



JICA PHILIPPINES
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER







BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER



JICA PHILIPPINES
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Table of Contents

JICA Philippines Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema	3
About JICA	4
Conversation with Economic Secretary Arsenio Balisacan	6
Measures for Socioeconomic Resiliency	9
Right On Track:Laying Down the Vision for the Philippine Rail Network Master Plan	10
Moving Forward With TOD	11
Safe, Reliable, and Comfortable Mobility for a Better Tomorrow	12
A Safer Maritime Future	13
Building Flood Resilience	14
Investing In Climate Resilience: The Story of Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement	15
Revolutionizing Weather Forecasting	16
Shaping an Environmentally Sustainable Future	17
Fighting Climate Change Together	18
Leading the Way for Science-Based Coastal Conservation and Management	19
How Boracay Champions Circular Economy and Environmental Preservation	20
Women in Ifugao Stand Up for Cordillera's Remaining Forests	21
Leveling Up in the Age of Space Tech Development	22
A Balancing Act in Science and Sustainable Development	23
Every Drop Counts – A Local Push for Clean Water	24
Revitalizing Agriculture	25
Securing the Future of the Philippine Vegetable Industry	26
Shaping Future Leaders in Agriculture	28
Capacitating Filipino Farmers Towards Achieving Food and Nutrition Security	29
Developing Philippine Human Capital	31
Bangsamoro's Journey to Peace	32
21 Years of Honing Next Generation Public Servants	33
Nurturing Global Filipino Leaders	34
From Japan to Philippines: Young Trainees Make a Difference in their Local Governments	35
How JICA Volunteers Support in Shaping the Future	37
Fostering Inclusivity and Welfare	39
Where No One is Left Behind – Promoting a Resilient Health System	40
Paving the Path to Recovery	41
Enhancing Education Through New Teaching Methods	42
Capacity Development Efforts Help Reimagine Bangsamoro's Future	43
Fishing for Wisdom and Harvesting Innovation: BTA-CAFAR Explores Japan's Agriculture Prowess	45
Giving Children in Conflict with the Law a Better Shot at Life	46
Special Features	47
Reinvigorating Philippines-Japan Heart-to-Heart Ties	48
How Japanese Technology is Powering Inclusive Development	51
JICA's Assistance Utilizing Private Sector Technologies	53
Japan's Bilateral Assistance to the Philippines	54
JICA Philippines Operations Map	56
JICA Philippines Project List	57
JICA Philippines Office	58

JICA Philippines Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema



For the second opportunity since taking office in the Philippines in 2022, I am most honored to share with you the 2023 JICA Philippines Annual Report “Building Tomorrow Together”.

This edition mirrors the ever-growing relations between the Philippines and Japan at this point in our history. The Philippine visit of our Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio last November is the clear testimony to the breadth and depth of our strong ties as nations beyond its Golden Age, and onwards to new heights.

I am personally a witness to this. In my current capacity, for example, I had been invited as sole non-Filipino speaker to two key events in 2023 – post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) briefing in Davao, and Philippine Investment Seminar in Tokyo. JICA is honored to be the only international partner invited to such important events, and we value the recognition deeply.

For this new publication, we highlight JICA’s close collaboration with wide-ranging

stakeholders, such as Philippine administrative agencies, local governments, private sector, academe, people’s organizations, and communities towards sustainability. This includes our accounts on building Philippines’ major economic infrastructure such as railways, climate resiliency initiatives in disaster-prone areas, and peace and development in Mindanao. We also highlight the important subcomponent of complimenting JICA’s Official Development Assistance projects by engaging the Japanese private sector in development, while we look to expand our scheme to invest in the Philippine private sector as well. It goes without saying that all these put together contribute greatly to the overarching agenda of creating more jobs, spurring growth, and improving the quality of life of the people.

This Report also features our important work in remote areas nationwide, from the mountains in Cordillera to coastal areas in central Philippines – purposing that everyone benefits from the fruits of economic growth and that no one is left behind.

