

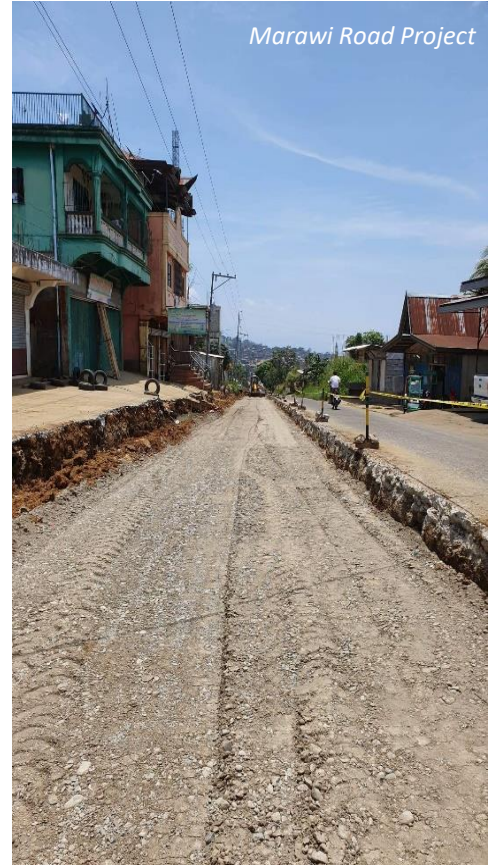
# News FROM Philippines

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019

## JICA supports 8 ongoing road projects in the Philippines to help boost connectivity, investments

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is backing eight ongoing road and bridge projects amounting to JPY 138,130 million under the Philippines' Build, Build, Build agenda as a move to boost connectivity, attract investments, and create jobs in the country.

Working hand-in-hand with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), JICA will implement the following projects: the Central Luzon Link Expressway, Arterial Road Bypass, Metro Manila Interchange, Road Upgrading and Preservation, Road Network Development in Mindanao, Marawi Road Project, Davao City Bypass, and the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project. Said projects also support the Philippine government's infrastructure priorities following the approved JICA-NEDA's Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development for Metro Manila and Its Surrounding Areas study in 2014. The study sought to sustain development by decongesting traffic, and spread economic growth in nearby areas. •



