



BUILD BACK BETTER

Annual Report 2021



Japan International Cooperation Agency
PHILIPPINE OFFICE



ABOUT JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY

WHO WE ARE

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an administrative agency of the Government of Japan that implements Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Established in 1974, JICA remains steadfast in supporting socioeconomic development through its ODA activities in 143 developing countries and regions in the world.

Armed with the mission of achieving human security and quality growth, JICA implements different cooperation anchored on its vision of "Leading the world with trust."

JICA, in support of its vision, embraces the following actions in its development cooperation: Commitment (committing to achieving JICA's mission and vision); "Gemba" (diving into the field and working with people); Strategy (thinking and acting strategically with broad and long-term perspectives); Co-Creation (bringing together diverse wisdom and resources); and Innovation (innovating to bring unprecedented impacts).

VISION

Leading the world with trust

MISSION

JICA, in accordance, with the Development Cooperation Charter, will work on human security and quality growth.

TYPES OF COOPERATION



TECHNICAL COOPERATION

People to People Cooperation: This supports human resource development of partner countries using the knowledge, experience, and technologies of Japan through trainings and dispatch of experts.



FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION

Lending/Investing of Funds under Concessional Terms: This refers to loans with generous lending conditions given for infrastructure and other initiatives that require large funding. It also includes Private Sector Investment Finance to support private sector activities in developing countries.



GRANTS

Infrastructure Development/Equipment Provision: This refers to funds without obligation for repayment for building facilities like schools, hospitals, wells, and roads, and providing equipment.



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Broad-based International Cooperation: This is cooperation with NGOs, local governments, universities, and other organizations. It includes dispatch of Japanese professionals to support development under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) and support to development education to deepen understanding of global issues.



EMERGENCY DISASTER RELIEF

Response to Natural and Other Disasters: JICA sends Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams as response to requests of governments. The JDR engages in rescue and treatment, provides emergency relief supplies, and assists in recovery.



RESEARCH

Co-Creating Practical Knowledge for Peace and Development: JICA works with partners on the conduct of quality research with impact on policies, peace, and development.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Private Sector Business for Socio-Economic Development: Japanese private companies introduce technologies and products with socio-economic impact. This also includes Private Sector Investment Finance and support programs for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

OUR WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

JICA's assistance pillars in the Philippines include the following:

Achieving sustainable economic growth through further promotion of investment

1. Improvement of traffic and transport network of the Greater Capital Region and major cities outside the GCR
2. Improvement of energy and water infrastructure
3. Securing maritime safety
4. Human resource development for industries

Overcoming vulnerability and stabilizing bases for human life and production activity

1. Improvement of hard and soft infrastructure related to natural disasters and environment
2. Development of safety nets including health care
3. Enhancement of agriculture productivity and processing and distribution of agricultural products

Peace and development in Mindanao

1. Reducing poverty through improvement of access to social services
2. Community development through improvement of infrastructure and industry promotion
3. Strengthening local governance

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Build Back Better



The trusted partnership between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Philippines goes back in the early 1960s at the time of Japan's economic resurgence and the Philippines' economic progress has gained footing. Over the decades, the bilateral cooperation of our nations has evolved to one of common interests and goals. The JICA Annual Report 2021 reflects the way forward in the relationship between JICA and Philippines.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, this Annual Report discusses how we are working with stakeholders from government and the private sector so we can emerge stronger as societies and as members of a global community. This includes our cooperation in areas promoting the rule of law, economic prosperity through quality infrastructure, and peace and stability in the region. We also highlighted several stories sharing Japan's experiences and knowhow with counterparts through innovations, knowledge co-creation, and participation of Japanese private sector, academe, and even young Japanese professionals in our Official Development Assistance (ODA).

JICA and the Philippines share a common goal of uplifting the lives of people. The Sustainable Development Goals 2021 Report said that global poverty has risen for the first time in 20 years because of COVID-19 and has pushed back some 119 to 124 million people into extreme poverty in 2020. In the Philippines, this reality is further complicated with natural disasters made more severe by climate change. This is a reminder for all of us that sustainable, inclusive development is a priority for every nation and we can all work together to catalyze it.

Looking to the future, JICA and the Philippines have common interests to build back better our societies and our future to one that is inclusive, connected, and sustainable. I am confident that with our close partnership, JICA and the Philippines will be able to keep up with the times, maintain our strong cooperation, and build a better future for our two countries and the region.

AZUKIZAWA Eigo
Chief Representative

Insights from JICA Senior Representatives

Meet the Senior Representatives of the JICA Philippine Office working behind the scenes to further strengthen the ties and the circle of trust between Japan and the Philippines through development cooperation. On this page, they share their insights on JICA's contribution to helping countries like the Philippines build back better in a world that continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and development challenges.



THE PANDEMIC has disrupted our activities including deployment of young Japanese professionals in the field and internal staff operations. We saw similar situations in organizations all over the world as the public health challenge evolves. Despite this, JICA has cautiously moved forward with some 60 development cooperation projects we have in the Philippines in 2021 by moving some of our activities online and encouraging our counterparts to participate actively. Thus, instead of being pushed back, let's keep feeling our way forward, and explore better ways to make growth and development more inclusive for many Filipinos.



HIROSAWA Jin

General Affairs Group

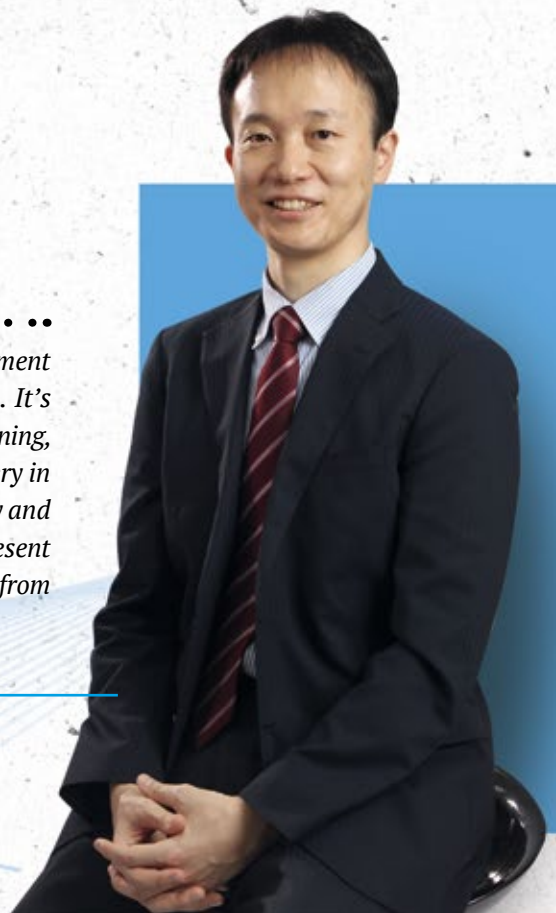


WHILE WE ALL TACKLE with the COVID-19, let's not lose sight of the development challenges that are faced by people and economies in the mid- to long-term. It's critical more than ever to invest in quality, sustainable infrastructure, urban planning, as well as institutional capacity building in view of the path of economic recovery in the with- and post-pandemic world. Through JICA's work, we continue to openly and constructively share Japan's knowhow and experience that we may turn the present challenges in both our countries into opportunities. Let's therefore keep learning from each other's innovations and contribute to the region's economic growth.

KURONUMA Kenji

Program Group 1:

Economic growth, Infrastructure, Urban and Regional Development, and Governance





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MY APPOINTMENT at the Philippine Office comes at a time when the Philippines is carving its path to a new normal. I therefore look forward to listening to the ideas and experiences of our counterparts on how we can implement JICA's activities and increase its impact to the needs of the times. Through JICA's support in disaster management and social development areas, I hope we can work out better ways to improve systems and institutional capability to benefit more people, especially the vulnerable sector.

YANAGIUCHI Masanari

Program Group 2:
Disaster Risk Reduction and Management,
Social Development

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COVID-19 brought far-reaching changes in the lives and livelihood of many people. With new health and security standards in place, JICA's peace building activities in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao (CAAM) are more challenged than ever. Despite this, JICA believes that our work in peace and development must continue to help people in conflict-affected areas tackle their future more decisively. Our capacity development work will continue to promote good governance and leadership for the future Bangsamoro government as well as strengthen the delivery of public services and develop communities in CAAM. Meanwhile, the pandemic also imposed sober challenges on the environment and energy sectors. JICA is committed to do our part in promoting sustainable environment and energy development through stronger international collaboration. This way, mutually beneficial economic opportunities may be unlocked to benefit more people and communities.

EBISAWA Yo

Program Group 3:
Environment and Energy,
Peace and Development in Mindanao



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JICA'S ACTIVITIES in the Philippines, specifically for agriculture and those that involve Japanese private sector, show us increasing opportunities to co-innovate and work together to create social impact. Despite the challenges that the pandemic imposes on supply chains all over the world, JICA hopes that our partnership will help create good jobs and attract new investments in areas common to our countries. Our new cooperation in agriculture that sets out a roadmap for the sector's value chain as well as our ongoing projects with Japanese private sector assure us that by working together, we can contribute to better quality of life of our people.

SHIMIZU Mikako

Program Group 2:
Agriculture and
Japanese Private Partnership





ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

The Future of Connectivity



PROJECT TITLE:
Project for Master Plan on High Standard Highway Network Development Phase II



PERIOD:
2019-2021



The Philippines' next high standard highway network promises to cut commuting time and increase economic activities through a 9,000-kilometer high standard highway connecting all of the country's three islands – Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

In support to the National Transport Policy adopted by the Philippine Government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) assisted the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the implementation of Project for Master Plan on High Standard Highway Network Development (Phase 2) which was completed in July 2021. The Master Plan provides a modern backbone transport network for unhampered movement of people and goods, and improvement of delivery of social services.

Study shows that among the 5 major ASEAN countries, the Philippines has the lowest length of expressways at 406 kilometers as compared to Vietnam with 815 kilometers despite the latter having a smaller GDP per capita. Moreover, the cost of transporting goods in the Philippines by roads

is at US cent 9.7 per ton per kilometer, the second highest in ASEAN. In addition, the worsening traffic in urban areas like Metro Manila contributes further to increasing transport costs by 1.03% per annum.

With the implementation of projects identified in the Master Plan, it is envisioned to address rising transportation cost due to traffic congestion and limited road network, improve regional connectivity increasing travel speed in Luzon by 4.5 km per hour, in Visayas by 8.9 km per hour, and Mindanao, 11.6 km per hour by 2040, and promote inclusive social and economic development.

“Our goal is to ensure that the government’s promise of sustained progress is realized not only in the country’s urban metropolitan areas but also, and most especially, in the rural areas. By providing better access to road infrastructure, we aim to bring more jobs and more economic opportunities to Filipinos in every province,” said Acting Secretary Roger G. Mercado.

In addition to the development of the Master Plan, JICA has also assisted DPWH in preparatory works for priority projects through the conduct of pre-feasibility studies for Central Mindanao High Standard Highway (Cagayan de Oro-Malaybalay), Metro Cebu Circumferential Road, Agusan del Norte-Butuan City Logistical Highway, and 2nd San Juanico Bridge.

While the high standard highway network for the Philippines seems like a bold plan, the project brings forward the lessons the Philippines had from the past mired with traffic woes and high transport costs. In a nutshell, what the Master Plan is really trying to build is: a future where the regions are well connected, and people enjoy fast, safe, and reliable road transportation. ■

DPWH receives the Highway Master Plan in a turnover ceremony held in November 2021.



Powering maritime safety and security in Indo-Pacific



PROJECT TITLE:
Maritime Safety
Capability Improvement
Project Phase II



PERIOD:
2016-2022



Filipino and Japanese officials at Shiminoseki Shipyard during the launching of the first vessel.

The Philippine Coast Guard's (PCG) largest multi-role response vessels (MRRV), measuring approximately 97 meters, launched in July and November as a nautical tradition of blessing the ships and their voyages. The event marked a major feat for the PCG whose maritime law enforcement role is of high significance in a complex regional maritime environment.

The new MRRVs, an outcome of the partnership between the Department of Transportation and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), complement past development assistance of JICA on enhancing the Philippines' maritime capability through ten 44-meter MRRVs for PCG supported in 2016 to 2018.

The launching was held in Shimonoseki, Japan known for its shipbuilding history. The vessels were constructed by Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. using Japanese technology to help them withstand sea operations during rough conditions. "The vessels join the PCG fleet in the first half of 2022. This is truly a welcome development for Japan and the Philippines as they endeavor to achieve our common commitment in ensuring peace and stability in the region under the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Framework," said JICA Deputy Director General for Southeast Asia and Pacific Department TANAKA Satoko.

