

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



News FROM Philippines

APRIL to JUNE 2023



Photo courtesy of DA.

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JICA-DA VEGETABLE VALUE CHAIN PROJECT EYED TO CURB RISING FOOD PRICES AND UNSTABLE FOOD SUPPLY

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) recently conducted its first Joint Coordinating Committee meeting and kicked-off its implementation phase for developing vegetable value chain models to revolutionize the Philippine agriculture sector.

The JICA-DA Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines (MV2C) aims to fast track the development of the vegetable value chain models to transform and address the challenges faced by the agriculture sector such as rising food prices and unstable food supply in the Philippines, among others.

Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., calling the rising food prices as 'emergency situation,' stressed the importance of a robust agriculture sector among his various priorities.

The MV2C is aligned with the Philippine Vegetable Industry Roadmap 2021-2025. The latter involves more stakeholders in the agriculture value chain and tackles approaches to level up the vegetable sector and achieve food security and better quality of life. The project is expected to serve as an input to realize the strategies of the said roadmap by piloting activities in Benguet, Quezon, and Metro Manila.

Consequently, JICA further highlights that a market-oriented approach in agriculture will also be essential in addressing income generation, job creation, and disparity mitigation among others. ▣

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JICA-ASSISTED MRT 3 REHAB AND MAINTENANCE IN FULL SWING

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) extended the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT 3) Rehabilitation and Maintenance Agreement with Sumitomo Corporation and Consulting Services until July 2025 as move to boost quality infrastructure in the Philippines inspired by Japan's railway expertise.

Sumitomo will continue delivering railway line maintenance and rehabilitation through a joint venture led by Oriental Consultants Global and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries. These contracts are funded by the second Loan Agreement signed

on May 26, 2023 between JICA and the Department of Finance (DOF) for the second phase of the MRT 3 Rehabilitation Project amounting to JPY 17.39 billion (about PhP 7 billion).

The first phase of MRT 3 rehabilitation was a success adopting Japanese Quality Infrastructure management, deepened by collaboration with Filipino engineers, technicians, and maintenance personnel. The trains can now run at a maximum speed of 60 kilometers per hour, and train headway has improved from 10 minutes to 4 minutes only. These changes, together with a reduction in service interruptions, will continue to make MRT 3 safer, more reliable, and more convenient for riders under the extension agreement.

FULL STORY
HERE:



The contract extension for rehabilitation and maintenance aims to improve the safety and service level of MRT 3, consequently alleviating severe traffic congestion and mitigating air pollution and climate change in Metro Manila. It also aims to ensure seamless connectivity with other railway lines at the Unified Grand Central Station, which includes connectivity not only with other railways such as LRT 1, MRT 7, and Metro Manila Subway, but also with buses, jeepneys, and taxis as a representation of Transit Oriented Development (TOD). ▣



JICA-DPWH FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT AS BOOST TO CLIMATE RESILIENCY



Photo courtesy of DPWH.

Cagayan de Oro (CDO) local government thanked JICA for a flood risk management project in the Cagayan de Oro River Basin inaugurated on 26 May 2023 in Barangay Puntod, Cagayan De Oro City. The executing agency of the Project is the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

The newly constructed dikes and floodwalls help limit the increasing flood waters and prevent river overflow, specifically, the floodwalls were constructed through sand compaction piling (SCP) method, which mitigated noise and vibration during the construction works, and protects against liquefaction in case of earthquake. These structures make floodplains and low-lying areas less vulnerable to floods, especially during the wet season.

For the CDO project, other soft measures include information campaign and publicity (e.g., public consultation). Meanwhile flood forecasting and warning system and land use plan are developed in collaboration with the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and CDO City, respectively, and will also include forest management and mangrove establishment in the future. ▣

