JICA
Japan International Cooperation Agency

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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).

For over 50 years, JICA remains steadfast in supporting socioeconomic development through its ODA activities in over 150 developing countries and regions in the world.

Vision

Leading the world with trust.

Mission

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

Our Work in the Philippines

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

STRENGTHENING A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

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

ENSURING HUMAN SECURITY FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

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

PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT IN MINDANAO

- Reducing poverty through improvement of access to social services
- Community development through improvement of infrastructure and industry promotion
- Strengthening local governance

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 to 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, roads, and provision of equipment.

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.

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.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

Private Sector Business for Socio-Economic Development: Japanese 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).

"Kasama niyo kami!" A better future together

It is my pleasure to share with you our annual publication and showcase the wide-ranging cooperation activities of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the Philippines. Personally, my first year as Chief Representative in JICA Philippines Office was fantastic, having visited many project sites in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Beyond this, I am honored and glad to meet Philippine counterparts from the highest rank in the government up to the grassroots level, including children, farmers, former combatants among others. Notably, I am impressed by their warm hospitality. This can perhaps be attributed to JICA's humble contributions that we, in return, also feel their appreciation, trust, and expectation towards JICA.

As head of JICA Team Philippines, all these experiences renewed my passionate aspiration and determination to do more vibrant cooperation for the prosperity and peace of all Filipinos!

The year 2022 was a positive year for JICA and the Philippines' relations. Our partnership rose to a different level, even on the back of COVID-19 pandemic. As a trusted partner and the closest friend of the Philippines, JICA delivered on its promise to collaborate towards Philippine development in many fronts: developing infrastructure, improving quality of life, and mitigating disparity among all Filipinos.

We acknowledge that there still remain many challenges for the Philippines. However, JICA will continue as always to work with the Filipino people to promote self-help efforts and *create a better future together. Kasama niyo kami!*

For this publication, we are proud to share with you our efforts to Philippine development priorities, namely infrastructure, health, agriculture, education, social safety nets, disaster management among others. We also look forward to listening to your feedback, success stories, and lessons towards sustainable, inclusive, and resilient quality growth not only for the Philippines and Japan, but for the entire region and the world.

During my stint as Chief Representative in JICA India Office, I am constantly reminded of what a high Indian official told me once: it is the uniqueness that JICA brings to India that catalyze Indians to transform themselves. This is also echoed in our activities in the Philippines. May our cooperation inspire many Filipinos to learn from Japan's story - our values of discipline, team work, and perfection, and how we keep bouncing back despite our challenges.

May you enjoy reading this edition of JICA Annual Report, and thank you for your deep understanding and unwavering support to JICA Philippines' proactive operations in this beautiful country through the years!

Mabuhay!

SAKAMOTO Takema
Chief Representative (March 2022~)

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Q&A

'Our common goal is to provide better living conditions for every Filipino': Insights from Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman

JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema had an exclusive interview with Philippine Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman for this year's edition of the JICA Annual Report. As a public servant with Maranao roots, Pangandaman stands out as one of the few women in the Cabinet with the privilege and responsibility of giving voice to Mindanao and adding diverse perspective in civil service.

Pangandaman served as Assistant Governor at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and then Undersecretary of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) under former President Duterte's administration. In her current role as DBM Secretary, Pangandaman shares with JICA her insights on the promising course under the new administration, opportunities for Mindanao, and how the Philippines' partnership with JICA is driving inclusivity, resilience, and change.

Sakamoto: How are you, first of all, especially after being appointed at the helm of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as a very essential part of the Marcos Administration?

Pangandaman: I am very grateful to be part of a very hardworking and dynamic Cabinet with a dedicated President.

We have an excellent economic team led by Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno and NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, who were my Economics professors. We hit the ground running and we were able to present a Medium-Term Fiscal Framework and an 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda to the President which he then presented to the Filipino people in his first State of the Nation Address (SONA). The objectives that we laid out have been our guide in crafting the proposed FY 2023 national budget, and these are now all under our Agenda for Prosperity.

Since my appointment as Budget Secretary, we were given the privilege to join the President in his state visits in Indonesia and Singapore. I also joined the annual meetings of the IMF-World Bank last October in the United States and had briefings with different credit rating agencies such as Moody's, S&P Global, and Fitch Rating.

On the budget side, I am happy that we are on time – in fact it was quite fast. The proposed national budget for 2023 has been ratified by Congress and has been signed on December 16, 2022. I think this is the fastest recorded time that the General Appropriations have been signed.

Sakamoto: How do you evaluate the first 6 months of work in the DBM?

Pangandaman: So far so good. If you want to look at the numbers, the GDP is the highest so far. [It is] more than what we expected and [it is the] highest among our neighbors. Our employment rate as well has been steadily increasing. Everyone in the cabinetis trying to push for more investments. We are doing our best to meet our Medium-Term Fiscal Framework and 8-point Socioeconomic Agenda.

Sakamoto: The COVID-19 pandemic years and the natural disasters such as recent

DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman

typhoons had been quite challenging times for the Philippines. The good news, though is that the Philippines seems to be on a path to strong recovery under the guidance of the current administration leaders, with the economy opening up near pre-pandemic levels. What are the DBM's medium- and long-term expenditure priorities under your leadership? And what areas do you expect further cooperation from JICA?

Pangandaman: The National Government expenditure priorities remain anchored on prudent macroeconomic and fiscal management. Hence, the National Budget is aligned with the six-year Philippine Development Plan (PDP) of the President which is based on the 8-point Socioeconomic Agenda for the near-term and the medium-term. From our end, we need to be consistent with those two guide points.

In particular, government programs that ensure food security, reduce transport and energy costs, strengthen healthcare and education systems, promote social protection, as well as enhance bureaucratic efficiency shall be the top expenditure priorities of the administration for the near-term. Over the medium-term, the agenda will focus on creating more jobs, quality jobs, and green jobs. It is important to have these near- and medium-term plans to anchor our budget and programs on as we move towards development.

With this, we look forward to our long partnership with JICA in achieving the overall goal of the Marcos Administration to reinvigorate job creation and poverty reduction by steering the economy back to its high-growth path in the near-term and sustain the high – but inclusive and resilient – growth all through 2028.

Sakamoto: You have taken pride in your Mindanao roots. As you may already know, JICA is a long-standing close friend of all Filipinos, including the Muslim people in Mindanao. JICA shares your views that Mindanao Peace Process is achieving sustainable socioeconomic development in the region and for the entire Philippines. From your perspective, which areas/aspects should be given utmost attention to realize peace and development in Mindanao?

Pangandaman: I would like to express my utmost gratitude to the Japanese Government and JICA for your invaluable support to the development of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) since the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law. These programs under the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development (J-BiRD) truly helped improve the lives of the Bangsamoro people through the years.

To further realize peace and development in Mindanao, we hope to continuously get your full support on programs and projects that promote economic growth, human security, as well as peace and development in BARMM. Specifically, we hope to constantly collaborate and implement with you several development cooperation activities that support the peace process in the Bangsamoro, including the crafting of the Bangsamoro Development Plan 2 (2023-2028), Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (2019-2025), and the Road Network for Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (2019-2024).

We in the National Government are here to help them as well, especially in terms of budget. We are giving them enough funds given the very limited fiscal space that we have at present. The next steps would be to work together with them on budget preparation, implementation and utilization; procurement processes; and planning and identifying programs needed by their people. On the other hand, JICA has been the DBM's close partner in our Public Financial Management journey through enhancing the technical skills and competencies of our public financial managers. Indeed, this will be helpful towards the effective and efficient delivery of public services, especially in BARMM.

Finally, we also strongly support your new technical cooperation initiative, "Socio-Economic Assistance for Bangsamoro Normalization Process" for the smooth and effective implementation of livelihood skills training for Decommissioned Combatants and their Communities.

As I always say, it is my personal dream to see a BARMM that is thriving and a Mindanao that shines as the land of promise. I believe that the rest of the Philippines and BARMM can grow together as two governments working in support of each other towards a common goal – to provide better living conditions for every Filipino.

Sakamoto: How do you view the role of development partners like JICA in the economic transformation efforts of the government? Among many development partners, how do you view JICA's cooperation?

The assistance and support from JICA truly helped the Philippines achieve strong financial footing amid global and local challenges. This has enabled the country to build firm macroeconomic fundamentals and implement key structural reforms despite the economic slowdown brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical tensions.

Specifically, aside from development programs for BARMM, we look forward to our continued partnership in implementing big-ticket infrastructure projects under the administration's Build, Better, More Program that advances sustainable economic growth.

To complement the implementation of these priority programs and show our commitment to policy continuity, we also hope to get your support in enhancing key structural reforms that promote bureaucratic efficiency through digital transformation. These include the development and implementation of the Digital Transformation Roadmap which shall enhance the Government Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS) through five focus areas - Budget Management, Treasury Management, Accounting, Procurement and Budget Execution.

We are also open to collaborating with you in developing and/or enhancing programs that promote other priority expenditures under the 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda such as the promotion of food security and the adoption of the green economy roadmap, among other programs.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank JICA for our continuing partnership, which has been long-standing for six decades, in pursuit of inclusive and sustainable economic development in the Philippines. Rest assured that the Philippines will remain JICA's strategic partner in achieving our common goals of quality growth, human security, and local development. *Domo arigato gozaimasu*! ●

Promoting Quality Infrastructure and Building Better Connectivity

Gearing up for safe, reliable, and comfortable Philippine railway system

Philippine railway operators

Heads of JICA Philippines Office and DOTr during the signing ceremony for the extension of the PRI Technical Assistance Project.

It cannot be overemphasized that an organization's best asset is having the right people. For the Philippine railway sector, the need to invest in competent human resources in railway operations is more crucial than ever. The government is building massive railway systems such as North-South Commuter Railway and Metro Manila Subway under JICA's cooperation, and there is urgent need to have a pool of skilled and certified railway technicians to ensure safe, reliable, and comfortable operations of these railways.

In understanding the importance of human resource development, JICA and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) conceptualized the country's Philippine Railways Institute (PRI) in 2018 to train railway personnel and address other human resource challenges under JICA-assisted "Technical Assistance Project to Establish the Philippine Railways Institute".

Through the Project, course offerings such as Fundamental Training, Refresher Training, Capacity Development Training, and Supervisory Management Training were developed and rolled out by the PRI. Railway personnel from railway companies who underwent the Fundamental Training were required to complete the course specific to their responsibilities and pass all the examinations in order to be certified. The course covers all railway specializations that include, among others, tracks maintenance, rolling stock maintenance, and passenger management. To date, the PRI has produced 2,526 trained personnel since its establishment in 2019, with 929 trainees completing courses in 2022.

> *"If we are to succeed at completing this big-ticket projects, especially our rail systems, we need the support of our Japanese experts to ensure our train systems are operated by the best qualified and highly trained Filipino professionals."*
>
> *– PRI 3rd Expert Panel Meeting*

"The Philippine railway transportation is the least regulated mode of public transportation since regulations on competencies, accreditation, and sanctions for violations are yet to be implemented across the industry. Thus, there is an urgent need to develop a sustainable training system for railway operations and maintenance," Israel Radiaganding, Chief Transportation Development Training Officer of DOTr shared. Radiaganding was one of PRI instructors who completed on-the-job training at the Tokyo Metro facilities in Japan.

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Technical Assistance Project to Establish the Philippine Railways Institute

PERIOD
2018-2024

LOCATION
Greater Capital Region

Said training was a part of JICA's Technical Assistance Project to ensure that Philippines will have safe, reliable, and comfortable railway services in the long-term. "We will include the study experience in Tokyo in conducting PRI training courses," he added.

"JICA understands the challenges that go with massive expansion of railway systems. That's why our cooperation is not only limited to hard infrastructure, but also includes soft measures like capacity development to ensure high quality, efficiency, sustainability and seamlessness of our projects for maximum impact," said Chief Representative of JICA Philippines Office SAKAMOTO Takema.

As the Philippines gears up for more mass transit modes, the DOTr-JICA cooperation is filling in the gaps in the country's human resources vital for safe, reliable, and comfortable transportation culture. ●

Journey to the future of Philippine transport infrastructure

Refurbishment of MRT-3 cars

There is nothing like a dream to create a future. -Victor Hugo

The plight of Filipino commuters is always the subject of headlines and viral stories in Pinoy social spaces. The existing public transport network is simply insufficient and inconvenient to cater to the rising passenger demand from urbanization and growing population. Public commuting, especially in Metro Manila, is characterized by long queues, congested vehicles, and hours wasted in gridlock traffic that ultimately deteriorates the quality of life of commuters.

But all that are about to change. The Philippine government has partnered with JICA to revamp and build mass urban railway systems to ease traffic and provide significant potential for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economic growth.

Rehabilitation, Upgrading, and Extension of Existing Railway Network in Metro Manila

One of the major railway projects between the Philippines and JICA is the rehabilitation of the existing Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3). The MRT-3 provides mass transportation for Filipinos going to major commercial districts such as Cubao, Ortigas, and Makati's Central Business District.

The MRT-3 used to be a depiction of the problematic daily commuting conditions as the trains suffer frequent breakdowns in recent years. Before the Project, the rolling stocks, power supply, and signaling system as well as railway tracks and maintenance systems are in dire need of rehabilitation and upgrading.

Through JICA's ODA, a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Maintenance Agreement was signed and implemented for MRT-3 to improve the safety and service level of the railway line. By leveraging Japanese expertise in railway maintenance and technology, the rehabilitated MRT-3 was inaugurated in March 2022. The rehabilitation increased the running speed of the trains from 25km per hour to 60km per hour and ensured that 22 trainsets will be available during the line's operating hours.

Meanwhile, LRT (Light Rail Transit) 1 South Extension and LRT 2 East Extension were also modernized by JICA's Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project that includes 120 new rolling stocks, depot construction and expansion, and electrical and mechanical systems. All this serves proof that cooperation is a key in augmenting the capacity of urban railways and overall commuter welfare in the long run.

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project

LOAN SIGNING DATE
November 08, 2018

LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 38.101 Billion

LOCATION
Metro Manila

PROJECT TITLE
Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project

LOAN SIGNING DATE
March 27, 2013

LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 43.252 Billion

LOCATION
Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal

JICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PHILIPPINE RAILWAY SECTOR: THE LAST 10 YEARS

2013
JICA and DOF signed the Loan Agreement for the Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila

2014
JICA and NEDA concluded the Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development of Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas that supports building of critical infrastructure like railways to help address traffic congestion and distribute economic opportunities to other growth centers

2015
JICA and DOF signed the Loan Agreement for the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project

Groundbreaking ceremony for MMSP Contract Package 1 | Source: DOTr

North Avenue Station

Tunnel Boring Machine

The Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase 1)

Touted to be the 'Project of the Century' for being the Philippines' first subway, the cooperation between the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and JICA for the Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP) Phase 1 has gone full speed ahead.

For commuters from the north of Metro Manila (Valenzuela and Quezon City) down to the southern parts (Taguig City / Pasay City), the subway project supports the Philippines' infrastructure agenda of "Build, Better, More", and is symbolic of the special bond between Japan and the Philippines.

Historically, the Japanese are known for their strength in building world-class railway systems. Since its first railway line between Shimbashi and Yokohama was built in 1872, Japan's railway system and culture was a model to the world that quality transport infrastructure results in better mobility regardless of social class, creating safer, punctual, and reliable transport options for all.

In 2022, the pre-construction of the subway's stations and tunnels (Ortigas Avenue, and Shaw Boulevard) in Pasig City has commenced, in addition to the already ongoing works at the depot in Valenzuela City and stations and tunnels in Quirino Highway, Tandang Sora and North Avenue, as well as the production of the trainsets. The Project's other contract packages had also been awarded in 2022 to kick off the groundbreaking of railway lines in the northeastern part of Metro Manila, particularly the Quezon Avenue, East Avenue, Anonas, and Camp Aguinaldo segments.

When completed, the Metro Manila Subway Project will ease commuting times within and around the capital, becoming not only an essential railway line of urban transportation in the Philippines, but the iconic first subway system of the Philippines.

> *"I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Government of Japan and JICA for being active partners in the fulfillment of our country's infrastructure program, not only for this particular project [Metro Manila Subway] but in the many years passed. The assistance of the Japanese government, JICA in particular, without which we could not have fulfilled many of our infrastructure programs... I am confident that they will help us shape our railway infrastructure and keep them at par with the highest international standards."*
>
> *– Philippine President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during the Launching of the Metro Manila Subway Tunnel Boring Machine*

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase 1)

LOAN SIGNING DATE
1st Tranche: March 16, 2018
2nd Tranche: February 10, 2022

LOAN AMOUNT
1st Tranche: JPY 104. 530 Billion
2nd Tranche: JPY 753.307 Billion

LOCATION
Metro Manila

*NEDA (National Economic and Development Authority)
*DOF (Department of Finance)

2018
JICA and DOF signed the First Tranche Loan Agreement for the MMSP Phase 1

2019
JICA and DOF signed the Loan Agreement for the North-South Commuter Railway Extension (NSCR-EX) Project, a Project co-financed with the Asian Development Bank covering Clark to Malolos, Blumentritt to Calamba

2019
JICA and NEDA updated the Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure Development of Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas in 2014

2022
JICA and DOF signed the Second Tranche Loan Agreement for the MMSP Phase 1

The North-South Commuter Railway Project

Metro Manila is one of the most crowded cities comparable to Tokyo, New York, and London. Recognizing that expanding the railway network will promote seamless mobility from north to south of Metro Manila, the Philippine government partnered with JICA to construct the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project (Malolos-Tutuban).