Prior to this assistance, the PCG's surface asset inventory was composed of small crafts to medium-sized vessels, delimiting their support to enforcement

and short-distanced operations. Today, PCG plays an active role not just in search and rescue missions but also in maritime security and border patrols in the Philippines' maritime domain.

Aside from the acquisition of vessels, JICA also supported PCG trainings on vessel operations and maintenance, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, and other PCG mission areas both locally and in Japan.

For decades, JICA and the PCG's partnership have had significant impact in effectively contributing to maritime safety and security in Philippine waters, such as through provision of coastal communications equipment, Japanese-built ships and capacity building opportunities for more than 300 PCG personnel. "The modernization of PCG has been going fast and quick and very meaningful. In fact, in this effort to make it quick, fast, and very meaningful, the government of Japan has contributed very much. And to which I express my appreciation for your continued support," Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade said.

In the continuing pandemic, PCG ships including the ten 44-m MRRVs were tapped to deliver PPEs and medicines, distribute vaccines, ferry medical personnel to perform swab testing and inoculation in remote areas. Thus, the launch of the newest vessels enhancing Philippine maritime operations in several ways gives hope that the Philippines will emerge better from the pandemic. ■

Vessel features

Overall Length

about **97m**

Maximum Speed

not less than **24 knots**

Endurance

not less than **4,000** nautical miles

Complement

67 Officers and Crew

Survivor Accommodation

30 persons

Professionalizing the railway industry

As part of the efforts to upskill the present and future crop of workers in the railway industry, the Philippine Railways Institute (PRI) has come up with a number of training programs over the past year for personnel involved in various aspects of railway operations and maintenance, as well as upcoming graduates exploring a career in the sector.

Training activities such as the “Fundamental Training” course and a series of “Web-Refresher Training” courses were undertaken in order to broaden human resources competencies, mainly for the employees of currently operational railway lines. In addition, participants to these programs included selected graduating students of Philippine universities, such as Mapua University, De La Salle University – Dasmariñas, FEATI University, Technological Institute of the Philippines, Bataan Peninsula University, and Polytechnic University of the Philippines.

Such initiatives are necessary to help professionalize the railway industry and establish standard guidelines and regulations on human resource capacity for railway operations in the Philippines. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the PRI were able to implement the training courses, along with Japanese railway experts against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a previous message, DOTr Undersecretary and PRI Officer-in-Charge Anneli Lontoc stated that “Despite all the challenges that we have faced during this pandemic, we have found the courage to pivot and to use information technology, to continue to serve and perform our service to our fellow workers. In its first year, PRI has started to deliver refresher training courses and develop training materials, to ensure that the existing, the new and expanded railways lines are operated and maintained safely, efficiently and sustainably. Similarly, PRI has continued to establish partnerships with the railway sector and the academe to develop work-ready and competitive workers for the Philippine railway sector.”

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the PRI were able to implement the training courses, along with Japanese railway experts against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fundamental Training Course is a first-of-its-kind program in the country and was designed to equip upcoming railway employees with an overall industry-level understanding of railway operations and maintenance through an intensive 240 to 320 training hours, while the Web-Refresher Training Course was institutionalized to capacitate the current railway labor force with competencies aligned with their respective roles. Both are among the outputs of the Technical Assistance Project to establish the PRI between the DOTr and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which commenced in 2018.

Through this JICA-assisted project, Japanese experts from highly-regarded organizations such as the Tokyo Metro are able to share their knowhow on railway management, patterned after Japan’s systems which are recognized all over the world for their efficiency and safety.

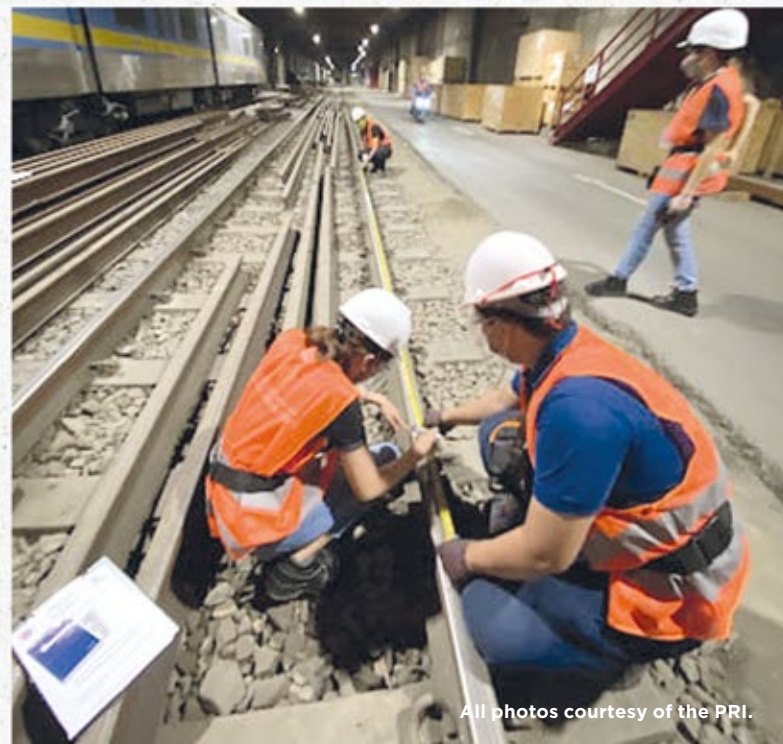
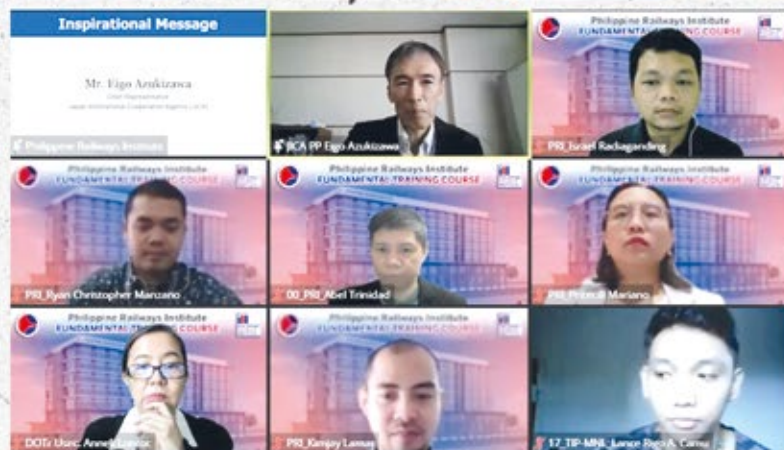
With the continued expansion of the railway network in the Philippines, including the soon-to-be operational North South Commuter Railway System and the Metro Manila Subway, the PRI courses on railway management and operations would help ensure an ample supply of qualified personnel for the industry. Further, new career opportunities are expected to open up through the PRI, including for fresh graduates and young professionals, as well as Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who may want to return and contribute to this up and coming industry. ■



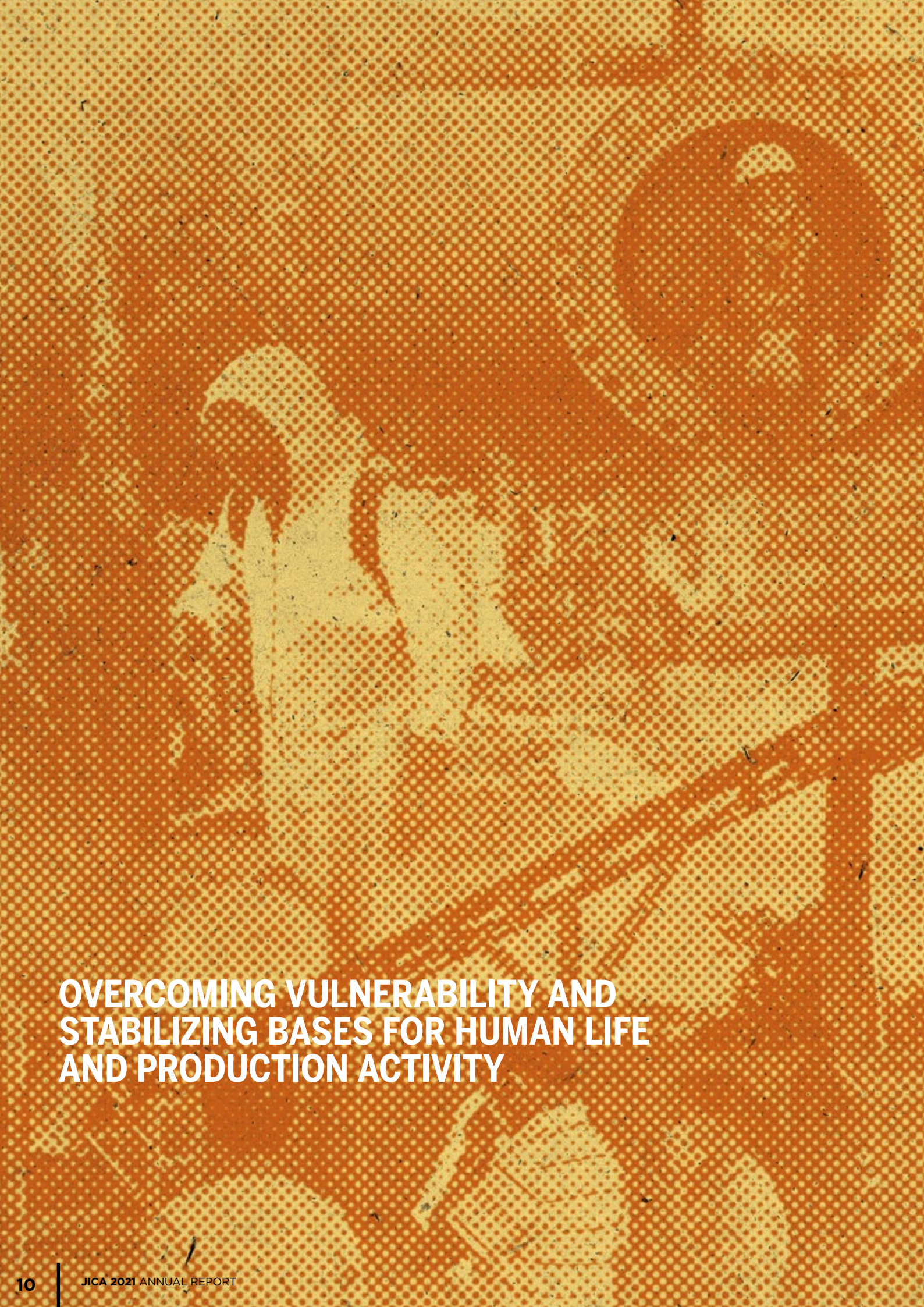
PROJECT TITLE:
Technical Assistance
Project to Establish
the Philippine Railway
Institute



PERIOD:
2018-2023



All photos courtesy of the PRI.



**OVERCOMING VULNERABILITY AND
STABILIZING BASES FOR HUMAN LIFE
AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITY**

Learning from Japan's development experience

PROJECT TITLE:
JICA Program for Japanese Studies (CHAIR)

PERIOD:
2018 - Ongoing

"Real happiness lies in the completion of work using your own brains and skills."

**- HONDA Soichiro,
Japanese industrialist**

At the eastern edge of Asia, Japan became the first non-western nation to become a hotspot for world-class infrastructure, modern economy, and unremitting industry efficiency. Japan has successfully beaten the path to economic progress and prosperity during the post-war era using its own human resources' ingenuity and skills.

While it used to be that Japan was recipient of humanitarian assistance during the early 1940s, it has pulled off a transformation from an aid recipient to donor in the 1950s and onwards. History notes that Japan's emergence as an industrial powerhouse came to be due to their political independence and national integrity, "adopt and adapt" spirit (or adopting skills and knowledge from developed countries and adapting it to local needs), education and human resource development, and their

government's role in guiding development.

Their business ethic, society values, and principles likewise accelerated their economic ascendancy in manufacturing and other industries. These values and lessons from Japanese society and history are particularly shared in Japan International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) Program for Japanese Studies ("JICA Chair"). Under the program, JICA collaborates with universities of partner countries to promote development studies via lectures and research activities on Japan's modernization history, politics, economics, public administration, and law.

"JICA Chair's development studies program, that promotes academic and practical exchange between Philippine and Japanese academia, will be crucial in strengthening our bilateral ties and mutually beneficial development strategies," said Dr.

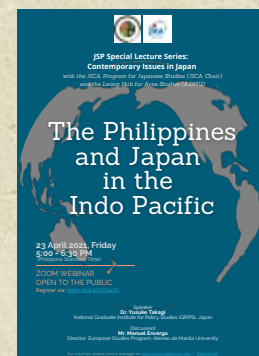
Benjamin San Jose of the Ateneo de Manila University.

