

Metro Manila Subway Project
Groundbreaking Ceremony for Contract Package 104 (CP104) – Ortigas and Shaw
Boulevard Stations and Tunnels
3 October 2022 | 9:00 AM @ Metrowalk Commercial Complex, Pasig City

**Message of JICA Chief Representative
SAKAMOTO Takema**

- **His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.**
President of the Republic of the Philippines
- **Honorable Jaime J. Bautista**
Secretary of the Department of Transportation
- **Honorable Victor Ma. Regis N. Sotto**
Mayor of Pasig City
- **His Excellency KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko**
Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines
- **Mr. TERADA Mitsuhiro**
President of Tokyu Construction
- **Atty. John A. Agbayani**
Chairperson of the Philippine Commission on Good Government (PCGG)
- **Ms. Richelle Louise Singson-Michael**
Director of Blem Commercial of the Philippines
- **Mr. Jose Emmanuel Jalandoni**
Ortigas & Company Limited Partnership
- **Distinguished Guests and Friends,**

Magandang Umaga po sa inyong lahat! (Good morning to all of you!)

Ako po si Sakamoto, Chief Representative of JICA Philippines Office.

I am very pleased to be with all of you here today, and really, I cannot stop my great excitement for this momentous occasion for the groundbreaking of Contract Package 104 (or CP104), covering the Ortigas and Shaw Boulevard stations and tunnels of the Metro Manila Subway Project (or MMSP).

As you all know, the “MMSP” is a centerpiece of the Philippine Government’s “Infrastructure Flagship Projects” and should be a shining example of the special partnership between Japan/JICA and the Philippines, in particular to build high quality infrastructure in the Philippines. JICA is very honored to be the trusted partner of your government and people in developing the first-ever metro subway line for this beautiful country.

This event signifies that the subway project, as known as the “Project of the Century”, is indeed moving at “full-speed ahead”, consistent with the marching orders of His Excellency – President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. to the DOTr in his first State Of Nations Address speech. Needless to say, I believe the President, just as all other Filipino people, is very keen to see the completion of this project, as evidenced by the fact that he will grace us with his presence today.

I am very grateful to the excellent team of the Department of Transportation, led by the Honorable Secretary Bautista, for their tireless dedication and unwavering commitment to realizing this project at accelerated pace, even at the beginning of the new administration. Based on my interactions with numerous Cabinet members including Secretary Bautista, I have become aware that the Philippine government have “hit the ground running” upon their assumption to office, and they are counting on Japan and JICA based on the “fast and sure” achievement of developing quality infrastructure in the previous years.

Such expeditious and restless efforts of the Philippine government in collaboration with the General Consultant, that is the Oriental Consultants Global, and JICA are solely to attain our ultimate objective, which is to alleviate the perennial heavy traffic congestion being experienced by many Filipinos. Once the subway project is completed, it will: (1) help people move more comfortably and efficiently, (2) contribute to cleaner air and reduction of GHG emissions, and (3) make the Philippines more attractive for investors through relaxing the business obstacle, that is serious traffic congestion, which will in turn create more jobs and bring more people out of poverty. Of course, the subway will surely enable mass transportation and ease traffic congestion around this densely urbanized area of CP104 section, which are located in the middle of business and commercial area in the Metro Manila.

To realize these in the end, I humbly request (1) DOTr, (2) Local Governments such as Pasig City, (3) other related agencies of the Philippine Government, (4) the General Consultant led by Oriental Consultants Global, (5) Contractor such as the Joint Venture of Tokyu Construction, Tobishima Corporation and Megawide Construction Corporation, and (6) all stakeholders, to sincerely cooperate with each other to address major issues in order for the Project to be completed, and for the Filipino people to finally enjoy a subway system in “high quality” and “Japan-quality”.

Rest assured that JICA, as the trusted and most reliable partner of the Philippines, is committed to making every possible effort with our Filipino friends, and to realizing JICA’s motto of “Safe, Reliable and Comfortable Mobility for a Better Tomorrow”. Also, I believe that it is our mandate to be a facilitator of the transfer of Japanese technology and know-how. With the said motto and mandate, we will continue to cooperate with the Philippines’ “Build Better More” program in order to develop and upgrade critical infrastructure, such as this Metro Manila Subway, North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR), MRT-3, and LRT Lines 1 and 2, just to name a few.

Bearing these in mind, I sincerely hope that we can all work hand-in-hand, in true Filipino “^{バヤニハン}Bayanihan Spirit”, for the success of the first-ever Metro Manila Subway line in this lovely country.

Again, I yell my heartfelt congratulations to all of you!

Thank you very much for your kind attention!

Mabuhay!