

Philippines National Day Special

Strong partnership backed by seven decades of friendship

FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.
PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES



On the occasion of the 128th anniversary of Philippine independence, I extend my warmest greetings to the readers of The Japan Times and my fellow Filipinos in Japan and around

the world.

This day holds profound meaning for the Filipino people. On June 12, 1898, the Philippines declared its independence and claimed its place in history as the first republic in Asia. Since then, our nation has remained steadfast in defending freedom, sovereignty and self-determination. We continue to cherish the democratic values and principles that have guided our journey as one nation. We are proud to share and uphold these values with Japan, our close friend, trusted partner and fellow maritime democracy.

This year's celebration is especially meaningful as it comes shortly after my state visit to Japan from May 26 to 29, and as we mark the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

On behalf of the Filipino people, I convey my deepest gratitude to their majesties the emperor and empress, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, members of the Diet, and the Japanese people, for the gracious hospitality and kindness extended to me, the first lady and the Philippine delegation. The warmth with which we were received reflected the enduring friendship between our nations, shaped over many decades by goodwill, mutual respect and a shared vision for the future.

During this historic visit, the Philippines and Japan elevated diplomatic ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership,



Marcos and the emperor share a toast at the state banquet at Akasaka Palace on May 27. PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Empress Masako and Emperor Naruhito pose with Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and his wife, Louise, at the Imperial Palace on May 27. PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE



Marcos and the emperor chat during the state visit. PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

the first of its kind for the Philippines. This milestone reflects how far our relationship has come and the confidence both our countries place in what we can build together in the years ahead.

Our partnership continues to expand across many areas. In defense and security, the Philippines and Japan stand together in advancing peace, stability and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific. Through our growing defense cooperation, which includes strengthened maritime collaboration, capacity-building and practical exchanges between our institutions and armed forces, as well as our partnerships with other like-minded countries, we contribute to a region where international law

is respected, sea lanes remain open and all nations, regardless of size and power, can thrive in security and dignity.

Japan also remains one of the Philippines' most important partners in trade and investment. Our economic partnership has long delivered mutual benefit, driven by Japanese capital and innovation alongside the talent, dynamism and contributions of the Filipino people. As we work toward sustainable and inclusive growth, we welcome stronger collaboration in digital transformation, energy transition, food security and resilient supply chains, such as in the Luzon Economic Corridor.

We value Japan's long-standing support to the Philippines through quality

infrastructure, connectivity, human development and disaster risk reduction and response, all of which improve lives and strengthen communities. The Philippines and Japan continue to work together to create new opportunities for our peoples and contribute to a more dynamic regional economy.

At the heart of this partnership are our people-to-people ties. The Filipino community in Japan continues to serve as a living bridge between our countries. Through their work, talent and contributions to Japanese society, they deepen mutual understanding and bring our nations closer together. Across generations, exchanges in education, tourism, business and culture

have made Philippines-Japan relations not only a partnership between governments, but also a friendship rooted in productive and meaningful human connections.

Philippine Independence Day reminds all Filipinos that our freedom was hard-earned through sacrifice, shaped by courage and preserved through responsibility. It calls on us to safeguard our sovereignty, uphold our democratic institutions, look after each

other and endeavor with other nations in pursuit of peace and shared prosperity.

It is in this spirit that the Philippines continues to deepen its partnership with Japan, guided by shared values, mutual trust and common aspirations.

May the friendship between the Philippines and Japan continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Mabuhay (Long live)!

Congratulations

on Philippine Independence Day and the 70th anniversary of the normalization of Philippines-Japan diplomatic relations.



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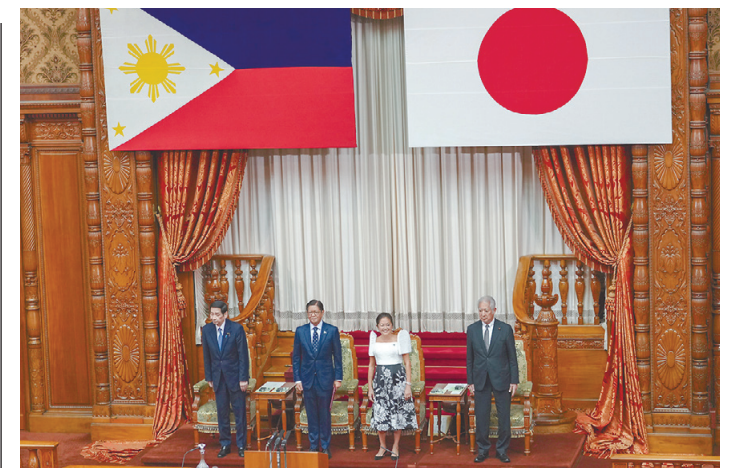
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Top: Marcos and his wife stand with officials after his address to the Diet. Above: Marcos and Ambassador Mylene Garcia-Albano pose with members of the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League. PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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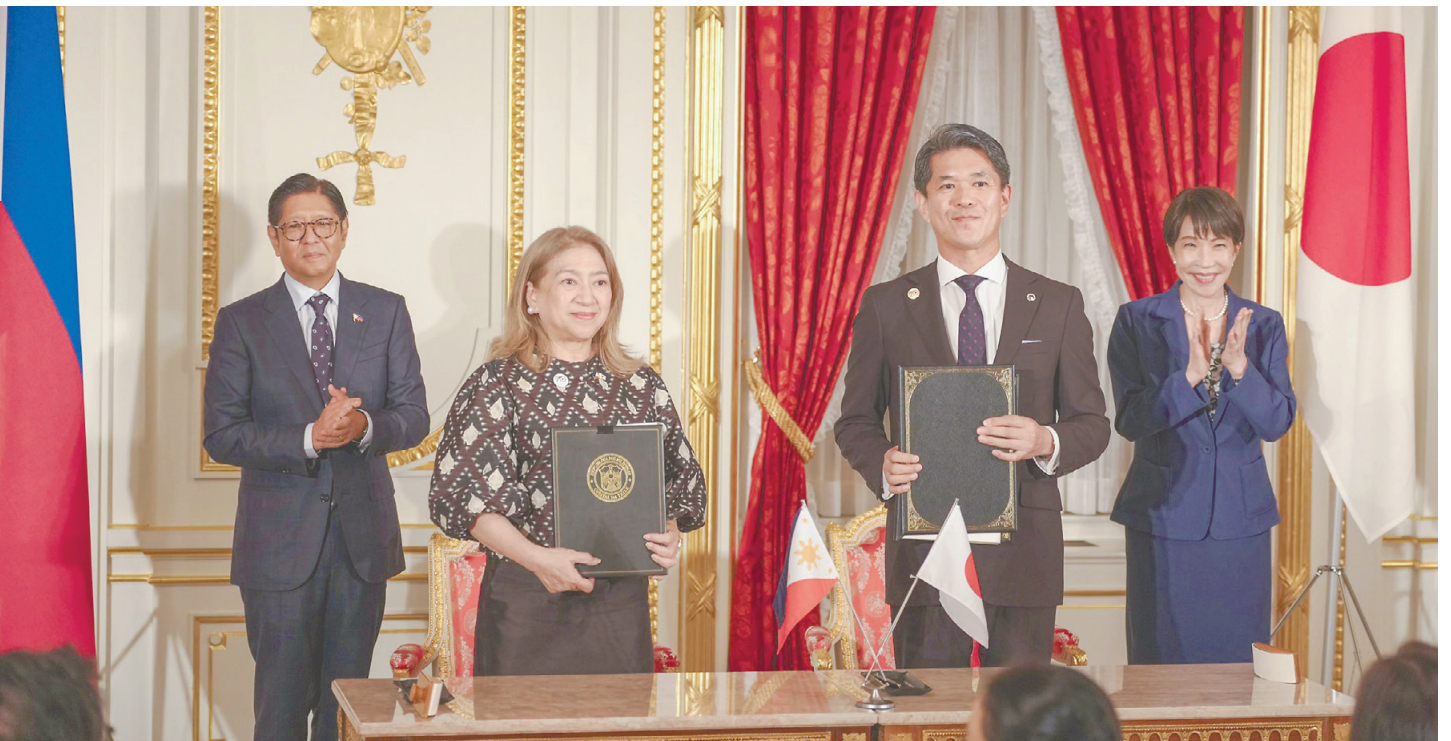
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Marcos, Philippine Ambassador Garcia-Albano, Japanese Ambassador Kazuya Endo and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi pose at the Akasaka Palace on May 28. PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Close cooperation on regional issues

