

Speech of Mr. MIYAJI Takuma, State Minister for Foreign Affairs at the Ceremony to Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress' Visit to Peleliu on April 9, 2025, in Peleliu, Palau

Honorable guests, Alii. I am Miyaji Takuma, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

It is my honor to be able to attend the ceremony to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress' visit to Peleliu.

I visited Palau, including Peleliu, in 2023 as a member of the Youth Delegation of the Liberal Democratic Party, making this my second visit.

Today, April 9th is the date when Their Majesties visited Peleliu and laid wreaths at the “Monument of the War Dead in the Western Pacific”. I would like to express my gratitude to the Peleliu State Government for designating the date as a state holiday.

For the Japanese, Peleliu Island holds historical significance. This year marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, which brought fierce fighting to Peleliu and resulted in the loss of many lives.

In this milestone year, I am honored to mourn and pay my tribute to all those who lost their lives during the war.

At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Palau, the State Government, and the People of Peleliu for their dedicated efforts in caring for the monuments and cemeteries, and in helping to recover the remains of the fallen, despite having endured the hardships of war.

Last year, a number of remains were discovered at a mass burial site. The Government of Japan is planning to accelerate its recovery efforts. I sincerely ask for your kind understanding and continued cooperation in these endeavors.

It goes without saying that Japan and Palau are indispensable partners who share values and principles. Based on the Kizuna, a bond of trust, fostered through long history and friendship, Japan is committed to building a strategic relationship with Palau to jointly contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

To that end, as State Minister and as a member of the House of Representatives, I am excited to work even harder to make Japan-Palau relations even closer. I sincerely appreciate your kind support.

Thank you for listening, and Kom Kmal Mesulang.