our relative distance as a competitive edge. Due directly south of Tokyo, we share a common time zone. A direct flight by Delta Airlines and Japan Airlines from Narita Airport to Koror takes just over four hours, while United Airlines has flights between Japan and Palau with a stop in Guam. Other connecting flights can be booked via Taipei, Seoul, Hong Kong and Manila.

Such competitive advantages are extended to other areas of potential investment, including tourism, agriculture, aquaculture, energy, technology and infrastructure. Here at the Palau Embassy Tokyo, we welcome the opportunity to discuss any

investment interests for the common benefit of our countries. Our president warmly invites investments in high-end hotel and golf course development to further expand the base of tourism in Palau.

For visitors, there is something of interest for everyone — be it exotic local food, nature, culture, tradition, arts and crafts all make for a memorable experience to bring back with you. For a tropical garden feel, Palau has plenty of sunshine, white sandy beaches, sparkling clean waters, stary nights and pure air to enjoy and relax. We welcome you with open arms.

To our valued sponsors, I wish to thank you kindly for making the printing of the messages here possible and thank the readers of The Japan Times for the privilege of sharing them with you. Finally, a gracious thanks to The Japan Times once again for this feature on Palau's Independence Day.

Working together to safeguard, sustain environment

Nobuteru Ishihara
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PALAU PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



I heartily congratulate the Republic of Palau on its 20th Independence Anniversary. Last January, I visited Palau as the minister of the environment. In a speech at the parliament, I introduced Japan's contributions to solving urgent environmental issues such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, waste problems and coral reef protections, in the context of the "Comprehensive Environmental Support for Island

Countries," which I announced in Okinawa in June, 2012.

I sincerely hope worldwide efforts to solve global warming will be synergistic and contribute together to sustainable development. On Sept. 16, the chief cabinet secretary announced that the Japanese government had instructed relevant ministries and agencies to research a possible visit by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to Palau. I believe that if the visit is realized, it will be a historic moment for both Japan and Palau.

Our bilateral relations are deepening year by year. As the chair of Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I am willing to make the utmost efforts to further strengthen the bilateral relationship.

Congratulations to the People of the Republic of Palau on the 20th Anniversary of Their Independence



KYOWA SHIPPING CO., LTD.

TOKYO OFFICE: Phone: 81-3-5510-1991 Fax: 81-3-5510-2002
E-mail: inquiry@kyowa-line.co.jp
http://www.kyowa-line.co.jp/

OSAKA BRANCH: Phone: 81-6-6533-5821 Fax: 81-6-6533-2352

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 20th Anniversary of Their Independence

FUJIKI GROUP
www.fujikigroup.com

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 20th Anniversary of Their Independence

GOTO KAISOTEN Ltd.

Head Office: 2-1, Kaigan-Dori 3-Chome, Chuo-ku, Kobe 650-0024
Phone: 81-78-321-2141
Tokyo Branch: NBF Toranomon Bldg., 6-21, Nishi-Shinbashi 1-Chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0003
Phone: 81-3-3591-2281/7431

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 20th Anniversary of Independence

We sincerely appreciate your good relationship over the last 120 years and hope for the same in the future.

NBK CORPORATION
(NANYO BOEKI KAISHA, LTD.)

Katsuta Bldg. 5F, 1-3-39, Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-0073, Japan
Phone: (03) 5419-2678 Fax: (03) 5419-2680

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 20th Anniversary of Their Independence

PALAU WHITE
Basic cosmetics from the nature of Palau's World Heritage Islands.

AOKI JAPAN CORPORATION

Saeki sennari Bldg. 4F, 1-8-8, Yotsuya, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Tel: 03-5369-2601 Fax: 03-3351-2171
Local corporation: PACIFIC SUNRISE INC. (P.S.I.)
P.O. BOX 9067 Koror, Republic of Palau 96940

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 20th Anniversary of Their Independence

On the occasion of our 30th anniversary, we sincerely appreciate your cooperation.

palau pacific resort
like no other island dream!

URL: http://www.palauppr.com/

TOKYU LAND CORPORATION
URL: http://www.tokyu-land.co.jp

Congratulations
to the People of the Republic of Palau on the 20th Anniversary of Their Independence

YAMADA
YAMADA-DENKI CO., LTD.

Noboru Yamada | Chairperson, Representative Director and CEO
1 Sakae-cho 1, Takasaki-shi, Gunma-ken 370-0841, JAPAN
Phone: +81-27-345-8181
Fax: +81-27-345-8942
http://www.yamada-denki.jp/