

Micronesia Independence Day Special

Three decades of a vibrant partnership

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PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA



On the 30th anniversary of the Federated States of Micronesia-Japan diplomatic relations and the 32nd Anniversary of the Independence of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), I am happy to convey heartfelt

felicitations to their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on behalf of the FSM. To them, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as well as the leaders and people of Japan, I extend our best wishes for continued good health, peace and prosperity in the years to come.

It is also fitting that I take this opportunity to extend warm greetings to all of the FSM's citizens and our many friends in Japan and throughout the Asian region. I am particularly pleased to extend most sincere appreciation to many friends and supporters in Japan for their tremendous assistance in promoting and maintaining the good and strong friendly relationship between our peoples.

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic relations and in reflecting back on the years of our relations, I

want to recognize and acknowledge the tremendous support that Japan has contributed toward expanding and strengthening the goodwill and *kizuna* (bonds) between our two countries and people.

Japan was the first Asian country to recognize and formalize relations with the FSM that has since benefited and is, therefore, grateful for the Japanese government's official development assistance, which has contributed positively to overall development. This assistance has helped expand various basic infrastructure, including airports, roads and health and educational facilities, as well as other facilities supporting our fishing industry. Its technical assistance programs, which include dispatching technical experts under the Japan International Cooperation Agency Senior Volunteer Program and Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation projects, have contributed significantly to our efforts.

Not only has the Japanese government been forthcoming in granting aid and other forms of assistance, but the FSM has also been receiving consistent support from the private sector and non-government organizations that have positively impacted on the economic and social lives of our people. These contributions and assistance are most profoundly appreciated and valued.

In addition, our public and private sectors continue to collaboratively explore

new, innovative ways to get the optimal value of the FSM's unique set of resources. Our regulatory framework is established to ensure rule of law and standards, and at the same time provide a welcoming environment for additional investments by Japanese firms to complement existing contributions and assistance. The FSM welcomes and prioritizes investments in the fisheries, tourism, agriculture and new and renewable energy sectors.

We are very much encouraged not only by Japan's continued involvement in the development of our fisheries sector, but also by joint ventures with Japanese companies.

The FSM also welcomes the people of Japan to our shores to experience our comfortable haven. Tourism is thriving and we invite investors and visitors seeking to appreciate the beauty of the islands while preserving the unique cultures, land and sea.

Over the years, we have witnessed increasing exchange visits by high-ranking leaders of both countries and are also encouraged by increasing interaction at the grassroots and people-to-people levels. The FSM welcomes the establishment of a local governments' network, which will play a vital role in strengthening local ties between us. We strongly believe these interactions demonstrate the vibrant, beneficial nature of our historic partnership.

The FSM has committed and will continue to collaborate on challenges facing the United Nations, including climate change, global crises and U.N. reforms.

For a relationship to be dynamic and lasting, it must be mutually beneficial. The FSM has considered Japan and its people among its close friends and strong supporters, consistently supporting Japan's candidatures for important posts at the U.N. and other international organizations. We have also collaborated closely on issues important to us and Japan through multi-lateral arrangements and the Pacific Island Forum (PIF). We are encouraged by Japan's commitment for enhancing cooperation with Pacific Island countries, and the FSM is committed to work with Japan and PIF members in promoting Japan-PIF relations.



Left: Ambassador of Micronesia John Fritz.
Below: Participants of The Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting in Iwaki, Fukushima Prefecture, on May 19. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN



The FSM's people and government take pride in their historic and traditional link with the people of Japan that goes back over a century. We sincerely welcome the

opportunity to further strengthen and enhance the friendly relations that our two peoples have come to enjoy over the years.

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

Congratulations on the 32nd Anniversary of Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia



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