

# *Embassy of Japan*

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## *Press Release*

### ***Japan celebrated 63<sup>rd</sup> Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan***

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Date: February 24, 2023

Majuro, Marshall Islands

On February 23, the Embassy of Japan in the Republic of the Marshall Islands hosted a reception to celebrate the 63<sup>rd</sup> Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan at the Marshall Islands Report. The reception was attended by over 120 guests, including Honorable Jiba Kabua, Acting President, Honorable Members of the Council of Iroij, Honorable John Silk, Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Honorable Ministers and Senators, local government mayors, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, business communities and Japanese-Marshallese community.

Ambassador TANAKA opened his remark by celebrating the 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and expressed gratitude to all the guests for joining the celebration. Ambassador then acknowledged advance preparation for COVID-19 community transmission by the Government of Marshall Islands in 2022 and mentioned the Japan's contribution towards the vaccine roll-out. With the borders opening, Ambassador showed his high expectation for increase of people-to-people exchange including resumption of long-awaited JICA volunteer dispatch. Ambassador congratulated that this year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the diplomatic relation between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Japan, and commended that both governments agreed on the visa waiver of diplomatic and official passport holders, which is scheduled to come into effect on April 1, 2023.

Acting Foreign Minister Silk congratulated the 63<sup>rd</sup> birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on behalf of His Excellency President David Kabua, the people and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Minister Silk appreciated two countries' historical and diplomatic relationship, touching State Minister Takei's visit to Marshall Islands in January 2023 and Japan's significant role in the socioeconomic development and growth of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Minister Silk also mentioned two countries' cooperation in international setting, commented that the Republic of the Marshall Islands supported Japan's bid to serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Followed by the remarks, guests of honor were invited to the stage to break open the sake barrel with wooden mallets, which expressed the opening of good fortune. A buffet dinner of Japanese cuisine including shrimp tempura and bite-size pork cutlets, and Japanese beer, sake and wine were served and the reception concluded with entertainment performed by the Embassy staff with impromptu singing and dancing which was joined by many Japanese-Marshallese attendees.

**For more information, please contact:**

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