The Project is set to change the game in transport. Once completed, the NSCR will reduce travel time from two hours to only 30 minutes between Malolos, Bulacan and Tutuban, Manila. The NSCR will adopt Japanese seismic designs and low emission trains for resilience and sustainability.

In 2022, two trainsets consist of 16 coaches for commuter trains had arrived, and more will follow in the years to come. These trains have a capacity to accommodate 2,288 passengers and are equipped with state-of-the-art technology from Japan. They also share the same features as Tokyo's *Yamanote* line, further assuring that the trainsets are safe, reliable, and comfortable while bearing the same brand of Japan's quality infrastructure standards.

Once completed, the NSCR can cater to 340,000 passengers daily and promises to bring transportation benefits and elevate way of life for Filipino commuters.

During the unveiling of the first NSCR trainset

North-South Commuter Railway-Extension (NSCR-EX) Project

JICA and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are co-financing the NSCR-EX Project. The supply of rolling stocks and installation of electro-mechanical systems and track works will be funded under JICA's Official Development Assistance (ODA), while ADB will fund the civil and architectural structure to build a seamless connection to NSCR Project through the constructions of an elevated structure consisting of viaducts and embankment within a total of approximately 147km alignment from Clark International Airport to Malolos, and from Solis, Blumentritt to Calamba.

The NSCR and NSCR-EX Projects will be combined and integrated to form an NSCR System and is expected to boost the Philippine public transportation capacity in the long run and further enhance the north-south urban transportation backbone in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Full Speed Ahead

By 2045, the National Capital Region's population is expected to grow to 14.5 million. Consequently, number of commuters travelling each day is also set to increase. Therefore, the massive railway projects ongoing today, combined with the upcoming Formulation of 30-Year Railway Master Plan for the Greater Capital Region under JICA's technical cooperation, can make meaningful impact in the future of public transportation in the country, offering quality commuting option that people deserve. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
North-South Commuter Railway (Malolos-Tutuban) Project

LOAN SIGNING DATE
November 27, 2015

LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 241.991 Billion

LOCATION
Metro Manila, Bulacan

PROJECT TITLE
North-South Commuter Railway Extension (NSCR-EX) Project

LOAN SIGNING DATE
January 21, 2019

LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 167.199 Billion

LOCATION
Pampanga, Bulacan, Metro Manila, Laguna

Promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific

BRP Melchora Aquino commissioned in June 2022

Arresting Technique by JCG Mobile Cooperation Team

BRP Teresa Magbanua during towing exercises under JICA Experts' support

Recognizing the importance of the seas to the Indo-Pacific Region, the cooperation of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and JICA has evolved to include upgrading PCG's floating assets for enhanced maritime safety and security.

As an archipelagic nation that is often confronted with maritime incidents, the Philippines sought JICA's financial cooperation to help enhance their maritime safety and security functions with two new 97-meter Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs).

In 2022, PCG received its first 97-meter MRRV in March and was commissioned into service as Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas (BRP) Teresa Magbanua, in reference to a Filipino teacher and heroine during the Philippine Revolution against Spain and the US. This was followed by the delivery of the second MRRV named after Melchora Aquino, touted as the Mother of the Philippine Revolution. The delivery of these vessels was a milestone for the Philippines, filling the gap in the country's operational capability at sea.

The MRRVs took two years to build even at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and was modeled after the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) patrol vessel Kunisaki. The vessel is the newest and the largest in the PCG fleet assets and applied Japanese technology in terms of structure and design. This ensures that the vessel can operate in rough seas for long voyage, and possesses the speed, stability, and sea worthiness during maritime safety and security operations.

Further, the new MRRV complements the earlier cooperation of JICA and the PCG for ten 44-meter MRRVs delivered from 2016-2018.

Aside from the MRRVs, JICA has for decades dispatched long-term and short-term experts to PCG and has trained more than 300 PCG personnel on search and rescue, law enforcement, marine environmental protection, and operations and maintenance of vessels.

In a changing global context, the JICA-PCG cooperation proves to acknowledge the vital role of effective operations in the maritime sector, as well as in nurturing the trusted and long-standing partnership between Japan and the Philippines towards a safe, prosperous, and free and open Indo Pacific.

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project Phase II

LOAN SIGNING DATE
October 26, 2016

LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 167.199 Billion

LOCATION
Nationwide

By boosting the PCG capability and capacity, JICA believes that the PCG can save more lives, secure sea transportation around the Philippine waters and perform their maritime safety and security role more sustainably, over time. ●

VESSEL FEATURES

Overall Length	Maximum Speed	Endurance	Complement	Survivor Accommodation
about **97m**	not less than **24 knots**	not less than **4,000** nautical miles	**67** officers and crew	**30** persons

The New Clarin Bridge, Bohol

Bridging communities towards a better life

Hope springs eternal for the people of Bohol. Emerging from the shadow of a devastating 7.2-magnitude earthquake in 2013, Bohol has steadily bounced back from the disaster's impact through continuous partnership and mutual cooperation between the Philippines and Japan.

The earthquake damaged majority of Bohol's key infrastructure such as roads and bridges, depriving the province of access to basic commodities and services for several days and of tourism revenues for some months.

Recognizing the critical role of transportation infrastructure in reviving Bohol's economy, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and JICA in cooperation with the local government units worked together to repair, rehabilitate, and reconstruct seven (7) bridges along the Bohol Circumferential Road, including the Clarin Bridge in the Municipality of Loay, Bohol.

The New Clarin Bridge is a 104-meter Nielsen arch-type steel structure standing grandly on Loboc River. It serves as a pathway for people going to and from Bohol's eastern part and across the entire Bohol Island. The bridge leads to some of Bohol's famous destinations for tourists – Bilar man-made forest, Tarsier monkey conservation site, and a conservation center for butterflies.

The New Clarin Bridge was constructed as one of subprojects under JICA-funded Road Upgrading and Preservation Project (RUPP), the latter of which aims to ensure sustainability of roads through improvement and maintenance of arterial roads all over the Philippines. As both Japan and the Philippines experience severe natural disasters, JICA continues to share Japanese technology and high safety standard through JICA cooperation projects. In fact, the latest seismic design standard and Japanese products such as seismic isolation bearing that can withstand the impact of large-scale earthquake has been adopted for the construction of the New Clarin Bridge to enhance its resilience and durability.

"JICA and the Province of Bohol have a long meaningful history of partnership and friendship. Our assistance to Bohol in the 1980s until today included the construction of Bohol Circumferential Road, irrigation, rural electrification, and most recently Bohol's first eco-airport in Panglao. The New Clarin bridge and other six (6) bridges are an addition to this long list of cooperation with this beautiful province," said JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema.

For an island that is dependent on tourism for jobs, the New Clarin Bridge signals hope for a safer, sustainable, and resilient future for the Boholanos. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Road Upgrading and Preservation Project

LOAN SIGNING DATE
March 31, 2011

LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 40.847 Million

LOCATION
Loay, Bohol

The tunnel can be excavated about 3 meters per day

Twin tube tunnel from North portal

On track to ease urban congestion in Davao

Often repeated is the saying, the joy is in the journey not the destination.

For commuters and road users in Davao and nearby localities, moving around has become increasingly difficult with the constant traffic gridlock in and around the city that is often associated with rapid urbanization and economic growth.

Travel speed in the city's arterial roads has a rhythm of its own, often slowing down the journey to less than 20 kilometers per hour. This offers a sense of frustration, but also a strong desire to improve the situation that befits Davao City's status as a growth center of Mindanao.

A bypass road just outside downtown Davao that connects to the port area and the city's neighboring towns is seen as one of the promising solutions. In 2015, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in cooperation with JICA started the task of building this bypass road, namely the Davao City Bypass Construction Project, that will include the very first long-distance mountain tunnel in the Philippines. The project was included as one of the priorities of former President Duterte's "Build, Build, Build" agenda, and in 2021, tunneling activities for the 2.3 kilometer 'twin tube' tunnel has commenced, using construction equipment and methodologies applied in Japan's expansive tunnel road network. With this development, the project is on track to ease traffic and improve the logistics network in the region.

> *"Through the project, I had exposure on international standards in construction through our meetings with Japanese experts. The Department can consider this in updating our current road design standards. The introduction of New Austrian tunneling method boosted the DPWH's technology advancement when it comes to building transport infrastructure."*
>
> *– Engineer Juan M. Dina Jr., Department of Public Works and Highways*

"This project is an opportunity to unlock the full potential of the broader Davao region and the entire Mindanao. It also embodies JICA's mindset for Safe, Reliable, and Comfortable Mobility for a Better Tomorrow," said JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema.

When completed, the entire 45-kilometer bypass (including the 30-kilometer JICA-assisted section) can potentially reduce the nearly two-hour commute between Barangay Sirawan in Toril district and Barangay J.P. Laurel in Panabo City to just 45 minutes.

The project is also relying on technology widely used in Japan called the NATM (New Austrian Tunneling Method), a modern tunnel design that uses sophisticated excavation techniques to ensure optimum safety and stability of mountain tunnels.

Davao Region has indeed attained impressive economic growth in the past years. Improving connectivity and mobility in emerging growth areas like Davao, therefore, spells positive outcomes in the lives of people not just in the city center but also to the rest of Mindanao. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Davao City Bypass Construction Project

LOAN SIGNING DATE
August 2015
June 2020

LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 23.9 Billion
JPY 34.8 Billion

LOCATION
Davao City

Moving people forward towards smooth, safe, and sustainable mobility

It always seems impossible, until it's done.
-Nelson Mandela

With the gradual opening of the economy over two years after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the demand for public transportation in urban centers like Metro Manila has significantly increased and urban gridlock is nearing pre-pandemic levels. Commuters again are suffering from traffic jams on major streets and have to endure long queues before taking trains and buses.

Prior to the pandemic, a global traffic index survey ranked Metro Manila traffic as the second worst in the world. With a population as high as 13 million in 2020, the density of the city combined with rapid urbanization challenged Metro Manila's transportation system.

Acknowledging the pressing need for better mobility, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) teamed up with JICA for the Technical Cooperation Project for Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan for Metro Manila (CTMP). To mitigate traffic congestion, the project has aimed to formulate the 5-year action plan on traffic management, prepare the database of traffic bottlenecks with evidence-based approach, enhance the capacity of related authorities, and establish sustainable coordination mechanisms among transportation-related stakeholders such as government agencies and local government units (LGUs).

The CTMP Project identified 42 major bottlenecks out of 209 found in Metro Manila and ten pilot projects had already been outlined to address it. Further, the Action Plan prepared under the CTMP Project highlights strategic areas to maximize mobility in a sustainable, inclusive way.

"The Project is an essential piece of a comprehensive approach to addressing the perennial traffic congestion with both hard and soft components. No one can resolve the perennial traffic jam in Metro Manila alone, but JICA is optimistic that there's hope in solving the traffic situation," said JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema.

When implemented together with the "Build Better More" infrastructure projects, the CTMP envisions an improved quality of life of people where seamless, safe and comfortable, commuting is no longer a dream but a reality. ●

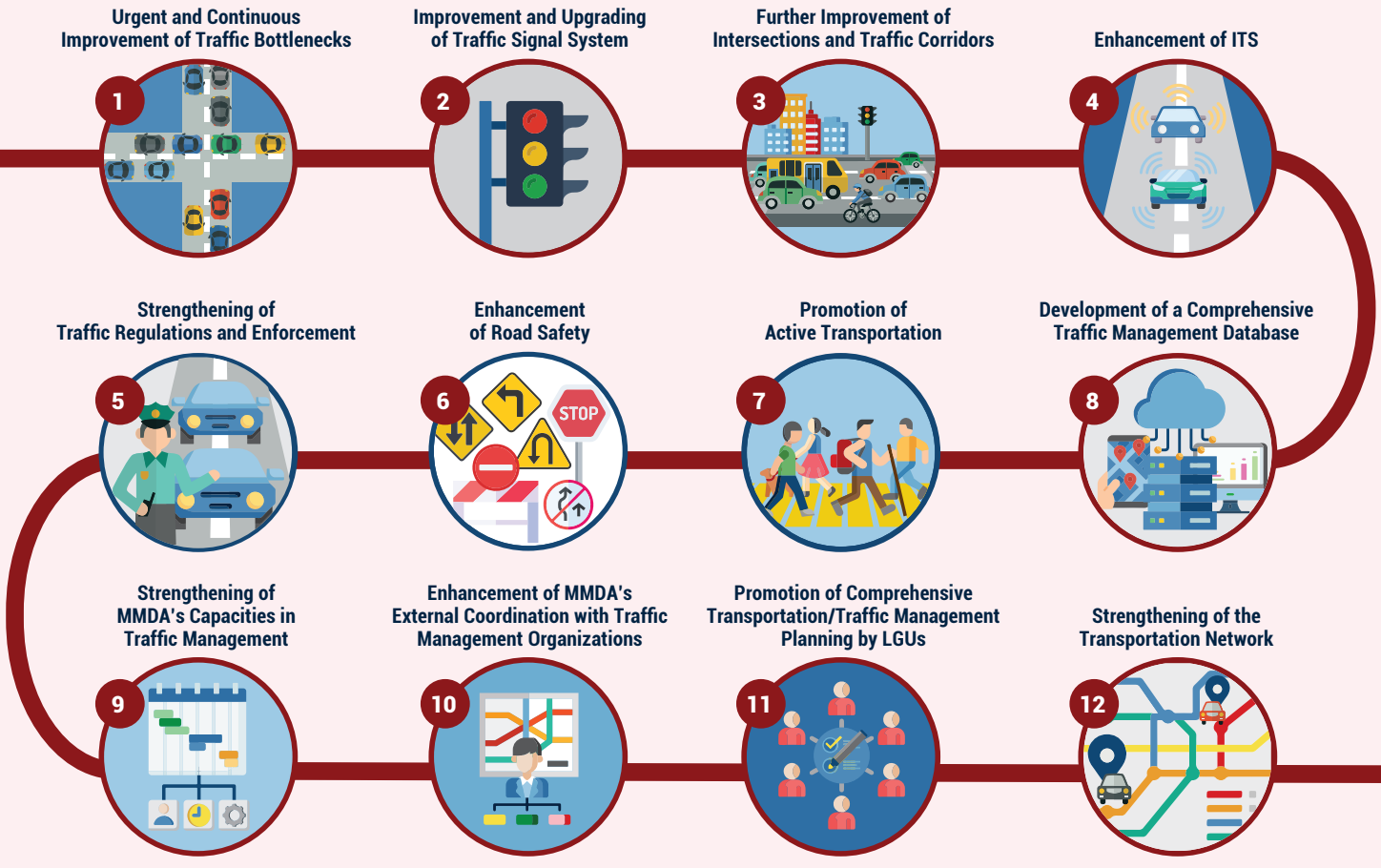
Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan

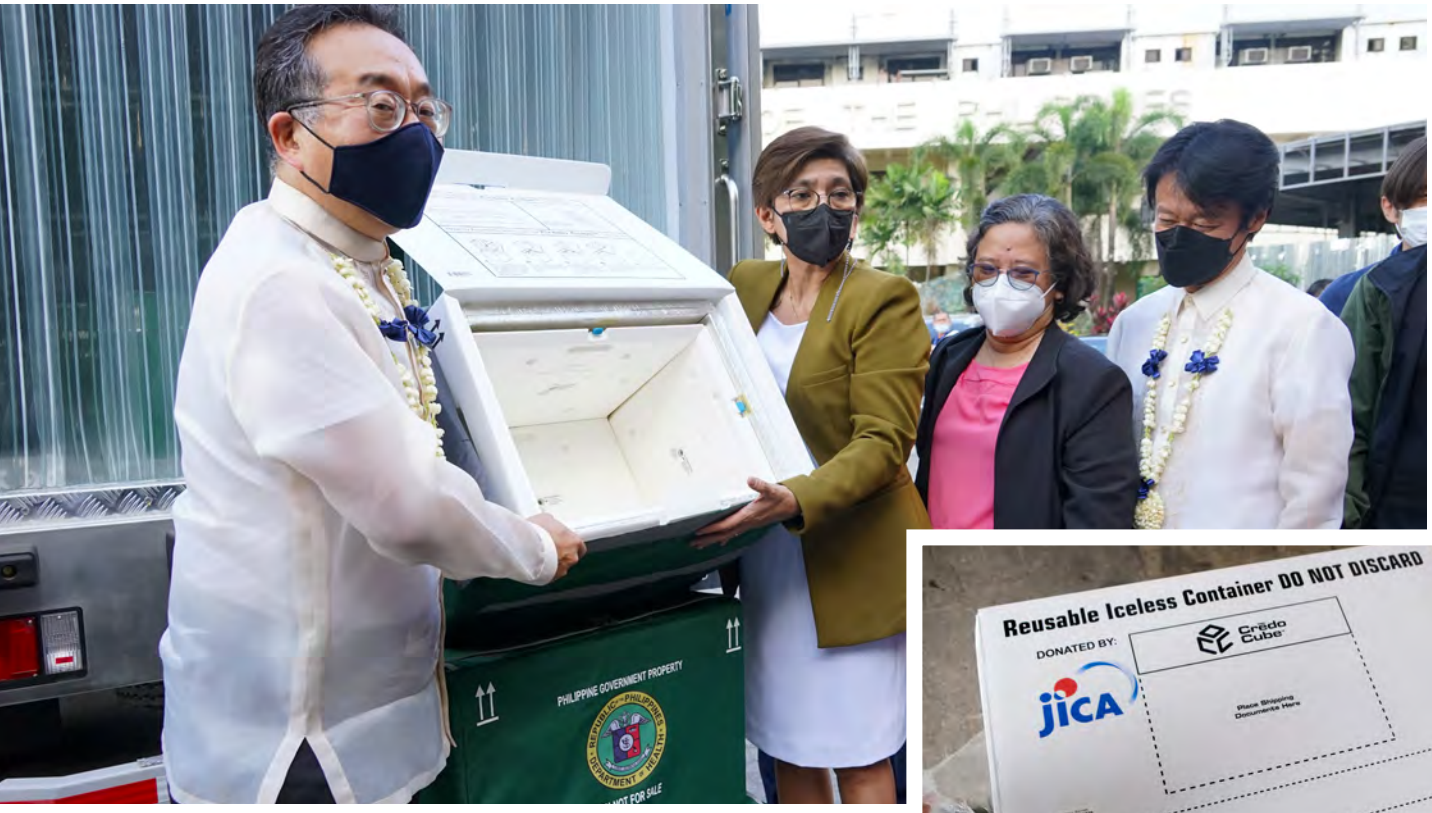
PROJECT PERIOD
2019-2022

LOCATION
NCR

12 Strategies of the 5-year Action Plan



Enhancing Filipino Well-Being



JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO with DOH Secretary Vergeire during turnover of equipment to accelerate COVID-19 inoculation

Going the extra mile in post-pandemic recovery

"Individually, we are one drop, but together, we are an ocean."

