

**Remarks of Ambassador ENDO Kazuya at the Onboard Reception of
the JCG Academy Training Vessel ITSUKUSHIMA**

17 July 2026

Magandang gabi po sa inyong lahat.

Minasan, Konbanwa. (Good evening, everyone.)

It is my great pleasure to join you this evening aboard the ITSUKUSHIMA. For your information, Itsukushima, the island, is famous for its beautiful shrine, a UNESCO Heritage site, is worth visiting.

Serving as the Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, I have had so many opportunities to sense that our two countries are truly close maritime neighbors.

This evening serves another significant testament.

Also, in my current and previous capacities, I have had the privilege of working closely with the Japan Coast Guard.

My first experience of getting on board a JCG vessel goes back to almost

thirty years ago.

This evening can be your opportunity to feel the professionalism, discipline, and sense of duty that define the JCG, that I have long appreciated.

To the trainees, allow me to address a few words to you.

I know that the path you have chosen is not easy.

The work demands dedication, resilience, and the readiness to answer the call of duty at any time.

This voyage is more than a journey across the seas; it is a journey of personal growth.

Whenever you face adversity in the years ahead, I hope you will remember the challenges you overcame here.

The confidence earned from overcoming hardship will become your strength as future officers.

Today, the JCG stands at the forefront of safeguarding not only Japan's waters and its people, but also a rules-based maritime order, advancing peace,

security, and stability across the Indo-Pacific.

Shared principles reflected in international law are translated into meaningful action through the enduring partnership between the JCG and the PCG.

I understand that the JCG has dispatched its officials as JICA long-term experts to the PCG since 2002.

A quarter-century of cooperation in capacity building, maritime safety, and disaster response have forged not only a strong institutional partnership between our two coast guards but also lasting bonds of friendship between individual officers.

As Japan and the Philippines commemorate the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations this year, we welcome this voyage as a symbol of trust and friendship.

The friendships cultivated during this voyage will become part of a multilayered network of trust that ultimately strengthens Japan–Philippines relations.

I hope all the officers and trainees will enjoy your short stay in the Philippines and experience the warmth and hospitality of the Filipino people. Just like I do every day.

To our distinguished Philippine guests, thank you for your steadfast friendship and partnership.

Your support and cooperation have been indispensable in advancing our shared vision.

I wish everyone here fair winds, safe seas, and every success.

Maraming salamat po.

Mabuhay ang pagkakaibigan ng Japan at Pilipinas! (Long live the friendship between Japan and the Philippines.)