In 2021, the JICA Chair conducted intensive webinar lectures in partnership with the Ateneo de Manila University to focus on Japan's international development cooperation and contemporary issues in the Indo-Pacific. Said lectures are led by distinguished academics in the fields of politics, economics, public administration, and law from both Japan and the Philippines.

As the Philippine economy gears up for recovery post-pandemic, it is worth noting how much the Philippines can learn from Japan's development approaches, innovation, and values. If Japan's economic prosperity and international cooperation efforts can be linked to its ability to learn from other nations and adapt new knowledge to their own society, then Filipinos can also take notes from these practices. ■



During one of the online lectures on Japan's development experience participated by students and academicians from Philippines and Japan.



Webinar posters of lectures hosted by the Ateneo de Manila University.

Eye in the Sky: Supporting human resources in space technology

Over the past years, the Philippines' first micro-satellites Diwata 1 and 2 have been useful in monitoring extreme weather events in the country.

Said microsatellites were developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and University of the Philippines (UP) with assistance from Japan's Tohoku and Hokkaido Universities. To further enhance the Philippines' space technology development, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sent a Filipino scholar for the first time under the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) on Human Resource Development for Space Technology Utilization.

"Through the program, I look forward to enhancing my research capability in space development and lead projects to promote a better quality of life for Filipinos," said Charleston Dale Ambatali, a faculty member of the UP Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute (UPEEEI). Ambatali was selected under the JICA KCCP to complete a doctorate degree in aeronautics and astronautics at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Engineering.

The efforts the Philippines is trying to exert in space technology is evidenced in the Philippine microsatellite program and later on, Stamina4Space initiative towards building human capital for nano satellite development.

JICA has supported the space technology development course under the JICA-Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Network for Utilization of Space Technology (JJ-NeST).

The race to develop satellites came at the cusp of an evolving COVID-19 pandemic that has pushed back poverty alleviation efforts of many nations. "Through the course, I want to help develop radars on unmanned aerial vehicles to survey marginalized communities living in rough, underdeveloped terrains. This way, we can help solve some of their problems," said Ambatali.

With the belief that nurturing talents in space technology can help and spur economic development and address Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) issues, JICA has supported the space technology development course under the JICA-Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency Network for Utilization of Space Technology (JJ-NeST). The initiative hopes to graduate 20 more students in the next five years from countries like the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and Rwanda.



Ambatali snaps a photo with one of the most prominent buildings in Hongo Campus, University of Tokyo.

The huge potential of space technology not just in weather monitoring, but also in boosting the manufacturing industry, and other disaster management activities beckon for the Philippines. "When I return to the Philippines, I want to develop a satellite that can gather data from sensors on the ground to monitor the environment and resources of the country," Ambatali said, which at this point signals the exploration of many

lofty ideas and innovations for the Philippines.

In a move to support more Filipinos in space technology field, JICA sent another scholar to Kyushu Institute of Technology in October 2021 to take the same program as Ambatali. They shall be the first among the many future prospects that will help spur innovation in the aeronautics and astronautics in the country. ■

JICA SPACE-RELATED ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES

01 Development of Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines (ULAT Project)

ULAT Project started in 2017 under Japan's Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) Initiative. JICA assists in delivering Output 2: Quasi real time 3D cloud monitoring system by satellite data.

02 Short-term training under ULAT Project

In 2018, a training on Policymaking for Space Exploitation was conducted which discussed the utilization of space capabilities to avail social and economic development.

03 Long-term trainings

JICA facilitates space technology trainings for Filipinos on courses such as Thunderstorm Observation and 3D Analysis based on Microsatellites under ULAT project, and Human Resources Development in Space Technology Utilization for SDGs under JJ-NeST.

Sustainable farming takes root in Legazpi City

Farmers in Legazpi City are setting an example of what it means to engage in environment-friendly and economically viable farming practices.

Using raw waste materials processed in a rotary composting facility, farmers here are fertilizing their land sans chemicals and are doubling production at a significant rate anchored in sustainability.

Sustainability, which became a common buzzword during the COVID-19 pandemic, found its way into the agriculture scene in Legazpi under the Partnership with the Private Sector Scheme Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Business Supporting Surveys of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Through this cooperation, Japanese firm Okada Manufactory Co. Ltd. introduced a composting facility that helps increase waste processing in the area to as much as 20 times (equivalent to 0.5 to 10 cubic meters daily) from its 3% processing rate years ago.

“It is costing the city around 10 million [pesos] a year just to throw waste in landfills. But if we process at least [in the] the organic way, the lifespan of landfills will double,” said Dr. Justino Arboleda in a speech during the inauguration of the facility.

As the local government of Legazpi promotes organic farming, the composting facility complements this effort by increasing awareness of farmers on growing quality vegetables while departing from the dependence on chemical fertilizer.

Under Republic Act No. 9003 or the Solid Waste Management Act, local governments are mandated to divert at least 25% of solid wastes from waste disposal facilities through recycling, composting, and other resource recovery activities.

As the local government of Legazpi promotes organic farming, the composting facility complements this effort by increasing awareness of farmers on growing quality vegetables while departing from the dependence on chemical fertilizer.

Legazpi City, which is 48.6% crop lands, has farmers as one of its major work forces. With organic farming on the rise as people look for healthy, safe food during the pandemic, investments in sustainable farming are giving local farmers new opportunities where environment and economics go hand in hand. ■



PROJECT TITLE:
Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Establishing Sustainable Organic Waste Composting Systems in Legazpi City



PERIOD:
2018-2022



During the blessing and inauguration of the composting facility in Legazpi City



Composting machine in the facility

COMPOSTING PROCESS



Food scraps and organic waste



Transport to Composting Plant



Waste processing



Quality farm harvest



Tapping science to make farms productive



Official project logo of the Banana and Cacao Diseases Management launched in November 2021.



Dr. WATANABE Kyoko (Chief Advisor).

Japanese researchers assessing diseased banana and cacao plants.

PROJECT TITLE:
The Project for the Development of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao

PERIOD:
2021-2026

The wilting banana trees and spots on cacao leaves are not deterring Filipino farmers into exploring technology-based solutions to increase their productivity and sales.

Through a Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) project of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), researchers from Central Luzon State University (CLSU), and Japan’s Tamagawa University are finding ways to address diseases in banana and cacao plants grown in the Philippines.

Dr. Edgar A. Orden, CLSU President in his message said, “The project intends to establish and manage the Integrated Technology systems for the control of panama disease and sigatoka disease in banana as well as that for the control of VSD disease and black pod disease in cacao.” He also highlighted on the activity that the industry- government-academia system will be established for the dissemination of novel technologies and the integrated technology systems in consideration of environment, social, and economic impact evaluation.

Banana and cacao are two of the Philippines’ major crops. They make up 29.4% of the country’s agriculture exports when combined. With the COVID-19 pandemic, agriculture exports have been severely affected with disruptions in the supply chain due to frequent lockdowns and other food security challenges. Add to these challenges the losses suffered by the farmers whose plantations have been devastated because of crop diseases.

With these in mind, the SATREPS initiative began the Development

The research seeks to establish a sustainable production system using science and technology for Philippine banana and cacao, including advances in disease diagnosis, and soil cultivation techniques.

of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao in 2021. The research seeks to establish a sustainable production system using science and technology for Philippine banana and cacao, including advances in disease diagnosis, and soil cultivation techniques.

The CLSU is the project’s research site, but pilot farms are located in Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Western Visayas, and Northern Mindanao.

The future of agriculture it seems is in science and technology. Through this research project, a great deal of farmers relying on bananas and cacao are more likely to learn how to add value to their produce and overcome threats on sustainability. With an integrated technology system as outcome of the project, farmers will be able to address crop diseases through disease examination, forecasting outbreak, and eco-friendly cultivation methods.

“We hope to generate new knowledge that will increase farm productivity, and eventually uplift the lives of the banana and cacao farmers in the Philippines,” said President Orden. ■

Charting the path of the local vegetable supply chain



PROJECT TITLE:
Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines



PERIOD:
2021-2025

The COVID-19 crisis makes apparent many vulnerabilities across the development sector and agriculture is not an exception.

For the Philippines, getting vegetables out into the market became symbolic of another worry beyond the pandemic: food security. In fact, scenes of perishable vegetables from farmers being thrown away due to oversupply and lockdown restrictions, while many go hungry, show gaps in the country's food supply chain.

The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) has risen to the challenge and began working with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to address the current issues of the local vegetable industry under the Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines (MV2C). Even though many activities ground to a halt in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, DA and JICA kicked off the first phase of the project in late December 2021 where an enhanced vegetable value chain roadmap is set to be developed. The roadmap aims to identify bottlenecks, determine

solutions, and distinguish the roles of each stakeholder along the vegetable supply chain.

At its Planning Phase, JICA dispatched Japanese consultants to provide technical guidance in determining appropriate technology options that will address current issues for highland and lowland vegetables. Market surveys in Metro Manila areas and value chain surveys in six provinces, namely Pangasinan, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Quezon, Benguet, and Camarines Norte, will be conducted. Furthermore, pilot activities will be formulated specifically for the provinces of Benguet and Quezon, as representative sites for highland and lowland vegetables, respectively.

"The project shall be an embodiment of studies and discussion towards improving agricultural productivity and increasing farm income through strengthening competitiveness by switching to horticulture and high value-added crops," said DA Undersecretary for Operations, Usec. Ariel Cayanan. He also underlined the transition to being value chain driven, and not only production driven.



During the project's online kick-off event in December 2021.

With this, the project will come up with an inclusive business model, consisting of optimal combination of technology options, which focuses on increasing farm income. This means increasing the unit price and the volume sold of vegetable commodities through the different interventions that will be introduced into the value chain.

Furthermore, the importance of this project is made eminent at the Global Food Security Index 2021, wherein the Philippines ranked 63rd at the lower half of the 113 countries surveyed in terms

of food security, with its lowest rating in the natural resources and resilience indicator. This means the Philippines' food situation is particularly vulnerable to natural calamities and other disasters.

So, while efforts are being made to build more infrastructure for farmers, building a roadmap and an inclusive business model for a market-driven growth in the vegetable sector is a valuable complement. This way, Philippine farmers are further uplifted and empowered, therefore invigorating productivity of the Philippine agriculture as a whole. ■

The MV2C aims to identify solutions for the problems of the vegetable value chain such as improper handling, storage, and transportation of harvest in various agricultural terminals in the country.



Shaping the Philippines' future in energy



Delos Santos (leftmost) studying Public Policy at GRIPS in Tokyo.

Solar panels on rooftops. A wind farm in the north. A hydropower plant in the mountains of Ifugao. As the country charts its path towards attaining a clean energy future through renewable energy, more professionals may be needed that will support that undertaking.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) recognizes this and has been helping the Philippines gain a steady pipeline of talent in the energy sector, many of which are interested in renewable energy. These are the stories of two Filipino scholars from the Department of Energy (DOE) who were accepted in JICA scholarship programs in Japan – future catalysts in the Philippine energy sector.

Public Policy Focused on Energy

One of the 2021 KCCP scholars is Angelica Delos Santos who left for Tokyo to study Public Policy at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS). She was admitted under the KCCP Human Resources Development for Electricity and Energy Sector or Energy Policy. A senior science research specialist at the DOE, Delos Santos said she is curious about investigating policies in the energy sector, particularly

These days, amid the COVID-19 challenges, Delos Santos and Permejo are keeping their minds open, eager to adopt the skills and knowledge they will gain from Japan's universities that they can apply in their career and in serving their country.

in implementing Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) in the Philippines.

Seeking to translate her study experience into action, Delos Santos shared she wants to write a policy paper on the impact of the Philippines' energy policy over the years and how to improve these policies leaning towards renewable energy. "I look forward to the whole Japanese experience, not just by learning from the master's program, but also experiencing and understanding Japanese culture and work ethic,"





A quick scan of the available renewable energy resources in the Philippines reveals that the country needs more and more professionals that will support its shift to renewable energy.

Permejo was accepted for JICA KCCP Kizuna Program.

she added. “This way, I will learn their best practices and apply it here in the Philippines.”

In light of the pandemic and climate change concerns, Delos Santos said, “I look forward to studying different analytics tools and apply this in the renewable energy sector.”

The Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) targets to attain at least 35% renewable energy in the power generation mix by 2030, and more than 50% by 2040. Part of attaining this is to beef up the country’s human resources through education and trainings. With much to learn on new technology and ideas from other countries on renewable energy development, Delos Santos’

study opportunity in Japan makes her ready to contribute to DOE’s path to renewable energy.

Research and Exploration

Even before being admitted to KCCP, Jomarie Permejo has been involved in assessing and exploring geothermal resources at the DOE. Through the scholarship, she plans to study the geothermal potential of Buguias-Tinoc in Benguet and Ifugao Provinces under a postgraduate course on Earth Resources Engineering in Kyushu University’s Kizuna program.