The strength of our partnership as nations is looking beyond the challenges and building a better future for the Philippines and Japan. This ambition requires efforts from everyone, including and especially our counterparts, to make the Philippines vibrant and competitive in meeting the aspirations of better jobs and high quality of life. Considering the Philippines’ young demographic and strong economic fundamentals, JICA trusts that the Philippines is poised to live up to its tremendous growth potential. And JICA is always with you, *kasama niyo kami*.

As we build tomorrow together, we rely on your active support to JICA-Philippine cooperation to propel us higher. Let’s forge ahead in creating a future that benefits not just all of us but also the next generation!

Mabuhay!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "坂本 威子" (Sakamoto Takema).

SAKAMOTO Takema

Chief Representative (March 2022~)

About JICA

Who We Are

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

Established in 1974, JICA remains steadfast in supporting socioeconomic development through its ODA activities in over 140 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.



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 in 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.



Citizen Participation

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



Emergency Disaster Relief

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



Research

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



Public-Private Partnerships

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

Priority Areas in the Philippines

I. Strengthening a Foundation for Sustainable Economic Growth

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

II. Ensuring Human Security for Inclusive Growth

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

III. 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

Reaching New Heights Conversation with Economic Secretary Arsenio Balisacan

The Philippines' Marcos Administration has named Arsenio M. Balisacan as its socioeconomic planning secretary, a post he held from 2012 to 2016. With his 35 years of experience in government, academe, and public service, Balisacan has good words on the steady bilateral relations the Philippines has with JICA. Balisacan also discusses with JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema the role that international development partners play in the current economic setting, in the Philippines' economic priorities, and in the balancing act he needs to do as one of the chief policymakers of the government.

SAKAMOTO: What is the most significant learning or insight that you have gained so far, being at the helm of NEDA under two different Administrations?

BALISACAN: The maxim "striking the iron while still hot" describes well what I find to be the most significant learning or insight in my many years of professional practice as a policy adviser, public sector executive, and member of the President's Cabinet. A development plan prepared with perfection but taken too long to prepare has little value if it is launched after all the ships have already left ports. The plan must come out at the critical time when the decision-makers and program implementers are designing their battle plans in their respective sectors or areas of responsibility—before going out to the open seas—to ensure consistency of purpose, goals, and outcomes.

In returning to a post I previously held, I rely on the experiences I have acquired—good and bad—which have sharpened my perspectives through the years. Working with President Marcos, Jr. has challenged and motivated me to move faster and think of new approaches to policy design and program implementation.

We recalibrated the approval process for major infrastructure projects that would go through the NEDA Board and achieved an average processing time of about half of what is allowed by the rules. Governing rules and policies have been amended because we listened to investors' concerns. Things can be different from how they are, especially if there is a strong appetite for reform and change.

Finally, I should perhaps mention that having a vision, the realization of which spans several presidential administrations, is critical toward ensuring that the political leadership aligns



its socioeconomic priorities – translated into policies – with our desired long-term outcomes. With this objective, NEDA conducted a rigorous or science-based visioning exercise in 2015 that resulted in the AmBisyon Natin 2040.



What inspires you the most in doing your work as a steward of the Philippines' socioeconomic policies? And what do you think is the most difficult part of being in such a position?



Having come from humble beginnings, I have had firsthand experience of how difficult life can be for my fellow Filipinos. Surveying the history of nations, one may perhaps consider the rapid growth and socioeconomic development achieved by other economies nothing short of "miraculous." I do not see why we cannot do the same for Filipinos.

There are instances when the government's policies face scrutiny and skepticism from others. As a former academic and an

economist, I sometimes find it difficult when specific policies or programs are designed or executed without considering what science and experiences suggest or the unintended (negative) consequences such policies or programs may bring. When such situations arise, it is my duty – together with my colleagues in the Cabinet – to inform and advise the President on how to proceed so that we ensure soundness – efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability—in our policies and programs.



As NEDA Secretary, you have been working closely with international development partners like JICA. Can you cite an example of a program or initiative that emerged from having continuous dialogue with JICA and other development partners, and how it has helped NEDA in achieving its objectives?