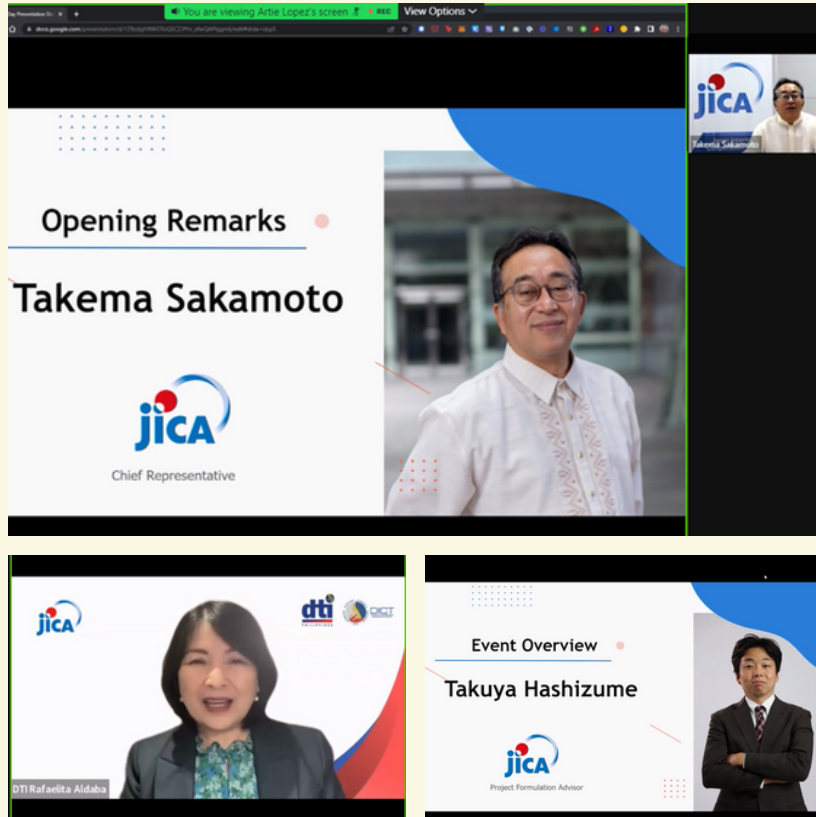
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Talk of the Town



JICA BUSINESS MATCHING EVENT SPARKS INTEREST FROM APPROXIMATELY 800 PHILIPPINE PARTICIPANTS, STIRS UP FURTHER COLLABORATION BETWEEN PHILIPPINES AND JAPAN



Spearheaded by JICA and TechShake, the Online Business Matching Event (Demo Day) aimed to accelerate public-private partnerships (PPP) between Japanese companies and Filipino counterparts. The event, which was supported by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), attracted 800 attendees from various sectors, focusing on innovation for SDGs.

In the Demo Day, ten Japanese companies presented their unique and innovative technology in the field of disaster risk management, environment, and agriculture. This allowed Philippine government agencies, private companies, and other organizations to connect and network with potential partners in Japan. Japanese companies who presented their innovations are: Spectee, Inc., (Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to address disasters); Daisho Co. Ltd, (slope protection technology that prevents landslide disasters); Aster Co. Ltd. (unique coating material for quake resiliency); OM MFG. Co. Ltd. (unique wastewater treatment system); Kanazawa Engineering Systems, Inc. (recycling technology of waste cooking

oil to the fuel); Hinode Sangyo Co. Ltd., (wastewater treatment system utilizing biological method); FujiClean Co. Ltd. (decentralized wastewater treatment system with biofilm); Daikyo Giken-Kogyo Co. Ltd., (insect trap sheet that farmers can use instead of pesticides); King Coal, Ltd. (products for addressing new Panama diseases in banana plantations); and MKP Inc. and Berg Earth Co., Ltd. (cocopeat technology that hydrates crops).

JICA has introduced the PPP promotion program in its activities to address the Philippines' achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and job creation. ■



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NEWS IN PHOTOS

JICA-SUPPORTED BRIDGE IN NUEVA ECIJA BRINGS BENEFITS TO UPLAND FARMERS AND MARKETS



The completed DENR-JICA FMP hanging bridge in Nueva Ecija.
Photo courtesy of DENR

As a move to support upland farmers reach new markets, a hanging bridge with pathway in Barangay Burgos, Municipality of Carranglan, Nueva Ecija was inaugurated on May 11th under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and JICA cooperation, Forestland Management Project (FMP).

The newly inaugurated hanging bridge further provides access to FMP site spanning 266 hectares in the Barat watershed located in Carranglan. Prior to the project, farmers in Carranglan had difficult time crossing the river to get their produce to the market. They had to either walk across the river, ride on motorcycles, or use another route over a wooden bridge that was 3 km away. The safety of the farmers was jeopardized by crossing the river, especially during the typhoon season.

