

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Metro Manila
Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-seventh day of July, two thousand twenty-six.

RESOLUTION NO. 120

RESOLUTION 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, on July 23, 1956, the Republic of the Philippines and Japan formally established diplomatic relations, following the entry into force of the San Francisco Peace Treaty and the Reparations Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan, marking the beginning of a historic journey of reconciliation and cooperation that has since evolved into one of the most enduring and dynamic partnerships in Asia;

WHEREAS, as the Republic of the Philippines and Japan commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Normalization of Diplomatic Relations in 2026, both countries have elevated their bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and designated 2026 as the Philippines-Japan Friendship Year under the theme “Weaving the Future Together: Peace, Prosperity, Possibilities,” reaffirming their enduring friendship and shared commitment to peace, prosperity, and deeper cooperation;

WHEREAS, Japan has consistently stood as one of the Philippines’ foremost partners in economic development, providing significant assistance in infrastructure modernization, industrial growth, technological advancement, and disaster resilience, as exemplified by landmark projects such as the Metro Manila Subway, the North–South Commuter Railway, and extensive Official Development Assistance programs that have strengthened national progress and stability;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan have cultivated strong cultural ties through exchanges in education, arts, language, and heritage, fostering mutual understanding and respect, while the popularity of Japanese culture in the Philippines and Filipino culture in Japan reflects the vibrancy of people-to-people connections, further enriched by scholarships, cultural festivals, and academic collaborations;

WHEREAS, the enduring affinity and deepening partnership between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan is most manifest in the Japanese Government Scholarship (MEXT) Program, which has cultivated an influential network of Filipino alumni now driving progress across diverse sectors, and in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, wherein 67 young Filipinos embarked on enriching journeys in 2025 alone as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs), thereby advancing English language education and fostering multicultural understanding in Japan; and this mutual affinity is further reflected in the record-breaking 888,000 Filipino visitors to Japan, underscoring the vibrancy of tourism that continue to strengthen bilateral friendship;

WHEREAS, bilateral cooperation has extended to security and defense, with Japan supporting the Philippines in maritime capacity-building, humanitarian assistance, and disaster response, notably through the provision of patrol vessels to the Philippine Coast Guard and the signing of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) with the Armed Forces of the Philippines on January 15, 2026, in Manila, reinforcing shared commitments to peace, freedom of navigation and regional stability;

WHEREAS, security cooperation has also reached unprecedented milestones for the two countries, as the Philippines became the first country in Asia to sign and ratify a Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) with Japan, and distinguished itself as the sole partner-nation to have received Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) for three consecutive years, thus reflecting the unparalleled depth and breadth of bilateral collaboration in both economic and defense spheres;

WHEREAS, Japan has been a steadfast ally in advancing sustainable development and environmental protection, partnering with the Philippines in initiatives addressing climate change, renewable energy, and ecological preservation, including support for renewable energy facilities and climate-resilient infrastructure which are vital to the welfare of future generations;

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives of the Philippines and the National Diet of Japan continue to strengthen the longstanding ties between their respective legislatures through parliamentary exchanges, dialogue, and cooperation, reaffirming their shared commitment to democracy, peace, and the continued advancement of Philippines-Japan relations;

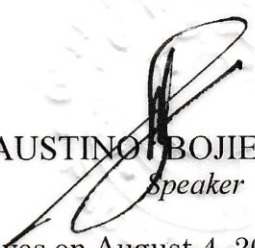
WHEREAS, the Filipino community in Japan and the Japanese community in the Philippines exemplify the deepening bonds of kinship, contributing to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of both nations, and serving as living bridges of friendship and solidarity;

WHEREAS, the commemoration of seventy years of Philippines-Japan friendship is a fitting occasion to honor the historical journey of reconciliation, celebrate the achievements of bilateral cooperation, and reaffirm the commitment to further strengthen relations in pursuit of shared peace, prosperity, and progress: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, To recognize the enduring friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan, and commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

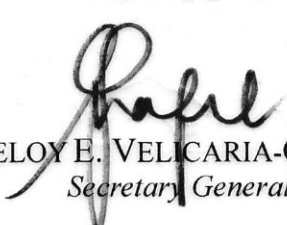
Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be given to the Government of Japan, represented by its Embassy in Manila, Philippines.

Adopted,



FAUSTINO "BOJIE" G. DY III
Speaker

This Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on August 4, 2026.



CHELOY E. VELICARIA-GARAFIL
Secretary General