

Palau National Day

Nation-building efforts moving steadily forward

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

On this 22nd Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Palau, it is my solemn honor and great privilege to extend a warmest *yoroshiku* to the people of Japan on this most auspicious occasion.

As the people of Palau celebrate this historic milestone, we acknowledge the many friends and allies who have contributed to the achievements and progress Palau has made in the last two decades. Japan has been there from day one, having invested tens of millions of dollars in infrastructure, economic and social development assistance that has propelled Palau to

what it is today — a small island state leader in the Pacific and the world. Japan's continued generosity demonstrates its true commitment to improving the welfare of the people of Palau.

Japan and Palau's close relationship was reaffirmed in April 2015 when Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko made a rare two-day overseas visit to Palau to pay homage to those who perished here during World War II. In the minds and hearts of the people of Palau, the historic visit further cemented the unique relationship between the two diplomatic and economic partners.

As Palau continues its nation-building efforts, it does so assured of Japan's continued cooperation, friendship, people-to-people exchanges and goodwill. It is with these reflections that Palau greets the people of Japan, and extends best wishes on the oc-



Clockwise from above left: Palau's famous Rock Islands; Enjoy the ultimate island style in Palau; K-B Bridge, or the Japan Palau Friendship Bridge, connects Koror and Babeldaob Islands. It is a reinforced concrete, cable-stayed bridge with a total length of 413 m. NARIHIRO TANAKA / EMBASSY OF PALAU



casation of the 22nd anniversary of Palau's independence. It is my fervent hope and prayer that the people of

Palau and Japan will continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship and economic cooperation in the coming years.

Ongoing support aids island development

Francis Mariur Matsutaro
AMBASSADOR OF PALAU TO JAPAN

Today, Oct. 1, marks the 22nd Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Palau and the 22nd year of diplomatic relations with Japan. On behalf of our government and the people of Palau, it is my high honor to wish warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the government and the people of Japan.

Following Their Majesties visit to Palau in April 2015, I am proud and pleased to note the state of Peleliu has declared April 9 an official holiday in honor of this historic visit. I wish Their Majesties the best in health, prosperity and peace. I would also like to sincerely

thank the government of Japan for their continuous support in deepening our relationship through partnerships such as people-to-people exchange programs and aid for infrastructure improvement within our developing island state. It is heartwarming to see young people from Palau given the opportunity annually to visit Japan for the first time in their young lives.

Programs such as the "Sakura Science Program," organized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency and the National Institution for Youth Education Exchange Program, invites our youth to explore the deep culture, beauty and scientific and technological advances in Japan.

The launching of the new "Pacific-LEADS" Master's program is acknowledged with great appreciation as a result of the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM 7) held last year in Iwaki, Fuku-

shima Prefecture.

This year, a variety of events took place, including the unveiling ceremony of a monument commemorating Their Majesties visit to Kita-Harao, which means North Palau, in Zao, Miyagi Prefecture, where Japanese residing in Palau resettled after World War II and the signing of the contract for an improved water supply system in Palau. All Nippon Airways also conducted its maiden charter flight direct to Palau. These events and others all serve as great indications of our ongoing friendships as we pause to celebrate our national day.

I extend my greetings to the Honorary Consul-General of Palau to Japan, Kohta Fujiki, Palau honorary goodwill ambassadors, associates and businesses in Japan for your ongoing support. I sincerely thank you and may we continue to enjoy warm friendship between our countries.



Top: UNESCO World Heritage site Rock Islands Southern Lagoon; Above: All Nippon Airways maiden charter flight on its arrival at Palau International Airport greeted by a water arch salute. NARIHIRO TANAKA / EMBASSY OF PALAU, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU

A relationship built on mutual trust and understanding

Nobuteru Ishihara
CHAIRMAN, THE JAPAN-PALAU PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

As the chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations on the 22nd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Palau.

The tight bond between Japan and Palau has a long history that dates back well before the Independence of Palau in 1994 and it is developing year by year.

Especially, the visit of Their Majesties Emperor and Empress to Palau in April 2015 served as a trigger for many Japanese people to raise interest in Palau and I feel that Japanese people's understanding of Palau is deepening more than ever before.

At the same time, there is increasing attention on Japan in Palau. I have no doubt

that mutual understanding is deepening in both countries.

Palau and Japan are collaborating side by side to address common agendas such as climate change and disaster reduction.

In the human resource development field, Japan has launched a long-term human resource development program, "Pacific-LEADS," as pledged at the Seventh Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM7), to foster young leaders that will forge the future of Pacific island countries, through which Japan is making a meaningful contribution to the Pacific region.

Japan will continue to aim for the building of a peaceful and stable society together with Palau.

I will assure you that I will do my utmost from this perspective as the chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League.

I would like to conclude my message hoping that this good relationship will keep on developing over the next 50 and 100 years.

Sulang.



Both public, private support needed to fuel further growth

Kohta Fujiki
HONORARY CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU

I heartily congratulate the Republic of Palau on its 22nd Independence Anniversary.

Last year, Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Palau to mourn the war dead.

This was a historic event that Palau and Japan experienced. The visit is also regarded as one of the most significant and important events in our relationship, further proving the friendship between our two nations.

In July, the President of the Republic of Palau, H.E. Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., visited Japan to participate in an international symposium, which was held in Tokyo.

During his visit, we hosted a welcome dinner for the president and H.E. Francis Mariur Matsutaro, Palau's ambassador to Japan, as well as other important dignitaries. Our meeting was outspoken, and we exchanged ideas in a friendly atmosphere in talks that were beneficial for all of us.

The coming year is expected to be a year of progress in

terms of cooperation of the Japanese public and private sectors for the development of Palau. Some projects include the Water Supply System Improvement Project, Airport Expansion Project and the Reinforcement of the Ability in Maritime Safety and Security.

These projects help contribute to environmental protection, as well as the development of tourism in Palau. Japanese public-private cooperation, in answering the ongoing needs of Palau, is vital for further development moving forward, and is reinforcing bilateral relations between Palau and Japan.

Our bilateral relations are deepening year by year. As the honorary consul-general of Palau in Yokohama, I am keen to make use of my knowledge and experience in harbor transportation-related duties to assist and support in matters related to the promotion of trade, investment and tourism to help Palau further develop.

I will also provide technical guidance related to harbor distribution, construction of a new port and improvement of the domestic transportation network to contribute to the friendship between the two nations.

Thank you and I hope to help establish an everlasting relationship.

Congratulations

to the People of the Republic of Palau
on the 22nd Anniversary of Their Independence



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on the 22nd Anniversary of Independence

We sincerely appreciate your good relationship over the last 125 years and hope for the same in the future.



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We have been with Palau for 32 years since 1984.



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