Marawi Road Project

## Pilot project on Japanese technology on TB diagnosis in PH completed

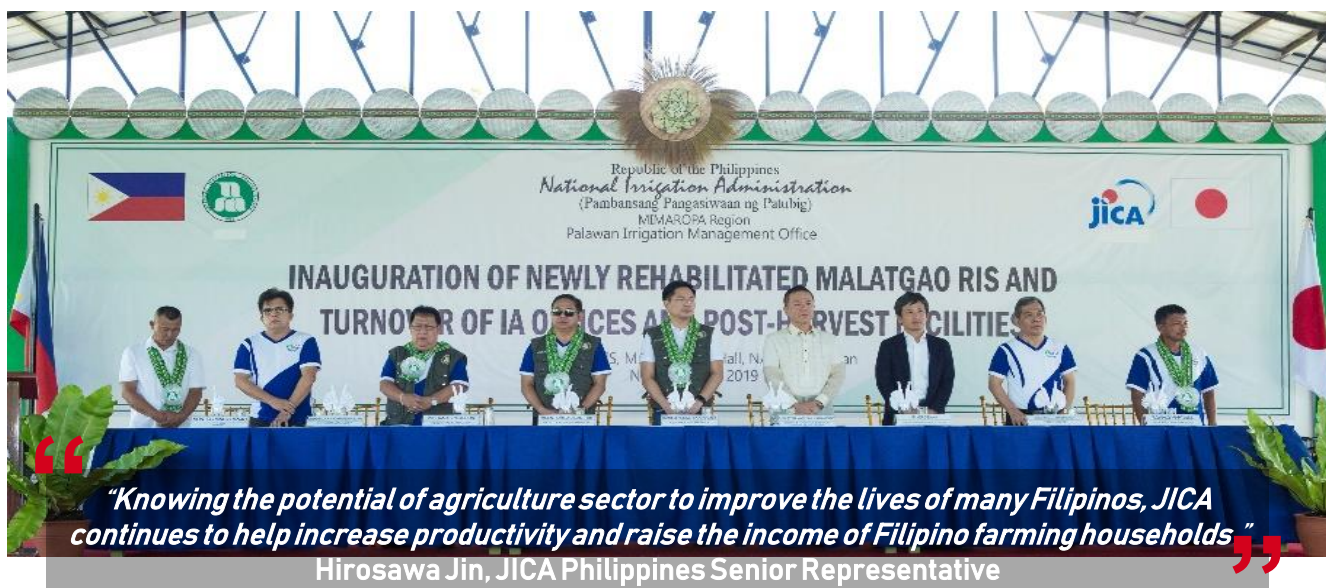


TB-LAMP process

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been tapping the expertise of the Japanese private sector in addressing development issues in partner countries such as the Philippines through pilot projects like introducing Japanese technology on rapid and reliable diagnosis of Tuberculosis (TB). Partner Japanese company Eiken Chemical Co. Ltd. shared the TB-LAMP (Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification) testing device for pilot utilization in health units around the National Capital Region (NCR).

It offers options for routine TB diagnostic tools and intensive case finding activities, thereby reducing TB incidence. The experience of pilot health centers and hospitals showed that TB-LAMP can help improve diagnostics reliability of existing TB-DOTS (directly observed treatment short-course) facilities and reduce turnaround time in TB diagnosis. Thus, initiating early treatment for the said disease. Further, the device could be integrated in the country's current TB diagnostics system once costs and logistics are factored in. •

## P189-million JICA-assisted irrigation rehab project in Luzon to help boost agri in PH



Farmers remain among the Philippines' poorest sectors with poverty incidence going as much as 34.3% (PSA Report, 2015). To address this, Japan International Cooperation Agency inaugurated the newly improved and rehabilitated Malatgao River Irrigation System (RIS) in Palawan as part of its continuing assistance to the agriculture sector of the Philippines under the JPY 6.187-billion National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NIS RIP).

The Malatgao RIS aims to restore about 3,014 hectares of service area in the province to help raise productivity and income of 1,585 farmers in the area. It is the fourth largest system among the eleven national irrigation systems for rehabilitation under NIS RIP. •

## Filipino start-ups pitch to Japanese investors

More than 10 Filipino start-up businesses presented their pitches to Rakuten Capital, Spiral Ventures, SBI Holdings, and other Japanese investors in an event under the Industrial Competitive Enhancement through Industrial Human Resource Development and Supply and Value Chain Development project.



Said activity is co-organized by QBO Innovation Hub and is part of the technical cooperation between the Board of Investments (BOI) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that aims to strengthen the Philippines' industrial human resource and supply and value chain development. The push for academe-industry-government collaboration aims to attract more investments and create jobs in the Philippines as well as tap into the talent of Filipinos that can potentially supply the needs of private companies and key industries. •



## JICA backs collaboration of ASEAN universities in engineering research, education

Engineering professionals from different ASEAN universities converged in Manila for a regional conference emphasizing the applications of geological engineering research to sustainable development. Said regional conference is a component of a Japan International Cooperation Agency Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) ASEAN University Network / Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-NET) which encourages academic collaboration between ASEAN and Japanese universities in engineering education in order to accurately address development issues and boost human resource development in ASEAN countries.

To date, the University of the Philippines Diliman, De La Salle University, and Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology are part of AUN/SEED-NET. The University of the Philippines currently hosts 81 students in electrical and electronics engineering as well as environmental engineering under said network. •

## JICA, DoH team up in fighting rabies in PH



©Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

Study visit to Kitasato University School of Veterinary Medicine

Japan International Cooperation Agency, along with the Department of Health (DoH) and Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) are working hand-in-hand to come up with a prevention and treatment network model that could help eliminate rabies in the Philippines by 2020. The project “Establishment of One Health Prevention and Treatment Model for Elimination of Rabies” is being piloted in Bulacan, which has the highest case of rabies in the country. Under the project, JICA, DOH, and DA-BAI aim to come up with easy to use and cheaper diagnostic kits for rabies (like pregnancy test kits) and a data sharing system to easily identify statistics on rabies cases and needed interventions.

