

Speech for Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema
SME Fujiclean Workshop Introductory Address (July 5, 2023 | 10:00AM)

- Honorable Tarlac Province Governor, Susan Yap-Sulit
- Honorable Baguio City Mayor, Benjamin Magalang
- FujiClean General manager of Overseas Business, TABATA Yosuke

All distinguished guests and participants,

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat!

Naimbag nga Aldaw Kadakayo Amin

It is truly my honor and privilege to be part of the FujiClean Workshop on the “Effectiveness of On-Site Wastewater Treatment System” under JICA’s cooperation program for Effective and Sustainable Development of Sewer Infrastructure.”

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”. Consequently, JICA is extremely enthusiastic to expand our various active cooperation in this lovely country.

We would like to contribute to a more prosperous future for Filipino friends, and to more robust bonds between two nations, as well.

Aside from extending powerful national level cooperation, JICA also extends our support on a local level.

JICA brings the best of Japan to targeted cities, like Baguio City.

Due to its cool weather, Baguio City is the premier summer tourist destination, hence it is named the “Summer Capital of the Philippines”.

Many Filipinos and foreigners travel to Baguio to ①take a stroll in the beautiful Burnham Park and Wright Park, ②experience American-style cabins and lodging at Camp John Hay, ③go strawberry-picking in the La Trinidad Farm, and ④take photos in the pine tree-filled Mines View Park.

However, as the demographic increase of residents and tourists, so does the wastewater production in the city.

Between 1980 and 1990, JICA assisted the city in building its own 8,600 cubic meter capacity sewerage treatment plant and 57 km pipelines to service around 10,000 households and establishments.

However, considering the city's current population of more than 360,000¹ and an 1.5 million² tourist population recorded in 2019, the current facility is no longer able to cope up with the demand for wastewater treatment.

Due to limited wastewater treatment facilities, only a small percentage of household wastewater gets treated, posing a serious problem of sewage overflows into rivers, groundwater, and drainage systems in this beautiful city. Such a situation is becoming a serious risk of water contamination of Baguio's water supply resources.

Also considering the health risk, JICA has teamed up with the City of Baguio and FujiClean, to improve the city's wastewater management initiatives.

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority as of May 1, 2020

² In 2019, tourist arrival was recorded at 1.5 million as per Philippine News Agency

As you know, JICA has been offering Official Development Assistance to the Philippines through wide-ranging support instruments, such as provision of ①soft loans, ②grant assistance and ③technical cooperation.

Through JICA's development and training programs, we can move closer towards a safer and more sustainable future.

JICA has already executed various projects in this esteemed city, many of which focus on improving the health sector.

We hope that JICA can contribute to everyone's healthy living environment.

JICA has firmly aligned its projects with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

With high motivation towards ensuring of ① good health, ② clean water and sanitation, and ③ sustainable infrastructure in the city, we are very eager to launch a decentralized wastewater treatment system or "JOKASO" in Baguio.

The JOKASO is a Japanese technological advancement that works as an onsite wastewater treatment.

This system is easy to maintain and effective in addressing the wastewater problems even in unfavorable geographical areas, while this JOKASO system shows equivalent treatment performance to centralized wastewater treatment plant.

As the processing impact of JOKASO far surpasses that of a normal septic tank in the Philippines, introducing this system to urbanized environments like Baguio, will certainly reduce water pollution and transform it into a smart and sustainable city.

Now, I feel extremely happy to be able to work with Fujiclean company in Baguio.

This is because Fujiclean is Japan's leading company in on-site wastewater treatment system and technology.

Fujiclean demonstrates No.1 market share in this field in Japan.

I appreciate FujiClean's tremendous efforts and involvement in preparing this project.

And, I count on your continuous dedication, FujiClean.

On the other hand, I expect the strong commitment and unwavering partnership spirit of the City Government of Baguio, led by Honorable Mayor Benjamin Magalang.

Throughout the implementation stage of this project, I am quite sure that you two, FujiClean and City Government of Baguio, will become the exemplary model of the partnership in the Philippines!

Furthermore, in the future, it is our hope that the good work we will start in this esteemed city will serve as a model of sustainable and effective wastewater treatment and will be widely spread to the whole country.

Let's demonstrate our solidarity and strong partnership,
Magbayanihan tayo³!!

³ Translation: "Let us help each other"

Thank you very much for your attention.
Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.
Mabuhay, and good morning to all of you!