



The President
Palikir, Pohnpei
Federated States of Micronesia

September 3, 2020

Dear Honorable Prime Minister,

It was quite unexpected that I recently learned of your resignation as Head of Government of your esteemed country. Although this news brings a sense of loss in knowing that a great leader is resigning, it is a decision that must have been difficult to make and is made in the interest of your government, your people and your good self.

As the longest serving Prime Minister in the history of Japan, I want to take this opportunity to commend your efforts and accomplishments during your long tenure for your government and people, especially during this challenging time. I want to also thank you for the prodigious contributions you have made in promoting and advancing FSM-Japan relations and Japan's overall relations with Pacific island countries through the PALM series and as a Post-Forum Dialogue Partner.

I note with much appreciation the range of development projects extended to my country under your able leadership as well as the strong bonds of friendship or "Kizuna", being cultivated and made stronger between our peoples. The historic visit by the Foreign Minister of Japan to my country was but one testament to the growing desire to strengthen people-to-people friendship between our two countries. I would like to convey my sincere appreciation for the close friendship between us and warm welcome that you accorded to Trisha and I during our visit to attend the enthronement of the new Emperor of Japan.

In wishing you the best in your future endeavors, Mr. Prime Minister, I would ask for your continued support for FSM-Japan relations. I earnestly look forward to working closely with your successor to ensure that the excellent momentum established under your able leadership continues for days and years to come. With the assurances of my highest esteem, and for personal good health, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David W. Panuelo", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

David W. Panuelo
President

The Honorable Shinzo Abe
Prime Minister
Japan