As pandemic eases and restrictions are lifted, many countries are now turning the page on living in a post-pandemic world.

The Philippines is approaching the new normal by reviving economic activities and ensuring that much of the population is free from the virus.

A key strategy in doing this was the rollout of the Philippine National Vaccine Roadmap so that more Filipinos can be protected from the disease. Estimates from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said that the pandemic will cost the Philippines PHP 41.4 trillion in the next four decades and interventions are needed.

Japan's Last One Mile Support to ensure vaccinations in every country, including the Philippines, has been helpful in accelerating the latter's vaccination strategy. JICA provided cold chain equipment and logistics for vaccine deployment to the Department of Health (DOH) as support to the vaccine rollout, especially in remote communities. "We are all connected and we need to help each other so we can deal with the challenges of the pandemic," said JICA Philippines Chief SAKAMOTO Takema.

JICA provided DOH with end-to-end cold chain management facility composed of refrigerated vans, delivery vehicles, and thermal packaging for vaccines. DOH has distributed the facilities to Metro Manila and 17 other regions as far as the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

JICA's support expanded DOH's vaccine deployment to geographically-isolated communities. The facility also helped regions meet the storage needs of other routine vaccines, making them ready for future health outbreaks.

Aside from challenge in expanding vaccine reach and developing sustainable laboratory capacity, the Philippine COVID-19 situation also impact vulnerable children and youth. This is especially true for those living in residential care facilities and from low-income families. These children, because of limited resources, do not have tools and means to cope with the pandemic.

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Project for Supporting to the Philippines COVID-19 Vaccination Cold Chain and Logistics

PERIOD
2022

LOCATION
Nationwide

PROJECT TITLE
Development of Comic and Activity Books on Mental Health for Children and Adolescents

PERIOD
2021-2022

LOCATION
Nationwide

→
Copies of Sarilaysay were distributed to children of Barangay 157, Bagong Barrio, Caloocan

Service vehicles provided to the DOH to expand the reach of vaccines in the country

600 units of Biothermal Packaging System provided to DOH

"As a working mom, it is important for me that my child actively learns on her own in my absence. [These books from JICA] will help her understand the pandemic better and navigate through changes it brought to our lives,"
– Parent from Barangay 157, Caloocan City

To help vulnerable children, JICA, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Council for Welfare of Children (CWC) came up with educational materials on understanding COVID-19 and engaging activities.

These materials desire to support the mental well-being of Filipino children and young adults, and support their recovery.

"The pandemic is a confusing period for children and young adults. That's why JICA works with different institutions so they can cope with the challenges from COVID-19," shared then JICA Senior Representative HIROSAWA Jin.

Some 2,000 copies of these materials had already been distributed nationwide.

In all, JICA's partnership with DOH, DSWD and other institutions shows that collaboration is a meaningful measure so countries can move forward from the pandemic, and restore normalcy in our lives. ●

¥80 Billion
support to COVID mitigation thru CCRESL*1 and 2

¥ 687 Million
worth procured equipment under CCE GA**

¥40 Billion
support to COVID mitigation thru PDSL***

¥200 Million
worth of Laboratory Equipment and Supplies to hospitals

¥ 198 Million
worth donated refrigerator vans, delivery systems, and thermal packaging systems for vaccines under CCE TCP**

* COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan
** Cold Chain Equipment Grant Aid /Technical Cooperation Project
*** Post-Disaster Stand-by Loan

QR Code linked to the online copy of the Children's IECs

During the workshop for Artificial Intelligence-Computer-Aided Diagnosis aimed at improving chest X-ray services.

Health Workers of Putatan, Muntinlupa were trained in recording/ tracking TB clients' info from screening to treatment outcome.

Seizing the opportunity to promote health resilience

Long before COVID-19, scientists have been looking at breakthroughs to boost people's resilience against infectious diseases.

The case of Tuberculosis (TB) control and prevention in the Philippines is a fine example. TB remains one of the highest causes of mortality in the Philippines. The estimates of cases are serious, with only 55% of 581,000 people with TB receiving care and treatment.

That is why the project of JICA with the Department of Health on coming up with an innovative model for TB care is much welcome. The project established the use of a Japanese technology called TB LAMP or Loop Mediated Isothermal Application Machine (TB-LAMP) for rapid testing of TB in health centers.

Utilizing partnerships with Japanese companies and institutions, the project introduces new technology for TB diagnosis such as the recent Artificial Intelligence or AI-assisted digital radiology (AI-CAD). This technology speeds up turnaround time in churning X-ray interpretation in less than 2 minutes. Already, a series of workshops were held to share this technology with the Muntinlupa City Health Office.

"To address the National Tuberculosis Program Framework, one of the objectives is to screen 7% of the target population for TB through chest radiography. AI-CAD can provide efficient and effective way to reach such objective, more so the goals of the program," said Dr. Joane Karla Gatdula-Samson of Putatan Health Center, regarding the long-term impact of the JICA project.

During the simulation trainings of the AI-CAD system, Dr. Clarise Salido of the DOH mentioned that the data from the AI-CAD system are crucial to improve service delivery in the Philippines.

Likewise, this model tracks the screening pathway until treatment which provides the health center staff the opportunity to instigate interventions at each gap in the pathway. This is envisioned to enhance TB screening and improve TB outcomes by reducing diagnosis and treatment delays.

> *"My training in Japan became beneficial in our work in TB research. We saw how Japanese technology was used for timely and proper TB diagnosis. I have been using technologies and knowledge I gained from the training to help improve TB control system and research in the Philippines."*
>
> *- Catherine Ann Sacopon, KCCP Participant*

This TB Screening/Management model is a new technology for the Philippines. It integrates digital technology into the X-ray machine, makes it easier for radiologist to interpret results, saving time and resources for the radiologic technologists and the Muntinlupa City Government.

The project's major legacy is setting up a model that can be replicated against the spread of other diseases. For as we have learned from the COVID-19 situation, taking decisive steps can deliver better health outcomes for many people. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Project to Develop Innovative Model for Tuberculosis Care through Use of New Technologies

PERIOD
2021-2023

LOCATION
Muntinlupa City

Latest updates on the JICA and the Philippines Cooperation to End TB

2020-2022

- Dispatch of Japanese expert to the DOH – Disease Prevention and Control Bureau
- JICA Collaboration with Private Sector in introducing AI-CAD technology from FUJIFILM
- Implementation of AI-CAD and Flat Panel Detector to Muntinlupa City Health Office in Putatan Health Center

The new Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center in Trece Martires City

Inclusive society for the next generation

When the Philippines launched its national campaign against illicit drugs use in 2016, health professionals recognized a glaring gap in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependents.

To this end, an Executive Order seeking to establish and support drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation centers (TRCs) in the Philippines was made. It was also found that the Philippines needed a relapse treatment program to fully integrate drug dependents in society.

As answer to this, JICA and the Department of Health (DOH) teamed up for a comprehensive program to treat illicit drug dependence and addiction.

They launched the Project for Introducing Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines (IntERlaPP). Japanese experts came to the Philippines to share knowledge on evidence-based relapse prevention programs that TRCs can implement. Filipino doctors and other health personnel also visited Japanese medical facilities, community-based residential rehabilitation centers, and penal institutions.

A core group of DOH staff were also trained on the Matrix Model of drugs treatment in the United States. This model incorporates cognitive behavioral therapy, social support, psychological education, and self-help in treating drug dependents.

Today, the project has piloted a localized model for residential treatment and outpatient services in 14 facilities or TRCs including those in Bicutan, Dagupan, Tagaytay, Cebu, Malinao, and Cagayan de Oro. There were also training modules on topics like standard operating procedures and quality standards of the treatment programs.

Alongside capacity development is the building of a modern Drug Abuse and Treatment Rehabilitation Center (DATRC) CALABARZON in Trece Martires City under the JICA-DOH partnership.

There are 22 TRCs or facilities providing drug dependents' treatment services in the Philippines. The Programme for Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users (CARE) is a welcome support to the treatment program of drug dependents starting with DATRC that can accommodate nearly 500 patients, including females.

Drug dependent patients during a psychotherapy session

Using evidence-based approaches to treat drug dependents have been around for some time in places like Japan and the US. Piloting the same in the Philippines can help save lives, and make an impact in a drug-free Philippines. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines

PERIOD
2017-2024

LOCATION
Nationwide

PROJECT TITLE
Program for Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users

PERIOD
2021-2022

LOCATION
Cavite (Rehab Center), Nationwide (other components)

Championing public health via an anti-rabies campaign

170 blood samples were collected from puppies with unvaccinated mothers for a study under JAPOHR.

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Establishment of One Health Prevention and Treatment Network Model for the Elimination of Rabies in the Philippines

PERIOD
2018-2023

LOCATION
Bulacan

Scan the QR code to see what you can do to end rabies

They say people who love pets have generous spirits, are full of empathy, and have hearts as big as a cloudless sky. When this empathy is combined with science to achieve health outcomes for people, animals, and environment, then public health challenges can be overcome.

This is what is being achieved in JICA's Japan-Philippines One Health Project where multi-stakeholders come together to achieve zero rabies cases by 2030. It is also otherwise called Establishment of One Health Prevention and Treatment Network Model for the Elimination of Rabies in the Philippines or JAPOHR. JAPOHR brings together JICA, and Japanese institutions Oita University, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development with Philippines' Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI), Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM), and the Local Government of Bulacan.

Rabies remains a public health problem in the Philippines. DOH reports that 200 to 300 Filipinos die from rabies each year, and at least one-thirds of these deaths are among children below 15 years old.

To address this, JAPOHR has fostered the emergence of collaboration between Japanese scientists, Philippine health institutions, and the local government in strengthening the One Health approach in rabies elimination.

"In the Philippines, there are about 231 deaths per year for the past decade due to rabies. We can help stop this by rationalizing dog population data and education campaigns to correct misconceptions on rabies."

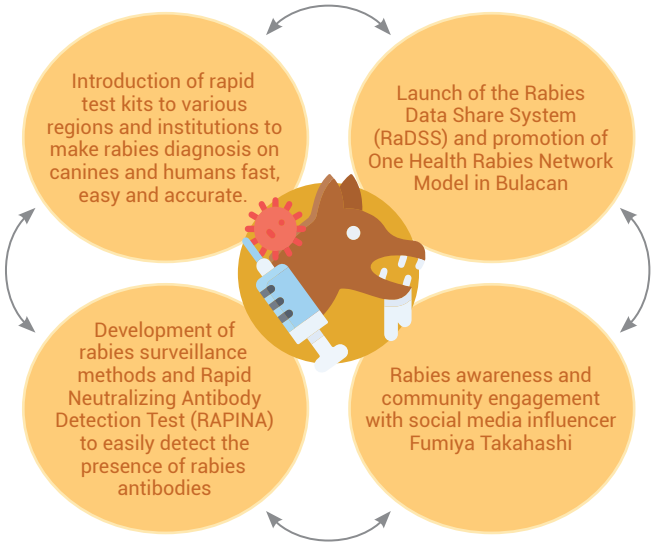
- Dr. Timothy Dizon, RITM

The project developed a rabies network model piloted in the Province of Bulacan where innovative diagnostic methods, and trainings of local health officials were combined with an intensive awareness campaign against rabies.

Japanese expert Dr. SAITO Nobuo, Deputy Chief Advisor of the Project said, "Japan was one of the first countries to eliminate rabies from domestic dog populations, and has maintained freedom from the disease ever since the 1950s. This is largely in part through cross-ministerial efforts and heavy implementation of zoonotic and anti-rabies policies. Through the One Health approach, active participation of LGUs in mitigating rabies, and continuing the good practices shared by JAPOHR project, we believe that a free-rabies Philippines is possible."

Eliminating rabies is complex but achievable. Thus, JAPOHR is sustaining the efforts to bring together different stakeholders to help the Philippines get closer to zero human deaths from rabies. Indeed, when science is integrated in policy and local practices, we are moving the needle to foster stronger partnerships and impact to public health. ●

During the turnover of the pet incinerator to Municipality of Guiguinto, Bulacan.



Japanese waste composting technology to boost productivity for farmers in Bicol

Different parts of the Philippines are experiencing rapid economic growth as the country steers towards a post-pandemic life. Ordinarily, economic gains is encouraging news for the people and government, but it can sometimes entail serious waste disposal problems.

Such is the case for Legazpi City in Bicol where waste processing and agriculture productivity are common challenges. Only 3% of wastes are composted, and frequent typhoons hamper productivity of farmers. Measures that enable efficient disposal of large amounts of garbage is necessary. But thanks to a partnership with a Japanese company, a silver lining is on the horizon.

JICA and Japanese company Okada Manufactory Co. Ltd. inaugurated the first rotary-style compost facility in Legazpi, Bicol.

> *"The Philippines is now facing serious waste disposal problems. Using our machines enables the production of compost from garbage [and we plan to help them] through our business,"*
> *– Okada Manufactory Co. Ltd.*

Under the JICA Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies, the project offers a significant opportunity to break down household wastes and return them to agricultural lands as compost for the benefit of farmers.

"The Philippines is now facing serious waste disposal problems. Using our machines enable the production of compost from garbage [and we plan to help them] through our business," -Okada Manufactory.

Currently, it is still being studied if the compost product is effective in increasing produce, thereby increasing income. If proven, composting will be systematized and integrated in to a business model that may be applied.

The JICA project "Verification Survey with Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Establishing Sustainable Organic Waste Composting Systems" is enabling the transfer of these eco-friendly practices to Bicol farmers.

"No pollution or waste are generated in our environment-friendly composting plant," added Okada.

In many ways, starting with a composting technology that decreases waste and optimizes quality products from farmers, can lead the way to sustainable farming in the Philippines. ●

Project Details

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

PERIOD
2018-2022

LOCATION
Legazpi City, Bicol

OKADA Manufactory co. staff and experts with project counterparts from Legazpi City.

Composting facility in Legazpi

Fostering Equitable Growth

In with the new: Modernizing Philippine customs administration

With the increasing movement of people and goods across the globe, international harmonization in customs administration is becoming ever more important to facilitate smooth trade as well as enhance vigilant risk management. The Bureau of Customs (BOC) recognizes this and has collaborated with JICA to modernize customs administration at par with the international best practices. The Philippine Customs Modernization and Tariff Act specifically mandates the modernization of the country's customs administration by adopting clear and transparent customs rules and procedures consistent with international standards and customs best practices. Globally, the Revised Kyoto Convention has already set a uniform standard of simple, effective, and predictable customs procedures with effective customs control.