Specifically, Permejo was accepted under

JICA KCCP Human Resource Development for Governmental Officers and Researchers in the Mineral Resources Rich Countries or Kizuna Program. The program gives scholars the opportunity to study mineral sources development exposing students to research and network of Japanese companies.

Just like Delos Santos, Permejo aspires to contribute to renewable energy development in the Philippines. “The program will hone my technical capabilities so I can help assess my country’s geothermal potential and help update the inventory of geothermal sites for exploration and development,” she said. This inventory, added Permejo, will help attract private sector

investments in geothermal energy in the Philippines.”

“I also want to immerse myself in Japanese culture and tradition and build connection with other participants of the program,” Permejo said.

Permejo said she aspires to be a committed student and a decent, responsible member of the Filipino community in Japan while studying overseas.

These days, amid the COVID-19 challenges, Delos Santos and Permejo are keeping their minds open, eager to adopt the skills and knowledge they will gain from Japan’s universities and can apply in their career and in serving their country. ■

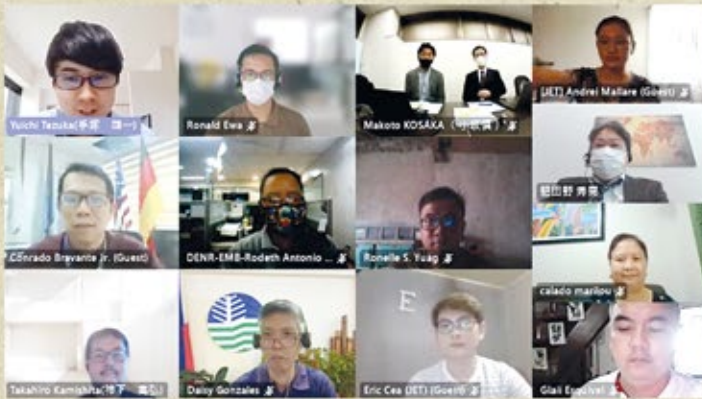


Solid ways for solid waste: Current initiatives on waste management

PROJECT TITLE:
Project for Capacity Development on Improving Solid Waste Management through Advanced/Innovative Technologies

PERIOD: 2019-2022

SUB PROJECT: Support on the printing of WACS (Waste Analysis and Characterization Study) Manual



Participants of the online training under the Capacity Development on Improving SWM through Advanced/Innovative technologies.

Imagine if the mountains of wastes piling up in our landfills can finally power your energy needs.

Through the partnership of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Technical Cooperation Project for Capacity Development on Improving Solid Waste Management through Advanced or Innovative Technologies, is enhancing the capacity of the national government and partner local government units (LGUs), namely Quezon, Cebu, and Davao cities in improving solid waste management (SWM). This is by developing capacity on waste-to-energy (WtE) and other SWM technologies. These are all part of preparations for the Philippines to use the latest innovations and speed up technology adoption.

According to 2010 data, the Philippines generates wastes at an average of 0.40 kilograms per capita per day. Considering the growing Philippine population, improper solid waste management can lead to health and environment consequences.

The project has already seen significant strides in its implementation. These include the preparation of Case Study Analysis for the Best Available Technology/Best Environmental Practice Guidelines, collection of “Good Practice/Good Technology” of other SWM technologies, analysis of waste flow and amount, review of national solid waste management strategies, and the key inputs in formulating local WtE projects.

Also, part of the project is a series of online training tapping Japanese practitioners who shared their technologies and practices on SWM and Dioxin Analysis. Aside from DENR and partner LGUs, government agencies who are members of the Project Inter-Agency Technical Working Group also participated. These include the Department of Energy, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Interior and Local Government, National Economic and Development Authority, and Public Private Partnership Center.

Further to the project, JICA has also provided around 7,700 copies of Waste Analysis and Characterization Study (WACS) Manual. Said manual is also the Japanese Government’s assistance to the Philippine Government that sets guidelines on SWM according to waste type. The DENR is facilitating the distribution of the manual to various LGUs nationwide to assist them in local policy and planning.

With the manual as reference, several LGUs are already training and are updating their solid waste management plans. Through these kinds of support communities can be empowered to engage in sustainable waste management practices, ultimately promoting proper sanitation and a healthy environment. ■



A WACS Seminar conducted in Valencia City, Bukidnon.

BIO RECYCLABLES

PAPER **PLASTICS** **GLASS** **METALS**

This chart gives representative examples and is not meant to be an exhaustive list. For more details, refer to the NSWMC website for the updated approved list of recyclables.

RESIDUALS **SPECIAL WASTE**

RESIDUALS with POTENTIAL FOR RECYCLING **RESIDUALS for DISPOSAL**

HAZARDOUS WASTE **HEALTHCARE WASTE from HOSPITALS**

WACS (Waste Analysis and Characterization Study) SOLID WASTE CATEGORIES

BULKY WASTE

A standardized and mandatory guide for Philippine Local Government Units and Solid Waste Management Practitioners based on the NSWMC Guidelines approved by the National Solid Waste Management Commission, Office of the President, Republic of the Philippines.



Scan QR to download the WACS Manual

Centerfold of the WACS Manual that shows a standardized guide for LGUs in categorizing solid waste.

PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN MINDANAO

Roads for Marawi's Tomorrow

A road network infrastructure program in Marawi is not just about access and rehabilitated roads, rather it aligns with the vision to boost peace and the economy.

One may recall how the city's major infrastructures were battle-scarred and 98% of its population was displaced after the five-month long warfare. But the city that Marawi is today has come a long way through strong government commitment and sustained partnerships.

In 2018, JICA offered to help in the city's rehabilitation and recovery through the rehabilitation of the Marawi Transcentral Road (MTR) Phases I and II under a JPY2 billion grant aid. In September 2021, 18.97 kilometers of roads under the first two phases successfully completed rehabilitation. This seeks to improve the mobility of people, goods, and services, and consequently to spur economic activities back in the city.

Building on these successful first steps, JICA, together with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), proceeded to Marawi Transcentral Road (MTR) Phase III funded as one of the sub-projects under the US\$202-million Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (RNDP-CAAM). The project aims to create a formidable road network composed of access to

The vision of JICA and DPWH is clear: to bridge the economic gap of Mindanao from the rest of the country and consequently promote lasting peace in conflict-affected Mindanao.

arterial roads linking the main cities of Mindanao. Civil works for MTR Phase III commenced in 2021 and is expected to be completed in 2022 despite the continuing pandemic.

The push to build and rehabilitate roads in Marawi is seen as an effort to reverse the ill effects of the conflict to people and their livelihood. "As you can see now, our government is fulfilling the promise to build back better with a peaceful road to recovery from the suffering due to Marawi siege four years ago," said then DPWH Secretary Mark A. Villar in the inauguration rites in 2021.

Another significant component of the RNDP-CAAM, the Marawi Ring Road, intends to provide a trunk road that will improve traffic flow in the city. The detailed design of the 19.8-kilometer road is targeted to be finished by 2022. Soon after, the construction shall commence.



Completed sections of the Marawi Transcentral Road I and II.

"Transportation infrastructure goes beyond building or rehabilitating roads. For conflict-affected areas like Marawi, it signals new opportunities for trade and investments," said JICA Chief Representative AZUKIZAWA Eigo.

The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) is one of the Philippines' poorest regions. Poverty incidence is at 53%, higher than the national average, according to the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) in 2019. Add the enduring pandemic to the region's long history of conflict, investments in BARMM have truly suffered. One thing that has remained indestructible, however, is the government's spirit and commitment in pursuit of peace in the BARMM.

With the RNDP-CAAM, other road networks such as the Parang-Balabagan Road, Parang East Diversion Road, and Manuangan Parang Road will be developed. To complement RNDP-CAAM, JICA also supported via grant the detailed design study for the Matanog-Barira-Alamada-Libungan Road (Matanog-Barira Section) and Tapian-Lebak Coastal Road.

The vision of JICA and DPWH is clear: to bridge the economic gap of Mindanao from the rest of the country and consequently promote lasting peace in conflict-affected Mindanao. ■



Completed sections of the Marawi Transcentral Road I and II. Photos courtesy of DPWH

Ray of hope for farmers in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas


PROJECT TITLE:

Rice-based Farming Technology Transfer Program for the Bangsamoro under the Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CDPB)


PERIOD:

2020-2022

Decades of armed conflict have deprived small-scale farmers in Mindanao's conflict areas the chance to take a good shot in improving their income. For most of them, they make use of their scant knowledge of farming their land, and with COVID-19 and extreme weather, they have to face day-to-day challenges with great caution.

Some major problems encountered by farmers are high cost of inputs; lack of capital, postharvest facilities, and high-quality seeds; labor issues; pest and diseases; limited access and lack of information on upland rice production and nutrient management; and poor farm-to-market roads.

To boost the interest of the upland rice farmers, appropriate technology must be introduced to attain high production and ensure sustainability of upland rice production in the locality.

In 2019, under the Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro, JICA along with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) launched agriculture-based livelihood activities for farmers in Barira, Buldon, and Matanog in Maguindanao. These activities, being implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), include training of trainers, farmers' field schools (FFS), study tours, and production of information and education materials on rice cultivation, diseases, and waste management.

Mindanao is predominantly an agriculture area, with one-third of its land devoted to agriculture, data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) (2019) shows. The region also supplies 40% of food requirements in the Philippines. Unfortunately, years of conflict



Farmers' field day and graduation ceremony

and then the Marawi siege in 2017 have set back the growth of agriculture in this region. The signing of the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL) in 2018 paving the path for the establishment of BARMM signals promise. It is in this light that training farmers in conflict-affected areas have become one of the key assistance of JICA in the transition period.

PhilRice as an R&D organization is mandated to develop and promote location-specific technologies within its area of responsibility. One of the technologies being introduced to the farmers by PhilRice is the Upland Rice PalayCheck System. This production platform is used to help improve farming practices and increase yield. In addition,

Farm walk activity at Matanog, Maguindanao



"We learned to prepare our rice field. The right variety to plant every cropping season. We also learned to practice new methods of farming like practicing synchronous planting to avoid huge damage of the crop. We also learned that plant diversification is very important to maximize land use and become more productive."

- Camarodin Morodan of Brgy. Oring, Buldon, Maguindanao, farmer

Farmers' Field School is one of the strategies employed to help farmers understand the basic concept and science in rice production in general. This approach will help enhance knowledge and skills of the rice farmers in producing more yields.

As of calendar year 2021, 180 farmers have been trained. They are also encouraged to organize farmers' associations so they can easily link to and avail assistance from the local government and other government agencies providing agricultural service.

Farmers who have attended the seminars, training, and workshops in agricultural production reported annual gross income of PHP41,000, up from PHP10,000 in the previous year.

Thus, despite the pandemic and weather pattern challenges, farmers in Maguindanao are not giving up hope. ■



Farmers' Field School in Buldon, Maguindanao
Photos courtesy of PhilRice

Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro Period: 2019-2022



6

Number of Japanese experts assigned to the project

Output 1 : Governance



50,000

Number of employee handbooks provided to BARMM Government



137

Number of participants in training related to new staff orientation

Output 2 : Livelihood Improvement



453

Number of Ministry of Trade, Investments and Tourism (MTIT) staff and other industry enablers who attended the Industry Cluster Orientation



180

Number of farmers who completed Farmer Field School activities



80

Kilos of seeds distributed to each farmer as starter kit for planting



Output 3 : Countermeasures for COVID-19

JICA and the Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MILG) implemented a rapid assessment survey on the impact of COVID-19 in BARMM.



CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Sustaining hard-won development gains one training at a time

Steve Jobs, a famous innovator, once said, “we’re here to put a dent in the universe.”

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) Group and Region Focus prepped two new Filipino trainees for the challenges of tomorrow. Atty. Maria Corazon Montallana from the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) was selected for a short-term online program on electoral management. Meanwhile, Engr. Jeremiah Perez from the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) was sent to Japan to finish one-year of Master’s Degree at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Study (GRIPS).

As COVID-19 pandemic affects day-to-day work and other activities, it also offered a window

of opportunity for the trainees to participate in group training courses on key society issues, enabling them to take a long-term view, and make an impact.

Course: Electoral Management in Democratic Countries

Atty. Maria Corazon Montallana is a lawyer and a Provincial Election Supervisor at the COMELEC office in Samar. In 2021, she completed the JICA training on Electoral Management in Democratic Countries, a timely initiative just as the Philippines prepares for the national elections in 2022. “As a frontliner during elections, I am part of preparatory activities like voter education and registration. These are important so that we can continuously work for the inclusion of the vulnerable sector for them to be able to engage in their election rights,” shared Montallana.



Atty. Montallana as a Resource Person for the Department of Education’s Seminar for Election-Related Offenses and Other Prohibited Acts for Government Employees.

