

Speech for the Turnover Ceremony
Project for Supporting the Philippines' Covid-19 Vaccination and Cold Chain
Logistics

1. Honorable Secretary of DOH, Ma. Rosario Vergeire
2. Executive Director of Lung Center of the Philippines, Vincent M. Balanag, Jr
3. Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, HE KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko
4. Distinguished Colleagues and friends from DOH and Lung Center

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

Ako po si SAKAMOTO, Chief Representative ng JICA Philippines.

It is my honor and privilege to participate in the turnover ceremony of “JICA’s Project for Covid-19 vaccination and cold chain logistics system enhancement”.

It is also a pleasure to see familiar faces who have been tirelessly working with JICA to build a resilient Philippine health sector.

The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered many negative effects, especially to those living in poverty. That is why JICA commends DOH and related counterparts for working closely with us to improve the lives of people whose jobs and livelihoods were severely disrupted by the pandemic.

Today, we hand over the vehicles and thermal packaging system units. This is a clear testament to the genuine goodwill of the people of Japan. Therefore, you are kindly requested to appropriately maintain and fully use them to promote broader vaccination for Filipino friends, especially more vulnerable groups, even in the most remote places.

As you all know, JICA’s cold chain and logistics assistance cooperation is part of our “Last One Mile Support” to increase vaccinations and jumpstart the economy. When people are safe from the virus and the supply chains are operating, we all benefit from it in the longer term.

At this point, I want to conclude by reiterating JICA's cooperation toward Japan-Philippines further trusted partnership in these challenging times.

A friend in need is a friend indeed. Rest assured, we remain to be your closest and most reliable partner in the economic recovery from Covid-19. Let's work together to achieve a better quality of life for every Filipino with the spirit of Bayanihan!

Kasama nyo kami.

Maraming Salamat po.

Mabuhay.

Good afternoon to all of you.