
Fiji National Day Special

Wishes for peace, unity and progress for all

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CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF FIJI



It is with great pleasure and honor that I extend, on behalf of President H.E. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu, the government and the people of Fiji, our warmest greetings to their imperial majesties and the imperial

family, and to the government and people of Japan. I also extend heartfelt greetings and *bula vinaka* (hello) to all Fijians and friends of Fiji in Japan.

The government and people of Fiji have deeply valued our special bond with Japan since our nations established diplomatic ties 55 years ago. Japan remains a vital partner and has made significant contributions to Fiji's socioeconomic progress.

I express our sincere appreciation to Japan

for its development assistance to Fiji, which has exceeded \$1.6 billion. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency's official development assistance, Japan has supported the development of Fiji's human and physical resources, including providing humanitarian aid during natural disasters. Since 1983, JICA has dispatched 771 volunteers to Fiji, strengthening our connections and fostering mutual understanding.

Fiji is committed to global citizenship, actively engaging with the United Nations and showing leadership across various international forums. Fiji continues to champion the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting process, the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, the fight against global warming and the protection of the oceans.

We continue to advocate the Ocean of Peace concept as a pathway to a peaceful Blue Pacific Continent — a compassionate vision that ensures no one is left behind. Fiji's national development priorities focus on inclusive infrastructure and sustainable eco-

nomic growth. These priorities align with our participation in the Osaka Expo, which has been a valuable opportunity for trade, investment and business partnerships that serve the shared interests of Fiji and Japan.

The 2025 Fiji Day theme is "Peace, Unity and Progress for All." As we reflect on our past achievements, we also look forward with optimism. Through peace and unity among all Fijians, we are inspired to persevere and progress as a nation.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all our corporate sponsors, The Japan Times, Fiji's honorary consular corps in Japan, the Japan-Fiji Parliamentary Friendship League, the Fijian community and our friends in Japan for their continued support and commitment to goodwill between our nations.

May God bless Fiji-Japan relations.

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