Atty. Montallana during the Election Officers’ monthly meeting, a venue for sharing her learnings about electoral management to her COMELEC colleagues.





As nations prepare for a reset following COVID-19, Montallana and Perez show that learning from other countries through trainings provide strong motivation, and timely opportunity to contribute to change so the Philippines can be in a better position in the future.

In the Philippines, geography, peace and security, lack of information, and budget constraints limited the expression of suffrage rights of persons with disabilities (PWDs), persons deprived of liberty, indigenous peoples, and senior citizens.

During the training, Montallana said she learned Japan's electoral processes, including prohibition of door-to-door campaigns to avoid corruption and vote buying. At the Chiba Prefecture, where an election was held in the middle of the pandemic, Montallana said uniform

minimum health and safety protocols were imposed. They also use QR Code readers to identify voters and avoid multiple voting. While Japan has yet to automate their election system, Montallana said, "As we compare notes and learn from other countries, it's good to realize that the Philippines has a well-structured system for electoral processes. The only challenge for COMELEC units like ours is to hopefully be given our own office space and not be inside the local government building so as to send a strong signal of our impartiality and independence."

Further, the KCCP training, added Montallana, enabled her to recommend policies that decision makers in COMELEC can study to expand awareness for inclusivity as well as gender sensitivity to ensure that suffrage rights, especially those of the vulnerable, are not infringed.

Course: Maritime Safety and Security Policy Program

Engr. Jeremiah Perez (third from the right in bottom photo) is an engineer at MARINA Central Office in Port Area, Manila whose work entails monitoring vessels and shipyards and



investigating violations of MARINA's regulations as well as maritime accidents. Just like Montallana, Perez recognized that there are future challenges that the Philippines can focus on beyond the COVID-19 crisis. "I was interested in international relations in East Asia, and International Law of the Sea which are part of the program," said Perez.

During his one-year coursework under the Maritime Safety and Security Policy program at GRIPS, Perez said his interactions with other foreign participants helped him learn best practices in maritime safety and security. Currently in the Enforcement Service of the MARINA, he noted that one of the most important trends in the maritime seascape today is increased cooperation through the enhancement of networking among maritime law enforcers. He was also given the opportunity to pay a courtesy call

to Japan's former Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide with fellow KCCP trainee, Commander Noemi Cayabyab of the Philippine Coast Guard.

In the resumption of his duties in MARINA, he will be conducting echo seminars to his fellow enforcers in the Agency to impart his learnings from his stint in Japan. More specifically, he wishes to share the approaches for ship safety and security audits, inspections, search and rescue missions, disaster and crisis management, and marine casualty and incident investigations.

As nations prepare for a reset following COVID-19, Montallana and Perez show that learning from other countries through trainings provide strong motivation, and timely opportunity to contribute to change so the Philippines can be in a better position in the future. ■



Engr. Perez (rightmost) with his colleagues at the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, the parent organization of the Japan Coast Guard.



A Japanese volunteer leverages mobile technology to boost community disaster preparedness

What if a mobile app can save your life by pointing you the nearest evacuation center and allowing you to send your status in emergency situation to your local disaster management unit?

A Japanese volunteer ICHIKAWA Ryunosuke developed just that to help strengthen community resilience in La Trinidad, Benguet. Ichikawa was one of the volunteers sent to the Philippines under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Together with the La Trinidad Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRMMO), Ichikawa developed Esaganak, a mobile app that features a range of support in times of disasters. Among the features of the app are a map of evacuation centers, links to the MDRMMO website, Go Bag checklist for emergency supplies, hotline numbers, and safety confirmation for sending status and messages to La Trinidad MDRMMO.

As simple as it may seem, a mobile app along with the collective initiatives of a community do make a difference in using innovation to increase disaster resilience.

When Typhoon Maring hit North Luzon in October 2021, massive floods and landslides ravaged towns in Benguet. Through the mobile app, residents of La Trinidad were able to access early warning messages and find out the evacuation centers near their homes. Those who needed help were also able to report their status to operation centers through the hotline numbers in the app.

Esaganak, the app's name, means "I'm going to prepare" in Ilocano



ICHIKAWA discussing the application to counterparts.

language. It is downloadable from the Google Playstore for free, except for functions that require data communication. And with a country like the Philippines which is prone to natural hazards, the access to disaster-related information through mobile technology can mean the difference between life and death.

A graduate of Chiba University in Japan who also worked as specialist in Geographic Information System (GIS)

mapping before becoming JOCV, Ichikawa said, "Mobile apps can enhance citizen participation which is effective in disasters since they happen at local level. As JOCV, I'm happy to help develop innovative solutions to disaster resilience challenges."

As simple as it may seem, a mobile app along with the collective initiatives of a community do make a difference in using innovation to increase disaster resilience. ■



User-friendly interface of the Esaganak disaster preparedness app.



Out of plastic trash, women in Bohol create a recycling model to boost income

In Tagbilaran City in Bohol Province, a group of women belonging to a community organization Kalipunan ng Liping Pilipina (KALIPI) reskilled themselves in manufacturing products made of recycled plastics with help from Keio University in Japan.

The initiative began with 2 pilot barangays, Cogon and Poblacion 1, upcycling plastics from household wastes as income source to marginalized women in 2018. KALIPI received bulk orders of upcycled products from various businesses. However, when COVID-19 happened, the women found themselves economically displaced as the recycling facilities were used as isolation centers for COVID-19 patients. Most of them barely meeting their needs, their situation turned worse when production capacity turned to zero and unemployment in Tagbilaran increased.

“Due to the influence of COVID-19, the project was suspended. But we took measures against infection and we changed the activity content of the project and resumed thanks to the BIG help of JICA. All training and manufacturing for the beneficiaries were done online, so that we were able to continue our

Through the workshops, they were able to develop a wide range of products starting from simple placemats, to wallets and ecobags, to accessories such as earrings, to uniquely-designed flower vases.

project,” said KOBAYASHI Ritsuko of Keio University.

Women who join the KALIPI Association are mostly housewives. They run and manage their household. They are the wives of construction workers, tricycle drivers, mall workers, and office staff. They choose to stay home because of their age and educational attainment which hinders them to work with some establishments. Some of them think that by focusing on managing their household, they patronize the culture of Filipino women. Thus, with continuing help from the Recycling Project for Improving Women’s Income (PRP4IWI) in Tagbilaran under

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Keio University, KALIPI started all over with a new recycling center and expanded their sales to as much as an average of 136.5% within the final 3 months of the project. Through the workshops, they were able to develop a wide range of products starting from simple placemats, to wallets and ecobags, to accessories such as earrings, to uniquely-designed flower vases.

The Philippines ranks quite high in the Global Gender Gap Report 2021, at No. 17 out of 156 countries. Unfortunately, it ranks No. 118 on labor force participation rate, with only 49.1% of women in the job market. Likewise, women from low-income groups continue to experience gender inequality, further exacerbating their poverty.



PROJECT TITLE:

Technical Cooperation for Grassroots Project on Plastic Recycling Project for Improving Women’s Income



PERIOD:

2018-2021



During the pandemic, despite strict activity restrictions, the project conducted production through online manufacturing training. The organization also created income through the orders from Japan.

The women of KALIPI continue to train on product development, quality control, exporting, and website management and marketing with help from experts from Keio University. The plastic recycling project also opened its doors for international markets in Japan, Thailand, Ecuador, and the United Kingdom.

As an offshoot of the project, a souvenir items manufacturing business was established, requesting out-of-school youth to work whenever orders come in. To date, there are 20 young people who participated through this initiative. “Things have been hard due to the pandemic. I needed to earn money to support my family. I heard that the city government has a program that supports out-of-school youth and unemployed young people so I decided to join the project,” said project participant Peach Zarco.

While theirs is a difficult subsistence during COVID-19 having barely zero income, KALIPI women and the out-of-school youth are hopeful that finally things are shifting. ■

Members of the KALIPI Association showing their recycled masterpieces.





SPECIAL FEATURES



NO
VAX CARD,
NO ENTRY



MINDA Bulletin No. 23-01, September 2021
Issued in accordance with the Department Order (DO) 2021-0100, dated August 27, 2021, on the subject of "Guidelines on the Issuance and Use of Vaccination Cards for COVID-19".
Department of Health - National Center for COVID-19 Information

#PaTestKamunia

Leading the way to a post-pandemic future

Recognizing that nations will be living with the virus for some time, JICA provided JPY125 million equipment and supplies for COVID-19 response to Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and San Lazaro Hospital.

The masked faces on the streets, digital check-ins, and temperature scans remind us that the pandemic has changed our lives in ways we never imagined. Amid post-lockdown environment, a slate of COVID-19 responsiveness measures in the Philippines, with assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), are being implemented to help the Philippines rebound and build back better from all the disruptions.

Building a resilient health system

From January 2020 to the writing of this piece in December 2021, the Philippines confirmed 2.8

million COVID-19 cases, with over 48,000 deaths (WHO Report). Crucially, testing, monitoring, and tracing the virus can help curb the surge, aside from the ongoing vaccination program of the government.

Recognizing that nations will be living with the virus for some time, JICA provided JPY125 million equipment and supplies for COVID-19 response to Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

(RITM) and San Lazaro Hospital. The assistance includes laboratory testing machines, pharmaceutical refrigerators and freezers, CCTV cameras for ICU units, computers and laptops, PPEs, and various reagents. Such support is helping partner health institutions carry out testing, communications, and data management.

Aside from medical equipment, JICA and San Lazaro Hospital also collaborated on a "Data Collection



Automated Immunoassay Analyzer (ECLIA)



Pharmaceutical Refrigerator

Survey on the Use of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Telemedicine in Pandemic Situations". JICA provided online training for intensive care physicians and nurses of San Lazaro Hospital to strengthen its capacity of providing intensive care services in order to manage and treat seriously ill patients affected by COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Many health facilities have introduced telemedicine and the use of digital technologies in their services in order to keep the patients, as well as health care workers, safe.

Economic Recovery Support

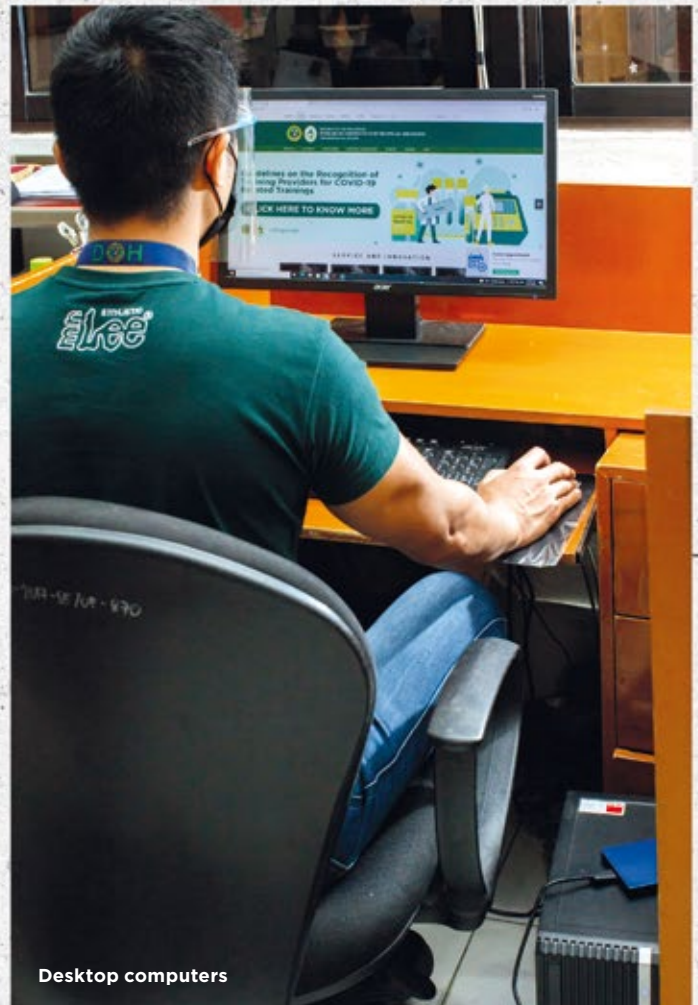
One of the challenges confronted by the frontliners during the pandemic is the insufficiency of vital equipment that will facilitate better health services. In envisioning a seamless inoculation program, JICA will provide support to the Philippines' cold chain logistics and supply chain through provision of refrigerated vans,

delivery trucks, ice pack freezers, and thermal packaging systems to the Department of Health. These equipment will ensure that farther regions will be able to receive their vaccine supply in good condition and help boost the vaccination campaign of the government in order to achieve herd immunity. The assistance will be utilized not only for COVID-19 vaccines but also for other vaccines under the National Immunization Program.

