



President Benigno Aquino III has confirmed he is dating a young celebrity stylist.

YOKOHAMA, Japan — Philippine President Benigno Aquino has confirmed he is dating a young celebrity stylist, but said he is still recovering from his break-up with a local politician.

The Philippines media have linked Aquino, a 50-year-old bachelor, with Liz Uy, who is reported to be aged 28.

"We have been spending our time together as our schedules will permit, but I guess at this point in time that is the extent of it," Aquino told reporters on the sidelines of a Pacific Rim summit.

During his successful presidential campaign, Aquino appeared publicly with Shalani Soledad, a local official in northern Manila, but they have now parted ways.

"At the present time I'm just recovering also from a recent engagement and there are just too many things, and the schedules on both sides are really such that it's difficult to find common time and especially if you are not given a little private time," he said.

Aquino sidestepped questions on whether he was officially courting the lady in question, and dismissed reports they are planning a wedding next year.

"I told you (the report) even got my birthday wrong," he said.

After he began his six-year term on June 30, Aquino was reported to have complained he no longer had the time to date and he was no longer seen with Soledad.

His spokesman had appealed to the public to respect the president's private life.