

Palau National Day Special

A bond of cooperation and friendship

SURANGEL S. WHIPPS JR.
PRESIDENT OF PALAU



Alii (greetings) from the Republic of Palau. On behalf of the people and government of Palau, I extend my heartfelt appreciation and warmest regards to Their Majesties

Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, and the people of Japan as we mark our 31st Independence Day anniversary. We also celebrate 31 years of diplomatic relations with Japan. Our *tokubetsu* (special) relationship stretches back further, rooted in shared history, culture and enduring friendship. This year marks 80 years since World War II ended, a solemn reminder of the sacri-

fices made and the peace we now cherish. Palau holds in special memory the visit of Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko to Peleliu in April 2015, where they paid tribute to the many ancestors that lost their lives during the war. Their presence was a profound act of remembrance and reconciliation, one that remains in the hearts of the Palauan people. In honoring our shared past and family ties, Palau is honored to assist Japan in the recovery of war remains, ensuring dignity and closure for families. Our friendship today reflects that same spirit of peace and harmony. It is sustained by our people: Japanese volunteers, educators, engineers and researchers who work alongside Palauans, and Palauan students who study in Japan and return home to contribute to nation-building efforts. This partnership is reflected in landmark infrastructure projects such as the Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge — a lasting symbol

of our close cooperation — and Japan's continued support for the refurbishment of the Minato Bridge. Studies are underway for a new fishing port in Ngatpang, further demonstrating our shared commitment to strengthening regional food security and advancing sustainable fisheries, ensuring long-term stability and prosperity for our communities. Japan's continued support in clean energy, infrastructure and tourism continue to shape our shared future. The launch of direct flight service between Narita Airport and Koror, Palau, via United Airlines on Oct. 29 will mark a significant step forward in strengthening ties between our nations. This reestablished connection presents valuable opportunities for economic cooperation and meaningful people-to-people exchanges. It also provides a seamless gateway for our Japanese friends to experience the breathtaking natural beauty, vibrant culture and warm hospitality of Palau. We warmly encourage



The Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge
PALAUAN EMBASSY

travelers from Japan to visit Palau and experience all that our island nation has to offer. As we mark this anniversary of independence, we extend our sincerest hope that our bond will continue to flourish for generations to come. To the people of Japan, please accept the warmest *yoroshiku* (regards) and deepest gratitude from your brothers and sisters in Palau. We wish you all good health and happiness. *This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

‘Paradise’ now just a flight away

PETER ADELBAI
AMBASSADOR OF PALAU



On this 31st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Palau, I am honored to extend warm greetings to our friends in Japan. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations on Nov. 2, 1994, Palau and Japan have built a partnership founded on mutual respect, trust and enduring friendship. This relationship continues to flourish as our nations work together to promote peace, prosperity and a free and open Indo-Pacific region. Our shared history further deepens this bond, reminding us of the enduring connec-

tions between our peoples. This year holds special significance as we look forward to the start of direct flights from Narita Airport to Koror, Palau, to be launched by United Airlines on Oct. 29. This long-awaited connection symbolizes our growing ties and marks an important new chapter of exchange between our countries. I warmly invite our Japanese friends to discover Palau, our “Pristine Paradise.” Known as one of the great underwater wonders of the world, Palau offers unmatched natural beauty, from crystal clear waters and the Rock Islands to vibrant coral reefs and diverse marine life. It is my hope that more visitors from Japan will come to experience not only our culture and heritage, but also the warmth of Palauan hospitality. Happy Independence Day to Palau, and may our friendship with Japan grow ever stronger!