

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

News FROM Philippines

JANUARY to MARCH 2023



JICA PRESIDENT TANAKA VISITS THE PHILIPPINES, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTNERS OF JICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) President TANAKA Akihiko visited the Philippines last January to reaffirm the significance of JICA's cooperation to the country to address wide-ranging development needs and to strengthen the strategic ties that bind Japan and the Philippines.

President TANAKA's trip marks his 5th visit to the Philippines as JICA President; his previous stops were during his first tenure as JICA President from 2012 to 2015.

For this year's visit, President TANAKA visited Cotabato City and nearby communities for his third opportunity. He was also given the special honor to be the first foreign official to speak at the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) Parliament. Moreover, the BTA Parliament exceptionally adopted two resolutions commending and recognizing JICA and President TANAKA for their support and contribution to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

"For me, the peace and development in Mindanao is very special. I am truly happy and proud to work with all of you for the attainment of this purpose in the region, which is also essential for the prosperity of the entire Philippines," said President TANAKA.

JICA is venturing into over 80 ongoing cooperation all over the Philippines, including projects that focus on infrastructure development, human/social development, disparity mitigation, disaster management, urban road congestion mitigation, and peace in Mindanao. The Philippines still has such various challenges for the sustainable, resilient and inclusive quality growth for all. (continued on page 2)

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One of JICA's most significant cooperation in the Philippines yet, the first phase of the Metro Manila Subway Project, is also in full swing with ongoing construction activities in several stations and tunnel drilling activities commenced in the early 2023 with the special praises of President Marcos. The subway project is touted to be a massive investment for the Philippine government who is working closely with JICA to ease congestion in the metropolis and to improve living standards, business environment and air quality, thus also contributing to the mitigation of climate change impacts. ▣



Tunnel Boring Machine used for drilling subway tunnels

Full story here:



EXPERTS FROM JAPAN LEND A HAND TO PH ON MINDORO OIL SPILL DISASTER



Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) sent an Expert Team in the Philippines last March to cooperate in mitigating the Oil Spill in Mindoro waters. The JDR Team consists of experts from Japan Coast Guard (JCG), the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, and JICA.

JDR Team Leader emphasized taking every measure to support PCG's efforts for marine protection and restoration of environments for the people in area affected.

PCG Deputy Commandant for Administration VADM Ronnie Gavan expressed PCG's appreciation, stating that Japan's assistance is the first that arrived from partner countries.

To facilitate faster oil clean-up drive in Mindoro by the Philippine government in cooperation with Japan experts team, Japan also provided support equipment.

The support items include oil blotters, heavy oil absorption masks, working gloves, rubber boots, and protective workwear that are expected to boost and protect all people who will participate in the clean-up. To this end, it is expected that marine environment and affected communities can return to safer conditions.

When the oil spill occurred, the Government of the Philippine government was quick to turn to Japan/JICA to request prompt assistance. This is a very clear testament of a strong relationship of trust. ▣

NEWS IN PHOTOS

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT: THE WAY TO GO FOR IMPROVED URBAN LIVING EXPERIENCE



In fully recognizing the need to promote urban and regional center development focusing on efficient public transportation networks, JICA signed a Record of Discussions with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) on March 21, 2023 to commence a technical cooperation project entitled "Project for Capacity Enhancement for Transit Oriented Development (TOD)".

The said Project aims to strengthen BCDA and other Philippine government agencies' understanding and capacities on TOD, and to implement coordination mechanisms for TOD promotion in the Philippines. This TOD concept will help maximize the benefits of railway development, where the transport network is enhanced, and urban functions are consolidated in the vicinity of the station areas. The Project will

formulate TOD conceptual plans in target corridors, as well as business plans for selected model areas and stations of the JICA-assisted Metro Manila Subway Project.