Other than Nueva Ecija, FMP project sites include Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, and Iloilo. JICA and DENR have been establishing tree and agroforestry plantations to increase national forest cover, building bridges, pathways, farm to market roads, irrigation systems, and developing enterprises in those areas.

The FMP infrastructure forms part of a comprehensive strategy to protect river basins (Upper Magat, Cagayan, Pampanga, Jalauro) through community-based management approach. As they become stewards of natural forest resources, they do not only secure their livelihood, but they also help conserve the environment. ▣

Read more
about it here:



A RABIES-FREE PHILIPPINES

JICA, the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) recently conducted the 5th Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting for the project 'Establishment of One Health Prevention and Treatment Network Model for Rabies Elimination in the Philippines' (JAPOHR), which introduces innovative rabies detection techniques to more than 50 local government units (LGUs).

Since the project's inception in 2018, Japanese and Filipino health experts have developed a rapid rabies test kit, which has been deployed in various laboratories nationwide. Over a hundred Filipino and Japanese health personnel were also trained and approximately JPY 84-million worth of equipment was provided to the Philippines through the project. It has also enhanced the diagnostic and surveillance capacities of institutions such as Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), San Lazaro Hospital (SLH), DA-BAI, and several Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories in the Philippines. ▣



Read the
full story here:





L-R: JICA Philippines Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema, Embassy of Japan Minister NIHEI Daisuke, Kuwanosato President Han Seong Min, District Representative Carmelo Lazatin II, PSAU President Anita David, and Magalang Mayor Maria Lourdes Lacson.

PAMPANGA FARMERS LEARN MULBERRY TEA PRODUCTION FROM JAPANESE FIRM

Japanese company Kuwanosato, Inc. is supporting farmers in Pampanga rise above poverty by introducing the first-ever mulberry tea production technology in the Philippines through JICA's Public-Private Partnership Promotion program.

The mulberry tea making equipment from Japan was originally installed in early 2020. But, hampered by the Covid-19 restrictions, it was inaugurated only this week at the PSAU's mulberry tea factory. The factory can process up to 500kg of raw leaves in 8 hours, producing around 100kg of mulberry tea.



At present, the project is piloting mulberry cultivation techniques with three (3) model farms in Pampanga, who supply the mulberry leaves to be processed into tea in the facility in PSAU. Moving forward, Kuwanosato and PSAU hopes to sustainably commercialize mulberry tea products from Pampanga that will cater both to local and export demands, including Japan. ▣

FULL STORY HERE:



LEARNING FROM JAPAN'S EDUCATION SYSTEM TO FILL PH PANDEMIC LEARNING GAP IN THE NEW NORMAL



The 13 YL trainees during their opening ceremony at JICA Chugoku.

“

This is a unique opportunity for us to broaden our horizons, exchange ideas with educators from different backgrounds, and explore innovative teaching methodologies. Together, we will enhance our knowledge and skills, and ultimately, bring back valuable insights to enrich our classrooms and inspire our students.

Ms. Shannelle Gay Paracha,
Master Teacher II, M'Lang
National High School in Cotabato

”

The Covid-19 pandemic has widened the inequalities in learning in many countries, including the Philippines.

JICA is stepping in to support in filling this gap by sending a group of teachers from different regions in the Philippines to Japan this July. The Primary/Secondary Education course of JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) is sharing Japan's educational system and development experience with its most recent batch of trainees, including visits to Hiroshima University and conduct of workshops in person in Hiroshima, Japan.

This is the 2nd batch of Filipino trainees under the Young Leaders (YL) program that JICA sent to Japan after two years of strict travel restrictions worldwide.

JICA VOLUNTEERS WORK WITH FILIPINO TEACHERS TO UPGRADE PH TECH-VOC EDUCATION



Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) currently dispatched in the country work together with Filipino teachers to meet the global standards in technical-vocational education by introducing new skills and ways of doing things.

At Cavite State University (CvSU)-Rosario Campus, JOCV SEKIGUCHI Takuya introduced programming technology such as 'micro:bit' and 'micro: maqueen' allowing students to incorporate their knowledge in coding, programming, and robotics in discovering innovative solutions that answer to the needs of their community.



While, at the Rizal Experimental Station and Pilot School for Cottage Industries (RESPSCI) in Pasig City, JOCV MIYAGAMA Yoshimi introduced Japanese recipes in their culinary courses. Together with the RESPSCI teachers, she is developing a cooking booklet that features Japanese-Filipino fusion dishes.