As the Philippine economy reels from pandemic-induced downturn, the government is gathering all resources it can to support vulnerable segments and affected industries. A National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) assessment on COVID-19 pandemic costs to the economy cited productivity loss from human capital investments to reach PHP15.5 trillion for the next 40 years due to death, illness, and lack of face-to-face schooling. Said government agency also added that consumption and investments are likely to be



Tissue processor



Desktop computers



Autostainer



Cell imager



Microtome



Benchtop refrigerated centrifuge



Laptop units were provided as part of assistance to RITM.

lower in the next 10 years given reduced demand from sectors that require social distance like tourism, restaurants, and public transportation.

To guard against the severe economic impact brought by the virus, JICA extended a JPY50 billion COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan to support the ongoing efforts of the Philippine government to contain the further spread of the coronavirus, provide economic relief to Filipinos affected by the pandemic, and support the vaccination plan and deployment. Such support to vaccination efforts can help facilitate resumption of economic activities, alleviate unemployment in sectors needing face-to-face transactions, and facilitate recovery of the economy even with rising virus cases.

In addition, JICA also provided another JPY50 billion Post Disaster Standby Loan to ensure that contingency funds are available for the Philippines' response to the financial demands of the post-disaster recovery phase that covers public health crisis.

In envisioning a seamless inoculation program, JICA will provide support to the Philippines' cold chain logistics and supply chain through provision of refrigerated vans, delivery trucks, ice pack freezers, and thermal packaging systems to the Department of Health.

Moving forward in a pandemic
As countries like the Philippines makes progress with vaccinating its people, international cooperation efforts to build resilient health systems and restart economic activities are enabling people to step into a world we will all live in after the pandemic. As in a famous saying: slow and steady wins the race. By calibrating measures in a changed world through build back better efforts with development partners like JICA, the Philippines can look into the future with some optimism.

Transforming the Philippines' Infrastructure Scene

The Philippines has been a bright spot in Southeast Asia before the pandemic, with an average annual GDP growth of over 6% between 2010 to 2019. Prior to COVID-19, the Philippines has been channeling its resources to spur economic growth with infrastructure development. A centerpiece program of the Duterte administration, the Build Build Build Program accelerates public infrastructure spending to as much as 7.3%.

The Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs), considered the core of the Build Build Build Program, have been described by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as “the most urgent and game-changing projects that are expected to greatly contribute to achieving the country’s development goals by improving

connectivity and stimulating growth across the country.”

The 2020 Official Development Assistance (ODA) Portfolio Review Report of NEDA showed that about PHP 1.7 trillion of the total PHP 4-trillion IFPs are funded by ODA, majority of which by Japan through JICA.

Under Build Build Build, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been financing several key projects to support sustainable economic growth, promote investments, and create more jobs. JICA’s support also aligns with the Follow-Up Survey on Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development for Greater Capital Region conducted in partnership with NEDA. The study aims to address traffic demand, improve land use management, and identify reforms in the country’s transport sector.

Here are some of the JICA-assisted Build Build Build projects partly completed or set to be completed in the years ahead.

Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III) Decongesting Traffic

Composed of three flyovers, 10 bridges, and additional lanes, the 24.61-kilometer road project in Bulacan diverts some 15,000 vehicles plying through Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway. This infrastructure makes it easier for farmers to transport their produce to markets while cutting travel time by 45 to 50 minutes

from Bulacan to Metro Manila. In 2021, Contract Package 3 (CP3) of the project was completed. This covered the widening of the existing 2-lanes to 4-lanes of Bridge No. 8 (Angat Bridge) and Bridge No. 9 and the construction of underpass, drainage, slope protection, and miscellaneous works.

Central Luzon Link Expressway Project (Phase I) Connectivity to Rising Growth Centers

This expressway complements the Central Luzon expressway network: North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway

Central Luzon Link Expressway

Arterial Road Bypass



The 2020 Official Development Assistance (ODA) Portfolio Review Report of NEDA showed that about PHP 1.7 trillion of the total PHP 4-trillion IFPs are funded by ODA, majority of which by Japan through JICA.



At a joint site inspection of the Davao Bypass

(SCTEx), and Tarlac-Pangasinan - La Union Expressway (TPLEX). Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the first 18 kilometers of the 30-kilometer expressway was completed in 2021, connecting emerging growth centers and contributing to the vision of Industrial Corridor Development in Central Luzon.

Davao City Bypass Construction Project
Modernizing Urban Roads

The 'Davao Bypass' increases road capacity to 15,238 vehicles daily, therefore improving intra-city traffic through the country's first long distance mountain tunnel using Japanese engineering expertise. The

project also features a 4-lane road connecting the northern part of Davao to the south, making it easier to transport export products from Mindanao passing through Davao's seaports to reach foreign markets.



Under Build Build Build, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been financing several key projects to support sustainable economic growth, promote investments, and create more jobs.



Imus River Retarding Basin



Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River, photo courtesy of Toyo Construction Co. Ltd.



Proposed flood gate for Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV).

Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River, and Imus River

Enhancing Disaster Resiliency

Despite the pandemic, the Imus River Retarding Basin under the flood risk management project was completed. The subproject will help mitigate flooding in Cavite’s low-lying areas, particularly in Imus and Bacoor, which are known industrial zones. The man-made reservoir, which is the first of its kind in the Philippines, will help store flood waters during heavy rains or storms, just like the Tsurumi River Multipurpose Retarding Basin in Yokohama, Japan.

Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River
Strengthening Flood Protection Measures

River overflow from the Cagayan de Oro River, one of the 18 major rivers in the Philippines, has severely affected surrounding urban areas during heavy rains. The Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River seeks to reduce the risk of flood damage through the ongoing construction of embankment and flood retaining wall and other infrastructure improvements.

Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV)
Mitigating Risks in Flood-Prone Areas

An important transport route and source of water during the Spanish period, the Pasig and Marikina Rivers have



At the groundbreaking ceremony for the Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV)

become vulnerable to flooding in recent years. To enhance the sustainable environment surrounding the river and mitigate floods, the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase IV introduces river channel

improvements of the middle Marikina River, revetment of river, as well as construction of flood gates and flood walls. When completed, the project can help protect more lives from climate change-induced flooding.

Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I)

Seamless and Reliable Transport for Filipinos

The Metro Manila Subway Project will connect major business centers across Metro Manila and enhance north-south connectivity from Valenzuela and Quezon City in the north down to the Senate Station in Taguig and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in the south. The subway will serve 365,000 passengers daily and will reduce travel time to 40 minutes from north to south of Metro Manila and vice versa. As step forward, underground excavation work is seen to accelerate with the arrival of the tunnel boring machines from Japan in 2021. As the first subway in the Philippines, the project will not only help expand the country's railway lines but also contribute to a cleaner environment with lesser carbon footprint and ensuring reliability in urban transport. ■



Arrival of the tunnel boring machines



Ongoing construction of the subway



Aerial view of ongoing construction

JICA-ASSISTED PROJECTS UNDER THE BUILD BUILD BUILD PROGRAM

RAILWAYS

- Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project
- Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I)
- Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project
- North-South Commuter Railway Project
- North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project

AVIATION AND AIRPORTS

- New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project
- New Communications, Navigation, and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management Systems Development Project

ROADS AND BRIDGES

- Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III)
- Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project
- Central Luzon Link Expressway Project (Phase I)

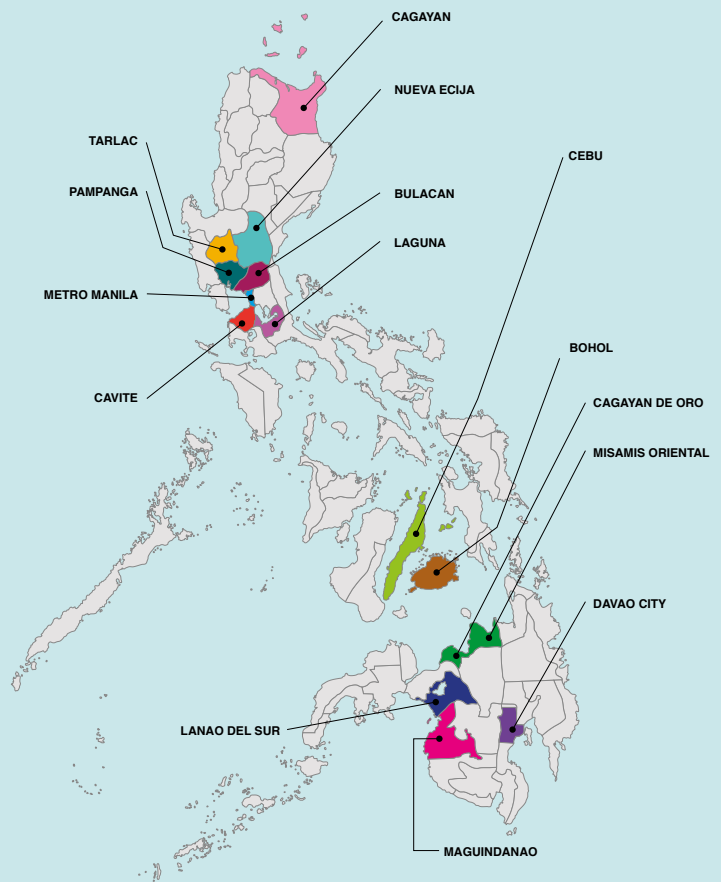
- Davao City Bypass Construction Project
- Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project
- Programme for the Support for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi City and Its Surrounding Areas
- Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River, and Imus River
- Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River
- Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV)
- Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project

AGRICULTURE

- National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project



LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|----------|------------------|--------------------|
| ● Metro Manila | ● Cagayan | ● Cavite | ● Nueva Ecija | ● Misamis Oriental |
| ● Bulacan | ● Laguna | ● Cebu | ● Davao City | ● Lanao del Sur |
| ● Bohol | ● Pampanga | ● Tarlac | ● Cagayan de Oro | ● Maguindanao |
| ○ Nationwide | | | | |

Philippines: The Road Ahead

The Philippines' game plan in an evolving pandemic world has been challenged with subsequent waves of infections just as movement restrictions are gradually lifted. Despite this, however, a December 2021 McKinsey executive sentiment survey echoed a positive note on economic conditions among countries in the Asia Pacific, pinning hopes on effective COVID-19 control and overcoming other pressing economic threats.

In an interview, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua shares with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Chief Representative AZUKIZAWA Eigo candid remarks and thoughts on how the Philippines intends to move forward in its economic strategies and bilateral cooperation amid the changing of guards in the presidency in 2022 and a pandemic that is likely to stay far longer.



JICA-NEDA online meeting

A: The pandemic has magnified the many economic challenges that we continue to face. Tell us a bit about your experience leading NEDA at this particular time and what you see as the role of partners like JICA to help combat COVID-19 challenges?

C: Leading NEDA amid the country's deepest health and economic crisis has been challenging yet fulfilling. The Philippine government is grateful to development partners like JICA for responding swiftly to the government's call for assistance through emergency budgetary support, assistance for vaccine deployment, and provision of medical supplies and equipment to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and the Filipino people.

The Build, Build, Build infrastructure program is a major component of our economic recovery program, given its multiplier effect on jobs and economic activities. We look forward to continuing discussions with JICA to develop and implement key infrastructure projects.

A: What will be the approach of NEDA and the rest of the government in leading the economic recovery so that investment flows and job creation will expeditiously come back to or even exceed pre-pandemic level?

C: In the immediate term, we will continue implementing our recovery strategy in 2022 which consists of the Economic Development Cluster's 10-point policy agenda to further accelerate and sustain our recovery.

The 10-point policy agenda covers the following areas: 1) metrics; 2) vaccination; 3) healthcare capacity; 4) economy and mobility; 5) schooling; 6) domestic travel; 7) international travel; 8) digital transformation; 9) enacting a pandemic flexibility bill; and 10) medium-term preparation for a pandemic resilience. These policies will facilitate our shift to an "endemic" paradigm where we learn to live with the virus and promote the overall welfare of the people beyond COVID-19.

Our economy's recovery will also get a boost from the Build, Build, Build program that will generate more employment, and the implementation of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) law that lowered the corporate income tax rate and provided performance-based fiscal incentives.

Moreover, we have enacted the Retail Trade Liberalization Act and call for the urgent passage of the remaining economic liberalization bills, namely the amendments to the Public Services Act and Foreign Investment Act. These will help the country attract more foreign direct investments and spur employment by relaxing foreign ownership restrictions, especially in the telecommunications and transport section.

C: We will also improve our social protection programs to support the vulnerable through the accelerated implementation of the PhilSys or the national ID program, which will provide every Filipino with a unique and digitalized proof of identity. A fully digital ID system will allow the government to more efficiently target beneficiaries for social protection programs and directly deposit cash assistance to their bank accounts. This will transform how the government delivers social and financial assistance and help lift more Filipinos out of poverty.