JICA Expert SUZUKI Mitsuo with BOC officials

> *"JICA has been instrumental in continuously upgrading the competencies of our employees through human resource management and development, Rules of Origin and Free Trade Agreements, risk management and enforcement, and post-clearance audit. They help ensure that our workforce is equipped and prepared to face challenges as the Bureau of Customs work towards a customs administration that is among the world's best."*
>
> *– BOC Acting Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz*

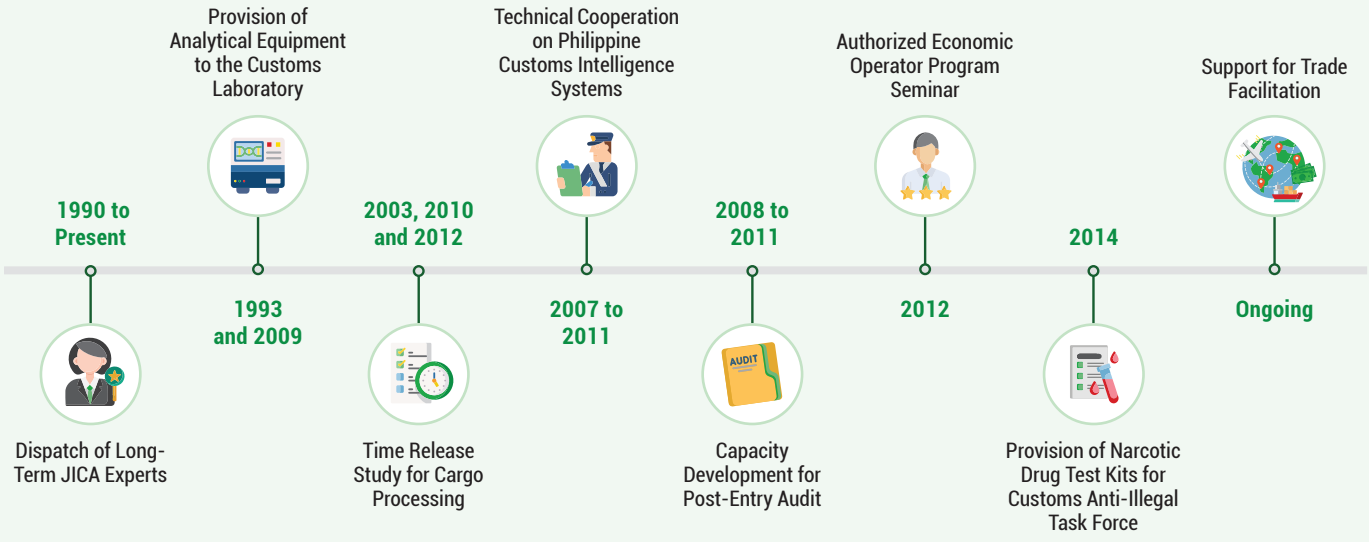
This means there are already international legal standards that the Philippines has to comply with to remain competitive in trade and business. When Philippine customs procedures are modernized, the impact of free trade agreements such as the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) and ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (AJCEP) is further maximized to entail more investments and jobs for Filipinos.

Accordingly, the dispatch of JICA customs experts to BOC is paving the way for customs personnel to learn from Japan's optimal customs operations. Japan's best practices on risk management are being introduced to BOC officials so they can understand the process and put them into practice. A number of workshops are also being held on (i) post-clearance audit process to enhance lawful revenue collection, (ii) the Rules of Origin to facilitate customs procedures, (iii) customs training management to enhance human resource development, and so on.

Japanese expert assigned at the BOC, SUZUKI Mitsuo spearheads such workshops in partnership with the BOC. He shared, "Economic and social activities are returning to normal in the Philippines. Sharing Japan's best practices on customs management and administration is a chance for the BOC to learn lessons they can apply in modernizing its customs procedures."

A country's customs procedures are vital not only in increasing government revenues but also in the smoothening of trade and the improvement of overall investment climate and economic activities. Thus, the dispatch of Japanese experts gives the Philippines a good push to modernize its customs administration towards growth that is inclusive and equitable, as seen in such efforts as the inauguration of the Philippine Customs Training Institute in 2022. ●

Major Activities of JICA Experts for Customs Administration



Inspiring people's participation in forest conservation

PO-MUSPAD members

Barangay Marandig

Deep in the lush mountains of the Visayan island of Panay rests the small, upland barangay of Marandig, Calinog Municipality, Iloilo. Composting of six sitios (smaller domains), Barangay (Brgy.) Marandig was then a remote and inaccessible area that was highly influenced by left-leaning elements. The residents in the barangay only depended on their farming to survive and to provide their daily necessities.

Lacking in proper transportation, residents of Marandig had difficulties reaching the lowland communities; it takes them about 5-6 hours walk from the nearest barangay where they can take public transport. As a result, social services such as healthcare and basic government services hardly reach their barangay.

The implementation of the JICA-Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) cooperation Forestland Management Project (FMP) changed the trajectory of people's lives in Brgy. Marandig. Through the FMP, the local communities are transformed to become self-sustaining forest managers. This was done through a comprehensive project design that helped organize the people, develop their capacities, and construct various agro-forestry support (ASF) infrastructures.

In 2014, a People's Organization (PO) – Marandig Upland Sustainable Project Association for Development, Inc. (MUSPAD) – was formed, organized, and capacitated to strengthen and support their community. The DENR and the local government of Calinog collaborated with JICA to ensure empowerment of the PO and help them secure land tenure rights. This enabled them to increase their sources of income and participate in the environment-friendly management of resources.

> *"While we are far ahead from reaching our dreams, FMP opened the gates of opportunities for us to become a progressive community. We commit to reciprocate this with hard work to sustain the gains of project."*
>
> *– Jessica Celeste, President of MUSPAD*

The hard work of the MUSPAD members in sustaining their enterprise became more successful as the years pass. This is evidenced by their procurement of their own community service vehicle as a means of their transportation. They also managed to establish strong linkages with various organizations to ensure sustainable and better market for their coffee products.

From being a hard-to-reach community, Brgy. Marandig now has a growing commerce driven by sustainability.

Indeed, the roads that the FMP paved for Brgy. Marandig were not only tangible, concrete roads. But through other sub-components of the project, more opportunities opened for the community that became instrumental for the realization of their vision founded 8 years ago.

In all, the FMP teaches lessons that while there is also government accountability when it comes to managing forest resources, people's active participation and self-help efforts can go a long way in ensuring a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Forestland Management Project

PERIOD
2012-2023

LOCATION
Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Iloilo

FMP Accomplishments

Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)

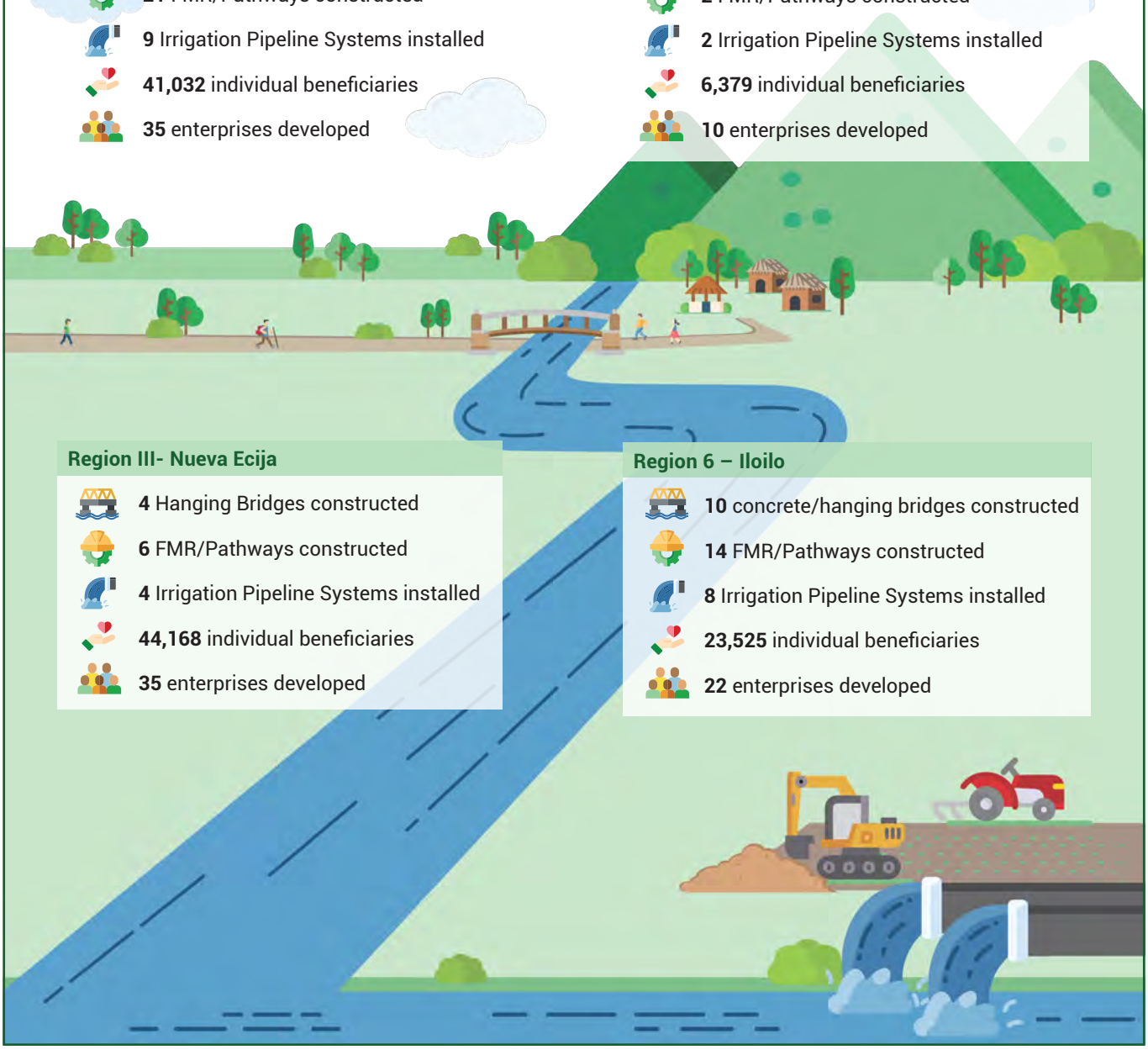
- **3** concrete bridges constructed
- **10** FMR constructed
- **17,512** individual beneficiaries
- **47** enterprises developed

Region II – Nueva Vizcaya

- **7** concrete/hanging bridges constructed
- **21** FMR/Pathways constructed
- **9** Irrigation Pipeline Systems installed
- **41,032** individual beneficiaries
- **35** enterprises developed

Region II – Quirino

- **2** concrete/hanging bridges constructed
- **2** FMR/Pathways constructed
- **2** Irrigation Pipeline Systems installed
- **6,379** individual beneficiaries
- **10** enterprises developed



Region III- Nueva Ecija

- **4** Hanging Bridges constructed
- **6** FMR/Pathways constructed
- **4** Irrigation Pipeline Systems installed
- **44,168** individual beneficiaries
- **35** enterprises developed

Region 6 – Iloilo

- **10** concrete/hanging bridges constructed
- **14** FMR/Pathways constructed
- **8** Irrigation Pipeline Systems installed
- **23,525** individual beneficiaries
- **22** enterprises developed

Introducing science to Philippine Banana and Cacao industries

The COVID-19 pandemic made it apparent that the impact of such event stretches beyond health. Rather, one of the most broadly felt effects of the pandemic was food insecurity.

To help answer this situation, JICA, Japan's Tamagawa University, and Central Luzon State University (CLSU) embarked on a research project to improve Philippine agricultural systems. Specifically, the Project for Development of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao is studying solutions for sustainable farming practices of these two growth drivers in Philippine agriculture.

The project is introducing an integrated technology system to help farmers address crop diseases through examination, forecasting outbreak, and environment-friendly cultivation methods. The sites of the project include Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao, and Davao. Novel diseases that are plaguing banana and cacao plantations were observed in the said target locations.

"In order for banana production – which is important for both countries – to continue as a stable industry, we would like together with Japanese and Filipino joint researchers who have a strong relationship of trust to solve this problem," said Associate Professor ISHIKAWA Koji from Tamagawa University.

This initiative to introduce technology in sustainable farming practices in the Philippines is part of a broader JICA program Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS). SATREPS makes it possible for research institutions from Japan and other countries to work together in creating solutions to pressing development problems.

> *"Banana and cacao are two high value crops exported in large numbers from the Philippines and support the livelihood of almost 30,000 Filipino farmers. The project is very timely to devise a sustainable disease management program to save these industries."*
>
> *- Dr. Dionisio Alvindia, Director, Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization*

Other Japanese institutions that support this project are Mie University, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Nihon University, Tokyo University of Agriculture, Forest Research and Management Organization, Unifrutti Japan Corporation, and Bayer Crop Science KKK.

This year, Project leaders from the CLSU team flew to Japan for the Joint Coordination Committee of the Banana and Cacao Disease Management (BaCaDM) where progress reports were tackled. The implementers expressed their positive hopes that the combined efforts of the Filipino and Japanese scientists can mitigate the disease and sustain better production in the future.

Although it may take some time to shore up the value chain against threats and build a sustainable agricultural system, this SATREPS initiative makes for a case that by working collectively, curbing hunger and food insecurity is at reach. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Development of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao

PERIOD
2021-2026

LOCATION
Central Luzon, Cagayan Valley, Bicol, Western Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao

Scan this QR code to learn more about this project

Banana and cacao sampling done by Japanese and Filipino researchers in the provinces of Davao and Aurora.

Transforming the mindset of Filipino farmers

Dr. AIKAWA, JICA Senior Advisor for Agriculture and Rural Development, during his lecture on the Introduction of SHEP.

Participants and facilitators of the SHEP training during the closing ceremony. Photo by DA

In a highly dynamic world market, the unchanging habits and thinking of ordinary farmers are no longer adequate to uplift themselves from poverty. Being one of the marginalized sectors in the Philippines, Filipino farmers have notoriously low wages and they are less empowered to improve their production, marketing, and incomes.

That is soon to change. Under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP), a number of Filipino government officials received training on the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) Approach, which introduces an innovative way to change farmers' mindset from 'grow and sell' to 'grow to sell'. Participants from the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) of the Department of Agriculture Region IV-A put into action their learnings from the KCCP to disseminate SHEP Approach in their region.

JICA Senior Advisor, Dr. AIKAWA Jiro, has shared the concept of SHEP Approach to extension workers in Batangas this year. He has been involved in introducing SHEP in Kenya and has seen its impact in addressing the challenges in traditional agricultural extension work. He shared that through SHEP, farmers can understand better how their cultivation plans can suit market needs and get better returns.

> *"The SHEP Approach has huge potential in the Philippines. By adopting this approach to empower and motivate farmers to become self-reliant and pursue market-oriented agriculture, we are optimistic that Filipino farmers will have more profitable and sustainable agribusiness."*
>
> *– Richmond Pablo, Chief, Agribusiness Promotion Section, AMAD, DA-Region IVA*

The SHEP Approach is part of JICA's overall effort to empower and motivate small-scale farmers in countries like the Philippines. Apart from helping address food security, the Approach is seen as a transformative strategy in helping promote farming as a profitable business. JICA supports the "Joint Declaration for achieving better lives of 1 million small scale farmers through SHEP Approach" which was made during the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) VII in August 2019.

"When farmers are capacitated with innovative approaches and skills, they have better means to navigate the changing market, and improve their lives," adds JICA Senior Representative SHIMIZU Mikako.

Under this market-oriented approach, farmers share market information with one another, do market surveys, develop more autonomy in choosing their own crops, and gains appropriate technical skills for their production. JICA aims to capacitate more government officials in the coming years to help the SHEP Approach reach and benefit more Filipino farmers.

For a sector that has high value addition when it comes to jobs and gross value in the economy, it is also high time that the Filipino farmers are given the means to succeed. When their confidence is built to working towards broader markets, the drastic change in the quality of life will follow. ●

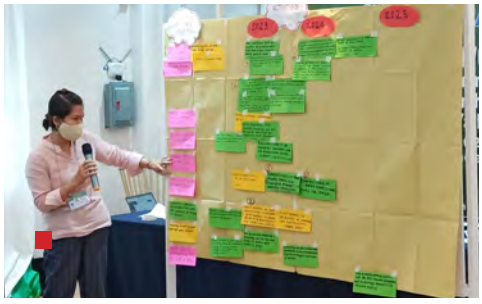
Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Knowledge Co-Creation Program (SHEP Approach)

PERIOD
2021-Ongoing

LOCATION
Nationwide

Strengthening the value chain for a better quality of life for farmers



During MV2C workshops in Benguet and Quezon

Signing of the MV2C Record of Discussion

The Philippines is emerging as one of the most food-insecure countries in Asia today. More than the impact of climate change to the local crops and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the country has only a few tools to fight the looming food crisis. These, paired with the antiquated methods of farmers, continue to impoverish the agriculture sector.

"With the increasing food prices and inefficiencies in the food supply chain due to high cost of logistics and food distribution, we need to find ways by which we can lower the production costs, deliver goods to the markets, and make it more affordable to the consuming public."

- DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban

By strengthening the value chain, farmers can become more resilient and the food supply, more secure. This is what the partnership between JICA and the Department of Agriculture (DA) Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service hopes to achieve. Under the Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines (MV2C), Japan shares its production, post-harvest, marketing, and capacity building expertise with the DA.

Current transport and handling practices for vegetables in the Philippines

According to Mr. FURUICHI Shingo, Team Leader of the Implementation Phase of the MV2C, issues of the vegetable value chain are more complex than they appear. They lie with multiple stakeholders and are interconnected from production until consumption. High operating cost was observed from wholesale until retail. The palpable fluctuation of prices negatively affects businesses in supply chains and discourages buyers from purchasing. These complex problems call for comprehensive solutions.

"Improving the vegetable value chain seems to be very difficult but, when measures are put in place, many stakeholders will benefit. The MV2C, thus, will conduct six (6) pilot projects to address current issues in the vegetable industry and aims to eventually develop an 'Inclusive Food Value Chain (FVC) Model' that benefits multiple stakeholders in the vegetable value chain," added Mr. FURUICHI.

The project has already identified pilot activities that will be implemented with farmers groups in Benguet and Quezon. These activities include improving cultivation techniques and business organization of farmers' groups, strengthening cold chain distribution system, improving packaging, linking farmers to institutional buyers and agro-processing businesses, and encouraging vegetable consumption.

