

MESSAGE

The Republic of the Philippines joins Japan and other nations in observing the 80th anniversary of the end of the Pacific War.

On this occasion, we remember the innocent victims and the valiant sacrifices of those who fought for freedom during the Second World War. The lessons from that horrid episode will be forever etched in the memory of the Filipino. So will the lessons of the war remain foundational to our society, in our total rejection of war, and our pursuit of lasting friendships towards peace and prosperity and in defense of equality, justice, and human dignity.

Bearing in mind our shared responsibilities to the broader international community, I recall the spirit of reconciliation from which was born, in one generation, the deep friendship and affection between two peoples once torn apart by war. I pay tribute to the generations of leaders whose counsel and wisdom gave rise to the prosperity and peace we now enjoy and to our "*Strengthened Strategic Partnership*", which is among the most resilient and dynamic in the Indo-Pacific.

May our common resolve and forward-looking aspirations for our countries and peoples endure as our beacon against war, aggression, and the lethal ambition of domination. Like those who have come before us, let us continue to create those pathways for a peaceful and just world, and strengthen our longstanding cooperation.

FERDINAND R. MARCOS JR.
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILLIPPINES

MANILA
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