

Micronesia Independence Day Special

Tangible results stem from positive relations

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AMBASSADOR OF MICRONESIA



On this occasion of the 34th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), it is my great honor and joy to convey on behalf of the people and leaders of the FSM

our most profound and heartfelt felicitations to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako. To them and the members of the imperial family, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, as well as the leaders and people of Japan, I extend our best wishes for continued good health, peace and prosperity. I also bring special greetings to fellow citizens of the FSM residing in Japan.

The FSM has placed great importance in its relationship with Japan. Many positive developments and tangible results have been realized since the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan in 1988. Our

then-economic liaison office has evolved into a full-fledged embassy, and we now also have five honorary consulates throughout Japan to facilitate grassroots exchanges and other important *kizuna* (bonding) activities in Fukuoka, Osaka, Kochi, Sendai and Kushiro, Hokkaido Prefecture.

Japan has been contributing significantly to the nation-building endeavors of my country through its overseas development program. Construction of major infrastructure such as ports and airports, as well as roads and many other public facilities have been made possible from the support and technical assistance of the government of Japan. Our passenger-cargo vessels and maritime surveillance units are also provided through the kind assistance of Japan. As an ocean country with a vast ocean territory and dependence on the resources of the sea for sustenance, this assistance is deeply appreciated. The Japan International Cooperation Agency volunteers and technical training programs have become an integral part of our island government, especially in the fields of education and capacity building of our workforce. In the international arena,

the FSM, in turn, continues to maintain its consistent support for Japan's permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council and Japan's candidatures in other international organizations. Both countries have also collaborated in addressing issues of importance, including climate change, health, the environment, disaster risk management, alternative energy and many others, through regional and multilateral arrangements.

As the world struggles to cope with the sad and devastating effects of the pandemic, the FSM acknowledges with profound appreciation the early support from the government of Japan in the FSM's efforts to prevent the arrival of COVID-19 onto its shores and to protect its people.

While government-to-government interaction is strong and still continues to be built upon, the catalyst and reinforcing strength behind the good and lasting *kizuna* between our peoples is the historical people-to-people relationship that began over 100 years ago. This has developed and evolved into the present-day commercial trade and business interactions between our respective private

sectors that we are benefiting from today.

The recently established network between Japan's local governments and the Pacific island countries is a promising platform that is hoped to further spur these exchanges, not only from the government sector, but also through the involvement of the private sector at the grassroots level. Through the network, it is hoped that the *kizuna* between the FSM and Japan will progress to new and higher levels.

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

Congratulations on the Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Federated States of Micronesia



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CONGRATULATIONS
on the Anniversary of the Independence Day
of the Federated States of Micronesia



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