The Philippine and Japanese governments, including JICA, regularly discuss development cooperation through several venues, from technical discussions to high-level bilateral dialogues such as the Philippines-Japan High-Level Joint Committee on Infrastructure Development and Economic Cooperation and the annual Philippines-Japan High-Level Policy Consultation. These venues, among others, allow the Philippine Government to ensure that the country's development objectives are at the forefront of its cooperation with Japan.

One of the significant accomplishments of the Committee was the facilitation of Japan's commitment in 2017 to providing JPY 1 trillion to the Philippines in the form of projects and investments over the medium term. On the other hand, the Philippines-Japan High-Level Policy Consultation serves as a venue for both governments to discuss relevant policies and ongoing and candidate projects for GOJ loan and grant assistance. NEDA co-chairs the annual Policy Consultation on behalf of the GPH and the GOJ.



In your message before the foreign chamber associations, you specifically highlighted the importance of public-private partnerships (PPP). How do you assess the role of ODA considering the policy of the promotion of PPPs in the Philippines, especially as the country is expected to become an Upper Middle-Income Country (UMIC) in the near future?



We see ODA and PPP as complementary modes of financing for the country's priority infrastructure projects and development needs. We may tap PPPs for financially viable projects attractive to private sector investors. At the same time, ODA may be the preferred mode of financing if the government wishes to take advantage of the technical expertise and extensive project management experience offered by other countries.

To sustain consistent annual spending on infrastructure at around 5 to 6 % of the GDP from 2023 to 2028, ODA shall be instrumental in

the Marcos Administration's Build-Better-More program, which shall address the infrastructure gaps that act as binding constraints to growth and inclusion. In 2023, a total of 198 Infrastructure Flagship Projects (IFPs) costing USD 157¹ billion are listed under this Administration. Out of these projects, 78 (52.9% of the total cost) are financed through ODA (purely ODA, mixed ODA & General Appropriations Act, and ODA & PPP).

The Philippine government is determined to maximize the potential of concessional loans to fuel our pipeline of ODA projects until 2027.

¹ Total project cost of 198 IFPs amount to PHP 8,775.98 billion, converted with the 1 USD = 55.885 PHP exchange rate of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas



S

How do you view the Marcos administration’s approach to socioeconomic development so far to achieve “Bagong Pilipinas”?

B

The Marcos Administration’s approach to socioeconomic development to achieve Bagong Pilipinas hinges on the strategies outlined by the Philippine Development Plan or PDP 2023-2028. Framed by the President’s 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda², the Plan is the government’s medium-term development blueprint, which identifies the programs, projects, and legislative measures that must be implemented or passed to enable socioeconomic transformation.

Observers of the Philippine economy cannot deny that we have made much progress and that the Philippine economy has come a long way. From being the “sick man of Asia” and regularly experiencing “boom-bust” growth cycles two decades ago, we are one of Asia’s most promising economies, enjoying a rapid and sustained growth trajectory.

Nevertheless, we recognize the new circumstances and recent developments that compel us to recalibrate our strategies.

S

From your point of view, how do you see the partnership between JICA and the Philippines moving forward?

B

Japan remains to be the Philippines’ most significant source of ODA. As of September 2023, Japan has a share of 36.34 percent (or USD 12,509.30 million) of the country’s total ODA portfolio.

Furthermore, JICA finances the preparation and implementation of 15 Infrastructure Flagship Projects or IFPs with a value collectively amounting to around PHP 1.2 trillion and co-finances one project with the Asian Development Bank worth PHP 873 billion.

To maintain this momentum, we in the Philippine government commit to strengthening our cooperation with JICA through continued

collaboration to ensure the implementation and completion of projects in the pipeline. The Philippine and Japanese governments have commenced initial discussions on post-UMIC (Upper Middle Income Country) development cooperation initiatives, such as the possible participation of Japanese firms in the implementation of PPP projects with support from the Japanese Government, JICA, and other Japanese financial institutions, and through Japan’s other concessional lending facilities to fund financially viable and income-generating projects, among others. ■

² 8-Point Agenda: 1) Protect purchasing power of families; 2) Reduce vulnerability and mitigate scarring from the Covid-19 pandemic; 3) Ensure sound macroeconomic fundamentals; 4) Create more jobs; 5) Create quality jobs; 6) Create green jobs; 7) Ensure a level playing field; 8) Uphold public order and safety, peace and security.

