

3rd JICA Chair: Closing Remarks
5 November 2022 | 13:00 PM to 17:00 PM
Message of JICA Chief Representative
SAKAMOTO Takema

Director Rodolfo Narciso of the Japanese Studies Program

Dr. Marie Danielle Guillen of the Japanese Studies Program

Minister Daisuke Nihei from the Embassy of Japan

Ms. Tomoko Abe, Team Leader of JICA's Technical Cooperation Project

Colleagues and students from Ateneo de Manila University, participants from various universities and counterpart government agencies who joined us today...

Good afternoon to all of you! *Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat !*

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

Ikinagagalak ko kayong makasama ngayong araw.

It's my great pleasure to join you today for "the 3rd JICA Chair Lecture Series".

I'd like to emphasize that JICA is excited to have universities in the Philippines like Ateneo de Manila University as our partners.

Japan is the first country to achieve modernization from a non-Western background. Japan built a law-based, free, and democratic nation, while preserving its traditions and identity. Our modernization experience can be one of the best models of you. At the same time, through official development assistance to Asian countries that have achieved remarkable economic and social development, notably in recent years, JICA has gained extensive experience in development cooperation.

“JICA Chair” is one of the symbolic endeavors to expand opportunities for our friends in partner emerging countries to learn about the experiences and lessons accumulated in Japan’s unique modernization process and JICA’s development assistances. The biggest outcome of “JICA Chair” is for young generations like you to formulate future development strategies in your country.

Under “JICA Chair”, a series of intensive lectures about Japan in the field of politics, economics, public administration, and social development among others, are conducted by experts dispatched from Japan. In the Philippines, JICA has partnered with Ateneo de Manila University-Japanese Studies Program to conduct the JICA Chair Lecture Series.

For today’s 3rd JICA Chair Lecture, JICA and Ateneo have decided on a topic “T · O · D, Transit-oriented Development,” that is very relevant to the Philippines since there are numerous initiatives led by the government to develop and expand the railway network, address traffic congestion, and enhance the connectivity around Metro Manila and beyond.

In “World Competitiveness Ranking 2022” of “the Institute of Management Development (IMD)” survey, Philippines ranked 57 out of 64 countries in the category of infrastructure development. The ranking of the Philippines is the lowest among the ASEAN countries.

That’s why JICA continues to expand our cooperation with the Philippines to ‘Build Better More’ quality infrastructure. In fact, as you may know, JICA supports some

of the massive railway projects in the country like “the Metro Manila Subway Project”, “North-South Commuter Railway”, “MRT-3 Rehabilitation” and “the extension of LRT 1 and LRT 2”.

In order to maximize the impact of the railway development in the Philippines, the integration and harmonization of urban planning and transport development is indispensable, which is the fundamental concept of TOD.

As Ms. Abe mentioned, TOD can stimulate economic activities around the stations and make neighborhoods more vibrant. As a result of that, ridership of railways increases and make railways more sustainable. The synergy between urbanization and transportation is an essence to develop railway networks.

Japan recently celebrated the 150th anniversary of Japanese railway system. From the first railway in Shinbashi-Yokohama in 1872 until today, Japan’s railways have become a symbol of Japan’s strength in building one of the world’s best transport systems with high reliability. I would like to emphasize the significance of the TOD concept introduced in the early of 20th century as a key element in the success of the railway sector.

This is also why JICA expresses full support to not only tangible assets development like hard infrastructure but also the capacity enhancement for TOD and traffic management, through various knowledge sharing activities like this JICA Chair. When all these hard and soft components are combined, the impact is more meaningful.

The JICA Chair is an opportunity for all of us to learn from each other. This is a chance to strengthen our partnership for quality infrastructure in the Philippines through TOD as an example. Again, we are very happy to team up with Ateneo for this.

Lastly, I want to conclude by emphasizing that JICA is extremely serious and enthusiastic to keep working with universities like Ateneo and other universities like those who are participating today.

This way, we can share Japan's development experiences with everyone. On this note, I am confident we can strengthen and expand such partnership today and in the years to come!

Thank you for your kind attention.

Maraming salamat po!

Mabuhay!