

Remarks of Ambassador ENDO Kazuya at the PHILJEC

New Year's Toast 2026

16 January 2026

Magandang gabi at maligayang Bagong Taon po sa inyong lahat !

First of all, allow me to thank PHILJEC and Chairman Alfred for organizing such a wonderful event to open the door to the year 2026.

Now that the new year has begun after the long Christmas season, I should say, see you and hear you next September, Mr. Jose Marie Chan.

We are at the start of this Fire Horse Year. Like horseraces, Philippines - Japan relations hit the ground running, reflecting the importance of the Philippines and ASEAN for Japan.

Foreign Minister Motegi visited the Philippines yesterday and today. He met with Secretary Lazaro for DFA today, in addition to his meeting with Secretary Roque for DTI, Balisacan for DepDev, Lopez for DoTr, and Sadaine for DPWH to discuss a wide range on Philippine-Japan cooperation. He also signed ACSA with SFA, a legal framework for the settlement procedures for the mutual provision of supplies and services between the Armed Force and Self-Defense Force.

Today, President Marcos attended the ceremony for the delivery of the world's first methanol dual-fuel bulk carrier built by Tsuneishi Shipbuilding Co. in Cebu.

Last week, a high-level delegation of the Liberal Democratic Party also visited here.

These visits and events matter in consolidating our bilateral relations. More events and mutual visits are expected this year, as it marks a special milestone: the 70th anniversary of the normalization of our diplomatic relations.

Our theme for this commemorative year, "Weaving the Future Together: Peace, Prosperity, Possibility" captures the essence of our bilateral relationship.

For seven decades, Japan and the Philippines have steadily woven a fabric of friendship and cooperation strand by strand, generation by generation. Each

thread represents trust built through dialogue, partnership forged through shared challenges, and hope sustained by a common vision for the future.

In an international environment where uncertainty often strains the seams of global order, I wholeheartedly welcome the ties between Japan and the Philippines are growing even stronger.

And, PHILJEC has been one of the most vital and enduring threads. Since its establishment, the Philippines-Japan Economic Committee has connected governments, industries, and people, transforming individual strands of interest into a coherent pattern of economic partnership.

Through steady dialogue and practical cooperation, PHILJEC has helped reinforce the economic foundation of our broader bilateral relationship. For this, I extend my gratitude to all of you. Maraming salamat po.

I believe that the joint meeting in February in Manila will represent another important stitch in our shared tapestry adding new strength and new color. This joint meeting has remained closest to me, as the meeting in March 2024 was among my very first official engagement as the Ambassador, within 24 hours after my arrival in Manila, even before unpacking.

Let us continue weaving the future together, carefully, creatively, and with confidence in the fabric we are building for generations to come.

Nais ko sa inyo ang isang napaka masaya at masaganang Bagong Taon.

Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay ang PHILJEC.

Mabuhay ang pagkakaibigan ng Japan at Pilipinas!