A: Other countries in Southeast Asia and in the West seem to be re-thinking their economic policies in response to COVID-19 and gradually opening the economy. What do you propose should be done so that the Philippines, through its relations with Southeast Asia and its international partners, can keep the economy open and vulnerabilities mitigated?

C: The Philippines has been actively participating in various initiatives focused on strengthening supply chains for the safe and efficient distribution of goods, including COVID-19 vaccines, amid the pandemic. As the global economy recovers and trade demand increases, we need to work together to ensure the safe resumption of international travel and trade.

A: As NEDA Secretary, what is your view on the role of bilateral partners like Japan, China, US, Australia among others in helping steer Philippine development on a more solid path? From your lens, please explain what needs to happen in each of these bilateral relationships.

C: Japan, China, the United States, and Australia are among the top development partners of the Philippines. We are grateful for their continuous assistance and support to the Philippine Government's major infrastructure projects, agriculture, human resource development, basic education, energy development, peace and development, governance, and disaster response, and our COVID-19 response.

We look to further cooperate with these countries as the Philippines graduates to an upper middle-income economy and to sustain the country's development.

A: Is there a wish you have as NEDA Secretary when it comes to any particular initiative to help the economy recover?

C: The most effective recovery strategy is the safe reopening of the economy to restore the people's employment and livelihood. We will sustain our safe reopening by accelerating the vaccination program to protect our communities while allowing people to work.

A: During your stint under President Duterte's administration as Finance Undersecretary and then NEDA Secretary, what are your reflections on the needs of the Philippines to achieve a sustainable, resilient economy?

C: I have directed NEDA to prioritize four areas in the next Philippine Development Plan to achieve a sustainable and resilient economy. First is smart infrastructure, which integrates the existing road infrastructure into the concept of smart cities. Second is innovation to increase the country's growth potential and sustain our next level of development. Third is regional equity to ensure the equitable distribution of resources across regions towards inclusive growth. Fourth is climate change mitigation, which sets the backdrop for all present and future development challenges.

A: JICA would like to thank NEDA for supporting our programs and activities in the Philippines. From your perspective, what do you think is JICA's future role in international cooperation and in Philippine development post COVID-19?

C: Japan continues to be our top partner in the implementation of key infrastructure projects under the Duterte administration. We look forward to continuing the discussions between the Philippine government and JICA on the implementation of major ongoing projects such as the Metro Manila Subway Project and the North-South Commuter Railway Project, and processing of pipeline priority projects for ODA loan financing as we intend to maximize our eligibility to receive concessional loan terms.

We also seek to strengthen cooperation in other key sectors such as human capital development, agriculture, and disaster risk reduction and management. Lastly, we look forward to JICA's continued support for the efforts to maintain peace and spur development in Mindanao. ■



**NEDA Secretary
Karl Kendrick T. Chua**

Coast Guard Diplomacy for a Free and Open Maritime Order

Op-Ed by Jay Tristian Tarriela

Japan has been supporting the Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines in their need to build strong coast guard organizations that could preserve the regional maritime order.

After almost five decades since the first delivery of two brand new search and rescue vessels, SAR-75 and SAR-100, the Japanese government has continuously been supporting the capacity building of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG). Since then and now, the East Asian economic giant through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has ensured that the PCG's maritime governance role is not just capably performed through proper equipment and essential assets, but its human resources are also professionally trained and technically proficient.

Besides the ten brand-new 44-meter vessels already added to the PCG's surface assets inventory and the two 97-meter offshore

patrol vessels to be delivered in 2022, Tokyo has also been sending Japan Coast Guard (JCG) experts through JICA as technical advisers relating to maritime safety, maritime law enforcement, and maritime pollution prevention. In 2002, Japan sponsored a five-year training program entitled the JICA-PCG Human Resource Development to enhance the capabilities of PCG personnel through a range of law enforcement training courses and various exercises. It is estimated that Japan has already trained thousands of PCG personnel in multiple aspects of coast guard operations, including maritime exercises with the JCG vessels. Moreover, Japan has also become a usual foreign training destination for the PCG since it separated from the Philippine Navy in 1998.

Nevertheless, it is worth noting that Japan's innovative maritime cooperation is not just concentrated on the Philippines. The Japanese government has long practiced the utilization of coast guard organizations in establishing maritime collaboration in Southeast Asia. As an island nation with scarce resources and reliance on sea trade routes to survive, Japan appears to have instead redefined its maritime diplomacy by utilizing white ships as an effective foreign policy instrument. From lighthouse construction in Malacca Strait way back in 1969 to oil spill cleaner in 1975 due to the massive oil spill caused by the Japanese tanker Showa Maru, then to addressing piracy in the early 1990s, Japan has relied on its coast guard for more than five

JCG-PCG Maritime Law Enforcement training



decades in ensuring the safety and security of its maritime trade in Southeast Asia.

However, the role of Japan in supporting the coast guard development in the Philippines and the region has significantly evolved in recent years. In the Philippines, Japan through JICA has trained coast guard personnel in maritime safety and security, maritime law enforcement, maritime search and rescue and marine environment protection. Japan has been supporting the Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines in their need to build strong coast guard organizations that could preserve the regional maritime order.

Further, Japan has confidence that due to the education and training they provided to coast guards in the region, a free and open maritime order based on the rule of law as its cornerstone will never be compromised. As mentioned by former Prime Minister Abe in his address at the Seventy-Third Session of the United Nations General Assembly, referring to the Maritime Safety and Security Policy Course provided by Japan to Asian Countries, “Maritime order is not a matter of power, but a matter of the rule of law and one that is rules-based. Every year a class learning such an everlasting truth and taking it as a guiding

principle for their lives will head out from Japan to the seas. This is very promising indeed. Cultivating those who will protect and defend a free and open Indo-Pacific is, precisely, Japan’s noble mission.”

Lastly, Japan under the Free and Open Indo Pacific Framework, edifies that its utilization and deployment should be in line with the international laws, specifically the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). It is emphasized in trainings sponsored by Japan that white hulls support maritime order in the region that is beneficial for the common good.

While the PCG takes pride as the oldest coast guard in Asia, it cannot deny that its contemporary form and capability were significantly molded by the land of the rising sun. Starting from education and training that the latter provided, up to the coast guard assets it funded and delivered, it is inevitable that these two coast guard organizations are in sync in ensuring that the sea is safe, clean, secure, and peaceful. As the PCG is being developed, Manila and Tokyo are bound to accomplish an inclusive regional goal – the enforcement of the rule of law and the advancement of the maritime order. ■

PCG visit to the Bridge of Patrol Vessel Kunisaki, Vessel Design Model for the 97-m MRRV



About the Author

JAY TRISTAN TARRUELA is a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) commissioned officer with the rank of Coast Guard Captain. He is currently the Director of the PCG Leadership and Doctrine Development Center. Capt. Tarruela holds master’s and doctorate degrees from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Tokyo, Japan and was a scholar of the ASEAN Public Policy Leadership Program of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). As a member of the academic community, Tarruela has presented papers on coast guard cooperation and maritime security issues in policy and academic conferences in Japan, United States, Southeast Asia, and the Netherlands, to name a few.

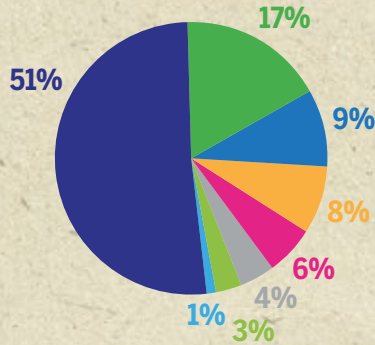
Exchange of opinions between Officers and Crew of JCG Patrol Vessel Kunisaki (right row) and 97-m MRRV (left row).



Fast Facts

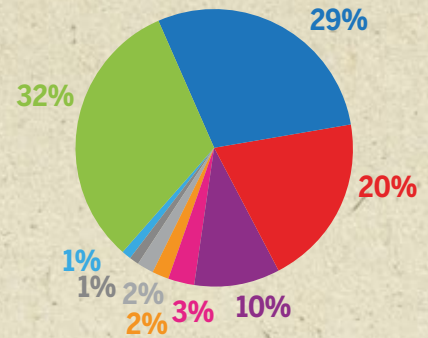
■ Japan's Bilateral Assistance to the Philippines

(Cumulative as of FY 2020)



ODA Loan and Private-Sector Investment Finance Commitment ¥ 3,393,887 million

- Transportation
- Program Loans, etc.
- Irrigation and Flood Control
- Power and Energy
- Social Services
- Mining and Manufacturing
- Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Industry
- Telecommunications



Technical Cooperation ¥ 265,792 million

- Public Works/Utilities
- Others
- Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries
- Planning/Government
- Human Resources
- Health/Healthcare
- Mining and Manufacturing
- Energy
- Business/Tourism
- Social Welfare Services

Grant Aid ¥ 244,375 million

- Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries
- Public Works/Utilities
- Human Resources
- Health/Healthcare
- Social Welfare Services
- Business/Tourism
- Mining and Manufacturing
- Planning/Government
- Energy



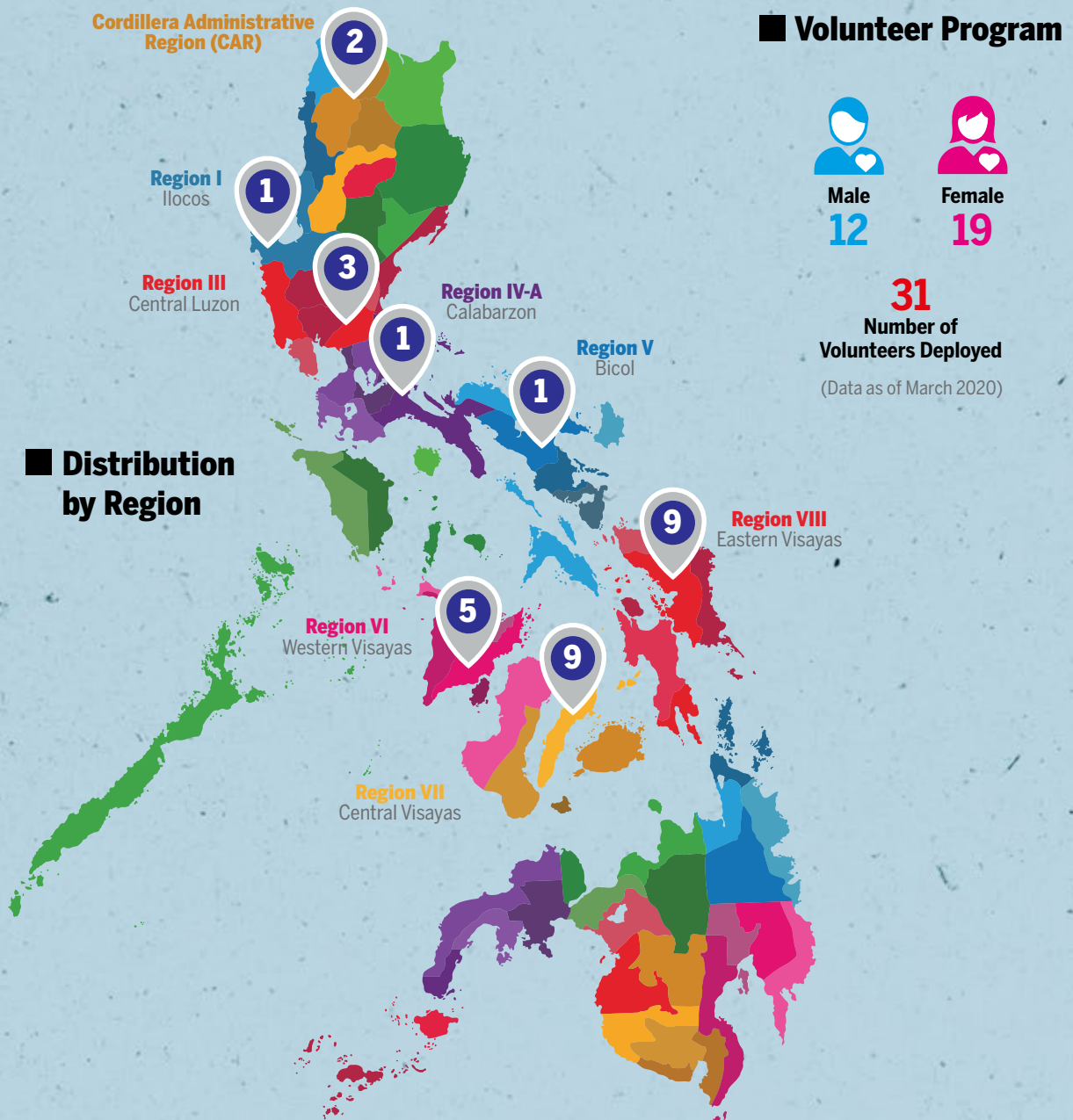
(Cumulative as of FY 2020)

