

Lomavata Kizuna Partnership

- Joint Communique on the Establishment of a Comprehensive Partnership between Japan and the Republic of Fiji to elevate the relations to a Greater Heights -

November 13th, 2025, Tokyo, Japan

Her Excellency Ms. TAKAICHI Sanae, the Prime Minister of Japan, and Honourable Mr. Sitiveni Ligamamada RABUKA, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, held a bilateral summit meeting on November 13th, 2025, in Tokyo, Japan. The two leaders reviewed the significant achievements and affirmed their commitment to elevating the level of bilateral relations to greater heights in key areas of bilateral cooperation made over 55 years since the establishment of the diplomatic relations in 1970 and further enhancing multidimensional cooperation.

Noting the significance of the bilateral relationship between Japan and Fiji, the two leaders have hereby decided to establish the **Japan-Fiji Lomavata Kizuna Partnership** to reinforce the two countries' *kizuna* (bonds of trust) and *lomavata* (unity). The Lomavata Kizuna Partnership will guide the two countries' efforts towards the shared ambition to place the longstanding friendly relations as a basis for strategic cooperation between the two countries.

The Japan-Fiji Partnership: Sharing Common Values and Principles

1. The two leaders share the views that the bilateral relationship is becoming more important amid growing challenges and changing geopolitical situations in the region and the world. The two leaders affirm their commitment to working even more closely to address common challenges for the regional and global peace, stability and prosperity based on shared values and principles, such as freedom, democracy, sustainable development, rule of law both at national and international levels, human rights of all people, human dignity, the pursuit of an inclusive society, opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion, peaceful resolution of disputes, and securing environmental integrity.
2. The two leaders affirm that they will work together based on the longstanding relationship of trust, alongside shared values and principles, while emphasizing the importance of respecting and comprehending each other's unique cultures and traditions, as well as carefully listening to each other's views.
3. The two leaders reiterate their commitment to realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP)," where the rights, freedoms, and sovereignty of all countries, regardless of size or power, are protected by international law and free from economic and political coercion. They welcome the endorsement of the "Ocean of Peace" declaration, proposed by Prime Minister Rabuka, at the 54th Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Meeting to uphold respect to the sovereignty of the Pacific Island countries and the Pacific-led maintenance of security in the region in order to secure peace of the ocean. The two leaders welcome that both FOIP and the Ocean of Peace share the fundamental values and principles in promoting peace in the Pacific.

Cooperation in Governance and Socio-Economic Growth

4. Recognizing the significance of boosting bilateral partnership to ensure good governance and to promote socio-economic growth in Fiji, the two leaders reaffirm their commitments to expanding cooperation in the field of governance and judiciary, trade, investment, tourism promotion and socio-economic development.
5. Recognizing the importance of strengthening the institutional capacity and capability of Fiji's governance and judicial bodies to consistently uphold the rule of law, the two leaders welcome the launch of the Strategic Dialogue on Law and Justice and the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of law and justice.
6. The two leaders affirm the importance of further strengthening economic and trade relations through seminars, business forums and matchmaking events to engage with startups and micro, small, and medium enterprises. The two leaders also acknowledge their ambition to promote trade and investment between Fiji and Japan, particularly in the areas of agriculture and fisheries, and to seek greater opportunity to mutually promote products of both countries in their respective markets.
7. Sharing the sense of urgency of addressing the issue of correspondent banking relationship among the Pacific Island countries and recognizing Fiji as a key financial player in the Pacific region, the two leaders affirm their commitments to tackling the challenges in banking through close collaboration with stakeholders such as Fiji's peer countries in the Pacific, Multilateral Development Banks and other International Organizations as well as other development partners.
8. The two leaders are committed to promoting tourism based on the Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of tourism between Japan and the Republic of Fiji, as tourism is a key driver for Fiji's economic growth. They also note that the direct flight between the two countries is playing an important role in supporting this endeavor.
9. The two leaders welcome the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Technical Intern Training Program between Japan and Fiji and reaffirm their shared commitment to facilitating opportunities to transfer technical skills, techniques and knowledge to develop human resources of Fiji as to contribute to the development of Fiji and regional economies. They are also ambitious toward advancing separate consultations on the Memorandum of Cooperation on the Specified Skilled Worker System.
10. The two leaders share the importance of supporting Fiji's socio-economic growth through quality and sustainable infrastructure development, and welcome the progress of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects to Fiji, including the reconstruction of Tamavua-i-wai Bridge. The two leaders reaffirm their intention to promote the development of ICT, including programs for information exchange, technology sharing, and technical assistance in areas such as network infrastructure, rural connectivity technologies and cybersecurity.

Climate Change and Disaster Resilience

11. Sharing the sense of urgency that climate change is “the single greatest existential threat” to the Pacific Island countries including Fiji, the two leaders are committed to fully mobilizing their partnership to strengthen Fiji’s resilience against climate change and disasters under Pacific Climate Resilience Initiative which Japan announced in the Leaders Declaration of the 10th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM10), through financing and investments in resilient infrastructure, supporting the multi-hazard early warning system initiatives, emergency telecommunications upgrades and supporting renewable energy.
12. The two leaders emphasize the significant progress made in the cooperation in enhancing Fiji’s climate and disaster resilience through Japan’s Co-creation for Common Agenda Initiative namely “Strengthening Disaster Prevention and Early Warning Systems in Fiji and the Pacific Region” which includes the Project for the Development of Regional Centers for the Improvement of Meteorological Services and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Pacific Islands as well as the provision of disaster-response vessels to rapidly transport emergency relief supplies and heavy machinery for recovery efforts in response to natural disasters.
13. Prime Minister Rabuka appreciates Japan’s contribution of three (3) million US dollars to the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF) delivered in March 2025 as a part of the efforts under the Pacific Climate Resilience Initiative, which effectively supported the establishment of PRF declared at the 54th PIF Leaders Meetings in September 2025.

