

Marshall Islands national day

Marshall Islands on road to economic security

H.E. Jiba B. Kabua
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS TO JAPAN

Today, May 1, I join my countrymen in the celebration of our National Day, recalling that historical and special moment, when the people of the Marshall Islands decided to establish a republic uniting their islands and their families under a democratic government and



the rule of law. The islands' constitution was made the supreme law of the country in 1979.

Located between 4 and 19 degrees north latitudes, and 160 and 175 degrees east longitudes, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is comprised of two chains of 35 atolls and islands spreading over an ocean area of nearly 2 million sq. km, and a land mass of less than one-third of Tokyo. The history of the country, like many countries in the world, is an account that begins with how contact with the outside

world came about, and eventually transformed this once "sea world" of navigator families and tribes. It is a living account that speaks about new values and new visions corresponding to the times. It is also an account of new and much greater challenges that accompanied the process of nation building, and integration with the rest of the world.

The celebration I have for this important day, as ambassador to Japan, is the reflection of how the country and its people have managed change. Modernization is the change

that is generally taken for granted as an exclusive process and claim of Western countries. Ironically, modernization is Japan's contribution to the very foundation of progress for the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Japan introduced electricity, trade and commerce, organized labor, shipping and exports, industrial development, formal and technical education, city planning, government and the judiciary, baseball and ice cream, and many more things that stand for progress.

Let us reflect on this and celebrate the remembrance of that time not so long ago, the spirit of which continues to live to this day by the fact that Japan has once more extended its hand to assist our efforts to secure our claim and right to co-exist in a dignified home among other nations. In this connection, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, and the government and people of Japan for the generous assistance they have given to support the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and its continued nation-building efforts.

Japan's official development assistance is and has always been quality ODA that reflects quality workmanship, and a valued relationship vis-a-vis the bilateral. Japan's contribution to the well-being of the Marshallese people is appreciated very much, but the greatest gift it can (and must) choose to give is accelerated assistance toward complete eradication of dependency and the establishment of economic security for the people. Such would be the condition whereby the National Day of the Republic of the Marshall Islands will be celebrated as if it were a day of victory. Thank you Japan.

Long live the Republic of the Marshall Islands!



Bilateral link: Majuro Bridge (called Nakasone Bridge), the highest point in Majuro, was built with Japan ODA financing in 1984. MARSHALL ISLANDS EMBASSY



Health care: Japan's ODA was used to improve Majuro Hospital.

Congratulations

and Best Wishes to the Government
and People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
on the 30th Anniversary of Their Constitution



JAPAN TUNA FISHERIES
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