

# Palau National Day Special

## Mutual values nurture lasting ties

**TOMMY E. REMENGESAU JR.**  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



It is with great pleasure that we invite and welcome our many friends from Japan to join us in commemorating the silver anniversary of Palau's independence. This day is a celebration

of 25 years since Palau formally assumed its place as a member of the international community with a seat in the United Nations General Assembly and a voice in world affairs.

As we mark this historic milestone on our national journey, I am proud to say that Japan has been with us every step of the way. On Oct. 1, 1994, with the ink yet to dry on official independence documents, Japan was one of two countries to formally establish diplomatic ties with Palau, cementing a friendship and partnership that began many decades prior, when Japan helped build Palau's first infrastructure and establish the island's economy through fisheries, agriculture and mining.

In the years since, Japan has been an integral partner in Palau's economic miracle, demonstrated through its generous assistance for infrastructure and technical developments. Our alliance is embedded in our shared democratic values and principles,



which continue to nurture the strong bond between Palau and Japan. Palau is proud to welcome thousands of Japanese citizens to its shores each year as visitors with whom we can share the beauty of our Pristine Paradise.

As a true measure of Japan's friendship, Their Majesties Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko, in a rare overseas trip, visited Palau in April 2015. The state of Peleliu celebrates April 9 each year as a holiday, commemorating the historic event.

The people and government of the Republic of Palau look forward to continuing this strong bond of friendship and partnership in the coming 25 years. Whether in Palau or in Japan, today the people of Palau and Japan should truly celebrate together.

A bilateral meeting between Palauan President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. and then-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Taro Kono, during Kono's official visit to Palau on Aug. 6.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU



Then-Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono is awarded honorary citizenship of Palau from Speaker of the House of Delegates Sabino Anastacio (center) and President of the Senate Hokkons Baules (right). OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU



Then-Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Kono receives a storyboard carving, or *itabori*, from Paramount High Chief Reklai Ngirang. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU

## Ongoing friendship, prosperity

**FRANCIS MARIUR MATSUTARO**  
AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



Today, we celebrate the silver anniversary of the Republic of Palau's independence and formal diplomatic relations with Japan. Representing President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr.,

the Palauan government and our people, it is my great honor to express warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the government and the good people of Japan. We also extend our best wishes for good health, prosperity and peace to Emperor Emeritus Akihito and Empress Emerita Michiko, who honored Palau with a historic visit in 2015, and

reigned during the 25 years of independence that we mark today.

Palau gained independence on Oct. 1, 1994, and a month later on Nov. 2, Japan and Palau officially established diplomatic relations. While we have enjoyed 25 years of formal relations, we share a history that goes back nearly 200 years when the ship *Jinja Maru* was blown off course off the coast of Chiba and landed on the shores of Palau in 1820. Additionally, from 1914 under the League of Nations mandate, the Japanese administration lasted 31 years until World War II in the Pacific ended.

On this festive occasion, our history of close ties holds the promise of deepening friendship and cooperation ahead.

One such opportunity of particular note is the coming 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Through the Host Town Initiative, Team Palau athletes are training to compete in the Olympics in Zao, Miyagi Prefecture, and Hitachiomiya, Ibaraki Prefecture, two

areas with deep, personal and historical ties to Palau. We look forward to nurturing greater positive relationships over the months leading up to the Olympic Games, and hope they become the foundation for fostering more active exchanges through sports throughout the Pacific hereafter.

Let me take this opportunity to extend my greetings on this national day to the Honorary Consul Generals of Palau to Japan, Kohta Fujiki, based in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture, and Norihiko Tsukui of Mishima, Shizuoka Prefecture; Chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League Nobuteru Ishihara; and to the Palau goodwill ambassadors, business partners, colleagues and associates for your continued friendship and partnership.

We invite you and all the friends of Palau and the embassy to celebrate this day with us and look forward to even richer relationships in the future.



