

I arrived here last week to assume the position of Head of the Consular Branch Office in Saipan.

Since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in 1990, I have worked in various fields, including economic cooperation, national security, and China-related affairs in Tokyo. My overseas postings have taken me to several diplomatic establishments, such as the Consulate-General in Shanghai and Hong Kong, the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York, and the OECD in Paris.

While I have previously visited Hawaii and Guam for vacations, this is my first time in Saipan. Saipan, renowned for its stunning beaches and lush natural beauty, continues to captivate visitors from around the world. However, I am also deeply mindful of its history as a battleground during World War II—a time that caused immense suffering and left lasting scars across the island.

Reflecting on the events of the past and in the recent few years, I am reminded that armed conflicts still persist around the world today, inflicting pain and hardship on countless civilians. This reality is both heartbreaking and humbling. During my time here, I hope to honor the memory of those affected by war and use this experience to reflect on the enduring question of why humanity remains drawn to conflict.

Bearing in mind that blessing of peace should never be taken for granted, I am committed to doing my best to foster stronger ties between Japan and CNMI, as well as to ensure that Japanese nationals in the region receive appropriate consular services.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a prosperous new year!

Consul TEJIMA Akiko

Consul Tejima's Bio

Consul Akiko Tejima joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in April 1990, after graduating from Sophia University, where she studied law and international politics.

She has been engaged in the work regarding economic cooperation, national security as well as China-related affairs in the Ministry, while being posted to several diplomatic establishments abroad including the Consulate-General of Japan in Shanghai and in Hong Kong, the Permanent Mission to the United Nations (NYC) as well as to the OECD (Paris).

Most recently, she worked as Senior Deputy Director at Global Issues Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In November 2024, she received an order to work at the Consular Office of Japan in Saipan and arrived on December 17th to assume the post of the Head of the Office.