

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



News FROM Philippines

OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2022



JICA AND DA GEARS UP TO IMPLEMENT VALUE CHAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In a bid to assist vegetable farmers to achieve higher income, create jobs, and mitigate social disparities, JICA and the Department of Agriculture commence implementation of the technical cooperation project entitled "Project for Market-driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines".

On 23 December 2022, JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema and DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban signed the Minutes of Meetings to develop the Record of Discussion of the project, which was previously signed in October 2021. The project commenced its planning phase in early 2022, which covered an in-depth analysis of the vegetable value chain in the country. After close collaboration and discussion among JICA, DA, concerned LGUs and stakeholders during the planning phase, the project framework for its implementation phase was agreed recently.

Japanese experts are expected to be dispatched to the Philippines to provide technical guidance and share their experiences and know-how for modernized food value chain (FVC). Pilot projects to establish an inclusive FVC model will be implemented in target areas in Benguet, Quezon, and Metro Manila.

One of the pilot projects aims to stabilize the supply of major vegetables in the target areas by capacitating farmers in preparing better farming plans to diversify harvest time, among others. Other pilot projects will cover distribution, processing, and consumption of vegetables to provide a holistic approach in addressing the issues along the vegetable value chain. The JICA-DA cooperation is visualized to provide solutions to the pressing problems along the vegetable value chains in Benguet, Quezon, and Metro Manila, and develop an inclusive model that can be replicated in the country. ■

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MMDA looks to JICA to resolve traffic woes

JICA Chief leads COVID-19 equipment turnover to DOH

Forestland management project connects farmers to markets, protects woodland areas

Read the full story by scanning the QR code:



JICA REITERATES SUPPORT TO BANGSAMORO TO BOOST JOB CREATION, PEACE BUILDING

JICA reiterated its continuing support to peace and development in Mindanao to help spur economic growth, job creation, and peace building in conflict-affected areas as the Philippines step up in COVID-19 recovery.

The announcement came following the publication of the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiative for Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD) brochure that outlines the Government of Japan's assistance to Mindanao peace and development. To date, JICA is implementing programs for Mindanao peace and development that includes entrepreneurship development under the HARVEST program (or Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities Through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation);

Road Network Development (RNDP) in Conflict-Affected Areas; Program for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi and its Surrounding Areas; and Capacity Development for the Bangsamoro.

Though the Japanese government has been supporting Mindanao peace and development since 1990, J-BIRD started in 2006 and 13 billion pesos of development assistance have been infused towards peace building in the Bangsamoro. This includes cooperation projects in areas such as economic development, promoting governance, improving public services, community development, and security.

Already, nearly a hundred projects have been implemented in the Bangsamoro through J-BIRD, while around 2-billion yen was granted to help construct 18.97 kilometers of roads in Marawi City and surrounding areas.

You may download the J-BIRD brochure here to know more about JICA's assistance to Mindanao. ■



Access the J-BIRD brochure by scanning the QR code



**Building Peace,
Nurturing Resilience**
Japan's Assistance
in Mindanao

MMDA SEEKS JICA'S ASSISTANCE TO MITIGATE TRAFFIC

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has sought JICA's assistance for a Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) for Metro Manila.

Alongside the support to massive railway infrastructure, JICA supports the CTMP as means to mitigate the perennial traffic woes in Metro Manila. The cooperation aims to maximize the mobility of road users in a sustainable way through the identification and data-driven analysis of traffic bottlenecks, development of concretized action plan for improved traffic management, and capacity enhancement of MMDA and LGUs

in traffic management planning, implementation, and evaluation.

In order to mitigate traffic congestion, it is critical to ensure that the traffic volume and flow can be smoothly controlled and managed, and the traffic facilities, such as traffic signals and intelligent transport system (ITS), are effectively utilized. Under the CTMP, pilot projects on traffic management were implemented, including retiming of existing signals, modification of intersection geometry and pavement markings, installation of traffic signs, relocation of bus stops and so on.