MEASURES FOR SOCIOECONOMIC RESILIENCY



Right On Track: Laying Down the Vision for the Philippine Rail Network Master Plan



PROJECT TITLE

Project on Formulation of 30-year Railway Master Plan for the Greater Capital Region

PERIOD

2023-2026



TRIVIA

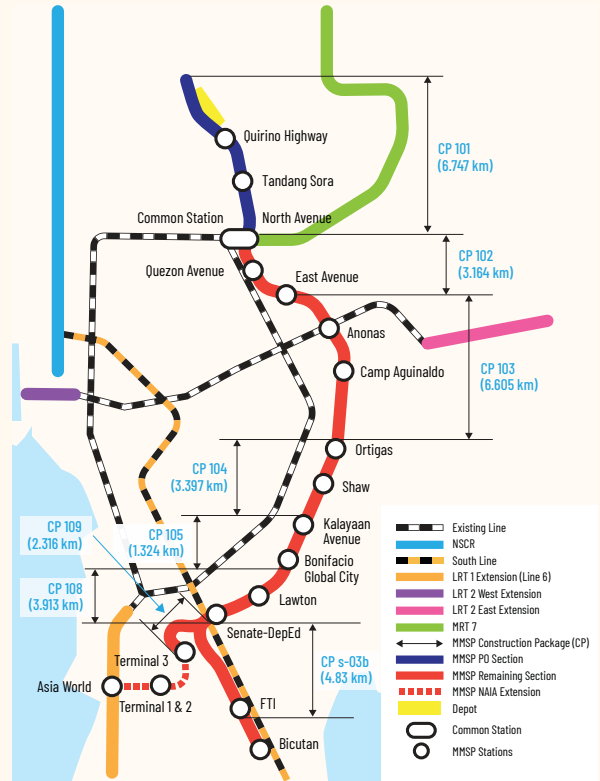
JICA has been laying the groundwork for an efficient and sustainable transport network that transport infrastructure accounts for 58% of its ODA to the Philippines.

The incessant traffic and the call for more sustainable solutions to transport woes encouraged the Philippine Department of Transportation (DOTr) to work with JICA in drawing out a blueprint for a more aggressive railway network development in densely populated areas in the country. As they say, vision is equally important as execution.

The DOTr and JICA, therefore, firmed up its latest cooperation for a 30-year Railway Master Plan for the Greater Capital Region (GCR). The master plan will develop a network of railway lines which will increase modal share of train passenger trips and routes. The plan will help the Philippines identify priorities to address commuting difficulties including the need for seamless transport network access.

During the signing of the Record of Discussions for the project, DOTr Secretary Jaime J. Bautista emphasized that “Railway development in the Greater Capital Region would not involve only longer rail lines and more trains. The strategic framework of this development plan must include the comfort and safety of the passengers.”

The GCR, comprised of the National Capital Region, Region III - Central Luzon, and Region IV-A - CALABARZON, accounts for 38% of the total population in the Philippines, with 42.1 million people as of 2020. With burgeoning



population and rapid urbanization, traffic is expected to get worse. Likewise, a study found that in Metro Manila alone, pollution from road vehicles account for 80%.

Now that the Marcos Jr. administration has the opportunity to put the transport infrastructure on track, a railway master plan can provide a clear direction for seamless, comfortable, safe and sustainable mobility in the country’s major growth areas.

In addition, JICA is complementing this cooperation with capacity development efforts through technical assistance to the Philippine Railways Institute (PRI), planning for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) in target corridors, and dispatch of Japanese experts in the transport sector.

With several railway infrastructure already ongoing, the railway master plan fills in the gap for sound policy making and pinning down priorities so the Philippine economy will stay on track. ■

1 Representatives from JICA and DOTr during the project’s Record of Discussions signing ceremony.



Moving Forward With TOD



PROJECT TITLE

Project for Capacity Enhancement for Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)

PERIOD

2023 - 2025

Scan here to read more about Transit-Oriented Development:



As the Philippines continues to invest in massive railway projects, it is also embracing new ways to create vibrant, convenient, and safe spaces for the riding public.

