

News FROM Philippines

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2019

Photo courtesy of PCG

JICA, PCG signs new project on Vessel Operations and Maintenance

JICA vowed to continue supporting maritime safety in the Philippines with a new technical cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) focusing on vessel operation and maintenance. JICA has provided 44-m Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs) to PCG through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan.

The new assistance will help the PCG operate their newly acquired vessels effectively and strategically. Two more new 94-meter vessels and an additional off-shore patrol vessel are expected to be given by Japan and France in the near future. As a maritime nation, the Philippines also depends on the sea for 90% of its passenger and cargo transport. Sea-born trade passing through Philippine waters can contribute positive impacts to the economy. •

JICA, MTIT industry clustering project in Mindanao eyed to lure investors

A project on industry clustering under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Trade, Investment, and Tourism (MTIT) helped boost industries in five provinces in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) as part of efforts to attract buyers, investors, as well as create jobs in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas.



Under the project Market Driven Local Industry Promotion or MDLIP, six industry clusters were formed in BARMM, namely abaca, coconut, coffee, palm oil, rubber, and seaweed, further assisting 9,036 industry players in the region composed of farmers, producers, and micro enterprises. JICA's partner for the project, MTIT, was former Department of Trade and Industry – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DTI-ARMM). Download the investment handbook from this link: <https://tinyurl.com/JICApublications>. •



Photo courtesy of DPWH

JICA flood control project in Tagoloan river inaugurated

The P778-million Tagoloan River Basin subproject in Misamis Oriental was inaugurated in July as part of JICA's cooperation in the Philippines to boost the country's disaster resiliency under the Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River, and Imus River (FRIMP-CTI).

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) implemented the project that consists of flood protection and dike revetment structures and drainage improvement, as well as non-structural measures such as flood risk maps and capacity building on operations and maintenance and disaster awareness. A study shows that the project may reduce the flood inundation area by 153 hectares or 1.53 square kilometers. •

JICA, DAR turn over 22 Agri-infrastructure Projects to Farmers in Mindanao

As part of efforts to boost the productivity of Filipino farmers in Mindanao and integrate them in the supply chain, JICA is supporting the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in the construction of farm-to-market roads, bridges, rural water systems, and post-harvest facilities for agrarian reform beneficiaries in Regions X (Northern Mindanao), XI (Southern Mindanao/Davao Region), and XII (SOCCSKSARGEN).

The assistance is part of an ongoing JICA project with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), co-implemented with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), called the Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development Project or MinSAAD. •



"Both the infrastructure and training program components are meant to catalyze growth in the agriculture sector and create jobs"

AYUMU OHSHIMA, JICA SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE



“ *What we hope to achieve in this new cooperation is to also see what training and disaster management systems can be implemented in other vulnerable areas and regions in the Philippines.* ”

YOSHIO WADA, JICA CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE

JICA, OCD new project to enhance PH disaster management

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) recently signed a new project expected to establish guidelines on hazard information use and risk assessment in the country towards disaster resiliency.

The role of JICA in the project is the dispatch of Japanese experts in the Philippines in fields such as disaster governance, disaster risk assessment and planning, as well as training of counterpart personnel in Japan. JICA and OCD previously worked on a capacity enhancement project from 2012 to 2015 that piloted disaster planning in Alcala Municipality, Ilagan City, and Isabela Province in Cagayan Valley and developed a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Plan for the region. •



“ *The road is vital in helping the communities and people's organizations in reforestation activities of the denuded portions of the watershed, including reducing costs and travel time in hauling the seedlings to the planting site.* ”

YO EBISAWA, JICA SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE

JICA, DENR inaugurate Farm-to-Market Road in Nueva Ecija

A newly rehabilitated 3.7-kilometer farm-to-market road was inaugurated in Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija recently as part of efforts to boost market access of some 350 upland farmers and support reforestation activities in the Pantabangan-Carranglan Watershed Forest Reserve in Nueva Ecija. Said road is a subproject of an ongoing 9.2 billion yen loan agreement between JICA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) called Forestland Management Project (FMP). FMP is a community-based reforestation and forestland management initiative in three of the country's river basins: Upper Magat and Cagayan, Pampanga, and Jalaur in Iloilo Province. •



If not for the scholarship I cannot afford to study in Japan, and without the degree, I will not be able to understand the principles needed for my work in investment banking in the Philippines.

FRANCIS DE LOS REYES
FORMER JDS SCHOLAR

JICA sends 20 young Filipino Professionals to study in Japan

Twenty (20) young Filipino professionals from government were sent to Japan this August as part of the JICA's Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) program in the Philippines. The JDS is an opportunity for young Filipinos to learn from Japan's experience and leading universities and then contribute to Philippine development when they return.

The new batch is composed of young government workers from institutions in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, including: National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Justice (DOJ), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Mindanao State University (MSU), Department of Transportation (DOTr), and University of the Philippines-Mindanao. •



Filipino Trainee meets Japanese Godparent

Yoshio P. Labi, a disaster risk reduction management officer in La Trinidad, completed a training course on Disaster Management for Landslide and Sediment-Related Disasters under the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) of JICA - Philippines.

Aside from learning Japanese DRR practices, one of Labi's memorable experiences in his training was finally meeting his godfather Hisao Yoshihara in Tokyo. Yoshihara was a Japanese volunteer at the Mountain State Agricultural College (now Benguet State University) in the '70s. The trainee's father worked in the university and became a good friend of Yoshihara while living in Benguet. "It was Mr. Yoshihara who named me Yoshio. After 46 years, I'm happy to finally meet him and his family in Japan through the training," Labi shared. •



Japanese volunteer brings new approaches in science, math teaching

A young Japanese teacher is sharing new approaches in math and science teaching in a public school in Leyte to help boost the competitiveness of Filipino students in said subjects.

“Our teachers learned using new instructional materials that they can apply in their daily math and science lessons, including variations from traditional stick-counting to using calculation boxes and hands-on science experiments,” said Mr. Arnulfo Octa, principal of Tanauan II Central School.

Teachers from Tanauan II Central School are learning these new approaches from Japanese volunteer Rena Takahashi dispatched under the JICA Volunteer Program. Takahashi used to be an elementary teacher in Sapporo, Japan before coming to the Philippines. For her volunteer work, Takahashi decided to focus on shifting from traditional stick-counting techniques to which students are accustomed to new approach on math and science learning used in Japanese schools. •

In Japan, emphasis is on inculcating appreciation among students on math and science and using practical methods to teach difficult subjects.

**RENA TAKAHASHI,
JICA VOLUNTEER**

JICA, ANA team up for youth video blog contest

Recognizing the role of the Filipino youth in shaping international cooperation in the future, JICA and Japan's largest airline All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd. (ANA) announced the search for the best video blog on the impact of JICA and Japan to Filipinos.

JICA said the competition is an opportunity to “listen to the voices of young Filipinos on development issues and encourage the youth to participate in international cooperation.” More than half of the Philippine population is 24 years and under, government data showed, and said demographic sweet spot presents opportunities for the Philippines to attain its development agenda by engaging the country's future decision makers. •



About JICA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), which handles technical cooperation, ODA loans and investment, and grant aid, as well as cooperation volunteers and disaster relief programs. JICA is the world's largest bilateral aid agency with its volume of cooperation amounting to about USD 19.57 billion for JFY 2017 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.



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