JICA's Technical Cooperation Project is an essential piece of a comprehensive approach in addressing perennial traffic congestion in urban areas, combined with hard transportation infrastructure, such as JICA-funded Metro Manila Subway and North South Commuter Railway.

After the final JCC meeting where the 5-Year Action Plan on Comprehensive Traffic Management was approved, technical staff comprised of NGAs, the LGUs in Metro Manila and members of the academe and private sector convened to discuss the roles of each agency moving forward. ■



Scan the QR code to read more about this story.

Talk of the Town



JICA CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE LEADS TURN OVER OF COVID-19 EQUIPMENT AS PART OF JICA'S LAST ONE MILE SUPPORT

On November 25, 2022, the Department of Health, Embassy of Japan, and JICA Philippines led the Turn-over Ceremony of Equipment that will help further accelerate COVID-19 inoculations in the Philippines, save more lives, and boost economic recovery. Through its Last One Mile Support Initiative, JICA decided to provide JPY198 million (about PHP80 million) worth of cold chain and logistics equipment for the management of COVID-19 vaccines to the DOH.

JICA's cooperation is timely as the Philippines moves to achieve its vaccination targets to underserved priority groups, particularly in hard-to-reach communities, and restart new normal lives and economic activities. The cooperation to the DOH consists of 2 units of service vehicles and 2 units of refrigerated vans which the DOH can use to reach out to remote areas, as well as 600 units of biothermal packaging, which are reusable iceless containers, for the safe storage of vaccines.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered many negative effects, especially to those living in poverty. Today, we hand over the vehicles and thermal packaging system units. This is a clear testament to the genuine goodwill of the people of Japan. When people are safe from the virus and the supply chains are operating, we all benefit from it in the long term," said Chief Representative of JICA Philippines Office SAKAMOTO Takema. ■



L-R: DOH OIC Maria Rosario Vergeire with JICA Chief Sakamoto.



NEWS IN PHOTOS

Read the full story here:



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The new access road will reduce costs and 20-30 minutes of our time in transporting our vegetables and palay to the market. Not only we will save some money but will also boost agricultural yield.

Mr. Ernesto Rivera Sr., PO
Chairman, Calaoacan Burgos Upland Farmers Association Inc.

”

JICA, DENR CONNECTS UPLAND FARMERS TO MARKETS, HELPS CONSERVE FORESTS

In a major push to help farmers adapt to climate change, the JICA and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) are building more access roads for upland farmers under an ongoing cooperation entitled Forestland Management Project (FMP).

members of people's organizations in the area. Under the JICA-DENR cooperation, farmers belonging to these organizations continue to learn the benefits of protecting their remaining forests in ways that also benefit their livelihood.

The FMP which is due to finish in 2023 is seen to further strengthen the Philippines' watershed management system and promote collaboration in watershed conservation post-project, while sustainably giving opportunities to more farmers in the long run. ■

In October 2022, a P26M access road was turned over in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, where upland farmers are also protecting the Pinagloriahan watershed supplying water to more than 900 households. This subproject stands to benefit nearly 4,000



Read the full story by scanning the QR code



JICA BUILDS POOL OF FILIPINO YOUNG EXPERTS IN SPACE TECHNOLOGY

JICA is helping young Filipinos develop their knowledge and careers in space technology through a scholarship program with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). JICA's cooperation aims to enable them to contribute to the socio-economic development of the Philippines and enhance closer ties between two countries.

To date, two Filipino scholars from the University of the Philippines (UP) are the first recipients of the JICA-JAXA Network for Utilization of Space Technology or JJ-NeST scholarships from the Philippines.

John Paul Almonte, 27, is taking up his Masters Degree in Electrical and Space Systems Engineering at Kyushu Institute of Technology until 2023. While Charleston Dale Ambatali, 27, also plans to take up his Doctorate Degree in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Engineering until 2023.

