

[**PROCLAMATION NO. 854, June 07, 2005**]

**DECLARING SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2006 AS PHILIPPINES-JAPAN
FRIENDSHIP DAY**

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan established diplomatic relations with the ratification of the Peace Treaty and Reparations Agreement on July 23, 1956;

WHEREAS, Japan is a sister democracy and a major player in regional affairs, considering its influence in the security situation and economic development of East Asia and the region;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Japan enjoy close, friendly and vibrant relations that have been mutually beneficial to both countries and peoples;

WHEREAS, relations cover a wide range of fields, particularly in the political and security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, development assistance, socio-cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and labour and consular matters;

WHEREAS, the 50th Anniversary of Philippine-Japan relations merits appropriate observance and official commemorations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declare Sunday, July 23, 2006 as Philippines-Japan Friendship Day to mark the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 7th day of June, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Five.

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

By the President:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO R. ERMITA

Executive Secretary