With the implementation of the MV2C, the needs of the agricultural value chain are taking priority in building back towards agricultural modernization and stable food supply. Long-term strategies, after all, are key towards creating a better future for all. ●

Project Details

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

PERIOD
2022-2028

LOCATION
Benguet, Quezon, Metro Manila

Powering the Future

Young Filipinos show exceptional character and enthusiasm in using their talent to the fullest to support the Philippine energy sector. Their pursuit to help open doors of opportunities in the energy sector through their study and research is relentless and inspiring.

The stories of two young scholars mingle with the heart of the Philippine Energy Plan (PEP) on boosting the technical competencies of Filipino personnel to address energy security and climate change.

To support the Philippines' policymaking in the energy sector, two of the Department of Energy's (DOE) personnel were sent to study in Japan. Under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program Human Resources Development for Electricity and Energy Sector or "Energy Policy", scholars Angelica Delos Santos and Dwane Darcy Cayonte take cue from the Public Policy program of Japan's National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), a graduate school in Tokyo known for sharing Japan's development experience.

Delos Santos, 30, a Senior Science Research Specialist at DOE Renewable Energy Management Bureau said, "The program provided a great opportunity for me to network and extend my knowledge in energy policy formulation, which is relevant and timely. The Philippine government is currently boosting renewables in the country to reach 35% renewable energy share in power generation mix by 2030."

> *"The KCCP is an opportunity to build foundational expertise in data analysis and decision making in our energy policy making process."*
>
> *– Dwane Cayonte, KCCP Scholar*

Her research "Carbon Emissions Analysis in the Philippines: The Implications of Economic Policy Uncertainty on Renewable Energy Transition" stressed the importance of understanding energy policy uncertainty and how it interacts with energy consumption and economic activities. Her studies further point to which areas should be prioritized to attract more investments in energy.

Meanwhile, Dwane Cayonte, 30, Senior Science Research Specialist at the DOE Energy Policy and Planning Bureau shared, "The scholarship offers a favorable opportunity for the Philippines to learn from Japan's energy planning process."

As he was sent to study this year, Cayonte shared, "Since GRIPS now has in-person classes, my educational experience had been worthwhile, engaging with faculty and students from diverse cultures and backgrounds."

At the DOE, Cayonte has been involved in national, regional, and local energy planning and energy development for on-grid and off-grid areas. Since the PEP is a collaborative blueprint of the energy sector, Cayonte said, "The KCCP is an opportunity to build foundational expertise in data analysis and decision making in our energy policy making process."

With the likes of Delos Santos and Cayonte in its roster, the KCCP has indeed paved the pathway for young Filipinos to achieve remarkable things in energy policy making, helping the Philippines become a better place for future generations. ●

Cayonte was sent to Japan this year as GRIPS resumes in-person classes

Delos Santos (second from the left) with her colleagues and instructors

Delos Santos snaps a photo with the Philippine flag during her graduation

Stimulating innovation in Philippine solid waste management

Famous inventor Thomas Edison said once that, if there's a way to do it better, find it.

The Philippines has been trying to bring change to the enormous waste problem it is confronting especially in major urban cities. Rising population and consumption patterns continue to exacerbate this problem, exposing the sheer depth of the country's waste management predicament. The waste problem cannot be neglected because it directly affects the living environment of citizens, especially sanitation and health issues.

San Pascual Sanitary Landfill

There is an immense and pressing need to address the Philippine solid waste management (SWM) system challenges for it to work well, which can be solved by stimulating innovation. To support this agenda, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) worked with JICA for a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for Capacity Development on Improving Solid Waste Management through Advanced/Innovative Technologies. The project sets targets to enhance the capacity of the national and local government units (LGUs) on exploring and using waste management know-how and technologies and improving DENR's environment monitoring.

The Philippines' seriousness on tackling solid wastes is manifested in the enactment of Ecological Solid Waste Management Act in 2000. Aside from DENR and partner LGUs Quezon, Cebu, and Davao cities, the TCP was implemented with National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Public Private Partnership Center (PPPC)

Through the JICA Experts Team, the TCP has worked with its partner LGUs in assessing their SWM situation and 10-year SWM and land-use plans. It was also through this cooperation that a booklet on Good Practices and Good Technologies was developed so LGUs can calibrate their efforts according to their situation. It covered topics on waste management cost recovery, collection, segregation and transportation, intermediate treatment, 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle), landfill, and waste analysis and characterization study among others. At the national level, technical standards and waste technology manual were developed. The project has also produced a Case Study Analysis for Guideline of Best Available Technique/ Best Environmental Practice (BAT/BEP), which will be used to develop the official BAT/BEP Guideline of the country for determining the appropriate technologies to be implemented. JICA experts shared their expertise also in SWM public-private partnership projects. Dissemination Seminars were also held that were open to various LGUs to share the project outputs.

In the final dissemination seminar that capstones this capacity development project, a participant from Local Government Unit of Cebu City underscores the importance of data-driven, innovative solutions to propel forward the solid waste management practices and technologies in the country. The said participant promised the continued participation of Cebu City even after the conclusion of the project in the use of its outputs for the improvement of the SWM situation in Cebu City.

With the climate crisis upon all of us, the JICA-DENR partnership is helping transform the Philippines' solid waste management system into one that is innovative, effective, and sustainable. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Project on Improving Solid Waste Management through Advanced/ Innovative Technologies

PERIOD
2019-2022

LOCATION
Metro Manila, Quezon City, Davao City, Cebu City

Project Milestones *Let us cite numbers*

5
Reference Documents developed for LGUs and concerned agencies

3
Technical Dissemination Seminars conducted with 100+ attendees each

5
Environmental Management Bureau Laboratory Members participated in immersive emission sampling and analysis training

2
LGU projects reviewed and given recommendations

- ➔ General Santos City Sanitary Landfill Project
- ➔ Zamboanga City Waste to Value Project

Advancing science-based conservation of Philippine coastal ecosystem

Mangroves in Bakhawan Eco-Park, Aklan

Batan Bay in Aklan

The Philippines has one of the richest coastal ecosystems in the world. Beyond its profound aesthetic and biodiversity value, these ecosystems also help in climate change mitigation.

Therefore, scientists from the Philippines, Indonesia, and Japan, are beating the clock to prevent further decline of these coastal ecosystems using innovative, science-based conservation techniques. Launched in 2017, JICA, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), and universities in the Philippines and Indonesia ventured in a collaborative research project to conserve coastal ecosystems in the Coral Triangle. The water of the Philippines, as well as that of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and Solomon Islands make up the Coral Triangle.

Dubbed as BlueCARES or "Comprehensive Assessment and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and their Services in the Coral Triangle" project, it focuses on blue carbon (BC) or the carbon captured and stored in coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrasses. When these ecosystems are destroyed, they emit the carbon they have stored into the atmosphere which cause greenhouse gases to increase. Hence, by protecting these coastal ecosystems climate change can be mitigated. The project covers development of monitoring and modeling methodology on the BC dynamics, mapping, and formulation of conservation framework. Further, it engages stakeholders nationwide through symposiums, workshops, training, meetings, and establishment of a BC Network.

According to Dr. Kazuo Nadaoka, BlueCARES Chief Technical Adviser, the project has developed new methodologies for BC dynamics surveys, remote sensing applications, and innovative computer simulation models, among others. Then, together with socio-economic surveys, succeeded in elucidating the complex change dynamics of BC ecosystems and its close linkages with various threats caused by local human activities and climate change. It will be a good scientific basis for effective policy development and planning on blue carbon ecosystem conservation.

A Blue Carbon Strategy being developed for both local and the national level will enable greater people participation and encourage evidence-based conservation policies and activities. By connecting all these together, BlueCARES is helping secure healthy, sustainable coastal ecosystems that will benefit both people and environment. ●

> *"Over the past 6 years, we saw the historic focus on blue carbon research in the country, receiving substantial funding support, and getting a large number of collaborators and partners. We are optimistic that the expanding blue carbon network will operate even beyond BlueCARES, sustaining efforts to assess, monitor, and adapt existing management schemes if warranted"*
>
> *– Dr. Rene Rollon, Project Director, University of the Philippines-Diliman*

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Comprehensive Assessment and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and their Services in the Coral Triangle

PERIOD
2017-2023

LOCATION
Aklan, Eastern Samar, Palawan

Scan the code to learn more about the project

A Quick View of BlueCARES Milestones

Trainings in Japan:

Long-term: **Dynamic seagrass modeling**

Short-term: **Field and laboratory, Remote Sensing and Modeling**

Provision of equipment for sample collection and analysis, monitoring, mapping, and modeling of mangroves and seagrasses

Activities for BCNet and Blue Carbon Strategy

Field surveys in Aklan, Eastern Samar, Palawan, Bolinao, Zambales, Batangas, Sorsogon, and Naawan.

Increasing Disaster Resiliency

Infrastructure resilience in mountainous areas

Investigation with DPWH engineers in Baguio

Slope disaster site in Cebu

Safe and resilient road infrastructure is vital for access to basic services and regional development especially in the mountainous areas. However, typhoons and earthquakes remain to be a challenge to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as it causes large-scale road slope disasters such as landslides, rock falls and road closures, which hinder safe mobility of goods and people as witnessed during 1990 Baguio Earthquake, Bohol Earthquake and Typhoon Yolanda in 2013. In case of 1990 Baguio Earthquake, the only arterial road to the north-eastern Luzon, Dalton Pass, was closed for nearly half a year and severely affected peoples' lives. Apart from these major calamities, the Philippines is also hit by typhoons and earthquakes every year.

That is why the DPWH has resorted to prioritizing road resilience against disasters, especially in mountainous areas. Such challenge is familiar territory to Japanese engineers whose expertise is widely known in road engineering and management.

Today, a JICA-DPWH "Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) for Road Disaster Prevention and other Countermeasures on Mountainous Roads in the Philippines" is helping transfer Japan's road engineering expertise and technologies to DPWH engineers in the Philippines to build and maintain disaster – resilient roads.

Furthermore, proper management of disaster prevention information is indispensable for responding quickly to road disasters and warning people to be prepared for disasters. Under the project, viewed through the lens of inevitable extreme weather events and other disasters, DPWH is working with Japanese engineers to develop hazard maps and to improve road disaster management system in the country.

> *"Mountainous roads in the Philippines have been suffering from slope disasters such as rock falls and landslides for years, resulting to unsafe and limited road accessibility. To minimize its occurrence, JICA and DPWH agreed to implement this TCP to improve the capability of DPWH Engineers on technologies/ countermeasures on Road Disaster Risk Reduction and Management."*
>
> *– KUWANO Takeshi, Project Team Leader, JICA Expert Team*

Capacity development activities are being held in pilot areas frequently at risk for typhoons and landslides: Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Regions VII and XI. It also instills the importance of daily inspection and maintenance to prevent road slope disasters and prolong the life span of road infrastructure - a practice considered important in Japan.

Project Team Leader KUWANO Takeshi explains, "Mountainous roads in the Philippines have been suffering from slope disasters such as rock falls and landslides for years, resulting to unsafe and limited road accessibility. To minimize its occurrence, JICA and DPWH agreed to implement this TCP to improve the capability of DPWH engineers on technologies/countermeasures on road slope disaster risk reduction and management."

On a related initiative, JICA and DPWH are working on the feasibility study of "Dalton Pass East Alignment Alternative Road Project", which aims to develop an arterial road alternative to the existing Dalton Pass that gets congested and impassable especially due to landslides caused by heavy rainfall.

As extreme natural disasters become more frequent, DPWH and JICA continue to combine efforts to make critical infrastructure disaster-resilient, and thereby improve the quality of people's lives. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Technical Cooperation Project for Road Disaster Prevention and other Countermeasures on Mountainous Roads in the Philippines

PERIOD
2022-2025

LOCATION
Nationwide

Together in facing climate change through engineering

During the first Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting with JICA and DPWH

JICA and DPWH team conducting case study in Agno River in Pangasinan

We shall need a substantially new way of thinking if humanity is to survive. – Albert Einstein

The threat of climate change has prompted countries, especially those with huge coastal communities, to adapt and keep adapting. For the Philippines, observed climate trends indicate increasing frequency of extreme rainfall events and rising sea levels for many parts of the country.

During Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, people were caught off guard with the storm surge that ravaged communities, killing thousands of people. The disaster consequently created an inevitable pressure for the Philippines to build up its human resources in coastal engineering. The Philippines' coastline area is one of the largest in the world, hosting 60% of the country's population and assets. When strong typhoons strike, these coastal areas bear the brunt of damage and other impacts.

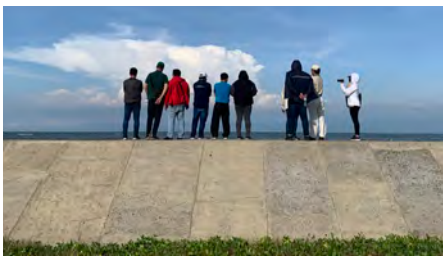
To help put the Philippines in a better path when it comes to improving resiliency of coastal communities, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is currently working closely with JICA. Under the Project for Capacity Development in Coastal Engineering for Disaster Resiliency, Japanese experts and DPWH are creating technical guidelines for understanding coastal phenomena, and planning and design of structural measures for coastal protection. Other activities to be undertaken include lectures, seminars, case studies, pilot projects, formulation of human resource development plan, review of existing laws and regulations on coastal management, and development of a roadmap for coastal disaster countermeasures and coastal conservation. Overall, the project aims to strengthen DPWH's capacity in coastal management.

Indeed, there is so much to learn from Japanese engineers since Typhoon Ise caused storm surge damage in 1959.

> *"This project is very timely and significant for addressing the urgently increasing need for integrated coastal management. It is envisioned to provide a systematic understanding of the different coastal disaster risks and boost the competencies of Filipino engineers as Japanese experts share their technology and experience to the Philippine government."*
>
> *- DPWH Senior Undersecretary Emil K. Sadain*

Through this technical cooperation project, a technical seminar on coastal management was held last September including the DPWH, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of National Defense (DND), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), and University of the Philippines (UP).

The opportunity to exchange knowledge on coastal engineering is essential in the project, giving stakeholders the chance to learn from one another, and continually improve coastal management approaches. ●



Agno Rivermouth

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Project for Capacity Development in Coastal Engineering for Disaster Resiliency

PERIOD
2022-2027

LOCATION
Nationwide

Flood resilience in the face of climate change

River improvement project along Cagayan de Oro River. Photo courtesy of the DPWH.

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV)

PERIOD
2019-2030

LOCATION
National Capital Region

PROJECT TITLE
Flood Risk Management Project – Cagayan de Oro River

PERIOD
2016-2023

LOCATION
Cagayan de Oro

In Asia, the Philippines is among those frequently battered by flood disasters. Much of the country's efforts in disaster risk reduction are in fact devoted to recovery from flooding. Key economic hubs are frequently at risk for floods, especially communities in low-lying areas.

A glimmer of promise shines, however, as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), local governments of Pasig, Marikina, Quezon City, Taytay and Cainta, and JICA work together to strengthen hazard awareness in the community. To make sure the impact of flood control structures is enhanced, their cooperation, Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase IV, combines Japanese expertise and a set of infrastructure to improve community resilience.

The project is applying the best of Japanese technology in building floodgates and revetment structures in Pasig-Marikina River. Such technology helps prolong the life span of these infrastructures, making them more useful in the long-term.

Flood hazard mapping activities involving national agencies, local governments, and vulnerable groups such as students, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and senior citizens were also held so they know what to prioritize during flood emergencies.

A continuation of flood projects since 2000, the Pasig-Marikina River Channel improvement has helped communities in Metro Manila's low-lying areas cope better with extreme weather events like flooding. According to DPWH data, Phases II and III of the project has significantly reduced damage from flooding. The number of affected people from river flooding was also recorded to have decreased from 1 million to 35 thousand.

Meanwhile, the Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River (FRIMP-CDOR) is also making change for the communities in the river basin vicinity. The project consists of completing a diking system, extension of Kagayan bridge, a drainage system, and the land development of a resettlement area in different barangays. With the civil works at the final stage of construction, the project is seen to complete by 2023.

> *"The flood hazard mapping activities of the project made us more familiar with our community and the dangers in it. This benefits PWDs so we can easily evacuate them in case of calamities."*
>
> *– Maria Fe Samson, Vice President, Santolan Persons With Disability Association*

"During [Typhoon] Odette, flooding was extreme where I used to live but now I am safe from threat of flooding thanks to our relocation in Pahiron," said Josephine Granada, a beneficiary of the resettlement component of FRIMP-CDOR.

While the frequency of flooding is inevitable with a changing climate, the benefits of the partnership of government, vulnerable communities, and JICA against severe flooding have plenty of promise. ●

Surveying works. Photos courtesy of the DPWH.

Dredging works

Lower Marikina River

2 months after construction with Takino Filter Technology in Pantabangan

Just after construction with Takino filter

How partnership with Japanese private sector is creating social impact

Partnerships are like stones thrown into the pond that create many ripples.

For many years, the Philippines has been in close partnership with JICA to cooperate in creating solutions to pressing development needs. There is no doubt that while this delivered many important outcomes, Japanese private partnership programs open new doors for innovations with equally high social impact.

One example is the urgent need for the Philippines to cope with frequent natural disasters. During strong typhoons and earthquakes, slope failures and landslides cause severe damage to infrastructure. Now the focus of public works engineers is the protection of critical road infrastructure especially in mountain areas using best engineering practices and new technology.

