

Message on the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan

On this February 23, His Majesty the Emperor of Japan is celebrating his 62nd birthday.

I have the honor to express my heartfelt Congratulations to His Majesty on behalf of the Consulate-General of Japan together with all friends in Cebu and Visayas.



We have hoped that we could hold a reception this year as well to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor and to enhance our friendship and friendly relations between Japan and Visayas as we used to have before the pandemic of Covid-19.

However, regrettably we have decided to refrain from holding the reception this year too due to the current situation of COVID-19 and in view of cooperating with the preventive measures in Cebu. I hope that I could seek your kind understanding on this matter.

With the enthronement of His Majesty the Emperor in May 2019, Japan entered the era of Reiwa. Word of Reiwa includes the meaning of culture coming into being and flourishing when people bring their hearts and minds together in a beautiful manner. Just as the plum blossoms announce the arrival of spring after the harsh cold of winter and bloom splendidly in all their glory, all of us will be able to make our own blossoms come into full bloom, with our hopes for tomorrow.

After two years of suffering from COVID-19 and Typhoon Odette, Cebu has opened its boarder to fully vaccinated international visitors from visa-free countries with their strong hope to revitalize its tourism and economy.

On this wonderful day of the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor, I would like to offer my sincere wishes for the peace of His Majesty the Emperor's reign and the prosperity of the Imperial Family, while hoping that the current Covid-19 pandemic will be over as soon as possible and that we can have a brilliant and hopeful spring.

23 February 2022(Reiwa 4)
Toshihide Kawasaki
Consul General of Japan in Cebu