

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



News FROM Philippines

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023



JICA AND PH CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION COLLABORATE TOWARD SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

JICA and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) announced that a study on possible new areas of cooperation on climate change is in the works.

The study aligns with the Philippine Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goals in the global climate change agenda. The Philippines has conveyed its NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which pursues to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by as much as 75% and includes their adaptation measures and efforts, among others.

Japan has already committed to collaborating with ASEAN countries, including the Philippines, to achieve a decarbonized and resilient society under the ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0.

The study or the data collection survey will run until March 2024. JICA has been working with other stakeholders, too, which include the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Agriculture (DA), among others. Furthermore, it studies issues related to implementing the Paris Agreement and on how to further promote private sector engagement in the said co-benefit approach.

JICA's priority areas on climate change include support for climate policy and institutional development, human resource development through training and scholarship programs, climate resilient infrastructure development, implementation of adaptation measures, and environment conservation and sustainable management. ▣

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

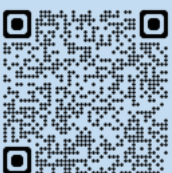
Aiming for vaccines to reach everybody, everywhere:
JICA turns over equipment for cold chain and logistics to DOH

Arterial Road Bypass additional lanes in Bulacan opens; to boost investments in Philippines

JICA and GSIS launch partnership for better insurance coverage against disasters in PH

Revitalizing local communities and seeding change in the Bangsamoro

Two young Filipinos make their mark in Japanese universities



AIMING FOR VACCINES TO REACH EVERYBODY, EVERYWHERE: JICA TURNS OVER EQUIPMENT FOR COLD CHAIN AND LOGISTICS TO DOH



The Covid-19 pandemic showed that governments must act fast and sure to curb social and economic losses. Delays in vaccine rollouts, for example, may lead to wider spread and serious loss of life.

But the pandemic also taught many countries that they can all choose to prevent such scenario.

JICA officially turned over 8 refrigerated vans, 17 delivery vans, 17 pickup trucks, 18 wing van trucks, 500 biothermal packaging systems and 140 ice pack freezers, amounting approximately JPY 700 million which is equivalent to approximately PHP 260 million, to the Department of Health (DOH) as part of its Programme for Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support. This cooperation aims to strengthen the Philippines' cold chain management and logistics for efficient vaccination system in cases of outbreaks.

The refrigerated vans, delivery vans, pickup trucks, wing van trucks, biothermal packaging systems and ice pack freezers from JICA will be deployed in various health facilities of DOH nationwide.

JICA has supported the Philippines earlier on in the Covid-19 pandemic by providing various useful equipment. The first batch of cold chain equipment amounting to JPY 200 million was turned over to DOH last November 2022. The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and San Lazaro Hospital received JPY 125 million worth of medical equipment and supplies from JICA. JICA likewise extended JPY 80 billion Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan and JPY 50 billion Post-Disaster Standby Loan. ■

Scan this QR code to read the full story:



TALK OF THE TOWN

ARTERIAL ROAD BYPASS ADDITIONAL LANES IN BULACAN OPENS TO BOOST INVESTMENTS IN PHILIPPINES



JICA witnessed the opening of Contract Package (CP) 4 of the Arterial Road Bypass Project (ARBP) Phase III in Bulacan citing its potential to attract investors and create jobs in Central Luzon.

The ARBP, a 24-km road in Bulacan province, aims to reduce traffic congestion in the municipalities of Plaridel, Pulilan, and Baliuag in Bulacan. It connects the North Luzon Expressway to the Pan-Philippine Highway, also known as the Philippines-Japan Friendship Highway. The project aims to reduce travel time between Balagtas and San Rafael from about 1 hour to just 24 minutes. Phases I and II, completed with JICA's support in 2012 and 2018, have a 2-lane bypass road. Phase III, set to be completed in March 2024, will expand the bypass road to 4 lanes.

