

Palau National Day Special

Strong foundations serve bilateral relationship well

TOMMY REMENGESAU, JR.
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



This year, as Palau marks its 26th Independence Day anniversary, it also proudly adds another year to its special relationship with the people of Japan.

The coronavirus pandemic, which continues to severely impact all of our lives, has made this year like none other. As we enter the new normal of this coronavirus world, Palau and Japan must do so in strong partnership. We must reinforce the bonds between our people by reinvigorating Japanese tourism and investment in Palau, permitting us to share our pristine paradise with our Japanese friends. We must continue to work together to combat climate change and the degradation of our shared marine environment by ocean-wide threats like plastic pollution.

We must also continue to stand strong on our shared values and on our commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region, opposing those who disrespect the rule of law and seek control through coercive measures. Our partnership in maritime security is a cornerstone of this cooperation and a pillar of our strategy for



Then Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, makes remarks at a reception celebrating 25 years of Independence and 25 years of diplomatic relations between Palau and Japan held in Tokyo on Nov. 12, 2019. EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU IN JAPAN

a peaceful region.

This new year will bring changes for both of our nations. This year will mark the successful completion of Palau's first public-private-partnership project, undertaken with the Japan government and leading Japanese firms. This partnership, to expand, improve

and manage our international airport, will put the friendship between our nations front and center. The first thing travelers will see, when entering Palau, will be the strength of our friendship with Japan.

Projects like our airport partnership improve Palau and improve the lives of the



The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon is registered as a UNESCO Mixed World Heritage site. The area is home to a collection of coral islands between Koror and Peleliu and is among Palau's most famous diving spots. DAVID KIRKLAND

Palauan people while expanding the reach, reputation and profitability of Japanese industry. They show the best cooperation of our governments, and although former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will be greatly missed, Palau looks forward to continuing

these types of collaborations with Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga.

The history shared by the Japanese and Palauan people is long and deep. Together, we have faced and overcome many challenges and together, we will do

so once again.

This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



The then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan Taro Kono visits Palau in August 2019. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Great expectations for deeper cooperation

FRANCIS MARIUR MATSUTARO
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF
PALAU TO JAPAN

Today, Oct. 1, marks the 26th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau and the 26th year of formal diplomatic relations with Japan. On behalf of President Tommy Remengesau Jr., the government and people of Palau, it is my great honor to express our warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, new Prime Minister Yoshi-



hide Suga, the government and 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 our first 25 years of independence, and to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, whose long service leading

Japan well deserves our appreciation.

As we embark on our next 25 years, the world faces the many challenges of living with the coronavirus. Of particular note is the holding of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Another is Our Ocean 2020 Palau, an international conference on Dec. 7 and 8 that Palau will host. It is my fervent hope that these events are successful and that we can overcome this pandemic and be safe and healthy.

Please let me take this opportunity to mention that my mission as ambassador to Japan, which began in September 2013, is ending this year, as the Remengesau admin-

istration will be handing over the reins to the next president of Palau, to be decided in the November national election. My time in Japan has been one of joy and fulfilling challenges. Especially memorable was overseeing the 25th anniversary events commemorating Japan-Palau diplomatic relations. This included diverse conferences, an art exhibition, cooking exchanges and the compilation of a cookbook, the Japan-Palau Goodwill Yacht Race, the issuing of a commemorative stamp series and the publication of a commemorative book. It became a wonderful opportunity to interact more deeply with a broad range of people in Japan, and I am ever grateful to have been the ambassador during this opportunity to further strengthen the ties between our countries.

As I prepare to depart, I have great expectations for Japan-Palau friendships on all levels and our shared prosperity. Our history of close ties holds the promise of deepening goodwill and cooperation ahead.

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.

I extend my greetings on this national day to the honorary consul generals of Palau to Japan, Kohta Fujiki, based in Yokohama, 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 support and partnership.

May peace and friendship be with us in the coming 25 years of our relations.



