

- Undersecretary, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
- Director, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT),
- Colleagues and friends from the National and Local governments, private sectors, other organizations from all over the Philippines
- Presenters from our nominated Japanese companies, and friends from Japanese private sectors;

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat...

Good afternoon...

- It is truly my honor and pleasure to welcome you all today for this very exciting occasion, JICA Online Business Matching Event, "Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals".

- For over five decades, the Philippines and Japan have been exceptionally important “strategic partners”, which developed into the historic highest level nowadays. It is even called as “friends closer than brothers”.
- Such robust partnership has been built through our mutual efforts in political and economic relations, as well as multi-layered people to people exchanges. Among them, the business relationship, or the activities of private sector have also played a key role to strengthen our bonds.
- One evidence of partnership is that, I am glad to say, today we witness hundreds of Filipino participants registered in this event!
- As a sole responsible agency of Official Development Assistance in Japan, JICA is really keen to contribute to the more prosperous future of Filipino friends, and to more robust bonds between two nations as well.
- As you know, JICA has been extending powerful Official Development Assistance to the Philippines through wide-

ranging support instruments, such as provision of soft loans, grant assistance and technical cooperation.

- In addition to these conventional ODA support programs, recently, JICA has been putting higher priority on Public-Private Partnership promotion.

- This PPP promotion program aims for win-win impacts both for beneficiary countries, such as the Philippines, and Japanese companies' business deployment.

- This PPP promotion program can contribute to solve a wide range of development challenges, and also to boost further socio-economic growth of our partner countries, like the Philippines.

- Furthermore, it works up business appetite of Japanese companies in promising overseas markets, like the Philippines.

- Today, we have 10 nominated Japanese Companies. They are JICA's close partners. They are working or have worked under JICA's PPP promotion program in various sectors, in various region in the Philippines.

- Nominated Japanese companies have unique and advanced technologies, as well as unique business models in the fields of disaster risk management, environment, agriculture among others.
- In view of this, the participants from the Philippines can tap into the unique and advanced technological trends and innovations from Japan. Participants may also find solutions to development challenges or business concerns for their improvement, as well as find potential business partners.
- In closing, please enjoy the eye-opening presentations from each Japanese Company. And do not miss every invaluable opportunity to explore better ways to address various development challenges and the great potential for business partnerships with Japanese companies!

Maraming-maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat Mabuhay !

Good afternoon to all of you !