"With the enhanced road capacity and the substantially shortened travel time, this project will revolutionize not only the movement of people, but also of agricultural products and services, thereby boosting the productivity of the farming industry in Bulacan," said President Marcos, Jr.

"Factories and other business establishments along the road can already be seen, and these will create more jobs," SAKAMOTO said.

The ARBP in Bulacan, amounting to JPY 20,213 million, is among JICA's various road and bridge infrastructure cooperation in the Philippines. Other infrastructure projects supported by JICA include the Central Luzon Expressway, Davao City Bypass, 4th Cebu Mactan Bridge and Coastal Road, and Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao, among others.

JICA also added that there are ongoing discussions for future infrastructure projects such as: Dalton Pass East Alignment Road in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya, the 2nd San Juanico Bridge in Leyte and Samar, and Central Mindanao High Standard Highway. ▣



Read more
about this
story:



JICA AND NEDA SIGN A SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT FILIPINO LEADERS TO STUDY IN JAPAN

JICA and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) signed the Grant Agreement for the Project for Human Resources Development Scholarship, also known as the JDS Project. In the 22nd year of JDS Project's implementation in the country, this JPY 313-million scholarship grant continues to bolster Filipino public servants' policymaking capabilities by funding their two-year Master's degree education in premier Japanese universities while fostering them to be "Ambassadors of Goodwill" who will also contribute to the deepening friendship between the Philippines and Japan.



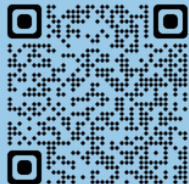
The partner universities for Batch 22 are all 1st class universities in Japan such as Hitotsubashi University, International University of Japan, Kobe University, Meiji University, Nagoya University, Rikkyo University, University of Tsukuba, and Yokohama National University.

JICA revealed that applications to the 20 scholarship seats for the 2024 fall admissions will soon open. Interested applicants may check the JDS website for last year's procedures to get a head start in preparing their documents and requirements.

The JDS Project's priority study areas include Public Administration, Finance and Monetary Administration, Trade and Industry Investment and Promotion, Infrastructure Improvement and Development, Water Resource Management, Environmental Management, as well as Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, among others.

The Project has awarded scholarships to over 400 Filipinos across 21 batches coming from agencies such as NEDA, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), and other government agencies. ▣

For more information about the scholarship, please scan this QR code:



FULL STORY HERE:



NEWS IN PHOTOS

JAPANESE COMPANY DAISHO INTRODUCES ITS UNIQUE SLOPE PROTECTION TECH TO MITIGATE LANDSLIDES IN MOUNTAIN AREAS IN PH UNDER JICA'S PPP PROMOTION SUPPORT

Climate change causes devastating floods and landslides, causing widespread damage to infrastructure and economies. Mountainous areas in the Philippines, particularly the Cordillera Administrative Region, are particularly vulnerable to these hazards. The Cordillera Regional Development Plan 2017-2022 highlights that a significant portion of the region is steep and susceptible to landslides, mass movement, and erosion.

To help address this, a Japanese slope protection technology without need to cut trees is being introduced in the Philippines via a partnership between JICA and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). Japanese company Daisho Co., Ltd. introduces said technology through a seminar with around 400 on-site and online attendees as part of JICA's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector. This type of cooperation allows for Japanese companies to launch innovations and technology with JICA partner countries, such as the Philippines, to address significant development challenges.

Daisho's unique technology uses a unit-net method to cover and reinforce mountain slopes without cutting trees, reducing construction duration by 20%. This efficient method eliminates temporary scaffolding and requires no temporary scaffolding. It also offers an environmentally friendly solution to prevent landslides in Philippine mountainous areas, where deforestation can increase landslide disaster risks. ■



Read the full story here:



JICA AND GSIS LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP FOR BETTER INSURANCE COVERAGE AGAINST DISASTERS IN PH

JICA and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) start working in tandem to improve public insurance in the Philippines as a vital move to boost the country's financial resilience against disasters. JICA signed the Records of Discussion for "the Project for Strengthening Financial Resilience of Public Assets to Natural Disasters by Improvement of Public Insurance" with the GSIS.