JICA and the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) are working on mainstreaming an innovative paradigm called Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). TOD represents efficient land use to promote mixed development and pedestrian-oriented facilities within a transport corridor. It is a welcome move, especially as demand for residential, business, social services, and leisure facilities increase brought about by population growth combined with the expansion of public transportation, especially in railway systems in the metro.

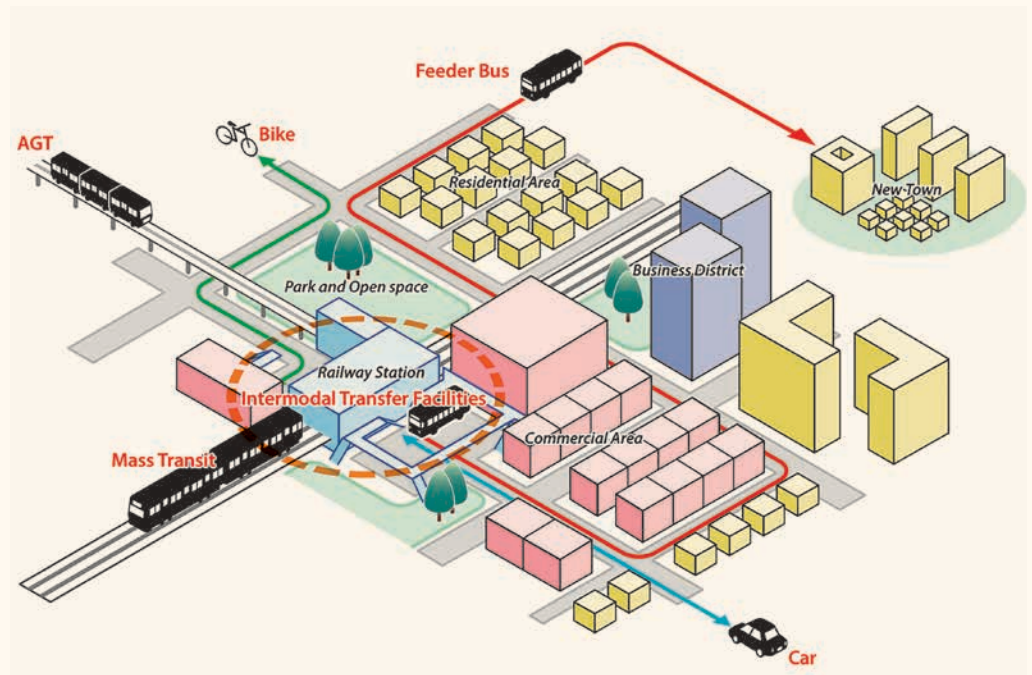
The target sites of the cooperation include the Bonifacio Global City (BGC) and Senate-DepEd stations of the forthcoming Metro Manila Subway. The adoption of TOD is expected to promote walkable districts in and around train stations, improve accessibility to economic zones and urban centers, reduce travel time and costs, and decrease traffic congestion, among many other benefits.

“Based on Japan’s experience, building quality transport systems with TOD concept can transform how people live and work in the Philippines,” said JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema.

The TOD concept, complementary to the Philippines’ growing railway investments, has key elements for it to materialize, namely: efficient land use, reliable public transportation, the inter-connectivity of transport systems, accessibility of public transportation, availability of social services, and station plaza development, like Japan’s *ekimae kaiatsu* (station front development) or *ensen kaiatsu* (railway area development).

Ultimately, cities are envisaged to have more environmentally sustainable modes to move around such as walking and biking, seamless connectivity, inter-modality to address perennial traffic congestion, reduce air pollution, and provide greater access to basic facilities.

