



For Immediate Release  
Serial No. PR-18-109  
April 11, 2018  
Office of the President

### **President Remengesau meets Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Senior Advisor**

President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr. and Kentaro Sonoura, Senior Advisor of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan on April 3 held a breakfast meeting together at Palau Pacific Resort during Sonoura's brief stopover in Palau.

Discussing the upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting (PALM8) to be held in Japan from May 18-19, President Remengesau conveyed Palau's expectations of the meeting including discussions on the Pacific Islands Forum, maritime security, border security and illegal, unlicensed and unregulated fishing (IUU) among other common matters of concern and importance.

Other matters discussed during the meeting included support and assistance for direct flight services between Japan and Palau following the suspension of Delta Airline's services, continued partnership between the two nations on the Ship Rider Program, partnership in the upcoming "Our Oceans" Conference to be hosted by Palau in 2020 and matters concerning economic cooperation and people-to-people exchange.

Pacific Island Forum countries, including the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, and Tonga, are expected to attend the PALM8 meeting to be held in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture.

President Remengesau was accompanied by Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch, Attorney General Ernestine Rengiil, Palau Marine Sanctuary Executive Director Nick Ngwal and Deputy Chief of Staff Rebluud Kesolei. Sonoura was accompanied by Ambassador Toshiyuki Yamada, staff from the Embassy of Japan in Palau and his assistants who traveled with him.