

Emperor's Birthday Reception

- **H.E Mr. Gokhool, President of the Republic of Mauritius,**
- **H.E Mr. Hungley, Vice President,**
- **The Honourable Mr. Berenger, Deputy Prime Minister,**
- **The Honorable Mr. Ramful, Minister of Foreign Affairs,**
- **Honorable Ministers,**
- **Members of Parliament,**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Corps,**
- **Members of the Media,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my great honor to welcome you this evening as we gather to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor. As Japan's Ambassador to Mauritius, I am truly delighted to mark such an auspicious occasion together with you all.

His Majesty the Emperor, together with Her Majesty the Empress, has been dedicated to the country and its people, sharing their joys and sorrows.

The year 2025 was a remarkable one for Japan and Mauritius. Allow me to highlight some key developments.

1. Deepening our Economic and Development Cooperation

In August 2025, Prime Minister Ramgoolam attended TICAD9 in Yokohama, where a Japan-Mauritius summit meeting was held, reinforcing our partnership.

In the same month, Mauritius opened its Embassy in Tokyo, further strengthening the foundation of our bilateral relations. We very much look forward to enhanced exchanges between our countries.

In development cooperation, Japan has provided support to enhance maritime security. In March 2025, Japan committed to

providing a tug boat to Mauritius. Furthermore, in 2026, we expect to complete the handover of the Coastal Radar Surveillance System. We will also contribute to disaster reduction and healthcare improvement in Mauritius through provision of Japanese technology and products.

JICA has been supporting Mauritius through technical cooperation and training in various areas, especially in blue economy, to share our knowledge and expertise.

Japanese grassroots initiatives continue to support vulnerable populations through education, vocational training, and community programs.

In addition, Japanese private-sector efforts also contribute to environmental conservation, including mangrove preservation in Mauritius.

2. Promoting Culture, Science, and Educational Exchange
Cultural, scientific, and educational exchanges between our countries have continued to advance steadily. At the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025, the Mauritius Pavilion was very popular, allowing many visitors to experience the country's culture, tourism, and natural beauty. Furthermore, at the celebration of Mauritius National Day in July, Foreign Minister Ramful attended, highlighting the friendship between our nations on the international stage.

Exchanges for students and young researchers, as well as academic collaboration, continue to strengthen mutual understanding and friendship. Events such as Gokan Japan (Japan Day), martial arts competitions, and Japanese film screenings warmly shared Japan's culture with the audiences. We will continue to strengthen people-to-people exchanges over the coming years.

3. Contributing to Science and Peace

In 2025, two Japanese researchers received the Nobel Prizes in Physiology/Medicine and Chemistry, reaffirming Japan's contributions to global science and research.

Moreover, in December 2024, the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Hidankyo) received the Nobel Peace Prize, and at the Oslo award ceremony in Norway, the Japanese song "Kōjō no Tsuki" (The Moon over the Ruined Castle) was performed. This song carries the memory of war and an enduring hope for peace across generations.

As the only country to have suffered atomic bombings, Japan strongly advocates for a World without Nuclear Weapons and pursues its historic mission to lead international efforts toward this goal. In this vein, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for Mauritius' continued support for Japan's efforts to realize a World without Nuclear Weapons.

Through peace education, survivor testimony, and international academic and cultural exchange, we continue to pass on the values of peace and knowledge to future generations.

4. Japan and Mauritius have enjoyed a relationship of trust and friendship since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1968. Government cooperation, technical assistance, grassroots programs supporting vulnerable populations, and private-sector engagement together form a broad foundation for sustainable development.

The Government of Mauritius' "Vision 2050" aims for sustainable, inclusive growth, the achievement of high-income status, and the development of the blue economy. Japan will contribute to this vision through technical cooperation, grassroots support, and academic and cultural exchange, making our partnership an "essential foundation" for sustainable development.

5. In closing, I sincerely hope that today's celebration will

further strengthen the friendship among our countries, and open new avenues of cooperation toward a peaceful and sustainable future.

With your kind indulgence,

This evening, as a symbol of our shared hope for peace and friendship, I would like to perform a verse of the Japanese song “Kōjō no Tsuki.”