Through JICA Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Verification Survey with the Private Sector, Japanese company Takino Filter, Inc. is introducing an erosion control and vegetation mat to the Philippines. By working with the Bureau of Research and Standards of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Takino Filter Inc. is piloting the technology through the agency's regional offices.

The filter mats can retain water and prevent droughts, while providing adequate slope coverage against strong winds. Plant seeds and fertilizer can also be placed in the filter thereby supporting greening efforts in mountain areas.

Such innovation complements the rock fall protection technology that JICA has introduced to DPWH in 2007 under the project Improvement of Quality Management for Highway and Bridge Construction and Maintenance. In the said project, capacity development activities were conducted to equip DPWH engineers to integrate rock fall countermeasures in their maintenance of roads and bridges.

While Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) remains critical in Japan-Philippine relationship, partnership with Japanese private sector has been helpful in delivering innovations to communities, with multiplied social impact. ●

Field training situation in Palawan

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Verification Survey with Private Sector for Erosion Control and Vegetation Mat for Slope Protection

PERIOD
2022-2024

Algodon in Hokkaido University

A game changer in weather forecasting

We can build the youth for the future.
-Franklin Roosevelt

The Philippines is frequently battered by storms and typhoons that do not only damage industries and livelihood, but also worsen poverty.

Even with available observation equipment, the Philippines remains challenged on human resources capable of forecasting extreme weather. This is where the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) bridges the gap in building the skills of Filipinos by sending them to study in prominent Japanese universities.

Meet Meryl Regine Algodon, a science research specialist at the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI). Algodon is involved in a JICA cooperation with ASTI on the ULAT Project or Understanding Lightning and Thunderstorms (ULAT). Her love for weather systems motivated her to apply for the KCCP doctorate degree on Cosmosciences at Hokkaido University.

On studying in Japan:
"Since I was a child, I've always dreamed of living in Japan. Through the JICA scholarship, I learned how to have good work ethics, persistence in my task, and networking with experts. Japanese are also respectful of people's time. This is a trait I want to instill in my professional life in the Philippines."

On her research at Hokkaido University:
"My research is focused on creating 3D models using multiple imaging sources. Cloud models, when studied in 3D perspective, can help us analyze the parameters involved in typhoon development, and predict their intensity and trajectory. When applied in the Philippines, cloud modelling can improve our typhoon forecasting system and support disaster management policy making."

On learning from Japan's experience:
"I experienced working with meteorologists in Japan. Coming from a different background, I learned about the atmospheric system and how it affects typhoon formation. I was also trained to work with different imaging sources such as satellite images to observe typhoon parameters that can help indicate its intensity."

Algodon (2nd from left) with her Professor (leftmost) and research team during cloud observation in Edogawa, Tokyo

As extreme weather events increase, investing in human resources capable of uplifting Philippine extreme weather warning systems and response to it can make a world of difference. ●

Algodon's scholarship is part of the JICA Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development or SATREPS Project on "Development of Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines". SATREPS fosters research collaboration between Japanese and institutions from partner countries to address common problems. Learn more about SATREPS by scanning this QR

Investing in people for Philippine disaster response

They say no one can whistle a symphony -- it takes a whole orchestra to play it. The same is true in climate change situations. To combat it, it comes down to creating partnerships and collaboration in building the capacity of a country's people on disaster resiliency.

The impact of climate change is a real experience. The frequency of typhoons and natural disasters in the Philippines has taken a toll on people's lives and on the economy. Since 2005, estimates point to PHP182.9 billion of economic losses from natural disasters. Of these disasters, 70% accounts for typhoons, monsoon rainfall, and floods.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) is at the center of monitoring these weather events, providing information to national disaster management system. The enactment of the PAGASA Modernization Act of 2015 and urgent need to properly use disaster information highlight the importance of improving weather observations in the Philippines.

Since the work of PAGASA personnel influences vital decisions in disaster response and management, PAGASA is working with JICA in a capacity development project "Capability Enhancement for High Quality Weather Observation, Forecast Warning, and Information in the Philippines" (JPOW 2). Such project is training PAGASA technical personnel on testing, calibration, maintenance, and data quality monitoring. PAGASA personnel are also studying Japan's advanced forecasting systems on weather radar and meteorological satellite to see its application in the Philippines.

Along with this, the Philippines is also hurdling with lack of risk assessment models and technology to predict water-related disasters considering climate change, hydrology, agriculture and socioeconomic activities. To fill in this gap, JICA, International Centre for Water Hazard and Risk Management of Japan (ICHARM), and University of the Philippines in Los Baños teamed up for the "Development of a Hybrid Water-Related Disaster Risk Assessment Technology for Sustainable Local Economic Development Policy under Climate Change in the Philippines" (HyDEPP). It is being supported by JICA's Science and Technology Research Partnerships for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) that utilizes research collaboration between Japan and other countries in addressing social issues.

HyDEPP is focusing on Pampanga River Basin, Pasig-Marikina River, and Laguna Lake Basin. A team of Filipino specialists and experts from the project are also visiting Japan to study lake and river management systems and risk assessment technology.

Aside from these, JICA also works with the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the Philippines. Under Republic Act No. 10121 or DRRM Act, the OCD is the central organization administering disaster risk reduction and management in the Philippines. With this, JICA dispatched experts to help OCD craft local DRR plans, establish an information management system, and train local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines.

The project is to create a Technical Guidebook on Damages and Losses Evaluation based on pilot activities in selected LGUs namely Laguna and Bohol, to be followed in Batangas, Negros Oriental, and Davao City. With help from Japanese experts, the LGUs can inject long-term thinking and planning on disaster prevention and mitigation.

With so much talk given on climate change, investing in people involved in disaster management can indeed give long-term gains. ●

HyDEPP trainees exposure visit

Lecture at ICHARM for HyDEPP trainees

JPOW 2 trainees exposure visit to Sendai Regional Headquarters

JICA-dispatched experts working with OCD and LGUs

Championing Peace and Development in Mindanao

Citizen's Charter Formulation

New Staff Orientation

Uplifting lives in the Bangsamoro

They say people are important assets, composing the heart of every organization.

In places like the Bangsamoro where poverty is high because of decades-long conflict, the need for leaders and workforce able to carry the transition to a Bangsamoro government is a priority.

In 2019, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was created as part of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to end conflict between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). With this came the challenge of capacity development of BARMM human resources that will impact Bangsamoro's future.

To support this, the JICA and the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) team up for a Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CDPB). This further expands JICA's support to strengthen BTA's institutional capacity, organize livelihood activities, address COVID-19 recovery, and promote local industries.

JICA Chief Representative to the Philippines SAKAMOTO Takema reaffirmed this saying, "We strategically continue to encourage activities to ease disparities based on the concept 'No-one-left-behind'. Capacity development can greatly help enhance knowledge to materialize the vision and discuss an effective path for the future of the Bangamoro."

Under the CDPB, measures to upskill the BARMM workforce were put in place. The BARMM Employee Handbook was published under the project for better organization and efficient delivery of public services in Bangsamoro. Human resource practitioners in BARMM also piloted new staff orientation of each ministry or department. JICA and BTA also held focus group discussions for a Human Resource Development Plan to professionalize service delivery and ease doing business in BARMM. As another measure, JICA provided technical support for Citizen's Charter formulation and relevant training activities for the BTA.

To also further accelerate economic growth in the region, JICA promoted livelihood projects in BARMM under CDPB. These are the Rice-Based Farming Technology Transfer Program (RTPB) and Livelihood Improvement for

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro

PERIOD
2019-2025

LOCATION
Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

"I am very thankful to JICA and MAFAR for this kind of project that gives alternative source of income to us. Aside from the technical skills, we also receive garden tools and inputs like seeds and fertilizer."

– Cherry Lou Palanduyon, Farmer Leader, LIFT-UP Beneficiary

Transformation of Underserved Population (LIFT-UP). Farmers and agriculture officers in BARMM benefited from new knowledge and technology through trainings and farmers' field schools under CDPB.

Since BARMM is also in high need of economic recovery from COVID-19 lockdowns, 15 LGUs were identified to assist LGUs in the preparation of COVID-19 response recovery plans (RRPs) and Local Disaster Risk and Reduction Management Plans (LDRRMPs) at the local level, thru establishment of baseline data, conduct of orientations, trainings and workshop. Likewise, CDPB will provide support in the implementation of the RRPs and LDRRMPs of the 15 selected LGUs.

JICA also worked with the local industries to help diversify their markets. Follow-up activities under the Market-Driven Local Industry Promotion (MDLIP) were held including the crafting of a roadmap for the coffee sector.

As BARMM journeys to lasting peace through an autonomous government, the bayanihan or collective commitments of their local leaders to work for the greater good holds plenty of promise. ●

"Thanks JICA and MAFAR particularly for LIFT-UP and for giving us a chance to be a part of this. This is a big help for me and for my people. I was able to learn new strategies and eventually add income for our family."

– Adsik Waguia, Former Combatant, LIFT-UP Beneficiary

PTD in Salbu, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao

PTD in Kandaga, Talipao, Sulu

Field Day in Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao

PTD site in Darussalam, Languyan, Tawi-Tawi

Training of trainers for the future of coffee mentors

Training of trainers for the future of coffee mentors

*Participatory Techno-Demo (PTD)

Quick View of Project Outcomes

Institution-Building

- Distributed 50, 000 employee handbook for BARMM
- Piloted new staff orientation for BARMM government agencies
- Crafted HR Development Plan
- 304 BARMM government participants in the Citizen's Charter Formulation trainings

Livelihood Activities

- 600 farmer beneficiaries for RTPB
- 4 Farmers' field schools established: Ampatuan, Pandag, South Upi, Upi
- 20 motorcycles donated for monitoring of RTPB

Mitigating COVID-19 Effects

- Developed recovery plans for 15 LGUs
- Held rapid assessment impact of COVID-19

Pineapple plantation in Polomok, South Cotabato

Cavendish banana workers from Ampatuan, Maguindanao

Sugarcane planters from Bukidnon

Harvesting new opportunities for peace and development

Somewhere in South Cotabato, a journey to the Municipality of Polomok greets one with fields of pineapples as if a postcard has come to life.

But beyond this beauty, ordinary farmers struggle to make ends meet. Typhoon disasters and armed conflict pushed back poverty in this town. Farmers also lack the access to markets through financial mechanisms and other resources that can help them practice in sustainable farming.

These scenes have changed now. For farmers belonging to Polo Samahang Nayon Multipurpose Cooperative and Landan People's Multipurpose Cooperative, new opportunities for a better life finally came through. A project Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation (HARVEST), farmers' cooperatives found a better way to finance their agribusiness through concessional loans. A partnership between Land Bank of the Philippines and JICA, HARVEST has been improving the lives of people in conflict areas through creation of jobs, boosting entrepreneurship, and agribusiness investments.

The HARVEST project, launched in 2017, has reached out to more than 20 agriculture cooperatives and benefited nearly 3,000 farmers and entrepreneurs. Under HARVEST, cooperatives and other financial institutions were given finance access with low interest rates and long tenures. Beneficiaries of this project also receive technical assistance from JICA through value chain development, financial literacy, and capacity building of Land Bank personnel.

The project connected agribusinesses in conflict areas in Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Zamboanga to new markets through comprehensive value chain linkage approaches. This is done through improving business literacy of small and medium sized enterprises (SME) and agricultural cooperatives. In fact, former combatants as well as cooperatives consisted of women fisher folks were involved in agribusiness projects, and value chain workshops targeting halal markets were also held.

In 2022, JICA sent Land Bank personnel to Japan and Indonesia (online) to understand innovative agriculture finance models and trends. The project also explores the possibility of launching an Islamic Finance model to meet the specific needs of agricultural ventures in Mindanao. This model is already becoming widespread in the Bangsamoro as it entails no interest payment when investing in future business expansions. Based on the request of Land Bank, HARVEST project also stimulated the learning from other country where Islamic Banking plays essential role at the level of conventional banking system. ●

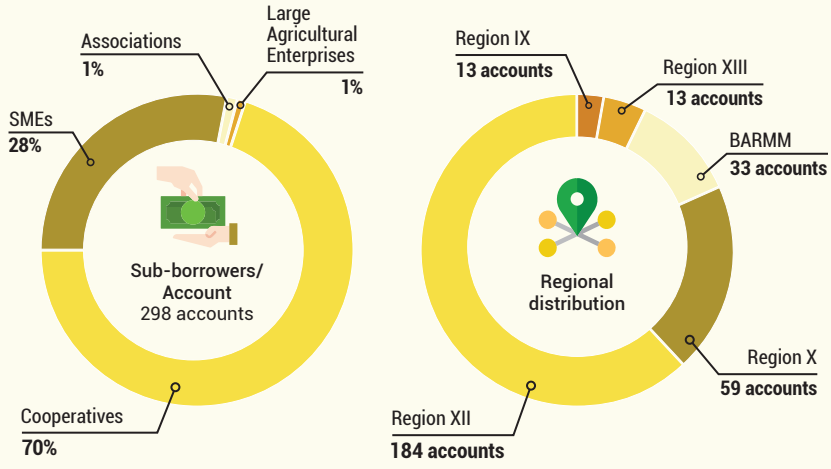
Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Project for Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation

LOAN SIGNING DATE
January 12, 2017

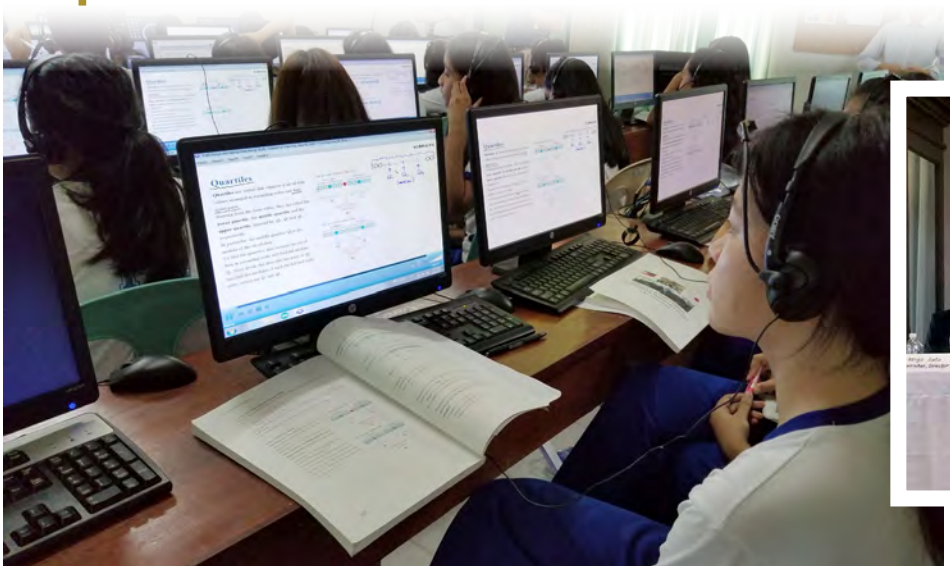
LOAN AMOUNT
JPY 4.928 Billion

LOCATION
Mindanao



Commodities: abaca, banana, cassava, dairy, livestock, pineapple, poultry, rubber, sugarcane, etc.
Loan Assistance Amount: JPY 4.9 Billion*
*only JPY 2.615 Billion was availed by Land Bank

Bridging gaps in math education using Japanese innovation



Students from Gusa High School in Cagayan de Oro using Smart Lecture tool

The main hope of a nation
is in the proper education of its youth.
-Erasmus, Philosopher

The Philippines has one of the youngest populations in Southeast Asia. In the education sector alone, the sheer number of young people enrolled in Grades 7 to 10 at 6.5 million students is remarkable.

Unfortunately, the progress and achievement of young Filipinos in math education remain low. The challenges in shifting to K to 12 system, lack of teachers and quality learning materials set back the youth's future job prospects and critical engagement. In fact, Trends in International Mathematics and Science Survey showed that the Philippines fared lower at 41 out of 45 countries surveyed – further highlighting the need to drive improvement in students' math skills.

So, in 2018, a popular Japanese textbook company, Keirinkan Co., piloted a hybrid learning material combining paper and video in Cagayan de Oro. The project is part of the JICA Partnership with the Private Sector. This program aims to share Japanese innovations with social impact, while also promoting the business of Japanese companies in JICA partner countries.

Keirinkan Co.'s product called Smart Lecture has been used by junior high school students in Japan. Using this, students learn complex math problems using explainer videos combined with paper and digital materials in a language they are most comfortable with – Visaya.

The Smart Lecture comes in small data sizes that students can use in very weak Internet environments. It can be used both at home or in schools or as easy-to-use teaching materials. Further, the videos are playable multiple times enabling the students to get a good grasp of Math concepts and problems.

> *"During the pandemic, it became more challenging for us to teach math online and offline. The Smart Lecture allows students to go to difficult topics and watch the video repeatedly to understand them. They were less pressured since the explanations are very structured, and they can change the speed of the video according to their own pace."*
>
> *– Jerico Pareno, Gusa Regional High School, Department of Education Cagayan de Oro*

The pilot project also involved the Department of Education (DepEd), Suken (Mathematical Competency Certification Institute of Japan), KJS Company Ltd. (Japanese IT company) and e-Education (a non-profit organization providing film education in the world).

