

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Long-standing, traditional friendship

President Emanuel Mori's visit strengthens historic ties between two island nations

By KASIO E. MIDA

Ambassador of the Federated States of Micronesia

On the occasion of the visit of the Federated States of Micronesia's President Emanuel Mori to Japan to attend the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit and mark the 21st anniversary of the FSM's independence, I am honored to have this opportunity to highlight some important points regarding my country and our bilateral relations with Japan. I also wish to take this opportunity to express warm greetings and appreciation to our friends and supporters for their critical support in promoting good relations and mutual understanding between our peoples. Last, I wish to note our indebtedness to our sponsors, whose generosity has made this special supplement possible.

At the outset, I wish to offer warm and respectful greetings to Their Imperial Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, to them and members of the Imperial family, as well as the leaders and people of Japan, on this occasion, we renew our best wishes for good health, continued success and greater prosperity.

Purpose of the president's visit

We extend sincere appreciation to former Prime Minister Yoshino Mori, president of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, for the invitation to President Mori to attend the summit in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, on Dec. 3 and 4. While the president is here for the summit, we also welcome this opportunity, being his first visit to Japan as president, for him to meet government and business leaders on issues important to both countries.

For this reason, we extend appreciation to the government of Japan for making the necessary arrangements for President Mori to meet Japan's leaders, including Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, and to have an audience with the Emperor and Empress. The president will also meet officials from the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and business leaders and friends.

The president is also scheduled to visit Nagoya to attend the

"Life of Water" International Symposium, organized by the Executive Committee of the "Life of Water" International Symposium—an important event leading up to the water summit in Oita.

The visit also provides the opportunity for President Mori to thank the Japanese government and the people for the generous development assistance, which has greatly benefited the FSM, and to reassure Japan of the FSM's continued commitment to collaborate on various issues, which are important to our two countries.

Given the historic ties between our two Pacific nations, we have no doubt that this visit will contribute greatly in further strengthening the long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation.

The FSM is a grouping of 607 small islands in the Western Pacific, lying just above the equator. While the country's total land area amounts to only 700 sq. km, it occupies more than 2.6 million sq. km of the Pacific Ocean. The FSM has full ownership of tuna stocks capable of a sustainable yield of well over 100,000 tons each year.

The islands are blessed with many indigenous, and introduced birds and species. The surrounding coral reefs abound with tropical catch of every description and color, as well as marine turtles and manta rays. The surrounding oceans are home to several large species of game fish such as marlin, mahi-mahi, tuna, barracuda, sailfish and assorted bottom fish.

There is no denying that my country has come a long way. On the diplomatic front, it has managed to accomplish a great deal in a relatively short period of time. Today, the FSM has diplomatic relations with 63 countries.

The task is not yet completed. Indeed, the FSM continues to seek to establish relations with other independent nations in Asia and beyond. In no doing, we are always guided and premised by the basic principles embodied in the preamble of our constitution. We extend to all nations what we seek from each—peace, cooperation and love in our common humanity.

The people of the FSM take great pride in their special traditional link with the people of Japan, the result of Japanese pres-



President Emanuel Mori

ence in the islands. This presence has naturally left a Japanese heritage in the form of blood relations, language and culture. However, this traditional link is threatened and certainly fading away with the older generations of Japanese and Micronesians. We must revive and nurture this special link which we might be losing an element that has brought us together and enriched us for so long.

Established in 1986, the FSM has developed steadily. Our people enjoy a stable and peaceful life. The FSM's foreign policy has been based on a solid foundation of promoting world peace and stability. This is an objective we share with our friends in Japan. The bilateral relationship between the FSM and Japan marks its 19th anniversary this year, and is distinctively built on common values and shared interests. It has proven to be a model for bridging the gap between our peoples and cultures.

This relationship has witnessed

important developments since its establishment in 1988. Our relations, once confined to fisheries, have strengthened and expanded to diversified ties over an extensive range of technological cooperation, human resource development, cultural exchanges, sports, and so forth.

My country is grateful to Japan for its official development assistance, which has contributed positively to the FSM's economic development, and the technical assistance that has also contributed significantly to our development efforts. In the course of past years, we have seen increasing exchange visits by respective high-ranking officials and political leaders.

FSM grows into valuable regional, global partner

By IZUMI KOBAYASHI
Managing Director, Japan Institute for Pacific Studies

We are very pleased to see the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) make steady progress and become a stable country since it became independent of the United Nations trusteeship 21 years ago. Many Japanese must feel some nostalgia for the Micronesians with whom they temporarily shared a history.