Ambitious in their goal, BCDA and JICA are looking at the effective adoption of TOD in their target sites as they aspire to employ the same approach in future station areas across the metro moving forward. ■



Safe, Reliable, and Comfortable Mobility for a Better Tomorrow



PROJECT TITLE

Metro Manila Subway Project, Phase I

LOAN SIGNING DATE

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

LOAN AMOUNT

1st Tranche: JPY 104.530 Billion
2nd Tranche: JPY 253.307 Billion

MILESTONES OF METRO MANILA SUBWAY PROJECT

2023

- ◆ Ongoing construction works, including the launching of the 1st Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) for tunneling and excavation works;
- ◆ Three remaining Contracts for construction of the (1) Kalayaan Ave. and Bonifacio Global City Stations with underground tunnels (CP 105), (2) Lawton Ave. and Senate-DepEd Stations (CP 108) with underground tunnels and (3) NAIA Terminal 3 Station with underground tunnels were advertised for bidding;

2022

- ◆ 2nd tranche of JICA Loan for the Project was signed;
- ◆ Contract for construction of Quezon Avenue and East Avenue Stations with underground tunnels (CP 102) was awarded;
- ◆ Contract for construction of Ortigas and Shaw Boulevard Stations with Underground Tunnels (CP 104) was awarded;
- ◆ Contract for construction of Anonas Avenue and Camp Aguinaldo Stations with underground tunnels (CP 103) was awarded

2021

- ◆ Contract for the Electro-Mechanical System and Tracks (CP 107) was awarded;

2020

- ◆ The components of the 1st Tunnel Boring Machine to be used for underground tunnel construction arrived in Manila;
- ◆ Contract for delivery of 240 train cars (Contract Package 107) was awarded;

2019

- ◆ Contract for construction of the MMSP Depot, Philippine Railways Institute (PRI) Training Center Building, 4 stations with underground tunnels of East Valenzuela, Quirino Highway, Tandang Sora and North Avenue Stations (CP 101) was awarded;

2018

- ◆ 1st tranche of JICA Loan for the Project was signed;
- ◆ General Consultant of the Project was procured;

2017

- ◆ The Philippine Government approved the implementation of the Project;

2016

- ◆ Feasibility Study for the Project was undertaken;

*CP: Contract Package

True to its aspiration to Build Better More, the Philippines continues to embark on its biggest transport infrastructure investment yet—its first Metro Manila Subway (MMSP). This comes as a move to address the exacerbating traffic jams affecting the daily lives of citizens in the metropolis.

With its cityscapes dotted with an increasing number of high-rise buildings that signify a growing economy, it's easy to get disillusioned when one deals with its poor traffic every day.

But now, hope is in the horizon with the ongoing construction of the MMSP of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and JICA. The rail network runs 33 kilometers from East Valenzuela all the way to Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 in Pasay City.

At the groundbreaking of the Ortigas and Shaw Boulevard stations in 2023, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said, "JICA has played an enormous part not only in this [subway] project but also in many past projects that have been developmental for the Philippine economy, and we must acknowledge this long-standing assistance. The Metro Manila Subway will give more Filipinos time by cutting long travel hours, giving them a chance to engage in more worthwhile and productive endeavors, making time for greater self-improvement and more quality time with their families."

When completed, the subway can reduce travel time between the northern and southern



areas of Metro Manila to within 45 minutes. Further, JICA emphasized that with the so-called 'Project of the Century', Filipino commuters will be able to move comfortably, safely and efficiently, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced, and consequently, the Philippines can attract more investors.

Banking on Japan's expertise and experience in railway construction, the country's first subway will utilize tried and tested Japanese advanced technologies particularly in underground construction, signaling and electro mechanical system.

Once completed, the subway will contribute to the expansion of Philippine railway network that has languished with underinvestment in the past years. It complements other JICA-assisted rail infrastructure: North-South Commuter Railway, Metro Rail Transit Line 3, and Light Rail Transit Lines 1 and 2, all helping to improve the quality of life in the cities and its surrounding growth areas. ■



A Safer Maritime Future



PROJECT TITLE

Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (Phase 1 and Phase 2)

LOAN SIGNING DATE

Phase 1: December 14, 2013
Phase 2: October 26, 2016

LOAN AMOUNT

Phase 1: JPY 18.732 Billion
Phase 2: JPY 16.455 Billion

A maritime nation like the Philippines is prone to maritime accidents and mishaps due to volumes of passengers and freight in its sea routes.