By investing in innovative math education materials, the Philippines is also investing a great deal for a brighter future of young Filipinos and for a better quality of life for the nation. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Verification Survey for the Improvement of students' Math performance using the hybrid learning material Smart Lecture

PERIOD
2018-2023

LOCATION
Cagayan de Oro

Project Outcomes

Improvement in Math Performance

44.6 points

Students who use Smart Lecture

15 points

Students without Smart Lecture

*The project recorded a high retention rate of math concepts among students.

*The potential expansion to Cebu, Davao, and Manila is being considered.

Nurturing Japan-Philippines Friendship

Participants of the TOD Lecture in ADMU courtesy of JICA Chair

Moving forward to a sustainable society: Lessons from Japan

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. So goes a Japanese saying.

As countries become more urbanized, it is vital that the livability of these cities is also top of mind. Infrastructure development has been quite a challenge in the Philippines. At the infrastructure index of World Competitiveness Ranking 2022 of the Institute of Management Development (IMD), the Philippines ranks 57th out of 64 countries.

This is also why as part of Japan's way to help partner countries, a program that promotes development studies using Japan's modernization lessons had been in place. In partnership with leading universities, JICA launched the Program for Japanese Studies or the JICA Chair.

JICA and Ateneo de Manila University decided on the topic of TOD or Transit-oriented Development since there are numerous initiatives led by the government to develop and expand the railway network, address traffic congestion and enhance the connectivity around Metro Manila and beyond. TOD is an effective approach that countries like Japan applied to maximize economic benefits from transport infrastructure and urban development.

A JICA expert led a seminar in November 2022 that introduced Japan's TOD experience and its enormous benefits to improving people's quality of life. JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema emphasized during the lecture that, "JICA is taking steps to continue to expand our cooperation with the Philippines to 'Build Better More' quality transportation infrastructure. In order to maximize the impact of the railway development in the Philippines, the integration and harmonization of urban planning and transport development is indispensable, which is the fundamental concept of TOD."

> *"Young people can become agents of positive change regardless of academic background. The JICA Chair Lecture Series is an effective way of building awareness and engaging students, educators, and researchers towards nation-building wherever they are."*
>
> *– Prof. Rodolfo R. Narciso, Director of Japanese Studies Program, Ateneo De Manila University*

Japan is known for its strength in building quality transport system, making it possible for urban places to become a desirable place to live in. Since its first railway system in Shinbashi-Yokohama in 1872, Japan showed the world that building quality transport system results in better mobility of people, and other development opportunities.

Through the JICA Chair lecture, the Philippines can take cues on combining investments in railways with reliable public transportation, urban interconnectivity, access to public transport systems and improving walking network, mixed use urban and land use planning, and *eki-mae Kaihatsu/ensen Kaihatsu* (urban development around and along stations).

For the Philippines, planning its railway systems with the TOD concept can create better outcomes where Filipinos are able to live, work, and raise their families in a meaningful way. ●

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
JICA Program for Japanese Studies (JICA Chair)

LOCATION
Nationwide

JICA Chair Quick facts

- Implemented in 62 countries to share Japan's experience of modernization and development with leader universities.
- Short intensive lectures on politics, economics, public administration, law among others.
- First JICA Chair in the Philippines was in 2021 with ADMU on topics featuring Japan in the Indo-Pacific.

Like the JICA Chair Facebook page for updates and insights!

Fellows pose during the JDS 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence

JICA Chief Representative (middle) with Batch 20 scholars during their send-off dinner

Two decades of bridging cultures and friendship

JICA founded the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid, or JDS Project, in 1999 and implemented it in 21 countries including the Philippines. Since its launch in the Philippines in 2002, the JDS annually grants graduate scholarships to around 20 Filipinos in civil service. The program continues to share Japan's experience in development and other emerging issues until today.

At the celebration of JDS's 20th Anniversary in the Philippines, JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema emphasized, "JDS plays a big role in furthering the relationship between JICA and the Philippines – bridging two cultures together and making the best use of Japanese education to make a difference in the lives of Filipinos."

Bound together by bold ideas and enthusiasm, past recipients of JDS scholarship spoke in a conference on peace building, climate change resilience, and sustainability.

As JDS marked its 20th year in the Philippines, the program showed that it has enriched the lives of many young Filipino scholars through study opportunities in Japan and actively participating in international cooperation. ●

Scan the code for the JDS Website

Voices from JDS Fellows

The JDS is a journey that does not stop after graduation. We aspire to become a formalized network that provides people-centered and future-oriented development work in the country.
- Boris Pascudillo, Batch 1, DILG Leyte Provincial Office

The JDS gave me the opportunity to apply new knowledge in my work. Japan sends our experts abroad and after coming back, ask us to apply best practices that benefit our country.
- Allan Cabanlong, Batch 6, Founder and CEO, CyberGuardians Inc., former DICT Assistant Secretary

The JDS is not just about career advancement. It's also about developing the values we need to contribute to Philippine development.
- Francis de los Reyes, Batch 9, Development Bank of the Philippines

The learning I acquired from the university and Japan in general is helping me to be more effective in delivering my functions as a DPWH engineer.
- John Jowhell Villegas, Batch 13, DPWH

Through the knowledge I gained in JDS scholarship, I was able to help set the DILG's strategic directions, ensuring that its plans and programs are aligned with the priorities of the national government.
- Francisco Relevo Cruz, Batch 5, DILG

Seeing Japan makes me aspire for bigger things for the Philippines. I'd like to contribute by introducing innovations I saw in Japan when it comes to revenue collection.
- Genevieve Gamueta, Batch 16, City Government of Davao

Having been exposed to an international education through the JDS provided an opportunity to have a view of how international cooperation can provide positive results to emerging problems in the country.
- Bien Ganapin, Batch 6, NEDA

The JDS program is one of the most competitive programs for career-development in the government service. I am now more confident to handle bigger responsibilities as I am more equipped and prepared because of JDS.
- Nikko Macalintal, Batch 17, DA

Inspiring next generation Filipino leaders through mutual learning in Japan

Cabral with Professor KOIKE Tosio, ICHARM Director

Cabral (middle, in white) with other GRF participants

Skills training of next generation leaders is at the heart of a program that transfers Japanese strengths and expertise to participants from different countries.

Filipinos need new knowledge to address evolving socioeconomic issues. JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs (KCCP): Group and Region Focus (GRF) and Young Leaders (YL) have been capacitating its recipients for them to contribute to a prosperous Philippines.

The KCCP is patterned from Japan's development strategy centered in human resource development through robust knowledge exchange. It facilitates people-to-people exchange among partner countries as they are not only invited to learn from Japanese counterparts, but also contribute to the deepening of knowledge by sharing their own unique experiences.

Learning from Japan's flood management experience

Erwin Cabral, a faculty researcher of the College of Engineering, Architecture and Fine Arts of Batangas State University (BSU) finished JICA's KCCP-GRF Degree: Flood Disaster Risk Reduction in 2022. The course is co-implemented by the International Center for the Water Hazard and Risk Management ICHARM and the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS).

In 2020, natural disasters devastated Batangas, including the Taal Volcano eruption, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake, and severe flooding due to Typhoon Rolly. The main campus of BSU located near Batangas Bay is prone to floods due to its low elevation. To help the community address natural disasters, BSU created the Technology Innovation for Occupational Hazards and Natural Disaster (ACTION Center) and Disaster Resiliency Education for Adaptation and Mitigation Academy.

As a BSU faculty member, Cabral aims to contribute to his university's own graduate program on flood disaster risk reduction. "I am interested to see Japanese technology that mitigates flooding. I also want to learn resource planning, management and policy making to help not just our school but also the community," Cabral said.

Under the KCCP-GRF, Cabral studied integrated flood risk management, flood hazard mapping, and water-related disaster management practices in Japan and graduated with a Master's Degree in Disaster Management.

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid

PERIOD
Ongoing

PROJECT TITLE
Knowlegde Co-Creation Program -Young Leaders, and Group and Region Focus

PERIOD
Ongoing

Canggat (leftmost) during group field practice

Canggat (middle) with her classmates

Dabon (first row rightmost) with her fellow Young Leaders trainees

Dabon, KCCP-YL Participant

Learning from Japan's agriculture technology

Novy Canggat is an agricultural technologist from the local government of Mankayan, Benguet who participated in the KCCP-GRF: Vegetable Production Technology for Livelihood Improvement of Small-Scale Farmers in Tsubuka, Japan last JFY 2021.

There are about 9,000 small-scale farmers in Mankayan but they hardly implement Philippine Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) since most farmers are used to archaic methods. The GAP entails on-farm and post-production practices to make sure that agricultural products are safe and of good quality.

"I joined the program because I want to learn more about Japanese technology on vegetable production that can be applied in our municipality," she said. In her work, Canggat prepares agriculture investment plans and monitors agricultural programs.

Under the KCCP, Canggat joined other participants in field practice experiments on cultivation, propagation, fertilizer application, and pest and disease control. She also attended lectures on extension work, soil enhancement, irrigation system, and other advanced Japanese farming systems such as Hydroponics, Soilless culture, and many others.

She recalls thinking that the people of Mankayan were an inspiration while she was training in Japan. During her immersion experience, she was proud to represent her municipality and their experiences. In return, all things that she learned will be for the development of Mankayan as well.

Learning from Japan's industrial development

Maria Gracia Dabon was an economic development specialist at the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Central Visayas when she was accepted as participant to the KCCP-YL: Economic Administration (Industrial Development and Promotion). "The training was timely since NEDA just came up with a regional development plan at that time to develop key industries for high, sustainable growth in the region. It was also an opportunity for me to see how public-private partnerships work in Japan."

Dabon attended lectures on Japan's policies on industrial development, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and industry-academe-government collaboration. She also visited factories and companies in Tokyo and Nagano for the training.

Few years after the training, Dabon received a scholarship under the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship or JDS Project. She studied at Nagoya University and completed her master's degree in Environmental Studies. In 2022, Dabon and other JDS fellows shared their learnings from Japan's development experience in a book "Contemporary Development Issues in the Philippines: Lessons from JDS Fellows".

In the book, Dabon shared her overall study experience in Japan as, "Japan serves as an example for countries like the Philippines when it comes to implementing strategies that maintain the balance between economic growth and environment preservation. I always look back at my Japan experience for possibilities and solutions to Philippine development challenges."

Despite the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the KCCP continued to give Filipino professionals opportunities to learn from Japan. The experience improved their understanding of Japan's best practices and culture, promoting mutual learning to both countries. Beyond this, the program further inspired them to become trailblazers and leave a mark in their own communities. ●

Want to be a scholar/trainee? Check out other JICA programs here

Rekindling the volunteer spirit with JICA 'grassroots ambassadors'

Latest batch of JOCVs - Miyagawa, Sekiguchi, and Kubo

What do we live for, if not to make life less difficult for each other? -George Eliot

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 restrictions, JICA volunteers under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program are returning to the Philippines to continue supporting sustainable development agenda of the government. The pandemic left development gaps in local communities' economic circumstances thus the compassionate work of the JICA volunteers becomes more relevant than ever.

"The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic disrupted most development programs including international volunteer services. The return of the JOCVs is a welcome development. Local partner institutions have been benefiting from the dynamic work of JICA volunteers through local development projects, while strengthening cooperation and relations between Japan and the Philippines," shared Donald James Gawe, Executive Director of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA).

Meet the first batch of JICA volunteers and snippets of their activities aligned with Sustainable Development Goals:

Lifelong opportunities for all

When the Philippines expanded its basic education cycle to 12 years under the K to 12 program, a technical-vocational track was added to the curriculum. Implementing the Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001 also requires programs that will improve the quality of basic education in the Philippines.

MIYAGAMA Yoshimi was a JICA volunteer in Thailand many years ago and is now volunteering at the Rizal Experimental Station and Pilot School for Cottage Industries (RESPSCI) in Pasig City. A chef by profession, she is helping elevate culinary courses for technical-vocational students at RESPSCI, training teachers on Japanese cooking techniques. This way, students can have better chances of getting quality jobs after graduation knowing their skills meet the industry's needs.

"What we really appreciate about Miyagawa is that she is generous in sharing her cooking expertise as well as her wisdom that would help both young and seasoned professionals. She is full of life and an inspiration to many of us."

– Bernadette Agustin, Assistant Principal, RESPSCI

JOCV MIYAGAWA Yoshimi

JOCV KUBO Jun

Productive and decent work for all

Persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the Philippines long for greater economic participation to improve their living conditions. In Iloilo, the Association of Differently-Abled Persons in Iloilo Multi-Purpose Cooperative (ADPIMPC) manufactures wooden products, but lack the marketing strategy to scale up.

Japanese volunteer KUBO Jun held marketing surveys for ADPIMPC and connected them to other social enterprises that can help market the woodcrafts. With assistance from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the association is also developing new designs for their products.

Since most of the PWDs lack access to marketing trends and ideas, KUBO's volunteer work somehow helps make a dent in opening opportunities for better livelihood of the association members.

"Our relationship with the JOCV is like family. We were able to solve some of our marketing problems with the volunteer's help and increase our revenues."

– Xerxes Gulmatico, Manager, ADPIMPC

Fostering innovation for all

At Cavite State University - Cavite College of Arts and Trades (CCAT) Campus, Japanese volunteer SEKIGUCHI Takuya impresses his generosity by helping improve the course design of the school's Department of Computer Studies. The school needed technical support to upgrade its curriculum and align it with skills needed in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector.

SEKIGUCHI introduced computer-programming language that can help students create computer-based projects online. Through his activities, teachers go beyond PowerPoint presentations and typical programming languages by fostering innovation mindset in teaching computer courses.

Now that JOCVs are back in the Philippines, a new chapter of JICA-Philippine relations unfolds, overcoming new normal challenges and making the ties between two nations even stronger. ●

JOCV SEKIGUCHI Takuya

"Through the JOCV activities, the knowledge and skills of our teachers and students are enhanced. We intend to continue the volunteer's activities through trainings and research so we can become more familiar with technology trends in Japan."

– Aries Gelera, Chair, Department of Computer Studies

Project Details

PROJECT TITLE
Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Program

PERIOD
Ongoing

Learn more about the JOCV program here

Special Features

JICA's Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs, adopted by the United Nations in September 2015, are a set of international goals based on the core principle of "Leaving No One Behind" to eradicate poverty and realize a sustainable society by 2030. It consists of 17 goals covering social, economic, and environmental issues, and 169 targets to achieve them. Both developed and developing countries are enjoined to take them on, with various stakeholders working in cooperation.

JICA has a twofold mission: realizing human security, which protects the vital core of all human lives in ways that enhance human freedoms and human fulfillment; and achieving quality growth that is inclusive, sustainable, and resilient. In 2021, JICA established the JICA Global Agenda, a set of 20 development cooperation strategies that cover the SDG's four categories: Prosperity, People, Peace, and Planet. Taking advantage of Japan's experience in its own development and international cooperation, JICA supports developing countries to attain the SDGs in collaboration not only with governments and people in these countries, but also with a diverse range of international partners, including the Philippines.