PSS KEDAM, a 40-meter-type patrol vessel, was donated to Palau by The Nippon Foundation and Sasakawa Peace Foundation together with an administrative building "Bai ra Bul" and berth "Melusch Melachel" during a handover ceremony in 2018. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Time to address concerns on ocean health

YOHEI SASAKAWA
CHAIRMAN, THE NIPPON FOUNDATION
HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE REPUBLIC
OF PALAU

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations as The Republic of Palau celebrates its 26th anniversary of independence. Palau and Japan are like brothers. The moon and the sun that are symbolically depicted on each of our flags are indispensable on this planet, as are the relations of our two countries.



Palau, our important brother, is now

confronting serious threats such as ocean warming, acidification, pollution and the depletion of marine resources that are equally a threat to the very existence of humankind.

The responsibility for this aggravated marine environment rests with every nation and the people who have reaped benefits from Mother Ocean. However, while it is Palau and its neighboring island states that have always placed importance on coexistence with the ocean, they are the first to be negatively impacted.

I continue to transmit the important message of passing on a healthy ocean to future generations for thousand of years and beyond. For that, Japan has shifted gears to a country that protects the world's oceans from hitherto being protected by

the ocean. We will continue to face this threat to mankind together with Palau as fellow brothers.

Palau, under the leadership of President Thomas Remengeau Jr., will host the Our Ocean conference this December to discuss global key ocean issues. The president is the world's most influential leader in ocean affairs. The conference would not have been possible without his leadership, and I firmly believe in its great success. It gives me great honor that The Nippon Foundation will be a part of this conference.

I would like to extend my deepest respects to the people of Palau for the great strides that you have taken over the past 26 years. I wish for the success of the Our Ocean conference and for everlasting prosperity for Palau and mankind.

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

Mie Prefectural Government



PALM9 Twitter: @P9mie ...Coming soon



H.E. President Remengesau Gov. Suzuki

Next year is the 25th Anniversary of Friendly Relations between Palau and Mie

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



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

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Palau National Day Special



The Japan-Palau Friendship Bridge, built with Japan's official development assistance and completed in 2002, connects the islands of Koror and Babeldaob. NARIHIRO TANAKA



Their Majesties Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita visited Palau in April 2015 in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Moving forward as friends, partners

Firmly committed to overcoming challenges

NOBUTERU ISHIHARA
CHAIR OF THE JAPAN-PALAU PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE; MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN; HONORARY CITIZEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



As Chairman of the Japan-Palau Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my sincerest congratulations on the 26th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau.

Japan and the Republic of Palau enjoy a long shared history and strong ties of friendship. Notably, commemorative ceremonies were held in both countries last year, and more than 20 commemorative projects were implemented to celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations between our

countries. Last November's commemoration ceremony, which I had the honor to attend, was a wonderful opportunity for both President Thomas Remengesau Jr. and former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to speak to more than 1,000 guests about efforts to further strengthen the bonds between our two countries and reaffirm our mutual importance to one another.

Knowing that this year Palau has been hit hard economically by the spread of the coronavirus, the government of Japan has provided more than \$3.5m worth of medical supplies and equipment to strengthen Palau's health care system. I am also aware that Japanese private companies have assisted Palau by providing antiseptics and other supplies. In cooperation with the international community and private companies, Japan remains committed to strongly supporting Palau to overcome these challenges together.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend your Independence Day ceremony this year, but I very much hope to visit Palau, with its beautiful ocean and blue sky, again in the near future. I send this letter with the sincere hope for further exchanges and strengthened bonds between Japan and Palau.

Mesulang, arigatou gozaimasu (thank you).

FAUSTINA REHUHER-MARUGG
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



Palau and Japan enjoy a history that dates back to 1914. This year, Palau will celebrate its 26th anniversary of independence as well as its 26th anniversary of diplomacy with Japan, a long-standing and cordial friendship that has lasted for many years.

The world continues to adjust to the new normal due to the coronavirus pandemic. Both our countries are no exceptions, as we also must adjust. It is in line with that that

Palau acknowledges Japan's assistance to combat the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. It is during trying times like these that we must continue to move forward as partners and friends, battling not only the challenges that hinder our shared principles and values, but also those that pose potential harm to our shared resource — our marine environment.