The JJ-NeST program recently immersed the said scholars in the work of JAXA. There, Almonte shared his studies on developing a tracking system for ground sensor terminals used in satellite store-and-forward networks for remote data collection. These networks are used in environmental monitoring, emergency communications, and telemedicine, among others. Meanwhile, Ambatali also shared his work on space-based solar power stations that collect power from the sun and send it towards the Earth for a stable source of renewable energy. ■

Read the full story
here:



JICA LEADS THE WORLD IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

JICA and the Ateneo de Manila University hosted the 3rd JICA Chair Lecture on November 5, 2022 to present Japan's history of transit-oriented development (TOD) for further sustainable development of railways and urban planning development.

Japan is the first country to achieve modernization as a non-western country. Japan achieved building a law-based, free, and democratic nation while ensuring its traditions and identity, and such experience could be one of the best models of development for emerging countries. At the same time, through official development assistance to Asian countries that have achieved remarkable economic and social development, notably in recent years, JICA has extensive experiences in international cooperation. "JICA Chair" is one of the symbolic endeavors to expand opportunities in partner countries to share the experiences and lessons accumulated in Japan's unique modernization process and JICA's development assistances.

Under "JICA Chair", a series of intensive lectures about Japan in the field of politics, economics, public administration, and social development among others, are conducted by experts dispatched from Japan.

In the Philippines, JICA has partnered with Ateneo de Manila University - Japanese Studies Program to conduct the JICA Chair Lecture Series. For the 3rd JICA Chair Lecture, JICA and Ateneo de Manila University have decided on a topic "T-O-D, Transit-Oriented Development" that is very relevant to the Philippines since there are numerous initiatives led by the government to develop and expand the railway network, address traffic congestion, and enhance connectivity around the Metro. ■



Learn more about
this event here:



JICA volunteers are back in the Philippines in 2022 after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, the first batch of volunteers are ready to embark on a mission to support sustainable development initiatives in the new normal. This story is about one of the first batch of JICA volunteers in the Philippines this year.

JICA VOLUNTEER RETURNS TO JAPAN WITH FOND MEMORIES AND LEARNINGS FROM ILOILO

KUBO Jun was one of the first batch of returning Japanese volunteers that JICA dispatched to the Philippines after two years of hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

He has been living in Leganes, Iloilo, where he was assigned under JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program.

KUBO lived in Iloilo before the pandemic, and had no choice but to be sent back to Japan in 2020 when international volunteers were recalled due to COVID-19 restrictions. During this time, he was already working with a group of persons with disabilities (PWD) in Iloilo and collaborated with them in marketing their products. The Association of Differently-Abled Persons in Iloilo Multipurpose Cooperative (ADPIMPC) creates woodwork products, but lack the marketing skills needed to scale up.

By working with ADPIMPC, KUBO held a marketing survey as to where the association can further sell their products. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) also offered assistance to expand the designs ADPIMPC produces.

Before his assignment ends this year, KUBO connected ADPIMPC with two other organizations that can help market their wood products. KUBO also noticed that there is a need for more support to organizations like ADPIMPC so they can be fully integrated in society and earn sufficient income independently. ■



“

It's the Filipino hospitality and friendship that moved me to return to the Philippines when the JOCV Program resumed this year. I couldn't miss the opportunity to repay their kindness the first time I was here.

I learned from this experience that we are not alone in our struggles, and there will always be people ready to help. I also realized there are so many factors for a JOCV project to succeed. Further, I learned that we should respect each other's culture.

The Filipinos I met treated me like family. Being a volunteer enriches not only the lives of others, but also the life of the volunteer.

Mr. KUBO Jun, JOCV

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GOT FEEDBACK?

We would like to hear from you! Drop a question, message, comment, or suggestion in our email: pp_oso_rep@jica.go.jp

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 FY2020 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.

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