

Palau independence day

Pacific nation welcomes investment

Johnson Toribiong
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



On behalf of the government and the people of the Republic of Palau, I extend our most cordial greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and to wish them continued best of health.

I also extend to Prime Minister Naoto Kan and members of his Cabinet, the government and the people of Japan our greetings and warm regards on this very special day of the Republic of Palau.

Oct. 1 marks the 16th anniversary of our independence as a sovereign nation.

It is time for celebration, reflection and rededication. We celebrate the achievements of

the past 15 years amid the many challenges we have faced in our march to nationhood and to rededicate ourselves to the aspirations of our forefathers, whose ideals, visions and perseverance for a sovereign nation led to the realization of this day, and to pay tribute to them and

those whose contributions had been instrumental in the building of this nation.

In this regard, I offer special recognition and gratitude to the government and the people of Japan for the generous support and assistance extended to Palau over the years. Palau has received various forms of assistance from Japan, including capital infrastructure improvements and humanitarian assistance by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) volunteers and exchange training programs. These contributions help improve the administration and governance of our nation and accelerate growth of the private sector, which is critical to becoming a self-sufficient nation. In this connection I invite Japanese to develop our private sector even further by investing in Palau. While Japanese investment in the tourism industry is extensive, there is enough room for more investment and expansion of this and other sectors of our economy, and in this regard I welcome Japanese corporations and individual businessmen contemplating overseas

expansion of their business enterprises to consider Palau. I appreciate all the Japanese visitors who grace our islands for vacation. They are truly goodwill ambassadors promoting friendship and good will between our people, and I welcome more Japanese visitors, especially readers of The Japan Times contemplating overseas vacations to consider Palau.

I welcome investment in the agriculture, aquaculture and fishery or other business ventures, as well as the establishment of retirement homes or "silver-hair" cities for Japanese seniors. Palau offers many investment opportunities and I encourage, invite and welcome you to avail yourselves of this opportunity to help make Palau a close and lasting development partner of Japan.

Finally, I congratulate Prime Minister Kan for his confirmation as prime minister of Japan, and I sincerely hope H.E. Kan will find time during his term to visit our island nation as our most special guest.

May God bless Japan and the Republic of Palau.



Heavenly beach: Palau is becoming a popular destination with resorts providing a relaxing tropical vacation. EMBASSY OF PALAU

National development plan continues apace

Minoru Francisco Xavier Ueki
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

On the occasion of the 16th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau, I extend, on behalf of the government and the people of Palau, our most cordial greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor



Akihito and Empress Michiko.

I also convey greetings to H.E. Naoto Kan, the prime minister of Japan, and members of his Cabinet, and the people and the government of Japan.

Oct. 1 is a very special day for Palau, marking its independence from foreign rule as well as the 16th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Palau and Japan. We celebrate the achievements we have made since Oct. 16, 1994, when we began the

march to nationhood, and to use this day to reflect and re-assess our development progress vis-a-vis development goals and timelines in our national development master plan, and to celebrate such milestones with our developing partners.

In this connection, I reiterate our appreciation to Japan for her enduring partnership and support to Palau over the years, through which we have received much-needed infrastructure facilities, technology transfer and humanitarian services and others that help accelerate development. We also appreciate Japan's leadership in mitigating the im-

pact of climate change on small island states with the implementation of the Pacific Environment Community initiative.

Palau is a thriving democracy under the dynamic leadership of President Johnson Toribiong, the eighth president of the Republic of Palau. Upon taking office in January 2009, President Toribiong has focused on expanding Palau's private sector, which currently is driven primarily by tourism with extensive Japanese investment. We thank those Japanese investors, and President Toribiong is inviting even more Japanese companies and businessmen to invest. In this connection the Embassy of the Republic of Palau is ready to help those interested to explore the investment opportunities and potentials that Palau offers.

In closing, I want to reiterate President Toribiong's invitation to any Japanese who is considering a vacation to visit Palau.

May God bless the beautiful nation of Japan and its people, and the Republic of Palau and its people.

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 16th Anniversary of
Their Independence Day

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We sincerely appreciate your good relationship
over the last 110 years and hope for the same in the future.



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