JICA volunteers are known for their innovative projects at the grassroots level. In 2016, they were conferred the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel prize. ▣

A BOOST TO PUBLIC SERVICE IN BANGSAMORO



The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in partnership with Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) has completed its technical assistance to professionalize delivery of frontline services and strengthen the accountability in public service in the Bangsamoro.

The cooperation 'Training and Technical Assistance on the Formulation and Enhancement of the Citizen's Charter of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)' particularly trained BARMM officials on complying with Republic

Act No. 11032 or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007. Likewise, the project standardized service delivery standards of various BARMM ministries and agencies. Overall, more than a hundred participants attended the training sessions.

Ms. Helen A. Piol, Senior Education Program Specialist from Ministry of Basic Higher & Technical Education (MBHTE), shared that "implementation and sustainability does not rely on the leaders that we have, but on each individual's shoulder." She added that the training and technical assistance will be a guide to have an effective standardized process flow in accordance with the needs of their clients. It will be carried on for the consumption of their stakeholders awaiting effective services to be delivered to them.

With this assistance, line ministries and agencies were able to draft its Citizen Charter. As a result of this intervention, the BARMM Government has issued Memorandum Circular No. 0066 series of 2023 entitled "Implementation and Sustainability of Citizen's Charter and Submission of Client Satisfaction Measurement Report", which instructs all BARMM offices to finalize and formalize the adoption of the Citizen's Charter and formalize through an Administrative/ Executive Order. ▣



JICA SPACE TECH SCHOLAR WINS AWARD

FEATURE

A Filipino scholar of JICA won an award for a study on space-based solar satellite at the 34th International Symposium on Space Technology and Science (ISTS) on June 9, 2023 in Kyushu, Japan.

Charleston Dale Ambatali, the first Filipino space technology scholar under JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) was awarded for his study on what might be the future of renewable energy. His research "Analysis of the Microwave Wireless Power Transfer Efficiency of a Furoshiki Space Solar Power Station in Geostationary Orbit" is part of his dissertation for his doctorate degree in aeronautics and astronautics at The University of Tokyo Graduate School of Engineering under JICA scholarship.



Charleston Dale Ambatali (Right).
Photo courtesy of the 34th ISTS Organizing Committee.

“Space-based Solar Power Satellites are envisioned as an alternative renewable energy source. It provides electricity with minimal influence from weather. My research focuses on the way to send that power from space to the ground through wireless power transfer. There's a technology that does that for charging our phones, but we are studying to extend that to much longer distances.”

The JICA KCCP program gave me a great opportunity to meet and connect with experts from Japan including JAXA and Japanese industry. It also allows me to meet other scholars that can lead to cooperation among developing countries. Together, we can do exciting projects that would address similar problems we face.”

Charleston Dale Ambatali

Scholar, JICA-Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
Network for Utilization of Space Technology



The ISTS is a premier event in Japan where research and development in space science and technology are being advanced. ▣

Read the full
story here:



JICA SENDS MINDANAO STUDENT WINNERS OF VLOG CONTEST TO JAPAN



Shanne and Francine (leftmost and rightmost) with JICA scholars studying in Japan.



Francine and Shane (both in black) after a lecture at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

A video blog on peace and solidarity in Marawi won two students from Mindanao a trip to Japan.

The video blog contest under the JICA was held in February 2020, but the winners' supposed trip to Japan was halted by the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. Now, that travel is allowed once again in many countries, the two students – Shannefamel Almazan and Prince Lloyd Besorio finally went to Japan this June as their prize for their entry.

The contest, sponsored by JICA, attracted video blog entries from Filipino students whose content focused on their opinion on international cooperation, and Philippines-Japan friendship.

Almazan and Besorio visited the JICA headquarters in Tokyo, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and went sightseeing in Osaka. They also met Filipino scholars under

the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program who were completing their postgraduate degrees at the University of Tokyo.

JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema said, "The Philippines has one of the youngest populations in Asia, and JICA believes that many young Filipinos are good storytellers who can inspire more people to appreciate the relations between Philippines and Japan."

JICA took particular interest in the entry of the two students from Mindanao since JICA has ongoing cooperation for the construction and rehabilitation of road infrastructure in Marawi, and other conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. ▣

Scan this QR code
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winning video:



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

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