The Project will be implemented with the support of JICA Experts assigned to work closely with BCDA and other related government agencies in tandem with JICA's other cooperation of construction of modern railway systems in Metro Manila. ■

Scan QR code to read more:



CEBUANOS BENEFIT FROM 2-B JAPANESE YEN GRANT FROM JICA FOR SEPTAGE MANAGEMENT

On February 27, 2023, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in Manila, to provide grant aid of approximately 2-billion Japanese Yen for the "Project for the Septage Management of Metro Cebu Water District".

Metropolitan Cebu is leading the way in improving septage management using this grant. This is in line with the region's Mega Cebu Roadmap 2050 which targets to adequately treat wastewater by 50% in 2030 and 90% by 2050.

The Project for the Septage Management of Metro Cebu Water District will construct a septage treatment facility, procure vacuum trucks for septage collection, and operating system for sludge treatment. This system can treat approximately 430 cubic meters of septage per day (430,000 liters), ensuring that uncontaminated sewage water is discharged back to the natural environment.

The project will benefit the six local government units, namely Cebu, Compostela, Consolacion, Liloan, Mandaue and Talisay. ■

Read more about it here:



JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY THAT CLEANS UP DEBRIS FROM RIVERS LAUNCHED IN LAS PIÑAS

A pilot project from JICA introduced a Japanese unique technology that can run on land and water and clean up rivers in Las Piñas City.

The technology is an amphibious dredging equipment developed by Japanese company Kochi Marutaka Corporation, and can be disassembled and carried to rivers or construction sites. Such technology can dredge and remove debris even in small rivers and drainage channels stably and efficiently. The equipment is particularly useful in times of disasters specifically against flooding since it can also clear up garbage that accumulates in waterways.



The Japanese company has partnered with JICA, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and Las Piñas City Government to launch the technology in the Philippines and test it at the local government level. This was done through the JICA Private Sector Scheme where Japanese technologies are introduced to partner countries like the Philippines through Japanese Private Sector. ■



[FULL STORY HERE](#)

NEW GROUND RECEIVING STATION USING SPACE TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST PH WEATHER FORECASTING



Extreme weather events recently intensified due to climate change prodded the Philippine government to invest in technology to elevate weather forecasting capability using satellite data.

JICA and the Department of Science and Technology - Advanced Science Technology Institute (DOST-ASTI), in partnership with Japan's Hokkaido University, unveiled on March 10, 2023, the Iloilo Ground Receiving Station (GRS) that can receive satellite images for the development of short-term weather forecasting system.

The establishment of this facility is part of a joint research project between DOST-ASTI and Hokkaido University, entitled "Development of Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines" locally known as "Understanding Lightning and Thunderstorms for Extreme Weather and Information Sharing (ULAT)", Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS). ULAT project aims to provide short-term forecasting system using lightning and extreme weather events as observation data in the country. ■

Scan to
read
more
about it:



A BOOST TO AGRI USING WASTE-TO-FERTILIZER TECH BY JAPANESE COMPANY



Legazpi City offers fresh hope to local sustainable farming by tapping a Japanese company's waste-to-fertilizer technology.

To increase public interest in this innovation, Legazpi City, OKADA Manufactory Co. Ltd., and JICA concluded an international conference on organic solid waste management introducing said technology to stakeholders in the agriculture sector.

The technology is being introduced under the JICA Partnership with the Private Sector – Sustainable Development Goals Business Supporting Survey where Japanese companies share ideas and technology to solve social problems. Japanese company Okada Manufactory Co. Ltd. piloted the survey in Legazpi City since 2018.

Legazpi City spends millions just to manage wastes in landfills. But, through the waste-to-fertilizer technology of Okada Manufactory Co. Ltd., the city processes organic wastes using Okada's rotary composting facility and transforms them to fertilizers that farmers can use.

The facility can increase waste processing to as much as 20 times from its processing rate years prior.

