

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



# News FROM Philippines

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2021



Left to right: JICA Chief Representative AZUKIZAWA Eigo, Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko, DFA Acting Head of the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs Myla Fischer, and DSWD National Resource and Logistics Management Bureau Director Emmanuel Privado.

## DSWD RECEIVES JICA'S DISASTER RELIEF SUPPORT FOR TYPHOON ODETTE VICTIMS

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) turned over relief assistance to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) after the devastation of Typhoon Rai (Odette) in December. The support includes 30 generator units, 100 tents, 450 plastic sheets/tarpaulins, 527 sleeping pads, 500 pieces of portable jerry cans/water containers, 30 cord reels, and 60 conversion plugs for the generators.

"Please be assured that we will not stop from here. This is time to pool our efforts together with the Government of the Philippines and international community," said Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko.

In a statement, JICA Philippines Chief Representative AZUKIZAWA Eigo also said, "We assure the Philippines that we will continue our development cooperation in disaster risk reduction and management, as we have done in the past, to further enhance disaster preparedness and resilience and towards building back better."

As of late, JICA has supported Philippines in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) by sharing Japanese experience and knowhow through technical cooperation, capacity building, and quick impact projects.■

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Philippine start-ups qualify in JICA Accelerator Program

Fourth phase of Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project begins

JICA's support to peace building in Bangsamoro via power distribution project

Banana and cacao plant disease management research project kicks off



**The aim is to help Filipino entrepreneurs boost their edge in the global market through access to capital and mentorship. Further, this is an opportunity for them to also explore the Japanese market and meet potential investors from Japan.**

OHSHIMA Ayumu  
JICA Senior Representative

### 3 PHILIPPINE START-UPS QUALIFY IN JICA ACCELERATOR PROGRAM, FIND OPPORTUNITIES IN JAPANESE MARKET

JICA announced three Philippine start-up companies who made it to the JICA NINJA (Next Innovation with Japan) Accelerator Program and will have the chance to win US\$30,000 grant to scale up their business.

The three companies that qualified to the program are: Plentina, a financial service company that offers store credits; Packworks offering micro-entrepreneurs access to business capital, tools, and insights; and Mayani, an agri-e-commerce platform that connects smallholder farmers to markets and investors. They will compete against 12 other start-ups from other Southeast Asian countries.

As part of the program, JICA enlisted jury panelists from one of Japan's leading venture capital firms and experts from the start-up ecosystem from Southeast Asia. The program will also offer field mentorship with industry experts to stress test business plans, exposure to the Japanese market via Demo Day and roadshow, and participation in structured learning from other experts and startup builders. ■

## NEWS IN PHOTOS

### NEW PHASE OF PASIG-MARIKINA RIVER CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT STARTS

JICA and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) began the fourth phase of the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project to mitigate extreme flooding in Metro Manila.

JICA has assisted river channel improvement in the Pasig and Marikina rivers since 2000. The fourth phase will implement structures such as revetments, floodwalls, and movable weirs that will help adjust and regulate the flow of the flood waters.



A Groundbreaking Ceremony was held in November 2021 attended by officials from the DPWH, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, JICA, and other distinguished guests.



Further, the gate structures that will be built under the project will help protect low-lying areas in Cainta and Taytay from backflow flooding.

In addition to structural measures, the project also includes soft measures such as Information Campaign and Publicity, by ensuring efficient and effective information dissemination in various forms of media for smooth coordination and implementation of the project. There is also the preparation of flood hazard map which is necessary for the promotion of flood evacuation activities by providing essential data to support the LGUs in formulating action plans concerning disaster risk reduction. ■



## JICA CONTINUES SUPPORT TO PEACE BUILDING IN BANGSAMORO VIA POWER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

The Maguindanao Electric Cooperative (MAGELCO) inaugurated and switched on the fourth segment of the Power Super Highway, which was completed using power distribution equipment provided by JICA.

MAGELCO is one of six electric cooperatives that JICA is assisting in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas under a 771 million yen grant aid as push towards peace building in the Bangsamoro.

The project Improvement of Equipment for Power Distribution in Bangsamoro Area is a partnership of JICA with the National Electrification Administration (NEA) that aims to upgrade power distribution equipment of six electric cooperatives in the Bangsamoro. The equipment turned over by JICA consist of boom trucks, pole transformers, distribution poles, and power distribution wires.

JICA's grant aid assistance will reduce energy losses and assure reliable energy supply to households in the area. "Electric cooperatives like MAGELCO play an important role in improving the power distribution in Maguindanao. Overall, when energy distribution is improved, we can look forward to the revival of economic activities and enhanced opportunities for peace building and development in the Bangsamoro," said JICA Philippines Senior Representative EBISAWA Yo.