It is said that about USD 3.5 Billion in asset losses are expected to be incurred by the Philippines each year due to typhoons and earthquakes according to a World Bank report. Further, the Philippines ranks first among 193 countries in the 2023 World Risk Report, signifying the highest disaster risk globally. It received a score of 46.82 out of 100, marked as "very high" ratings across indicators such as exposure, vulnerability, susceptibility, lack of coping capacities, and lack of adaptive capacities.



The new Technical Cooperation is part of JICA's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Philippines that combines sharing Japanese expertise with building resilient infrastructure. It will pilot several public assets and come up with a prototype system to appropriately calculate risk-based insurance premium for a sound financial management. It can be also expected to promote further prior investment in disaster risk reduction.

GSIS President Jose Arnulfo Veloso said, "This capacity-building project will be a big boost to GSIS. For one, this project will enhance our Insurance Group's capability to calculate 'replacement cost' and help us come up with the correct insurance premium." ■

FULL STORY HERE



METROPOLITAN DAVAO AIMS TO BE A MODEL RESILIENT, INCLUSIVE, AND SUSTAINABLE REGION THROUGH AN URBAN MASTER PLAN PROJECT WITH JICA

JICA and the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) are eyeing to promote Metropolitan Davao's comprehensive and sustainable development through a master plan that balances urban development, environment conservation, living standard, and economic growth.

The master plan, which covers the period 2025 to 2045, will allow "Metro Davao" to identify development priorities such as agri-ecotourism, urban greening, public-private partnership, and infrastructure development, among others.



To officially commence the project, JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema and NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan signed a Record of Discussions (R/D) in Davao City on November 10th in the presence of Her Excellency Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte and His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko, along with various local chief executives and representatives from local government units (LGUs) and Regional Development Council (RDC) members of Metro Davao.

The said cooperation will be implemented to support the objectives of the Metropolitan Davao Development Authority (MDDA), created by virtue of Republic Act No. 11708 or the "MDDA Act". The law established the special development and administrative region to be known as Metropolitan Davao, which consists of six cities and nine municipalities, namely: Davao City, the Cities of Panabo, Tagum, and the Island Garden City of Samal (IGaCoS) in Davao del Norte; the City of Digos in Davao del Sur; the City of Mati in Davao Oriental; and the Municipalities of Sta. Cruz, Hagonoy, Padada, Malalag, and Sulop in Davao del Sur, Carmen in Davao del Norte, Maco in Davao de Oro, and Malita and Sta. Maria in Davao Occidental.

The signing of this R/D took place shortly after the successful visit of Japanese Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio the previous week, where he stated to jointly create a new era of sustainable and prosperous development based on key concepts such as "Heart-to-Heart Ties" and "Golden Friendship, Golden Opportunities." In this regard, SAKAMOTO said "Our project is truly a symbol of enormous opportunity and our heart-to-heart friendship." ■

Read the full
story in this
QR code:



JICA PARTNER ACTION, INC. EARNS ACCOLADE FOR CHAMPIONING WELFARE OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Together with JICA, Japanese non-profit group ACTION (A Child's Trust is Ours to Nurture), Inc. has enabled many vulnerable children to live life to the fullest. Their work recently earned recognition at the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) event as Gawad Makabata – Civil Society Organization (CSO) category.

The award, according to ACTION, is "testament to ACTION's commitment to take action for children."

JICA and ACTION are partners since 2012, with JICA giving technical assistance on raising the house parenting standards in residential care facilities for children, and lately for life skills development and rehabilitation for children in conflict with the law. ■



ACTION's Life Skills Intervention about self-care in Navotas City.