10,536
Japanese experts
deployed to the
Philippines

21,446
Japanese study
team members sent
to the Philippines

42,372
Filipinos trained
by JICA

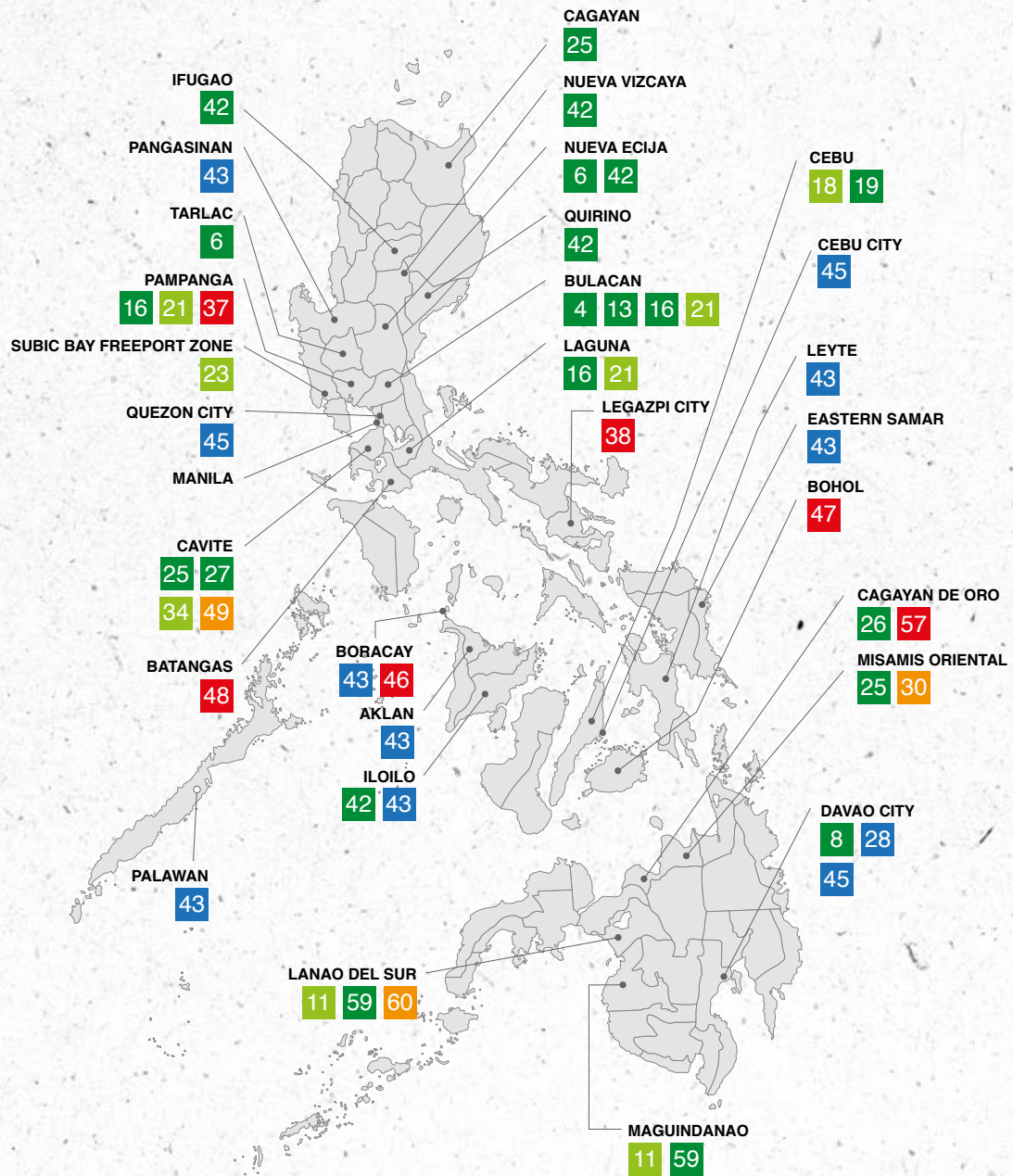
1,677
Japanese volunteers
dispatched to the
Philippines



Distribution by Sector



JICA Philippines Operations Map



LEGEND:

- GRANT AID
- JAPANESE PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
- PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT FINANCE
- TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR GRASSROOTS PROJECT
- TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT
- YEN LOAN
- YEN LOAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

METRO MANILA



BARMM



LUZON



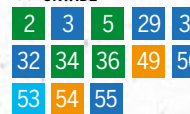
CALABARZON REGION IV-A



REGION III CENTRAL LUZON



NATIONWIDE



REGION VII CENTRAL VISAYAS



JICA Philippines Project List

(Ongoing projects as of December 2021)

Priority Area: Achieving economic growth through further promotion of investment

Governance

- 1 The Project for Enhancement of Philippine Coast Guard Capability on Vessel Operation, Maintenance Planning and Maritime Law Enforcement **Metro Manila**
- 2 Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (Phase I and II) **Nationwide**
- 3 The Project for Establishment of Credit Risk Database in the Philippines **Nationwide**

Economic Infrastructure

- 4 Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III) **Bulacan**
- 5 Road Upgrading and Preservation Project **Nationwide**
- 6 Central Luzon Link Expressway Project (Phase I) **Tarlac, Nueva Ecija**
- 7 Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project (Phase VI) **Metro Manila**
- 8 Davao City Bypass Construction Project **Davao City**
- 9 Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project **Metro Manila**
- 10 Project for Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan for Metro Manila **Metro Manila**
- 11 The Detailed Design Study of Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao **Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur**
- 12 Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project **Metro Manila**
- 13 North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos-Tutuban) **Metro Manila, Bulacan**
- 14 Detailed Design Study for the Metro Manila Subway Project **Metro Manila**
- 15 Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I) **Metro Manila**
- 16 North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project (Malolos-Clark, Blumentritt-Calamba) **Metro Manila, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga**
- 17 Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project **Metro Manila**
- 18 The Detailed Design Study of Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project **Cebu**
- 19 Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project **Cebu**
- 20 Technical Assistance Project to Establish the Philippine Railway Institute **Metro Manila**

- 21 The Detailed Design Study of the Malolos-Clark Railway Project and the North-South Railway Project - South Line (Commuter) **Metro Manila, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga**

Investment Promotion and Industrial Development

- 22 Project for Industrial Competitive Enhancement through Industrial Human Resource Development and Supply and Value Chain Development **CALABARZON**
- 23 Technical Support to the Formulation of Subic Bay Regional Development Master Plan in the Republic of the Philippines **Subic Bay Freeport Zone, CALABARZON**

Priority Area: Overcoming vulnerability and stabilizing bases for human life and production activity

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

- 24 Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV) **Metro Manila**
- 25 Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River, and Imus River **Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, Cavite**
- 26 Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River **Cagayan de Oro**
- 27 Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project **Cavite**
- 28 Master Plan and Feasibility Study on Flood Control and Drainage in Davao City **Davao City**
- 29 The Project for Development of Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines **Nationwide**
- 30 Improvement of Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Cagayan de Oro River Basin **Misamis Oriental**
- 31 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - Capacity Enhancement Project (Phase II) **CALABARZON, Central Visayas, Nationwide**
- 32 The Project for Capability Enhancement for High Quality Weather Observation, Forecast, Warning and Information in the Philippines **Nationwide**
- 33 Project for Development of a Hybrid Water-Related Disaster Risk Assessment Technology for Sustainable Local Economic Development Policy under Climate Change in the Philippines **Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Metro Manila**
- 34 Post Disaster Stand-by Loan Phase II **Nationwide**
- 35 Flood Management Expert **Metro Manila**

Agriculture and Agribusiness Development

- 36 National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project **Nationwide**
- 37 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Mulberry Tea Leaves Project in Pampanga **Pampanga**
- 38 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Establishing Sustainable Organic Waste Composting Systems in Legazpi City **Legazpi City**
- 39 Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines **Luzon**

Environment and Energy

- 40 Small and Medium-Size Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Marketing Study on Recyint (Integrated Recycle Business Model for ELV) **Metro Manila**
- 41 Small and Medium-Size Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Recycling Business using Rebuilt Engines for Road Safety and Environmental Sustainability **Metro Manila**
- 42 Forestland Management Project **Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Iloilo**
- 43 The Project for Comprehensive Assessment & Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and Their Services in the Coral Triangle (BlueCARES) **Palawan, Iloilo, Aklan, Pangasinan, Boracay, Eastern Samar, Leyte**
- 44 Non-Revenue Water Improvement Project in the West Zone of Metro Manila **Metro Manila**
- 45 The Project for Capacity Development on Improving Solid Waste Management through Advanced/Innovative Technologies **Metro Manila, Quezon City, Davao City, Cebu City**
- 46 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Recycling Waste Cooking Oil as a Substitution of Diesel Fuel with Renergy System in Boracay Island **Boracay**
- 47 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Septage Management Improvement with Advanced Treatment Method in Panglao, Bohol **Bohol**
- 48 Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Electricity Distribution System and Management in Philippines **Batangas**

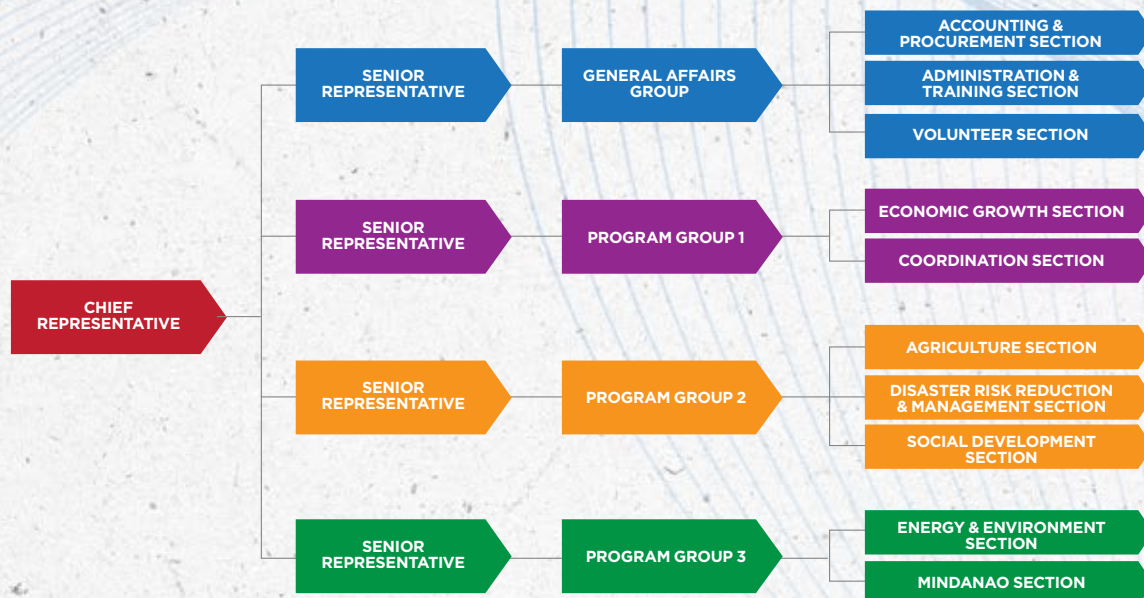
Health and Social Development

- 49 The Programme for Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users (CARE) **Cavite for rehab center site; Nationwide for other program components**
- 50 The Project for Introducing Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment & Rehabilitation Centers (IntERlaPP) **Nationwide**
- 51 The Project for the Establishment of the One Health Prevention and Treatment Network Model for the Elimination of Rabies in the Philippines **Metro Manila, Central Luzon**
- 52 The Housing Design Support Project for Informal Settler Families (ISFs) through Human Resource Development **Metro Manila**
- 53 Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities (RCF) and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines **Nationwide**
- 54 The Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) **Nationwide**
- 55 ASEAN University Network/South East Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) (Phase IV) **Nationwide**
- 56 Development of Information, Education, and Communication Materials on Mental Health for Children and Adolescents **Metro Manila**
- 57 Verification Survey for the Improvement of Students' Math Performance Using the Hybrid Learning Material "Smart Lecture" **Cagayan de Oro**

Priority Area: Peace and development in Mindanao

- 58 Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation (HARVEST) **BARMM, Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM)**
- 59 Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao (Dollar Denominated Japanese Loan) **Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur**
- 60 Programme for the Support for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi City and Its Surrounding Areas (Budget Support) **Lanao del Sur**
- 61 Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro **BARMM**

JICA Philippine Office Organizational Chart



People behind JICA

Program Group 1

Infrastructure, Urban and Regional Development, Governance



Program Group 2

Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Social Development, Japanese SME Support



Program Group 3

Energy and Environment, Peace and Development in Mindanao



General Affairs Group



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BUILD BACK BETTER

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