

Signing of Record of Discussions between JICA and Davao City
Project for Masterplan Study on Comprehensive Wastewater Management in Davao City
September 12, 2023 15:00
Arcadia Events Center, Davao City

Message of Mr. SAKAMOTO Takema, Chief Representative, JICA Philippines Office

Maayong Hapon Kaninyong Tanan! (Good Afternoon Everyone!) (Konnichiwa!)

I was just here in Davao last month, as I was honored to be the only non-Filipino speaker invited among many Secretaries at the Post-SONA Economic Briefing. And I am extremely pleased to be able to come back to the “Crown Jewel of Mindanao” soon, for today’s significant ceremony to start our new technical cooperation.

For decades, Davao City and JICA has been good strategic partners, noting the absolutely close relationship with previous City Mayors. Our close partnership continues to this day with the development of the Infrastructure Modernization Masterplan for Davao City to pursue prioritized projects. To quote just one example, the currently on-going Davao City Bypass Construction Project is a remarkable testament to our trusted bonds. It aims at significantly reducing travel time between northern and southern parts of Davao, and boosting further development of the City of Davao and the entire Mindanao.

Moreover, “Comprehensive and Sustainable Urban Development Master Plan for Metropolitan Davao”, along with the expansion of business and living areas, is now listed up as one of the new cooperation projects expected to be launched soon. We are waiting for the smoother and quicker internal procedures within the Government of Philippines for the same.

Anyhow, today’s signing ceremony is an exemplary opportunity to see how far JICA and the City of Davao team up strongly to pursue Davao’s quality socioeconomic growth.

Having clean water is very crucial to economy. It is where sustainable food production, exports, and tourism depend on. Worsening water quality condition is a growing serious concern in Davao. Sanitation is a truly vital challenge for citizens healthy livings, too.

Through this technical cooperation, JICA assures you that we are with you on crafting the best approach to proper wastewater management. *Kasama niyo kami!*

Actually, wastewater is not just a problem in Davao. This is quite common in thriving urban growth centers, where water utilization is high. It’s very commonly significant not just for industries but also for human needs. However, wastewater treatment system is very limited in this lovely country currently.

Be proud of that, you, Davao City is now becoming the leading model of the entire Philippines, as the clean city for the sustainable development with JICA. JICA is pleased that we are moving forward with you. We support you unwaveringly.

JICA is very willing to work with Davao City and various stakeholders on sharing the best Japanese technologies and knowhow for wastewater management. In Japan, LGUs take a critical role in developing wastewater treatment and sludge disposal both. In addition to subsidies, LGUs in Japan also share cost in the financing for construction of these wastewater facilities, and are responsible in the operation and maintenance as well. With Japan's long history and experiences in wastewater treatment, we will bring all of this knowledge and experiences to impart to Davao City for its future undertaking.

We all can no longer sit on environment-related challenges that we are facing. The longer we postpone looking for innovative solutions, the higher it can cost us in the area of environment management. Caring for the environment is no longer just words we say to answer the urgent call of sustaining development. Now is the time to take action!

The Davao wastewater management master plan is the very critical first step. As your dynamic and the most reliable partner, JICA is with you all the way in taking action in caring for the environment and boosting the sustainable development.

We look forward to working with all of you in answering this call to action.

*Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan and Mabuhay Davao City!
(Arigato gozaimashita!)*

END