

Speech of Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema
Signing of Letter of Understanding (LOU) for the
Data Collection Survey (DCS) on Climate Change Measures and Green Transformation with
Climate Change Commission (CCC)
October 3, 2023, 10am, CCC, Malacañang, Manila

- Honorable, Secretary of Climate Change Commission, Robert E.A. Borje
- Assistant Secretary of CCC, Romell Antonio O. Cuenca
- Colleagues from CCC - Climate Change Office and JICA

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat!

It's my pleasure to join our signing ceremony with the Climate Change Commission, or CCC.

At the outset, I highly appreciate the strong and constructive leadership of Sec. Borje and ASec. Cuenca, for our important study for the sustainable future.

Tackling climate change is an inevitable and common issue for every country.

In this context, JICA has been actively working with many countries, in many climate action-related projects, over decades.

And, of course here in this beautiful country, we are very keen to support your efforts for the Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs, considering the concept of the Paris Agreement.

Japan has already committed, in the “ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0”, to collaborate with ASEAN countries, including the Philippines, to achieve a decarbonized and resilient society.

In the Philippines alone, just to name a few – we have been implementing wide-ranging projects and activities, for the conservation of blue carbon ecosystems, watersheds, and forests.

Not to mention, we’ve contracted 1.2 trillion Japanese Yen for various railway projects to help the Philippines reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and improve quality of life, by means of modal shift.

JICA is also enthusiastic to introduce unique and advanced technologies and business models of Japanese companies, such as a promotion of circular-economy through reuse and recycling of waste materials.

The recycling waste cooking oil for “Green Fuel” for e-tricycles in Boracay, and the usage of food waste to produce “Biochar” in Cebu are typical examples in the Philippines that we are implementing.

Furthermore, we cannot emphasize more the importance of disaster risk reduction and management efforts, in terms of adaptation, too. We should be reminded that this country is ranked as the world's most vulnerable country with many and frequent natural disasters.

Therefore, JICA has been very proactively supporting you in this aspect, such as through capacity development and construction of resilient infrastructures.

For example, let me recall the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project.

This project has over five decades background history, as one of the flagship cooperation projects between the Philippines and JICA. And, it has already shown significant achievements and contributions with an estimated reduction of about one million flood victims due to Typhoon Ulysses in 2020.

Rest assured that JICA keeps on supporting Filipino friends in line with the co-benefit approach.

This approach is important and realistic for a win-win strategy, aiming to both development and climate benefits.

Also, on the other hand, I am telling you that we are encouraged by this recent partnership with CCC – the Philippines’ sole policy making body when it comes to climate change issues.

JICA welcomes the acknowledgment of the Philippine government to promote our collaboration on evidence-based policies, programs, and projects on climate change.

We are “friends closer than brothers”!

Today’s signing ceremony for our Data Collection Survey is an important and great step in moving forward and advancing our partnership on climate action.

Considering the timeline to complete this survey by March 2024, I expect your utmost and timely cooperation.

Through this initiative, JICA is keen to identify short- to long-term cooperation areas with the Philippines so that we can balance climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, as well as environmental conservation and protection, with growing other sectors like energy, industry, and agriculture.

This is one thing to collect data survey– but it is also another thing to move people to action.

We are particularly interested in various inputs from different stakeholders and government agencies to this study.

We are looking forward to CCC's continuous cooperation, in this sense, too, in connecting us to various stakeholders.

This would also ensure that our resources will be maximized and there will be no duplication of efforts in addressing climate change.

Consequently, we can all benefit from new ways of thinking and different perspectives.

This type of thinking is also what we want to achieve through this study.

Again, I count on you as one of the strongest partners of JICA, and I promise "*Kasama niyo kami*".

I wish everyone success in this meaningful endeavor.

Maraming salamat po. Mabuhay. Good morning to all of you.

END