JICA and the SDGs

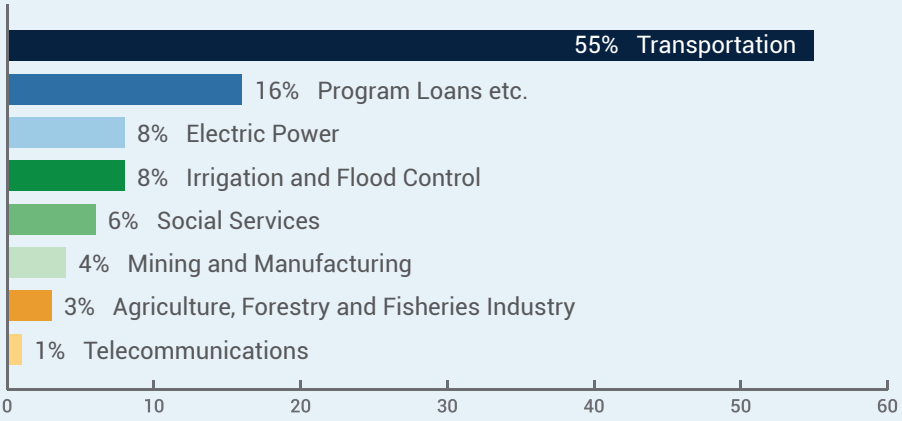
FAST FACTS

In a Glance: Japan's Bilateral Assistance to the Philippines

(Cumulative as of FY 2021)

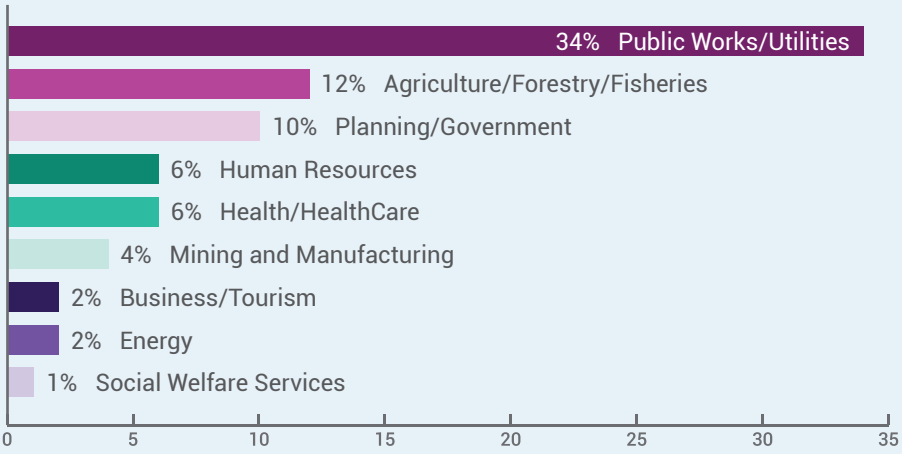
ODA Loan and Private Sector Investment Finance Commitment

¥ 3,635,282 million



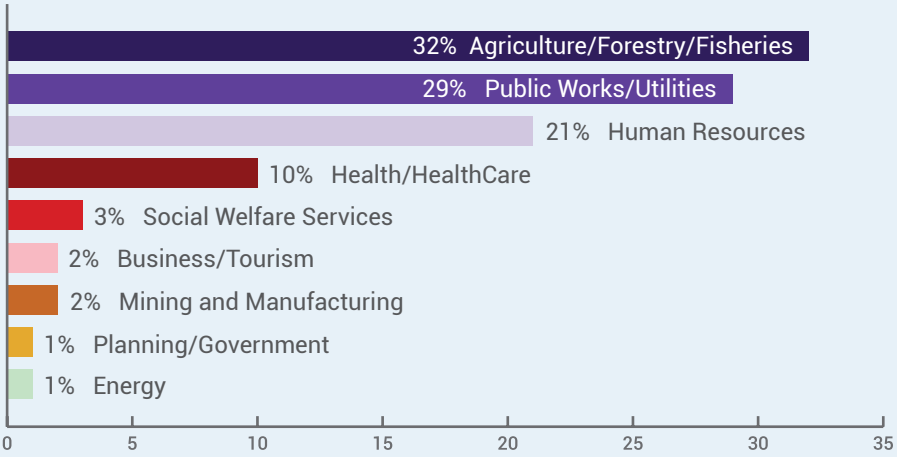
Technical Cooperation

¥ 271,777 million



Grant Aid

¥ 245,931 million



(Cumulative as of FY 2021)

10,538

Japanese Experts deployed to the Philippines

21,573

Japanese study team members sent to the Philippines

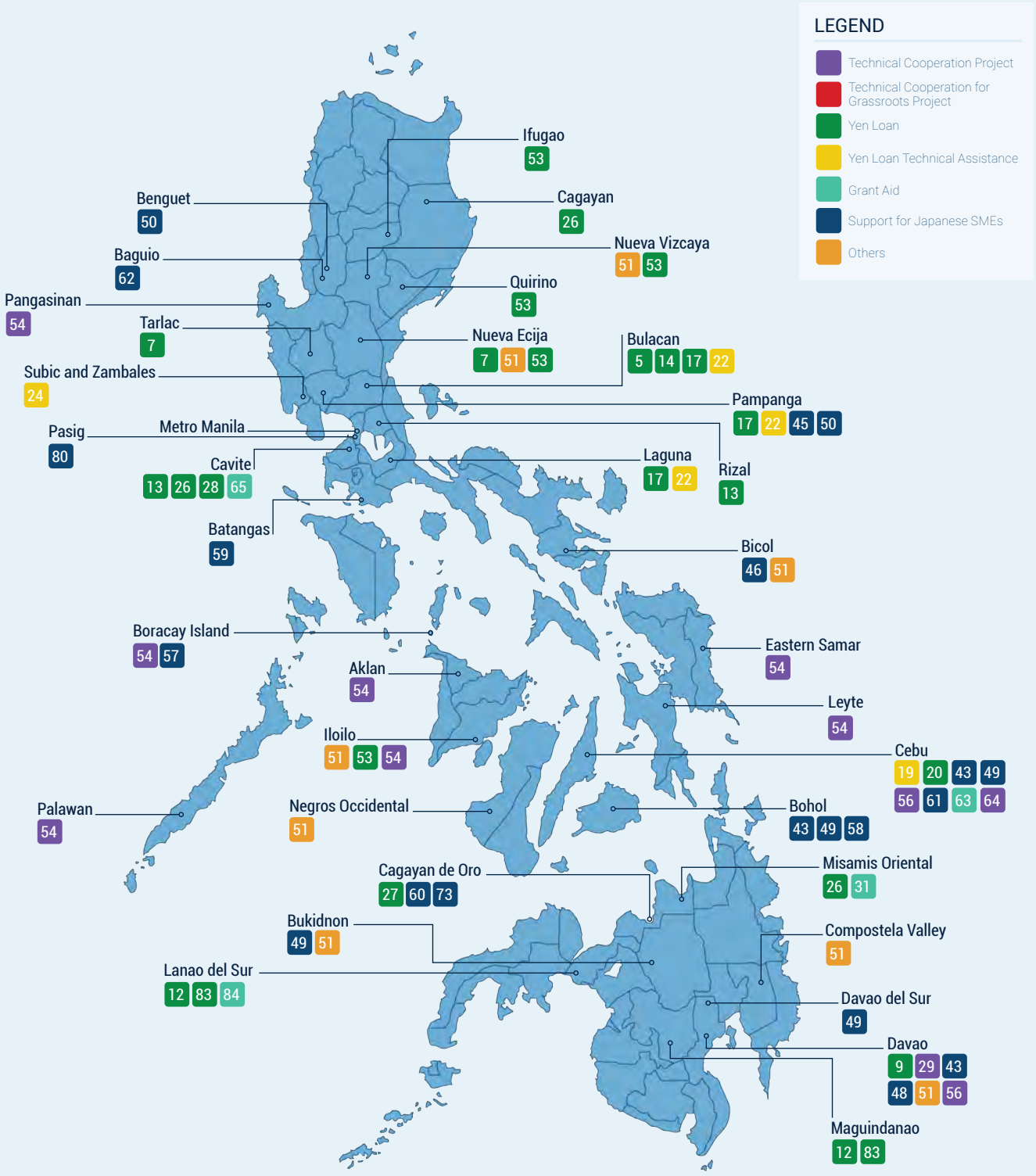
42,542

Filipinos trained by JICA

1,677

Japanese volunteers dispatched to the Philippines

JICA PHILIPPINES OPERATIONS MAP



Nationwide
1 2 3 4 6 30 32 33 35 44 65 66 69 70 71 74 75 76 77 78

Metro Manila
8 10 11 13 14 15 16 17 18 21 22 25 34 38 39 40 42 43 52 55 56 67 68 72 79

Luzon
47

Central Luzon
34 39 67

CALABARZON / Region IV-A
23 32 34

CAR
41

Central Visayas
32 37

Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAMM)
82

BARMM
82 85 86 87 88

JICA Philippines Project List

Ongoing projects as of December 2022

Priority Area: Strengthening a Foundation for Sustainable Economic Growth

Governance

1. *The Project for Enhancement of Philippine Coast Guard Capability on Vessel Operation, Maintenance Planning and Maritime Law Enforcement* **Nationwide**
2. *Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (Phase I and II)* **Nationwide**
3. *The Project for Establishment of Credit Risk Database in the Philippines* **Nationwide**
4. *Training for Enhancing Capacity for Analysis and Forecasting the Macroeconomy and the Financial Sector* **Nationwide**

Economic Infrastructure

5. *Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III)* **Bulacan**
6. *Road Upgrading and Preservation Project* **Nationwide**
7. *Central Luzon Link Expressway Project* **Tarlac, Nueva Ecija**
8. *Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project (Phase VI)* **Metro Manila**
9. *Davao City Bypass Construction Project* **Davao City**
10. *Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project* **Metro Manila**
11. *Project for Comprehensive Traffic Management Plan for Metro Manila* **Metro Manila**
12. *Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao* **Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur**
13. *Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project* **Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal**
14. *North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos-Tutuban)* **Metro Manila, Bulacan**
15. *Detailed Design Study for the Metro Manila Subway Project* **Metro Manila**
16. *Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I)* **Metro Manila**
17. *North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project* **Metro Manila, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga**
18. *Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project* **Metro Manila**
19. *Detailed Design Study of Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project* **Cebu**
20. *Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project* **Cebu**
21. *Technical Assistance Project to Establish the Philippine Railways Institute* **Metro Manila**
22. *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

23. *Project for Enhancement of Industrial Competitiveness through Industrial Human Resource Development and Supply and Value Chains Development* **CALABARZON**
24. *Technical Support to the Formulation of Subic Bay Regional Development Master Plan in the Republic of the Philippines* **Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales**

Priority Area: Ensuring Human Security for Inclusive Growth

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

25. *Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV)* **Metro Manila**
26. *Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River, and Imus River* **Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, Cavite**
27. *Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River* **Cagayan de Oro**
28. *Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project* **Cavite**
29. *Master Plan and Feasibility Study on Flood Control and Drainage in Davao City* **Davao**
30. *The Project for Development of Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines* **Nationwide**
31. *Improvement of Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Cagayan de Oro River Basin* **Misamis Oriental**
32. *Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - Capacity Enhancement Project (Phase II)* **CALABARZON, Central Visayas, Nationwide**
33. *The Project for Capability Enhancement for High Quality Weather Observation, Forecast, Warning and Information in the Philippines* **Nationwide**
34. *Project fo 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**
35. *Post Disaster Stand-by Loan Phase II* **Nationwide**
36. *Project for Capacity Development in Coastal Engineering for Disaster Resiliency* **Nationwide**
37. *Strengthening and Promoting School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Visayas,* **Central Visayas**
38. *SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Utilization of Self-Navigation Assembly Salvage Barge for the Construction Works on Disaster Management and Disaster Restoration* **Metro Manila**
39. *SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Erosion Control and Vegetation Mat for Slope Protection* **Metro Manila, Central Luzon**
40. *SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Strengthening of Structures with Japanese Earthquake Resistant Paints in the Philippines* **Metro Manila**
41. *SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Introduction of Technologies that Enable Both Slope Disaster Prevention and Forest Conservation in Republic of the Philippines* **CAR**
42. *Small and Medium-Size Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Strengthening Capacity on Infrastructure Restoration from Frequently Occurring Disasters due to Climate Change in the Philippines* **Metro Manila**
43. *SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for AI Real-time Crisis Management Information System Using SNS Information* **Metro Manila, Legazpi, Cebu, Bohol, Davao**

Agriculture and Agribusiness Development

44. *National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project* **Nationwide**
45. *Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Mulberry Tea Leaves Project in Pampanga* **Pampanga**
46. *Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Establishing Sustainable Organic Waste Composting Systems in Legazpi City* **Legazpi City**
47. *Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines* **Luzon**
48. *SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for the Suppression of Fusarium Wilt Disease in Banana Plantations through the Application of Microbial Inoculants* **Davao**
49. *SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for DX of workplaces utilizing 3D-pico hydro generator system in Philippines* **Davao del Sur, Cebu, Bohol, Bukidnon Cagayan de Oro**
50. *Small and Medium-Size Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Improving Pesticide Damage with High Performance Adhesive Insect Trap Sheet* **Benguet, Pampanga**
51. *Project for the Development of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao* **Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Negros Occidental, Bicol Region, Iloilo, Bukidnon, Davao and Compostela Valley**
52 *Small and Medium-Size Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Marketing Study on RECYINT (Integrated Recycle Business Model for ELV)* **Metro Manila**
53 *Forestland Management Project* **Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija,Iloilo**
54 *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**
55 *Non-Revenue Water Improvement Project in the West Zone of Metro Manila* **Metro Manila**
56 *The Project for Capacity Development on Improving Solid Waste Management through Advanced/ Innovative Technologies* **Metro Manila Quezon City, Davao City, Cebu City**
57 *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 Island**
58 *Verification Survey with Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Septage Management Improvement with Advanced Treatment Method in Panglao, Bohol* **Bohol**
59 *Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Electricity Distribution System and Management in the Philippines* **Batangas**
60 *SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Advanced Dispersible Microbe System in the Philippines* **Cagayan De Oro**
61 *SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for the Production of Biochar and Feed Production Using Food Waste* **Cebu**
62 *SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for the Effective and Sustainable Development of Sewer Infrastructure by using Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Technology to Achieve the New Effluent Standard* **Baguio**
63 *Project for Septage Management for Metro Cebu Water District* **Cebu**
64 *Masterplan Study on Comprehensive Sewerage System Development for Metro Cebu Water District* **Cebu**

Health and Social Development

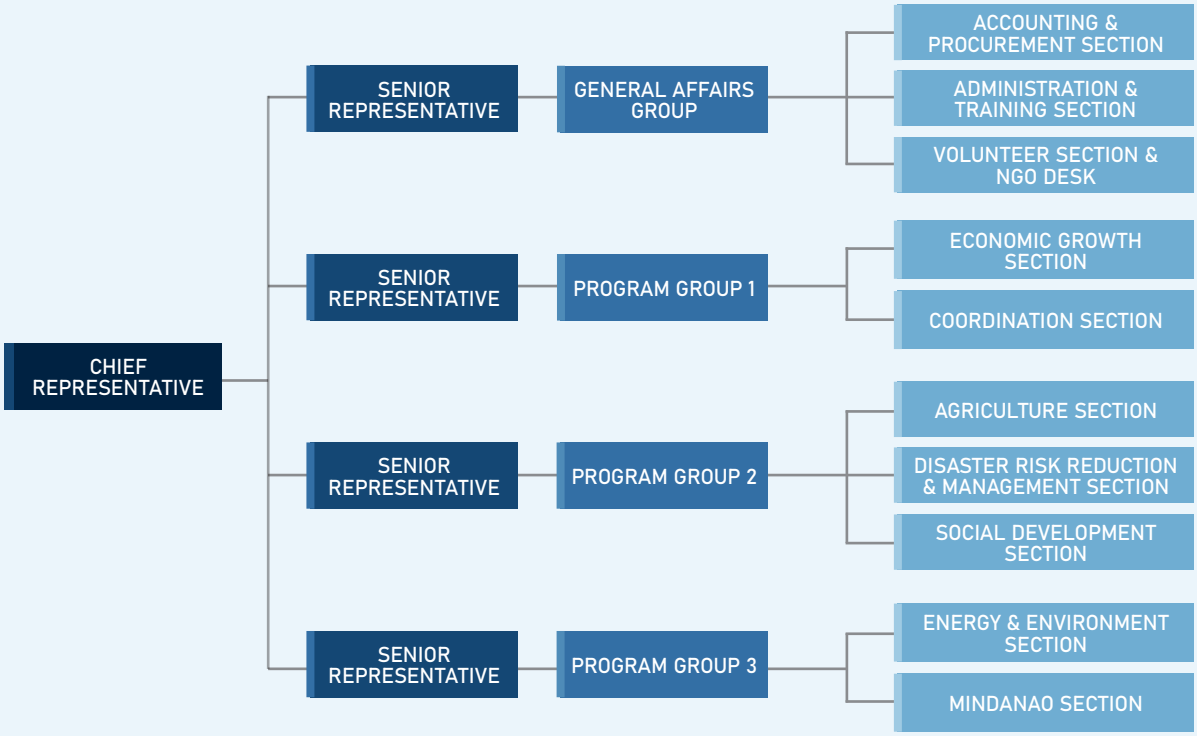
65. *The Programme for Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users (CARE)* **Cavite, Nationwide**
66. *The Project for Introducing Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment & Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines (IntERlaPP)* **Nationwide**
67. *The Project for the Establishment of the One Health Prevention and Treatment Network Model for the Elimination of Rabies in the Philippines* **Metro Manila, Central Luzon**
68. *The Housing Design Support Project for Informal Settler Families (ISFs) through Human Resource Development* **Metro Manila**
69. *Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities (RCF) and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines* **Nationwide**
70. *Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)* **Nationwide**
71. *ASEAN University Network/South East Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED Net) (Phase IV)* **Nationwide**
72. *Development of Comic and Activity Books on Mental Health for Children and Adolescents* **Nationwide**
73. *Verification Survey for the Improvement of Students' Math Performance Using the Hybrid Learning Material "Smart Lecture"* **Cagayan de Oro**
74. *COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan Phase 2* **Nationwide**
75. *The Programme for COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support* **Nationwide**
76. *The Project for Supporting to the Philippines COVID-19 Vaccination Cold Chain and Logistics* **Nationwide**
77. *Project for Strengthening the Philippine National Health Laboratory Network for Infectious Diseases* **Nationwide**
78. *The Project for Supporting to the Philippines COVID-19 Vaccination Cold Chain and Logistics* **Nationwide**
79. *Project to Develop an Innovative Model for TB Care through the Use of New Technologies* **Metro Manila**
80. *SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Introducing Japanese Style Nursing-Care System* **Pasig**

Priority Area: Peace and Development in Mindanao

Mindanao

82. *Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation (HARVEST)* **BARMM Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM)**
83. *Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao* **Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao**
84. *The Program for the Support for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi City and Its Surrounding Areas* **Lanao del Sur**
85. *Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro* **BARMM**
86. *Socio-economic Assistance for Bangsamoro Normalization Process* **BARMM**
87. *Project for Capacity Building for Financial Access in Agribusiness (Phase 2)* **BARMM**
88. *Programme for the Urgent Improvement of Socioeconomic Infrastructures in Bangsamoro Region* **BARMM**

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PEOPLE BEHIND JICA PHILIPPINES

The Management

General Affairs Group

Administration and Training, Accounting and Procurement, Volunteer and NGO Desk

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

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CREATING A BETTER FUTURE TOGETHER

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