In July, Emanuel Mori was inaugurated as FSM's seventh president after elections held in the spring. President Mori, as his surname indicates, is a Japanese descendant from Chuuk state—a great-grandchild of Koben Mori, who is known as a Japanese pioneer in the South Pacific. Mr. Mori is the second FSM president of Japanese origin following President Toshio Nakayama.

There are four FSM states—Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae. Each of the four states has worked to build very close and friendly relations with Japan while

I am pleased to acknowledge that relations between our two governments have grown and expanded with greater cooperation and good will.

We sincerely welcome Japan's support in providing much needed grant aid and technical assistance. The assistance schemes make it possible for my government to acquire road construction equipment, fishing boats, ports and refrigeration facilities, and other supplies and equipment critical and crucial to our economic development efforts.

The people and government of the FSM take pride in their traditional links with the people of Japan. The FSM always considers Japan and its people among its close friends and strong supporters.

It has consistently backed Japan's candidacy for important posts at the United Nations, including the Security Council, and other international organizations. Both our countries have collaborated closely on issues of importance to the region through the Pacific Island Forum and the Pacific Island Leaders Meeting, an important partnership to regional cooperation and assistance.

Foreign investors, including Japanese, are welcome everywhere, be it a shoreside processing facility, operation of fishing vessels or construction of cottages for leisure visitors.

Given our traditional links, our hopes toward Japan are high, with strong encouragement that the strengthening of a strong foundation for our expanded future relations is only a matter of course.

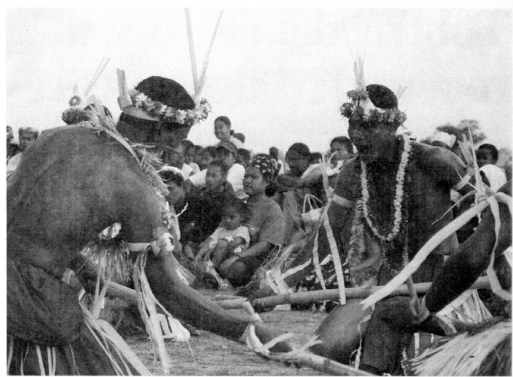
The FSM is opening its doors to tourists with our traditional hospitality so that discerning visitors can enjoy the beautiful, safe and comfortable for rest, recreation and relaxation. We encourage visitors who seek and appreciate the beauty of the islands while keeping intact the unique cultures and natural beauty of the land and seas.

Heartiest Welcome to His Excellency Mr. Emanuel Mori, President of the Federated States of Micronesia, on the Occasion of His Visit to Japan

bringing its qualities into play in the course of national construction.

We cordially welcome President Mori's visit to Japan, his first overseas trip since assuming the high office. The main purpose of the visit is to attend the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Beppu, Oita Prefecture, on Dec. 3 and 4.

Although his visit is not an official one in diplomatic terms, it is natural that the Japanese side, considering the importance of the relationship with the FSM, has arranged an audience with Emperor Akihito and a meeting with Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda during his visit to Tokyo. The Micronesians are a valuable partner of Japan for mutual development and prosperity. I sincerely hope for still closer and friendlier bilateral relations to be built through good exchanges.



MEN ON YAP, one of the four states comprising the Federated States of Micronesia, dance in traditional costumes for Yap Day.

Role model for Pacific island nations

By YOSHIRO MORI

Chairman, Japan-Federated States of Micronesia Parliamentary Friendship League

On behalf of the Japan-Federated States of Micronesia Parliamentary Friendship League, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to President Emanuel Mori of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the government, Congress and people of the FSM on the occasion of the 21st anniversary of their country's independence.

I wish to also take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to President Mori, who was inaugurated in May as the FSM's seventh president, and is visiting Japan to attend the First Asia-Pacific Water Summit, which will take place in Oita Prefecture on Dec. 3 and 4. As president of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum, I think President Mori for accepting my invitation, and I do very much look forward to having interactive exchanges with him and leaders of this region in addressing the water issue, which is of great significance to the lives of people in the Asia-Pacific region.

Nothing is more reassuring for us than to have witnessed the FSM forging ahead, step by step, with its nation-building efforts since attaining independence. I am pleased to see the growing interactive exchanges taking place at political and private levels over the past decades and more. This convinces me that the friendly relations between our two nations is more solid than ever.

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As the chairman of the friendship league, I will continue to pro-

gress. It is my hope that the FSM will show leadership for peace and progress in the region, and continue to extend its cooperation with Japan in many areas.

May the Federated States of Micronesia prosper further.

Nothing is more reassuring for us than to have witnessed the FSM forging ahead, step by step, with its nation-building efforts since attaining independence.

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YAP FISHERMEN head out to sea in their outrigger.

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We sincerely appreciate your good relationship over the last 110 years and hope for the same in the future.
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