Through the project, the first four segments of the Power Super Highway forming a total of approximately 50 circuit kilometers of distribution lines across Maguindanao province have already been energized. Two more segments are expected to be up by 2022. ■



## CLSU, JICA MOVE TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE FARM MANAGEMENT OF BANANA, CACAO TO BOOST PH FOOD SECURITY

Central Luzon State University (CLSU), in collaboration with Tamagawa University in Japan, kicked off the five-year research project for a sustainable farm management system of cacao and banana seen to boost the Philippines' efforts to curb hunger and promote environment-friendly food production.

The project Development of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao is implemented under the JICA SATREPS initiative or Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development. SATREPS is implemented through joint research between Japanese universities and research institutions and those from partner countries like the Philippines.

Project sites identified are Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Davao.

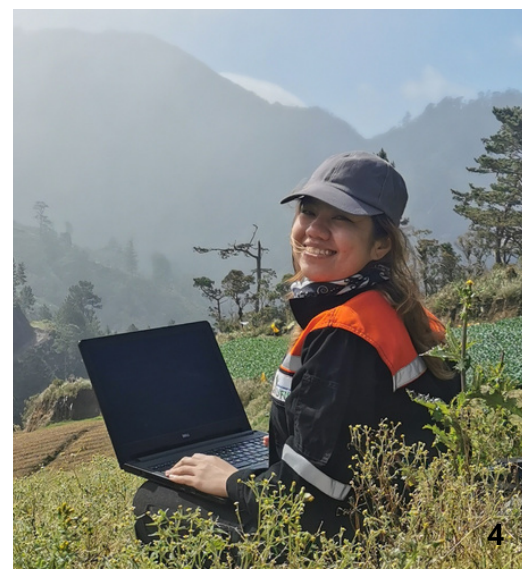
"The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted supply chains and worsened hunger for many countries. This research on sustainable farming practices on banana and cacao in the Philippines will not only support the livelihood of Filipino farmers. The research will also study environment-friendly and sustainable ways of producing banana and cacao, seen as growth drivers in local agriculture sector," said JICA Philippines Senior Representative OHSHIMA Ayumu.

The project will introduce an integrated technology system to help farmers address major crop diseases in banana and cacao through disease examination, forecasting outbreak, and environment-friendly cultivation methods. There will also be study visits in Japanese universities as part of the project's capacity building of Filipino researchers and government officials. ■

## FEATURE

### FILIPINA TALENTS IN ENERGY SECTOR TO TRAIN IN JAPAN UNDER JICA SCHOLARSHIPS

JICA Trainees Angelica Delos Santos (left) and Jomarie Permejo (right).





Two women energy research specialists from the Philippines were chosen for postgraduate studies in the JICA scholarship programs in Japan.

Both scholars from the Department of Energy (DOE) were accepted for long-term training through the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP). Angelica Delos Santos is taking up Public Policy in the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo under the Energy Policy Program. Meanwhile, Jomarie Permejo was accepted as research student for the Master's Degree in Earth Resources Engineering focused on Exploration Geophysics in Kyushu University under the Kizuna Program.

"The scholarship will give me an opportunity to understand and investigate several policies particularly in implementing Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) in off-grid areas in the Philippines," said Delos Santos about her research plans.

The DOE targets at least 20 GW of renewable energy installations by 2030 according to the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP). Part of the country's resolute efforts to meet the goals of the PEP is to boost technical competencies through education and capacity-building.

Meanwhile, Permejo is hoping to learn and apply Japan's best practices, tools, and techniques in geothermal development in studying a geothermal project in Ifugao and Benguet Provinces. "My work in the Philippines involves assessing and exploring geothermal resources through geoscientific studies. With my studies in Japan, I look forward to learning technical capabilities in assessing the Philippines' geothermal potential and helping update the database or inventory of geothermal sites in the country for exploration and development."

"JICA extends its fullest cooperation in support of finding solutions on how to address climate change through use of renewable energy. The JICA KCCP has offered scholarships in this area to help develop future talent in the energy sector in the Philippines and contribute to nation building," said JICA Philippines Chief Representative AZUKIZAWA Eigo. ■

Delos Santos (leftmost) in GRIPS Tokyo Campus.



Permejo was admitted to MA program under Kizuna Program.



Scan the QR code to view or download the 2021 ODA MAP!

## JICA NEW ODA MAP LAUNCHED

JICA's updated ODA Map lists about 80 cooperation projects that JICA implements with various government agencies and local government units (LGUs) in the country in areas such as governance, economic infrastructure, investment promotion and industrial development, disaster risk reduction and management, agriculture and agribusiness development, environment and energy, health and social development as well as initiatives for peace and development in Mindanao.

In 2020 alone, the total value of JICA programs implemented in the Philippines amounted to 145 billion yen. ■

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 scale of operations amounting to about USD 16.69 billion for JFY 2020 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.

Join the conversation. Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/jicaphilippines>

### Philippine Office

40F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza  
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City  
Telephone: +632 8889-7119  
Facsimile: +632 8889-6950

Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english>  
Editorial Team: Jennifer Erice, Maffy Carandang-Patio, Amanda Bacani, Laurice Enriquez