Read more
about JICA's
assistance
schemes for
NGOs here:



REVITALIZING LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND SEEDING CHANGE IN THE BANGSAMORO

Replicating and applying what they have learned in the food value chain development in the Kochi, Prefecture in Japan by revitalizing local communities back in their homeland, Bangsamoro, and are the seeding change of their region through their ardent passion to turn local industries into a reliable source of livelihood for many people. Take this from the recent participants in a JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program on promotion of food value chain for community-based agribusiness.

Together with 21 other participants from Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) and Ministry of Trade, Investments and Tourism (MTIT) in the Bangsamoro visited Japan for said training. At the Kochi Prefecture, these two officials studied the Sixth Industrialization concept. This concept evolved in Japan to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor by revitalizing rural economy and increasing agriculture's value added. By analyzing the various segments of the value chain from input supply, production, processing, marketing and distribution and to the final sale, government officials or the enablers need to focus its interventions on various gaps and weaknesses of the value chain segments. Meanwhile, farmers have to



Tiplahan (left), Zaid (right) during their graduation ceremony.

analyze which segments they can earn greater income and profits.

On their graduation, Chief Trade Industry Development Specialist of MTIT Timhar Tiplahan shared his plan in further developing the local mango production and juice processing (locally known as *mampallam*) as a viable agricultural produce due to its abundance in their province. "Learning in the Food Value Chain Training in Japan especially on the Sixth Industrialization is essential in uplifting the economic status of the rural areas and increasing income of the farmers. Through this, food sustainability is viable and can eliminate the gap of misinformation between the producers/farmers and the consumers," said Tiplahan.

On the other hand, Chief Agriculturist of

MAFAR Datu Hamsur J. Zaid centered his action plan on improving the organic rice value chain in the Bangsamoro. "On improving the food value chain development of agriculture and fishery products, it is not a job or mandate of one entity alone. It requires stronger partnerships with the small holder farmers and fisherfolk and private sector participation, local government units, academe, research institutions and economic ministries, offices and agencies of the government. Government agencies must focus on the issues and concerns identified in the value chain segments to achieve greater income of farmers and fisherfolk," said Zaid. ■

FULL STORY HERE:



JICA, US PEACE CORPS, KOICA CONVERGE TO BOOST VOLUNTEERISM IN THE PHILIPPINES



They are driven by the difference they make in society. JICA, US Peace Corps, and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) gathered

in an event to share volunteer impact stories and challenges.

JICA Senior Representative TAKENAKA Narufumi hailed the event as an opportunity for international volunteer service organizations to share notes and lessons on volunteering in the Philippines. JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program is one of the first volunteers to come to the Philippines and lend technical assistance to key sectors like agriculture. ■



Learn more about JICA's JOCV program here:



SPOTLIGHT

Two young Filipinos make their mark in Japanese universities



Cayonte receives his diploma during their graduation ceremony.

Two Filipinos under a scholarship program of JICA graduated recently and made their mark as promising scholars in Japan's leading universities.

Dwane Darcy Cayonte, a Senior Science Research Specialist at the Department of Energy (DOE) and John Paul Almonte, a Senior Science Research Specialist at the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), were two of the recent Filipino graduates under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) that aims to develop Filipino human resources toward the sustainable and prosperous future of the Philippines, while also contributing to strengthen Japan-Philippines bilateral relations.

Cayonte completed his Master's in Public Policy at Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), specifically under JICA's KCCP Energy Policy Program while Almonte finished his Master's in Electrical and Space Systems Engineering at Kyushu Institute of Technology (Kyutech), under JICA's KCCP on Human Resource Development for Space Technology.

"I'd like to apply my knowledge from Japan in developing sustainable energy solutions and policies particularly in Philippines' off-grid areas," shares Cayonte. His paper "Economic Implications of Power System Reliability in Off-Grid Areas" cites Philippine examples to highlight need for improving electricity reliability in remote areas to equalize access to essential public services.