"I am proud to say that the City Government of Legazpi has sustainably addressed this problem by having this project of putting up the composting facility in Barangay Banquerohan which is considered first in Bicol region, if not in the country," said Legazpi City Mayor Carmen Geraldine Rosal. ▣

YOUNG FILIPINO LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE UNDERGO TRAINING IN JAPAN TO INNOVATE ELDERLY CARE IN THE PHILIPPINES



JICA has concluded its training program for young Filipino professionals from the health sector to boost human resource development in the Philippines in social welfare and nursing care for the elderly.

The "Young Leaders" (YL) training under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) sent 12 young professionals to develop their technical knowledge and skills through cooperative programs that discuss the sectoral foundations of Japanese society. They visited the local

governments of Niseko and Toya towns, Sapporo Medical University, as well as HARELU Miyanomori Elderly Housing, both in Hokkaido, Japan. They learned about Japan's latest technologies and practices that are catered to support the country's elderly population.

JICA recognizes that the COVID-19 added pressure to Filipino health workers and that the study-visit in Japan offered the Filipino participants an opportunity to rethink ways to improve their work. They are expected to be the "frontliners" who will contribute to formulating strategies for the improvement of the Philippines' social welfare sector for the elderly through their respective designations. This will benefit the Philippines as it transitions toward an ageing society by 2030 to 2035.

▣

To find out more about the JICA KCCP, scan this QR code:



"THE COURSE WAS WELL-DESIGNED, THE TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES WERE RELEVANT AND INFORMATIVE, AND EXPERIENCING JAPAN'S CULTURE WAS A FULFILLED DREAM. MY LEARNINGS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS THAT AIM TO IMPROVE THE SOCIAL WELFARE FOR THE FILIPINO ELDERLY,"

ANGELY GARCIA
PARTICIPANT FROM UP MANILA, INSTITUTE ON AGING, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

MAYOYAO-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE: SYMBOLIC GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP



Through a Resolution passed by the local government of Mayo-yao, JICA Philippines Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema was declared the 'son of Mayo-yao' while Allimit Natum Bridge was also named 'Mayo-yao-Japan Friendship Bridge' through a Municipal Ordinance. This underscores the partnership of all stakeholders, including JICA in providing farmers in Mayo-yao faster and reliable access in transporting their products to other markets, and ensuring safety of residents when going to schools and hospitals. The new bridge also has significant impact in ensuring an integrated foundation for forest management, beside enhancing strong bonds between two countries. ▣

FEATURE

FARMERS IN DUMAGUETE TO RECEIVE DAIRY INNOVATION SUPPORT FROM JICA VOLUNTEER

A new JICA volunteer was boarded to share the latest dairy innovations with farmers from the Dairy Farmers of Dumaguete Cooperative (DFADCO).

KUDO Shohei will be sharing his know-how and experiences with local dairy farmers in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental. He also supports to improve awareness on consuming fresh milk from healthy cows.

"The dairy industry is still new and developing in the Philippines especially in Negros Oriental. The industry only started 15 years ago, thus there is a need to improve more on dairy production. With Mr. Kudo's assignment in our cooperative, we hope to develop better dairy management and innovate new technologies for dairy productions," said Mr. Joselito Sapuan, DFADCO Chief of Operations.



JOCV KUDO and DFADCO counterparts.

According to Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development, the dairy industry is important to development in the Philippines because it helps address food security and provides livelihood benefits for many Filipinos.

"On an average, DFADCO can collect 1,600 liters of milk monthly from farmer members. But they need to target more than 8,000 liters per month to at least break even the costs and profits," Sapuan added. ▣

"As I've been working with a dairy company in Japan, I wanted to meet other dairy farmers, especially in the Philippines. I am so thrilled to work with the DFADCO to see and observe their dairy farming activities, learn more about their work, as well as contribute my own knowledge and skills in dairy production," JOCV KUDO shared. "Furthermore, in the spirit of mutual respect and mutual understanding, I also hope to be a 'grassroots ambassador' and build a strong bridge between our two friendly countries," said Mr. KUDO.

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 JPY 1,536.1 billion for JFY 2021 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.

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