

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate
Pasay City

Nineteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 77

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN CELEBRATING THE ENDURING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND JAPAN, ESPECIALLY WITH THE JAPAN-PHILIPPINES PARLIAMENTARIANS FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE, UNDER THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF ITS PRESIDENT, THE HONORABLE MORIYAMA HIROSHI

WHEREAS, with the formal establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan on 23 July 1956, we are celebrating this year, 2023, the 67th Anniversary of bilateral relations between our two countries;

WHEREAS, Philippine-Japan bilateral relations have seen, throughout the years, broad and extensive cooperation in many fields in trade and investments, infrastructure development, agriculture and rural development, tourism, education and human resource development, scientific and technological cooperation, energy cooperation, health and sanitation, defense and security, disaster preparedness and climate change mitigation, as well as continuous people-to-people exchanges;

WHEREAS, the gross trade scale of both countries in 2022 have reached more than 23.49 billion US dollars, making Japan the Philippines' second largest trading partner and among the country's most important bilateral economic partners, as a result of the Philippines' first bilateral free trade agreement, through the Philippines-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (PJEPA) which entered into force in 2008;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate and the National Diet of Japan enjoy robust inter-parliamentary ties, facilitated mainly through our Philippines-Japan Parliamentarians Association (PJPA) and the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League (JPPFL), whose relations have been characterized by frank, substantial and open dialogue, frequent exchanges of visits between Filipino and Japanese lawmakers, and even support for the provision of development cooperation projects and calamity/disaster relief and assistance;

WHEREAS, these frequent exchanges with the JPPFL since its establishment in 1986 and their substantial discussions strengthen the deep cooperation between the two countries, which have included parliamentary support to continue funding development assistance to the Philippines and the Mindanao Peace Process; facilitated the donation of emergency vehicles and boats to municipalities and Filipino communities heavily damaged by Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan; as well as supported the acceleration and facilitation of the entry of more Filipino nurses and careworkers in Japan;

WHEREAS, during the official visit of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. to Tokyo in February 2023, the JPPFL called on the President where the Honorable Moriyama Hiroshi,

JPPFL President, stated that they are fully committed to further strengthening the friendship and partnership between Japan and the Philippines and that they are glad to learn that Japan's official development assistance continues to fund big-ticket infrastructure projects which benefit the lives and livelihoods of many Filipinos;


WHEREAS, an official visit to Tokyo, Japan on the 2nd to 6th April 2023 was successfully undertaken by a Senate Delegation wherein very productive meetings were held with the leadership and members of the House of Representatives, the House of Councillors, and the JPPFL; where everyone acknowledged the importance of the Strategic Partnership between both countries and welcomed the deepening of this relationship as it would redound to higher levels of cooperation, especially in defense, maritime security, trade and investments; and that the highlight of the said visit was the Call on the Prime Minister of Japan, His Excellency Kishida Fumio, who emphasized that, as neighboring maritime nations, both our countries are partners in maintaining and ensuring the peace and stability in the region;

WHEREAS, greater parliamentary dialogue and cooperation between the Philippine Senate and the National Diet of Japan will serve to impart a strong parliamentary dimension to the existing Philippines-Japan Strategic Partnership through the frank and open exchanges of ideas and views and policy information exchange and coordination that will promote economic growth, address international challenges, ensure human security, and thus, pave the way to further elevate our Strategic Partnership in the coming years: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To recognize our enduring friendship with the National Diet of Japan as we commemorate 67 years of robust bilateral relations between the Republic of the Philippines and Japan, and to express our sincere appreciation to the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League, for their continued and substantial contribution to the development of the Philippines, a strong and deep partnership in many areas of cooperation that has spanned to over three decades and counting.

Resolved, further, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League, through its distinguished President, the Honorable Moriyama Hiroshi, as well as to the Government of Japan, represented here in the Philippines by their Embassy in Manila.

Adopted,



JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on July 31, 2023.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.
Secretary of the Senate