Cayonte, 3rd from the left, during one of their study visits in renewable energy facilities in Japan.

During his studies, Cayonte also visited various research institutes and facilities, including of renewable energy, which allowed him to witness the real-world application of Japan's modern energy technology and infrastructure. "The JICA scholarship gave me the opportunity to have the necessary tools, mindset, and connections to make further contributions to the Philippine energy sector."

On the other hand, JICA's first Filipino scholar in its space program, John Paul Almonte, also finished his scholarship in the area of space technology. His research focused on "Development of Modular Satellite Tracking System for Store and Forward Ground Sensor Terminals," which aims to allow a more stable communication with the satellite for remote data collection in various fields such as disaster risk reduction, agriculture, and telemedicine, among others.

Under the scholarship, he had immersion activities with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the Japanese private sector. "The study experience did not only broaden my perspective in the technical aspects of space technology development, but more so, in learning from Japan's efforts to advance their space ecosystem." ▣

FULL
STORY
HERE



Almonte, holding his Kyutech diploma and JICA certificate, on his graduation ceremony.



Almonte (top left most) and his batchmates in the Space Engineering International Course of Kyutech.

JICA PHILIPPINES PRESS RELEASES (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023)

2023.10.05	JICA and PH Climate Change Commission collaborate toward sustainable future
2023.10.09	Arterial Road Bypass additional lanes in Bulacan opens; to boost investments in Philippines
2023.10.12	"Good for people, economy, and planet": JICA and Japanese renewable energy firm Advantec team up with PEZA
2023.10.23	Aiming for vaccines to reach everybody, everywhere: JICA turns over equipment for cold chain and logistics to DOH
2023.10.27	JICA and NEDA sign a scholarship agreement to support Filipino leaders to study in Japan
2023.11.03	JICA reiterates support for PH shift to rail transport and railway capacity development
2023.11.09	JICA scholars from DOE and DENR to make impact in renewable energy and mining industries
2023.11.10	Metropolitan Davao aims to be a model resilient, inclusive, and sustainable region through an urban master plan project with JICA
2023.11.17	Two young Filipinos make their mark in Japanese universities
2023.11.22	JICA and GSIS launch partnership for better insurance coverage against disasters in PH
2023.11.24	Filipino young leaders harness Japanese DRRM expertise
2023.12.01	Japanese company Daisho introduces its unique slope protection tech to mitigate landslides in mountain areas in PH under JICA's PPP promotion support

2023.12.21

Boracay strives to become Philippine's environmentally modern island through JICA's Private Sector Partnership program

SPEECHES OF THE CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2023)

2023.10.03	Signing of Letter of Understanding (LOU) for the Data Collection Survey (DCS) on Climate Change Measures and Green Transformation with Climate Change Commission (CCC)
2023.10.09	Inauguration of the Arterial Road Bypass Project III (Contract Package 4)
2023.10.12	Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Advantec Philippines Incorporated and PEZA
2023.10.23	Turnover Ceremony for Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support
2023.11.10	Signing Ceremony for the Comprehensive and Sustainable Urban Development Master Plan for Metropolitan Davao (CSUDMP) Record of Discussions
2023.11.20	Seminar on Development and Operation of Large-Scale or Basin-Wide Flood Control and IWRM Facilities
2023.11.22	Signing Ceremony of Project for Strengthening Financial Resilience of Public Assets to Natural Disasters by Improvement of Public Insurance with GSIS
2023.11.25	120th Anniversary of Japanese Migration in the Philippines and 20th Anniversary of Philippine Nikkeijin Legal Support Center

SCAN TO
READ FULL
STORIES:



SCAN TO
READ FULL
SPEECHES:



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 2,745 billion for JFY 2022 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>

Philippines Office

40F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone: +632 8889-7119
Facsimile: +632 8889-6850

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

