

Philippines President's Visit Special

Talks aim to build on bilateral ties, address pressing issues

JAPAN TIMES AGENCY

As Japan and the Philippines celebrate the 70th anniversary of the normalization of their diplomatic relations this year, it is especially fitting that H.E. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. pays a state visit to Japan.

Born on Sept. 13, 1957, in the town of Batac in Ilocos Norte province, the president has long been known by the nickname "Bongbong." He has three sisters and is the only son of the 10th President of the Philippines, the late Ferdinand Marcos, and former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

After attending elementary school at La Salle Green Hills in the Philippines, Marcos enrolled in the Worth School in Sussex, England, for his secondary education. In 1975, he enrolled at Oxford University, studying philosophy, politics and economics. Following his studies at Oxford, Marcos attended the Wharton School of Business to pursue a Master of Business Administration degree.

Marcos was elected as vice governor of Ilocos Norte in 1980. As vice governor, Marcos initiated the Ilocos Norte Development Plan and created the Ilocos Norte Development Planning Project Office. He also created processing and storage facilities for the province's main agricultural products and worked to upgrade infrastructure, including power, water, roads and bridges.

From 1983 to 1986, as well as from 1998 to 2007, Marcos was governor of the province, notching significant accomplishments in a wide range of areas, including tourism, sports, infrastructure, arts and culture, peace, the environment, agriculture and education.

In 1992, Marcos was elected as a member of congress representing Ilocos Norte's second district in the House of Representatives. He served twice, with his initial term running until 1995 and his second from 2007 to 2010. During his time as a member of congress, Marcos worked to improve the economy in areas typically overlooked, lobbied to improve school curriculums and pushed for homegrown clean energy research.

Following his second term as a member of congress, Marcos was elected in 2010 to the Senate. As a senator, he introduced bills on agriculture, education, energy, the environment, housing and tourism, among



President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

other issues. He ended his senate career with a bid to become vice president of the Philippines.

Although he was unsuccessful in his vice presidential campaign, Marcos was determined to continue serving the Philippines and successfully ran for president in 2022.

Since Marcos became president, the country has seen inflation decrease from 6% in 2023 to just 1.4% in 2025, while gross domestic product grew by 5.6% in 2023 and the economy saw growth of 5.4% in the first quarter of 2025. Additionally, unemployment has decreased while the number of visitors to the Philippines has increased, resulting in more jobs for the tourism industry.

Since the start of his presidency, Marcos has visited Japan three times — twice in 2023 and once in 2025, during the World

Expo in Osaka. During his visit this year, he and First Lady Louise Araneta-Marcos are expected to make a state call on their majesties the emperor and empress, who will hold a banquet in their honor.

During this trip, the president is also scheduled to have a summit meeting with Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, with the aim of further strengthening bilateral relations and discussing the future trajectory of the strengthened Philippines-Japan strategic partnership. The leaders are also expected to continue talks on current international developments, particularly on energy, food security and maritime security.

The president is also scheduled to meet with Japanese business groups and members of the Filipino community in Japan, which reached nearly 350,000 in 2025.



Above: Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi sits down with Marcos at the 47th Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Kuala Lumpur. Left: Marcos visits the Philippines Pavilion at the Osaka Expo. EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

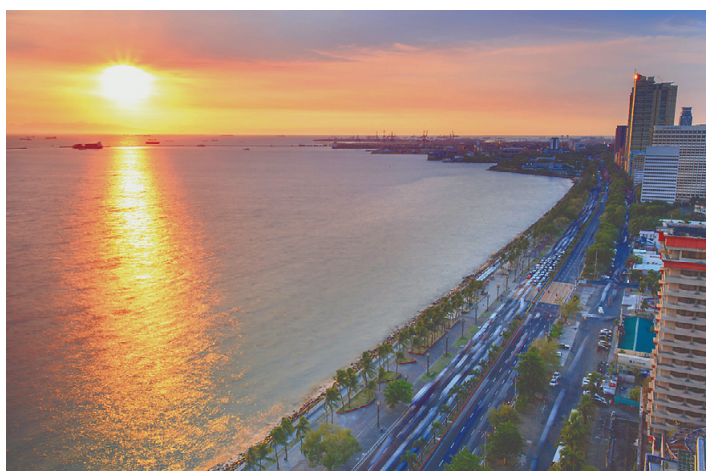
This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy and references excerpts from official government websites.



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The sun sets over Manila Bay. PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM



Cloud 9 is a world-class surfing destination on Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte province. PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM


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H.E. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.,

President of the Republic of the Philippines,

on His State Visit to Japan

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