Security Cooperation

14. Recognizing the importance of Fiji as a key security player in the Pacific region, the two leaders appreciate the progress of the bilateral partnership in the field of security and concur on further bolstering collaboration, particularly in areas of maritime security such as combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and addressing transnational organized crimes by enhancing illicit drug control. They also welcome the engagement in policing and law enforcement by working with the other development partners under the regional initiative. They also concur on working together to enhance Pacific-led security responses to regional security challenges.
15. The two leaders recognize the significant contribution made by their defense authorities in the activities under United Nations Peace Operations globally.
16. The two leaders welcome the progress recently made by their defense authorities in enhancing collaboration, including the admission of cadets of the Fiji Military Forces at the National Defense Academy of Japan, frequent port calls by Japan Self-Defense Force (JSDF) at Fiji and capacity-building programs for the Republic of Fiji Military Forces organized by Ministry of Defense of Japan including PKO related training. They also encourage their respective Ministers of Defense to enhance cooperation by holding meetings regularly in the various opportunities such as the Japan-Pacific Islands Defense Dialogue (JPIDD).

17. The two leaders welcome that Fiji became one of the first partner countries in the world for Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) program, which aims to deepen security cooperation and contribute to maintaining and strengthening international peace and security. The two leaders share the importance of continuously working closely including through facilitating OSA as a new form of collaboration, to enhance security cooperation between the two countries.

People-to-people Exchanges and collaboration as human resources development

18. Based on the shared recognition that active people-to-people exchanges and collaboration as human resources development are the most effective way to deepen mutual understanding and develop future leaders bridging the two countries, the two leaders reaffirm to further promote people-to-people exchanges in various fields such as education, sports and culture, as well as utilizing the existing programs such as MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan) Scholarship, Sakura Science Exchange Program, Japan Friendship Ties Programs "JENESYS" and the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. The two leaders reaffirm the importance of collaborations in terms of sending experts and volunteers to Fiji as well as offering training opportunities, and welcome the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) as an important addition to such collaborative efforts.
19. In the field of sports exchange, the two leaders appreciate the outstanding performances of Fijian rugby players in the rugby teams in Japan, including at the high schools, universities and national level, and welcome the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Japan Rugby Football Union and the Fiji Rugby Union signed in November 2025 to further promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of rugby. They also welcome the progress in cooperation among relevant stakeholders including the Japan Gymnastics Association and the Fiji National Sports Commission to promote the health and well-being of Fijians through The Taiso program.
20. The two leaders also commit to further enhancing cooperation in expanding opportunities for Japanese language education in Fiji through various programs.

Regional and International Cooperation

21. The two leaders recognize the importance of their partnership in the regional and international arena, mutually cooperate, and support within regional and international frameworks. They reaffirm the importance of maintaining the unity and integrity of the Pacific region under the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) and the PIF's "2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent" that embodies it. They will continue working together through their significant cooperation symbolized by Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM) since 1997 in fostering firm bonds of trust and *kizuna* between Japan and the Pacific Island countries and regions including Fiji.
22. Recognizing the importance of constructive involvement of dialogue and development partners in the region to support the sustainable development of the Pacific, the two leaders commit to working

closely to strengthen forward-looking engagement between the Pacific Island countries and the partners.

23. The two leaders reaffirm Japan's safe, transparent, and science-based process to responsibly manage the discharge of Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water and Japan's contribution to monitoring capacity building in the Pacific through engagement by the IAEA, as discussed in the PALM Process. Prime Minister Takaichi expressed deep appreciation for Prime Minister Rabuka's courage and steadfast leadership in maintaining Fiji's position and for his confidence in Japan's commitment to providing transparency based on scientific evidence.
24. The two leaders recall the PALM10 Joint Declaration and commit to ensure a peaceful, stable and prosperous Asia-Pacific region, note with concern the rapid military buildup which is not conducive to this end, and call for proactive, responsible and transparent engagement to uphold regional peace and security.
25. The two leaders affirm their commitment to the free, open and sustainable maritime order based on the rule of law and in accordance with international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the UN Charter, and emphasize the importance of complying with the provisions of UNCLOS, including on freedom of navigation and overflight as well as peaceful resolution of disputes. They also affirm their strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion.

Shared Views on the Way Forward

26. In order to produce tangible outcomes from the shared ambitions under the Japan-Fiji Lomavata Kizuna Partnership, the two leaders concur on holding frequent high-level bilateral visits including on the occasion of PALM and its Ministerial Interim Meeting, which is held every 3 years, as well as undertaking annual senior officials' policy consultations to discuss progress made under the Partnership.
27. The two leaders confirmed that the visit of Prime Minister Rabuka to Japan was a significant political event aimed at further strengthening friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

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Prime Minister of Japan

Sitiveni Ligamamada RABUKA
Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji