

Marshall Islands national day

Japan's welcome contributions continue

Tom D. Kijiner
AMBASSADOR OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

On this auspicious occasion of the 34th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), I have the honor to convey a warm greeting of "Iakwe" from H.E. President Christopher J. Loeak, the government and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial family, the Hon. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and to the government and people of Japan.



Almost 25 years ago, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a small and newly independent nation, was fortunate to establish formal diplomatic ties with Japan. Our historical ties, however, date back a century ago when Japan administered the islands under the mandate of the League of Nations in 1914. This December will mark an important milestone in the history of our two nations as we will be embarking on and commemorating our silver anniversary as diplomatic allies. The special bonds we share have flourished into one of the strongest and most vital relationships in the history of our nation.

Although Japan's administration of the islands ended after World War II, Japan's contribution to the socioeconomic, political and cultural development of the Marshall Islands

continued long after. During that period, many Japanese citizens married into the local population and shortly after the war, most returned to Japan while people of mixed Japanese-Marshallese heritage remained behind. Today they form a sizeable minority in the populace and are well-represented in all sectors within the local community. One does not need to look further beyond the family history of some of our most prominent citizens to understand Japan's role in our nation's development.

Japan and the RMI share not only cultural and historical ties but also a common horror of nuclear weapons. While Japan is the only country that suffered the full traumatic impact of nuclear weapons used in an actual war, the RMI experienced the devastation caused by the explosion of 67 nuclear bombs on our small nation. The most famous test, the Bravo shot, detonated at Bikini Atoll in 1954 — the largest nuclear weapon ever tested by the United States — was a 15-megaton hydrogen bomb more than 1,000 times as powerful as the atomic bombs dropped on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Consequently, this shared nuclear legacy has no doubt played a significant role in solidifying the ties between our nations.

Today Japan continues to be a vital development partner for the RMI. We appreciate the ongoing technical and grant assistance provided in many areas of socioeconomic development. The RMI continues to reciprocate by being Japan's closest ally in various areas of mutual concern.

Furthermore, our policy toward Japan has remained unchanged: We are committed to supporting Japan in the regional and international forums, including Japan's present aspiration to seek a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council as well as Tokyo's bid to host the 2020 Summer Olympic Games.

The RMI will host this year's Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' Meeting in September and I am delighted to announce Japan's intended participation at this high-level conference. The Pacific Islands Forum will comprise 16 heads of state from the Pacific with a theme focusing on climate change. I wish to reiterate our government's gratitude to the Japanese government and local businesses who have so kindly contributed toward the Pacific Islands Forum.

I wish to convey my government's invitation to the private sector of Japan to take advantage of our open-door policy, which allows for foreign investors to engage in joint-ventures with our local companies or through individual private investments. Our major sources of export

range from fisheries to coconut products, and we welcome interested investors to our tourism and hospitality sector. The door to our humble shore is always open to foreign tourists and visitors.

My sincerest gratitude to this year's sponsors, namely the Hon. Vice Minister Kazunori Tanaka, Hayashi Co., Japan Tuna Fisheries Cooperative Association, Kyowa Line Shipping Co., Fisheries Engineering Co. and NBK Co., and to The Japan Times as well. God bless the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Japan!

Kazunori Tanaka
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-MARSHALL ISLANDS PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

The history between the two countries is very deep. Japan had been commissioned to govern the Marshall Islands for about 30 years until the beginning of World War II, and many Japanese migrated there to make the islands their second home.

Special relationship with Japan rooted in our deep, common history

Christopher J. Loeak
PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

On this day, I extend the warmest greetings of "Yokwe" from the people and the government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, members of the Imperial household, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and to all our friends in Japan.

This year, on May 1, the Marshallese people will mark



the 34th anniversary of the founding of their small island nation, and as their president, I am mindful and thankful of the establishment of diplomatic ties on Dec. 9, 1988. Behind this

special relationship is a deeper connection that is rooted in our common history, which is our sizeable Japanese-Marshallese descendants. I am pleased to say that many of them are well represented in the corporate, public and political sectors of our country.

In addition, I note with great satisfaction and appreciation the current level of socioeconomic development and growth in the Republic of the Marshall Islands is possible in part by the ongoing support and generosity of Japan. Japan remains a vital

development partner for the Republic of the Marshall Islands now and long into the future. Today, I wish to express my continued heartfelt gratitude to the people and country of Japan and renew my personal commitment to working closely with Japan and to furthering the cordial relations between the two countries for the mutual benefit of both our peoples.

Happy 34th Constitution Day to all and may God continue to bless and protect the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Japan.

Helping the island republic use renewable energy, mitigate effects of climate change



islands in danger.

On aid for the Marshall Islands, Japan identifies two important points: overcoming the

The Environment Ministry, for which I am a senior vice minister, is trying its best to tackle the issue of climate change, which is putting Pacific

weakness of infrastructures and taking measures for environment protection and climate change.

Like other islands, the republic relies heavily on oil as fuel for electricity. The surge in oil prices has dealt a blow to the Marshall Islands' power supply and economy. Following such a situation, the republic is speeding up the development of solar, wind and renewable energies, such as biofuel using copra, a

fruit abundant on the islands.

If electricity generated by renewable energy is used to supply clean water and street lights, it will also be effective in securing drinking water and bright, safe communities.

In September, the Marshall Islands will host the Pacific Islands Forum, in which 16 leaders from the region get together. I would like to express my best wishes for the success of the forum.

Congratulations
and Best Wishes to the Government
and People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands
on the 34th Anniversary of Their Constitution


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on the 34th Anniversary of Their Constitution

Kazunori Tanaka
President, Japan-Marshall Islands Parliamentary Friendship League
Senior Vice-Minister of Environment
Member of the House of Representatives

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to the Government and People of
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on the 34th Anniversary of Their Constitution

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

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