The project is under JICA’s Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development or SATREPS where Japanese institutions and partner countries work together to solve social problems. •



©Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

Observing sample collection in Japan for rabies diagnosis

“The conference is a platform to build a network of professionals in ASEAN and share knowledge in engineering research so we can find innovative solutions to development issues.”

Wada Yoshio,

JICA Philippines Chief Representative



©AUN/SEED-Net Facebook

## P86 million agroforestry infrastructure inaugurated under 10-year JICA-DENR Forestland Management Project

To conserve Philippine forest resources, PhP86 million agroforestry infrastructure projects composed of bridge, roads, and irrigation facilities were turned over recently to the local government units (LGUs) in Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino Provinces in Region II and Ifugao in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Said projects are part of the 10-year JPY 9.244 billion Forestland Management Project (FMP) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The project seeks to protect a total of 71,300 hectares of forests in the country's watershed areas including Jalaur Watershed in Iloilo, Upper Magat and Cagayan River Basins, and Pampanga River Basin. These cover the provinces of Iloilo, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Ifugao, and Nueva Ecija. •



## JICA road network project seen to boost peacebuilding in Mindanao

The signing of the grant agreement for the detailed design study entitled Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao (RNDP-CAAM) is seen to revitalize economic activities and improve access to social services in conflict areas. Under the partnership of JICA and Department of Public Works and Highways, the design study covers the Matanog-Barira-Alamada-Libungan Road (Matanog – Barira Section) and Tapan Lebak Coastal Road.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency - DPWH road project is part of JICA's support to peace building through infrastructure development in Mindanao. The project can connect people from conflict-affected areas to markets and public facilities, while simultaneously improving agribusiness potential in the region. •





## La Trinidad finds new way to attract foreign tourists with help from young Japanese

Yamawaki Kasumi, a young Japanese volunteer for the local tourism office of La Trinidad, is utilizing the power of social media to promote the province to foreign students. La Trinidad in Benguet is often on the list of famous tourist destinations in Northern Luzon for its strawberry fields, colorful houses, and fresh vegetables. The cool weather and proximity to Baguio City also often seal the deal for tourists to visit La Trinidad. Through her work with the local tourism office, La Trinidad is getting support to increase its tourist arrivals through foreign language students from Japan who are looking for vacation and leisure spots in the Philippines.

The JICA Volunteer Program works with government agencies, non-profit groups, schools, and local governments to support different development needs in the Philippines. •



*"Through the Japanese volunteer, La Trinidad now has an online presence in Japan," Valred Olsim, local tourism officer of La Trinidad*

## Young Filipino from DAR studies Japan's agri to benefit dragon fruit industry in Sultan Kudarat



*Ms. Purazo, along with other KCCP scholars, listening to a lecture*

Cherry Mae Purazo, 36, a senior agrarian reform program technologist from Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Sultan Kudarat, recently completed a training in Hokkaido, Japan to study Japanese agriculture practices to boost the local dragon fruit industry. She was among this year's participants under the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) on Regional Agribusiness Promotion by Value Chain Building in the Asian Region for High Value Added Local Food Supply. The KCCP is a program of the Japanese government through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that trains young professionals in various development areas as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Today, Ms. Purazo is sharing her experiences and learnings to some agrarian reform beneficiaries' (ARB) organizations in Sultan Kudarat. She already submitted her action plan for approval and funding of the DAR Central Office for the initial activities to start the development of the dragon fruit production in her province. •

### 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 14.08 billion for JFY 2018 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.



Be part of JICA conversations. Like our Facebook page: [facebook.com/jicaphilippines/](https://facebook.com/jicaphilippines/)

### JICA Philippines Office

40F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza  
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City  
Telephone: +632 889-7119  
Facsimile: +632 889-6850  
Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/>  
Editorial Team: Jennifer Erice, Maffy Carandang-Patio, Amanda Bacani, Roxanne Delos Santos, Joseph Silva