Palau's Rock Islands Southern Lagoon is a UNESCO World Heritage site, recognized for its pristine environment and diverse habitats. KENJI YAMAMURA



Palau's Long Beach with its seemingly endless sandbar is a popular destination for a relaxing beach experience. KENJI YAMAMURA



### Congratulations

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

Japan and Palau International Friendship Association  
JPIFA

MASAYOSHI ASAMI  
Chairman

OKIMITSU HIROHASHI  
Honorary Chairman of the board of directors

KUNIWO NAKAMURA  
Supreme Adviser (The 5th President of the Republic of Palau)

FRANCIS MARIUR MATSUTARO  
Special Adviser (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Palau)

HIROFUMI YOSHIMURA  
Supreme Adviser (Governor of Osaka Prefecture)

TOSHIZO IDO  
Supreme Adviser (Governor of Hyogo Prefecture)

KAZUMASA MORIYAMA  
Special Adviser (The Mayor of Settsu City, The 99th Chairman of the Diet of Osaka Prefecture)

the late DAJIRO NAKAMURA  
Vice Chairman (The 3rd Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan)

The 31st Anniversary of Establishment of Japan and Palau International Friendship Association

### Congratulations

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

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

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We are supporting athletes of the Republic of Palau at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

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# Palau National Day Special

## Fostering relations, business ties

**NOBUTERU ISHIHARA**  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-PALAU  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



As the chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to express my congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau.

Japan and Palau are neighboring countries in the blue and abundant Pacific Ocean, and friends bound by more than 100 years of history.

As the 25th anniversary of Japan-Palau diplomatic relations, this year is a perfect one to look back our ties — both historical and diplomatic — in the last quarter cen-

tury as well as to begin a new endeavor for our new future.

In March, President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. came to Japan on an official working visit, and had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

I myself made a speech at the Palau Business Seminar in celebration of the 25th anniversary of Japan-Palau diplomatic relations, sponsored by the Japan External Trade Organization, and discussed how attractive Palau is with over 100 business-people interested in the country.

In August, Taro Kono, former minister for foreign affairs of Japan, visited Palau (a first for a Japanese foreign minister) and confirmed to further develop our friendly, cooperative relations.

Shunichi Suzuki, former minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, also visited Palau together with the mayors of Hitachiomiya, Ibaraki Prefecture, and

Zao, Miyagi Prefecture. Suzuki announced a measure to promote people-to-people exchanges between Palau and its host towns of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Furthermore, this year, as the first initiative of the Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths program, Japanese high school students visited Palau. They interacted with Palau's high school students to discuss how they can conserve the beautiful ocean and nature for generations to come.

I hope this program will be an opportunity for young people who will be a future of Japan and Palau to deepen their friendship.

As the chair of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I will make the utmost effort to further develop the bonds between our two countries in various fields. *Sulang* (thank you).

## Bridging bonds across the ocean

**KOHTA FUJIKI**  
HONORARY CONSUL-GENERAL OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF PALAU IN YOKOHAMA

I heartily congratulate the Republic of Palau on its 25th independence anniversary marked on Oct. 1.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Palau, the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Palau and Japan and the 160th anniversary of the opening of Yokohama port. In connection to this, the 2019-2020 Japan-Palau Goodwill Yacht Race will take place in December, connecting Yokohama and Palau.



In Japan, the ocean greatly affects all of our lives. But, although we have a strong relationship with the ocean, full-scale and long-distance yacht races have decreased over the years.

The planning of this yacht race was initiated through strong local support and collaboration of members keen on holding a long-distance yacht race connecting Japan and Palau; we have also come up with side programs alongside the offshore

race, including collection of water samples for microplastics research for the course, as well as donation of optimist class dinghies and dispatch of instructors for the youths of Palau to learn how to sail and to hold a friendship race with the youths of Japan.

As an event to strengthen the friendship between Palau and Japan, I am convinced that carrying out this yacht race is beneficial for both nations.

Our bilateral relations are deepening year by year. As the honorary consul-general of Palau in Yokohama, I look forward to continued cooperation with Palau.

I hope to continue this everlasting relationship. Thank you.



Nov. 2 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Palau and Japan. The official logo was designed by Risa Ulechong, a Palauan high school student.



Master Carver Ling Inabo in his *itabori* (storyboard) workshop and store Tebang. During the Japanese administration, 20th-century artist Hisakatsu Hijikata taught the craft. KENJI YAMAMURA

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the Republic of Palau  
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Their Independence

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the Republic of Palau  
on the Anniversary of  
Their Independence

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