

# *Embassy of Japan*

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## *Press Release*

### *Reception for His Majesty the Emperor of Japan's 61st Birthday*

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Date: 24 February 2021  
Majuro, Marshall Islands

On Tuesday, 23 February 2021, the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of the Marshall Islands hosted a reception to celebrate the 61<sup>st</sup> birthday of His Majesty Naruhito, the Emperor of Japan. The reception, held at the Marshall Islands Resort, was attended by His Excellency President David Kabua, Irojlaplap Kotak Loeak, Chairman of the Council of Iroj, Members of the Council of Iroj, Honorable Vice Speaker Peterson Jibas, Honorable Chief Justice Carl Ingram, Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Casten Ned Nemra, Cabinet Ministers, Members of the Nitijela, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, government officials, representatives from business communities, Japanese-Marshallese Community and friends.

His Excellency Norio Saito, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the guests for joining the people of Japan to congratulate His Majesty's 61<sup>st</sup> birthday observed on 23 February 2021.

H.E. Ambassador Saito stated that the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Japan has been sharing an important partnership with deep ties nurtured in over 100 years of history and friendship, appreciating the increased high-level bilateral visits from both countries. Ambassador Saito highlighted that Japan is planning to host the 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, PALM9, in the middle of 2021 in addition to the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games scheduled in July and August. While acknowledging the recent difficulties in cross-border travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ambassador Saito expressed his hope that the day will come when people around the world will be able to travel again, as proof that humanity has defeated the pandemic.

Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Casten Ned Nemra, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, congratulated the 61<sup>st</sup> birthday of His Majesty Naruhito, the Emperor of Japan. Minister Nemra highlighted the historical ties between Japan and the Marshall Islands, emphasizing that Japan was one of the very first countries to recognize the Republic of the Marshall Islands as an independent and sovereign nation. Minister Nemra concluded by stating the nation's commitment to the security and prosperity of "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" to further engage and collaborate on issues of mutual importance.

Japan and the Marshall Islands have deepened cooperative relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relation since 1988.

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**For more information, please contact:**

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Attachment: Photos

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