



P. S. Res. No. 502

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

— ■ —
RESOLUTION NO. 55

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN RECOGNIZING
THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES AND JAPAN AND COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES**

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines and Japan formally established diplomatic relations on 23 July 1956, and are now commemorating 70 years of bilateral relations;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan wish to elevate such bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, signifying a higher level of trust, cooperation, and shared responsibility, and further designate the year 2026 as the Philippines-Japan Friendship Year with the theme "Weaving the Future Together: Peace, Prosperity, Possibilities";

WHEREAS, the Philippines' friendship with Japan has grown into one of the country's most important partnerships, marked by sustained cooperation in trade and investments, infrastructure development, defense and security, disaster risk reduction, agriculture, energy, health, education, culture, tourism, maritime cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges;

WHEREAS, the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA), which entered into force in 2008, has helped strengthen economic ties for closer trade, investment, labor, and technical cooperation, making Japan the second largest trading partner of the country with total bilateral trade reaching US\$22.2 billion in 2025, and the Philippines' third largest source of foreign direct investments amounting to P34.03 billion;

WHEREAS, Japan is one of the Philippines' top development partners with a combined total amount of US\$14.286 billion in loans and grants or forty percent (40%) of the country's Official Development Assistance portfolio to support high-impact projects in transportation, connectivity, disaster resilience, governance, regional development, and peace and development in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the Philippines-Japan Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), which entered into force on 11 September 2025, strengthens defense and security cooperation by facilitating the streamlined deployment of forces for joint training and disaster response operations between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Self-Defense Forces of Japan, as demonstrated by its inaugural implementation in Doshin-Bayanihan 5-25 held in October 2025 and Japan's full participation in Exercise Balikatan last 20 April to 8 May 2026;



WHEREAS, Japan has also extended a total of JPY3.1 billion in Official Security Assistance to the Philippines as part of its initiatives to support the armed forces strengthen surveillance, humanitarian response, and deterrence capabilities;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan have also strengthened cooperation in promoting a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based regional order, founded on respect for international law, freedom of navigation and overflight, peaceful settlement of disputes, and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity;

WHEREAS, the longstanding partnership, mutual trust, and strategic alignment between the Philippines and Japan is further exemplified by high level engagements, including the historic address of Prime Minister Kishida Fumio before a Joint Session of the Philippine Congress in November 2023—the first of its kind by a Japanese Prime Minister, and the address of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. before a Joint Session of the National Diet of Japan in May 2026, a rare distinction, regarded as a high diplomatic honor;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate and the National Diet of Japan maintain robust inter-parliamentary relations through the Philippines-Japan Parliamentarians Association (PJPA) and the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League (JPPFL), marked by open and substantive dialogue, parliamentary visits and exchanges, and support for development cooperation and disaster relief initiatives;

WHEREAS, beyond government-to-government relations, the enduring friendship between the Filipino and Japanese peoples is sustained by cultural exchange, educational cooperation, tourism, business relations, sister-city partnerships, and the contributions of Filipinos living, studying, and working in Japan, as well as Japanese nationals and enterprises in the Philippines;

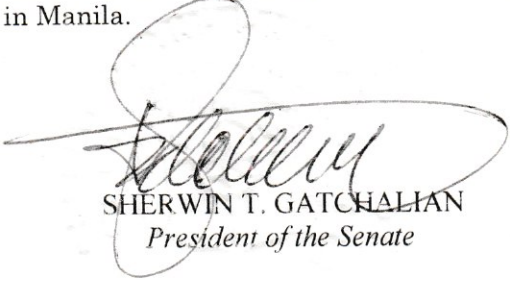
WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines recognizes this historic milestone as an opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the friendship of the present, and renew the shared commitment of the Philippines and Japan to peace, prosperity, and possibilities for future generations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To recognize the enduring friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan and to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries;

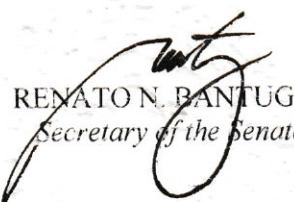
Resolved, further, That the Senate of the Philippines express its appreciation to the people and Government of Japan for their continuing friendship, partnership, and contributions to the development, security, resilience, and prosperity of the Republic of the Philippines and the wider Indo-Pacific region;

Resolved, finally, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished to the Government of Japan, presented here in the Philippines by its Embassy in Manila.

Adopted,


SHERWIN T. GATCHALIAN
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on 29 July 2026.


RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.
Secretary of the Senate