

# Fiji National Day Special

## Partnerships bolstered by pursuit of SDGs

ISIKELI ULUINAIRAI MATAITOGA  
AMBASSADOR OF FIJI



On the 51st anniversary of our National Day, it gives me great pleasure and honor on behalf of the president of the Republic of Fiji, the government and the people of Fiji to extend warm

and sincere greetings to Their Majesties Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, the members of the imperial household, as well as the government of Japan, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the people of this great nation. I also extend warm greetings and *bula vinaka* (hello) to all Fiji nationals and friends of Fiji in Japan.

The government and people of Fiji are deeply grateful to the government and people of Japan for the warm and cordial relations that have existed between our countries since diplomatic relations were established 51 years ago. This relationship becomes even more crucial in the face of the new challenges and complexities brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Fiji acknowledges with profound appreciation

the early support from the government of Japan in Fiji's efforts to combat the novel coronavirus and protect its people.

Fiji-Japan bilateral relations continue to soar to new heights every year. This was further solidified following high-level political exchanges between our countries, including a virtual meeting between then-Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama on June 29.

Following the ninth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM9) on July 2, let me express our appreciation to the govern-

ment of Japan for its continuous support in deepening our relationships through partnerships. Fiji is committed to strengthening relations through high-level engagements, particularly in key areas focusing on achieving the United Nations' sustainable development goals.

Our close people-to-people ties are exemplified by the warm hospitality shown by the city of Oita, which hosted Fiji's Olympians. Team Fiji had the pleasure of conducting its pre-Games training in Oita Prefecture, and the men's rugby sevens team was successful in defending its gold

medal, while the women's rugby sevens team won its first medal ever, a bronze, during the Summer Games.

I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the government and people of Japan for their steadfast cooperation, and to all our corporate sponsors and the honorary consulates of Fiji in Japan for their support and genuine commitment to the promotion of goodwill between Japan and Fiji.

I hope that the coronavirus pandemic will end, and life will return to normal soon.

May God bless Fiji-Japan relations.



Students from Akutsu Junior High School and Kita Takanezawa Junior High School in Tochigi Prefecture pose after participating in a mangrove planting event in the town of Sigatoka during their visit to Fiji in August 2018.  
EMBASSY OF FIJI



Students from Akita Junior High School pose with Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and Fijian lawmakers after a visit to the Parliament of Fiji in August 2018. EMBASSY OF FIJI

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to the People of  
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