

## 1st resident ambassador of Japan arrives in Pohnpei

Written by  
Friday, 20 June 2008 00:00

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**KOLONIA, Pohnpei (Embassy of Japan in FSM)** — Shoji Sato, ambassador-designate of Japan to the Federated States of Micronesia, arrived here on Wednesday.

The arrival of Sato is a milestone in the history of the relations between Japan and FSM because he is the first resident ambassador of his country to this island nation since the two governments established diplomatic relations in 1988.

Japan opened its embassy office in Pohnpei in 1995 and this year is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Up until recently, the embassy in Pohnpei was under the umbrella of the embassy in Suva, Fiji, but it became an independent and full-fledged embassy from January 1 this year onward.

Prior to being appointed as ambassador to FSM, Sato served as consul-general in Surabaya, Indonesia. Other previous posts include the assignments in Zambia, Pakistan, Australia and the U.S.

The embassy said its pleased that its home government has come to the decision to appoint Sato as the first resident ambassador to FSM and is confident that, with this accomplishment, the existing good relationship between the two countries will be further strengthened.

The embassy extends its appreciation to the government of the Federated States of Micronesia for supporting the appointment of a resident Japanese ambassador and wishes to reiterate Japan's commitment to a close working relationship with FSM government based on mutual efforts and understanding.