

Hello! Talofa lava!

My name is Genichi Terasawa and I was appointed as the Ambassador of Japan to the Independent State of Samoa on 8 November. I will be taking over the mission of my predecessor, the first Ambassador Shinya Aoki. This is the first post for me in the Independent State of Samoa and I am very much looking forward to staying there with its friendly people and beautiful environment.

I look forward to further consolidating the relationship between our two countries at this important juncture where the following three epoch-making developments have been shaped.

Firstly, the Eighth Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) was held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture in May last year co-chaired by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Honorable Tuilaepa Fatialofa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, the Prime Minister of the Independent State of Samoa. There have been tremendous achievements on the multilateral cooperation between Japan and Pacific Island Countries.

Secondly, Prime Minister Tuilaepa recently visited Japan at the occasion of the Rugby World Cup. On 2 October, a summit meeting was held by both Prime Ministers, which resulted in further promotion of cooperation between the two countries.

And thirdly, the Enthronement Ceremony of His Majesty Naruhito, the Emperor of Japan was carried out on 22 October, where His Majesty proclaimed the enthronement to Japan and abroad. His Highness Tuimaleali'ifano Va'aletoa Sualauvi II, the Head of State of the Independent State of Samoa, attended it, which led bilateral relationship of the two countries to a new stage.

To contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Pacific region through further developing the relationship between the two countries, I would like to make efforts to promote, with your kind cooperation and support, economic and social development in Samoa, exchanges of business with the participation of Japanese enterprises, people, culture and sports by private organisations.

In 2020, Tokyo will host the Olympics and Paralympics Games. Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture and Yamagata City, Yamagata Prefecture will be those to offer their full support to athletes of the Independent State of Samoa as host towns, following the recent Rugby World Cup in 2019. I hope that the peoples of the two countries will be closer to each other through those most prestigious sport events.

Thank you for your continued support. Fa'afetai lava!

8 November 2019

Genichi TERASAWA

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Independent State of Samoa