

Statement by His Excellency Emanuel Mori
FSM National Day in Tokyo
November 30, 2007

Thank you Ambassador Mida for the introduction.

I thank the Almighty the creator of the Universe for his guidance, generosity and love. I want to pay special respect to his Majesty, the leadership and the loving people of Japan.

The Honorable Yoshiro Mori, Former Prime Minister, President of Asia Pacific Water Forum, and Chairman of Japan-FSM Parliamentarian Friendship League,
Distinguished Guests, Friends,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Please allow me, at the outset, to extend warm greetings to all of you from the Leadership and People of the Federated States of Micronesia. I thank you for honoring us with your presence on this important occasion to celebrate the 21st anniversary of our National Day, that occasion being on November 3rd, but I am appreciative to Ambassador Mida and his staff for delaying the celebration in order to coincide with my first visit to Japan in my capacity as the President of the FSM.

Taking advantage of the Water Summit in Oita, I thought it would be a remiss on my part not to come to Tokyo to pay my personal respect to the leadership and to renew the special historical links and friendship that we enjoy with Japan. And so tonight I want to reiterate our thanks and appreciation to the Government and People of Japan for the generous support and friendship you have extended to the Federated States of Micronesia.

For this particular visit, I take this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to you, Mori sensei, for your kind invitation to attend the 1st Asia Pacific Water Summit, in Beppu, Oita Prefecture. May I also thank the Executive Committee of the “Life of Water” International Symposium, and the Chubu Economic Federation for its invitation to participate in another water related Symposium in Nagoya.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have accepted these invitations because I very much welcome this opportunity to visit your great country again, whose people, culture and traditions I greatly admire and respect. During my stay here in Japan, I do intend to interact exchanges with Government and Business leaders not only to address water related issues, but more importantly also to further nurture and strengthen the special and friendly relations between our peoples and countries.

The Federated States of Micronesia continues to value with great pride its historical ties with Japan. Over the years, particularly following the evolution of constitutional government and the termination of the trusteeship in 1986, the Federated States of Micronesia worked in partnership with Japan on a wide range of issues that are important to both countries. The long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation have stood the test of time and will surely continue to be the foundation of our partnership.

Our bilateral relations is one of the critical underpinnings of our foreign policy—one that I hope will endure for generations to come. Our efforts in nation-building is an awesome task, and the FSM would not have progressed this far without Japan's generous support and assistance. Annually, Japan made valuable contributions in technical assistance, training, student exchange programs, and many more.

I note with appreciation the cooperation and support that our two countries enjoy at the regional and multilateral level. The FSM will continue to support Japan's candidatures for important posts at the United Nations and other international and regional organizations. Tonight I wish to renew our strong commitment and support Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

At the regional level, the FSM has collaborated closely with Japan as a key Post-Forum dialogue partner on issues of great importance to our region. We congratulate Japan for its innovative approach to regional assistance and cooperation. We will actively seek such innovative assistance. Through the successful PALM Summit process, we are grateful and appreciative of your assistance on both bilateral and multi-lateral basis, and support of the Pacific Plan.

We welcome the decision by the Government of Japan to upgrade its representation in FSM by having a full-fledged resident ambassador in Pohnpei. This enhanced representation will give a high profile and prominence to our relations and further strengthen the close ties between our countries, and I thank all of you who have, in one way or another, made this possible. We look forward to working closely with our many good friends and supporters in Japan to explore other ways and means of further strengthening our relations for our mutual benefit.

One of the most important initiatives the FSM Government has recently taken to strengthen the commercial and investment ties with Japan, as well as to foster tourism, was to enact legislation to create a world class and very Japanese friendly Corporate Registry and Captive Insurance Regime.

It is our hopes to become “the Delaware of the Pacific”, serving Japan, the way the State of Delaware serves thousands of companies in the United States. To demonstrate our long term commitment to this initiative, we have entered into a 30-year contract with an advisory firm, Micronesia Registration Advisors, Inc., to help promote these programs among legal and accounting professional in Japan and to identify other opportunities to serve Japanese citizens and corporations who intend to invest overseas.

We are convinced that these programs currently offer the lowest cost jurisdictions and are tailored made for Japanese Corporations. For example, an individual or company in Tokyo could view a website, in Japanese, and by answering a simple questionnaire and visiting our FSM Embassy here in Tokyo, could establish an FSM corporation in a single day at no cost.

I am pleased to say that we have already had both Japanese individuals and Tokyo Stock Exchange-listed companies establish such corporations in the FSM, and we hope to serve many more over of the coming years. We are delighted that some of those same parties have visited the FSM, and we would certainly welcome more visits.

A former President of the World Bank once said, and I quote, “The digital divide is one of the greatest impediments to development.” End of quote. Upon assuming Office, I issued a directive which set forth the policy priority of my government in respect to information and communication technology. Simply put, it is the priority of my government to develop a national ICT plan and to bring comprehensive broadband connectivity to the country. A comprehensive broadband connectivity is targeted, first and foremost, for the imperatives of socio-economic development of our people. It is also our intention to meet the standards or benchmarks established by international agreements such as the Millennium Development Goals and the World Summit on Information Society.

We commend Japan's leadership role in the global efforts in closing the digital divide. We have high hopes in looking to Japan for support in developing and enhancing the backbone tool of our socio-economic development. As the tool for distance learning, tele-medicine and healthcare, e-government and e-commerce, broadband connectivity is for the common good of the people of the FSM.

This afternoon, I had the distinct honor and privilege to have an audience with His Majesty. It was a dream come true for me personally, an opportunity that I will always cherish and treasure. We exchanged pleasantries and I took the occasion to reiterate to His Majesty the importance of our special historical links, such links through blood relations, that have enriched us, have sustained us, and have made us strong as friends and partners in our Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you again for joining us this evening, and my best wishes for continued success and greater prosperity for the People of Japan.

Domo Arigato Gozaimas!

Thank you and Kinisou Chapur