MYLENE J. GARCIA-ALBANO
AMBASSADOR OF THE PHILIPPINES



I extend my warm greetings to the readers of The Japan Times, to our Filipino community across Japan, and to all our Japanese friends and partners as we mark the 128th anniversary

of the proclamation of Philippine independence.

Philippine Independence Day is a time of remembrance, gratitude and pride. It honors the courage and sacrifice of those who secured our freedom and reminds us of the values that continue to shape us as a nation. For Filipinos overseas, it is also an occasion to celebrate our enduring connection to home and the many ways we continue to contribute wherever we may be.

This year's celebration carries special significance in Japan as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan. It also comes shortly after the successful state visit of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to Japan in May, a milestone that underscored the remarkable strength and breadth of our bilateral relationship and saw our countries elevate ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

As the ambassador to Japan, I have the opportunity to witness this partnership up close every day.

I see it in meetings between government leaders and institutions, and in quieter, everyday moments that often say just as much: in communities where Filipinos are welcomed as neighbors and colleagues, in settings where Japanese and Filipino students learn from one another, in businesses forging international linkages, and in friendships formed across cultures and generations.

Our cooperation in defense and security has grown steadily in recent years. The entry into force of the Reciprocal Access Agreement, the signing of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, and Japan's continued security assistance to the Philip-

ippines reflect the depth of trust between our countries and our shared commitment to regional peace and security.

Initiatives in maritime cooperation, capacity-building and humanitarian assistance and disaster response continue to strengthen coordination between our institutions and contribute to a stable and rules-based Indo-Pacific. They are further reinforced through collaboration with other like-minded partners who share our commitment to international law, freedom of navigation and regional stability.

Our economic partnership remains equally dynamic. Japan continues to be one of the Philippines' most important partners in trade, investment, infrastructure and development cooperation. Across the Philippines and especially in Mindanao, this partnership can be seen in projects that improve connectivity, strengthen communities and expand opportunity. At the same time, Filipino talent, creativity and enterprise continue to make meaningful contributions across Japanese industries and local communities. As our countries look ahead, we see even greater potential for collaboration in digital innovation, energy transition, food security, resilient supply chains and other emerging areas that will shape our shared future.

One of the greatest privileges of serving as ambassador is meeting Filipinos

throughout Japan who are thriving in their workplaces and communities and living harmoniously with their Japanese peers. I have seen firsthand how they represent the Philippines with excellence, resilience and generosity. Equally inspiring is the warmth extended by our Japanese partners and friends to the Filipino community and to the Philippines as a whole. These connections continue to give lasting vitality to our bilateral ties.

This Philippine Independence Day, Filipinos look back with pride on how far we have come as a people and embrace the future with renewed resolve to continue building a nation that is steadfast in its principles and confident in its place among the community of nations. That same sense of purpose can be seen in the friendship between the Philippines and Japan, which has grown stronger with every generation and remains anchored in shared values, mutual trust and a common vision.

May our bonds continue to inspire goodwill and cooperation, and reaffirm our commitment to freedom, independence and peace in the coming years.

Mabuhay (Long live)!

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



Liwliwa Beach in Zambales province is one of many popular surf destinations in the Philippines. PHILIPPINES DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

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