

National Day of Fiji

PUBLICITY

A transformed, inclusive and united Republic of Fiji for all

By **Filimone Waqabaca**
Ambassador of Fiji

It is with a great pleasure and honor on this memorable occasion for me to extend, on behalf of H.E. the President of the Republic of Fiji Ratu Wiliame Maivalili Katonivere, the Government and people of Fiji, warm greetings to Their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress and the members of the Imperial Household, as well as to the Government of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and the people of this great nation Japan. I also extend warm greetings and “bula vina-ka” to all Fijians and friends of Fiji in Japan.



Filimone Waqabaca



Courtesy of the Fijian Government

Fijian Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, left, meets Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in New York on Aug. 1 on the sidelines of the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

(JICA), provides valuable support for Fiji’s human and physical resources, including important humanitarian assistance in times of natural disasters. Since 1983, JICA’s Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) have dispatched 740 volunteers to Fiji.

People-to-people exchanges, another major pillar of Fiji-Japan relations, continue to strengthen every year. This is underpinned by the increasing interest from and exchanges with regional Japan, coupled with Fiji’s very active Honorary Consuls in those regions. Education and sports exchanges and public diplomacy are now resuming and are expected to further shape and deepen our bilateral ties.

Fiji’s commitment as a good global citizen is manifested

through its ongoing engagement with the United Nations and the leading role it continues to play in various international forums. Fiji is the first Pacific Island country that has been invited to be part of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF). We also continue to advocate for the Blue Pacific’s aspirations, the fight against global warming and safeguarding the health of our oceans, adopting an inclusive and caring approach to all parties concerned, to ensure that no one is left behind. We have also legislated a net-zero commitment by 2050 through a Climate Change Act that will make us more energy secure, protect us from energy price shocks, and provide us with cleaner air, better health, and better jobs.

With our partners’ support, we achieved the near universal COVID-19 vaccination of our adult population. Fiji reopened its borders last December, and we have since welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors and earned back part of our tourism revenue. More of our people are working again, and we are heading toward record-breaking double-digit economic growth for the Fijian economy this year.

Appreciation

May I extend our sincere appreciation to all our corporate sponsors, Fiji’s Honorary Consular Corp in Japan, the Japan-Fiji Parliamentary Friendship League, friends of Fiji in Japan, and members of the Fijian community, for their continued support and commitment to the promotion of goodwill between Japan and Fiji.

Finally, my sincere gratitude to The Japan News for allowing us this opportunity to celebrate Fiji’s 52nd anniversary of Independence with its readers.

May God bless Fiji-Japan relations.



**Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Fiji
on the 52nd Anniversary
of Their Independence**

**Akita-Fiji
Friendship Association
Chairman
Yoshiyuki Tsuji**

**Honorary Consulate of
the Republic of Fiji in Akita**

Hon. Consul
Hiroki Miura