The humanitarian efforts in assistance that have been afforded Palau have contributed strongly to our political, economic and social development. The human exchanges between our two countries can only strengthen our cultural and educational relationship.

We applaud the honorable Shinzo Abe, former prime minister of Japan, for his leadership and for Japan's friendship over the years. We further congratulate His Excellency Yoshihide Suga, prime minister of Japan, and look forward to a continued relationship under his leadership.

Mutual support in various areas

KOHTA FUJIKI
HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL



I heartily congratulate the Republic of Palau in celebrating its 26th Independence Day anniversary on Oct. 1.

In December last year, the Japan-Palau Goodwill Yacht Race from Yokohama to Palau was held in celebration of the 25th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Palau, the 25th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Palau and Japan and the 160th anniversary of the

opening of Yokohama port.

With the help and support of many involved, the race was a great success as seven yachts and a support vessel sailed to Palau with all participants arriving safely. My sincere hope is to host the Japan-Palau Goodwill Yacht Race every several years, to create a new tradition for yachting and to further cement relations between Palau and Japan.

The bilateral relations between Palau and Japan are deepening year by year. As the honorary consul-general of Palau in Yokohama, I look forward to continued cooperation between our two countries.

I hope to continue this everlasting relationship. Thank you.

Unluckily, I was unable to attend your Independence Day ceremony this year, but I very much hope to visit Palau, with its beautiful ocean and blue sky, again in the near future. I send this letter with the sincere hope for further exchanges and strengthened bonds between Japan and Palau.

Mesulang, arigatou gozaimasu (thank you).

ATSUSHI SUNAMI
PRESIDENT, SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION; OCEAN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SPF



I would like to congratulate the people of Palau on the 26th anniversary of Palau's independence. In November, President Tommy Remengesau Jr. delivered a keynote address at the international conference hall of our foundation building in Tokyo to commemorate the

25th anniversary of the Palau-Japan diplomatic relationship and demonstrate his impeccable leadership and determination.

Remengesau made a personal appearance at the webinar on July 23 that we organized with The Nippon Foundation and The Economist group to commemorate Japan's Marine Day, where he called for international partnerships to save the ocean from mounting threats for the benefit of all humanity who depend on its blessings. I would like to pay tribute to the president and the people of Palau for their strenuous efforts and achievements toward a sustainable ocean.

It is indeed our institute's honor to support Palau in preparing for the forthcoming

Our Ocean Conference to be held in Palau on Dec. 7 and 8, where global leaders will report on their progress and renew their commitments toward achieving a sustainable ocean. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation continues to support other activities such as Palau's capacity development for maritime surveillance.

We now need to accelerate our collective efforts as the ocean and global climate are changing rapidly.

I will spearhead the work of our foundation and promote our partnership with Palau in addressing our common goal of achieving a sustainable ocean and enhancing the well-being of our present and future generations.

Tourism key to economic recovery

NORHIKO TSUKUI
HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL



Congratulations to the people of Palau on the 26th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Palau.

The Republic of Palau, a pristine paradise, is an environmental and tourism-reliant nation. This year, in addition to conventional carriers Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways, Skymark also flew direct flights there. There were plans for more

people to visit the Republic of Palau from Japan. Unfortunately, the traffic between Japan and Palau has been affected by the coronavirus. Fortunately, no cases of coronavirus infection have yet been confirmed in the Republic of Palau. I hope many people visit the Republic of Palau again after the coronavirus threat has passed.

In addition, my role as honorary consul general in Mishima has entered its third year. I would like to convey the charm of the Republic of Palau to the people of Mishima and Shizuoka Prefecture, as well as the people of the Chubu region, and further promote exchanges between our two countries.

Thank you very much.



The Palau Pledge is stamped in passports on arrival and guests are asked to sign the pledge in support of a sustainable environment for future generations. PALAU LEGACY PROJECT



Skippers of the participating yachts in the 2019-2020 Japan-Palau Goodwill Yacht Race pose with President Remengesau during a send-off reception in December. EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU IN JAPAN

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

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