To enhance maritime safety particularly in the midst of climate change and regional security challenges, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and JICA have been working together to implement the Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project since 2013. The Project aims to enhance the PCG's capability in responding to maritime accidents, conduct law enforcement and security operations at sea.

Under the Project, ten (10) 44-meter and two (2) 97-meter Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs) have been constructed and successfully delivered to the Philippines, and about 1,000 PCG crew members have been capacitated to operate these MRRVs by Japanese experts. These MRRVs which were manufactured in Japan use a hybrid structure and special welding technique that gives it speed, stability, and sea worthiness.

Beyond project delivery, this PCG-JICA cooperation serves as a lifeline for the common fisherfolk facing navigational risks at sea.

Two fishermen went missing for more than 24 hours in the waters of Bulig Shoal, Palawan last October. Their fishing motor banca failed to return to their mother boat after it ran out of fuel and strong currents drifted them to the

open seas. One fisherman accounts that they jumped for joy upon seeing the Philippine flag in the mast of MRRV-4407 when they were found.

Boat Captain Benjamin Mijares said, *"Mahalaga po ang pag-patrol ng PCG sa West Philippine Sea at pagtulong sa search and rescue para masiguro ang kaligtasan ng mga mangangisdang gaya namin."* (The PCG's maritime patrol in the West Philippine Sea and conduct of search and rescue operations are important to ensure the safety of fisherfolks like us).

JICA and the PCG's partnership since the 1990's shows that we can work hand in hand to ensure a secure, sustainable, and better future of our country's maritime domain. Besides maritime search and rescue, and patrolling operations, the MRRVs also operate to enforce maritime law and protect marine coastal environment. For instance, the BRP Melchora Aquino (97-m MRRV) was deployed to search for possible oil spill following a fuel tanker that sank off Tablas Strait in Oriental Mindoro. This was then followed by the dispatch of Japan Disaster Response Team boarding the BRP Bagacay (44-m MRRV) to help in oil spill clean-up led by PCG.

Expanding further the collaboration on maritime safety, the Japanese Government pledged its support to the Philippine Government in December 2023 following the latter's request to acquire five (5) more 97-m class MRRVs. ■



Building Flood Resilience



PROJECT TITLE

Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River

PERIOD

2015-2024



TRIVIA

The FRIMP-CDOR project utilizes Static (Silent and Non-vibratory) Sand Compacted Piles (SCPs) to enhance the resilience of the structures against natural disasters including earthquakes and to mitigate noise and vibration during construction period.

They say we study the past to define the future. Such is the case in Cagayan de Oro River where tropical storm Sendong devastated the lives of more than a thousand people in 2011, and damaging properties.

It is this stark reality that prodded its local government along with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to partner with JICA in building back better in this part of northern Mindanao.

Through the Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River (FRIMP-CDOR), newly constructed dikes and flood walls were built using Japanese engineering design to safely flush the flood waters in case of heavy rains.

The project also conducted information campaigns and public briefings such as project orientations for On-the-Job trainees in Liceo de Cagayan.

In his speech during the inauguration of the project key components, DPWH Secretary Manuel

Bonoan highlighted that FRIMP-CDOR supports the current administration's development agenda to "Build, Better, More", aiming to revitalize the Philippine economy. He also acknowledged the project's support in building disaster resilient structures in calamity-prone areas.

The project covers the 12-kilometer downstream area of the river, and features innovative technology and design based on a 50-year flood return period.

Once the other contract packages of the project are completed, the infrastructure can help floodproof commercial and residential areas in Cagayan de Oro. Also, the road and bridge components of the project will promote mobility in the city's urban areas.

As climate change makes storms more severe, the FRIMP-CDOR is showing the way that when we learn from the past, then more lives can be saved in the future. ■



1 Flood dikes and walls built along Cagayan de Oro River.

1

Investing In Climate Resilience: The Story of Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement



PROJECT TITLE

Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV)

PERIOD

2019-2030



TRIVIA

According to a report from the United Nations Office of Disaster Risk Reduction, every dollar invested in risk reduction saves up to 15 dollars in post-disaster recovery. This emphasizes the importance of JICA's disaster risk reduction cooperations toward the sound and robust socioeconomic development of the Philippines.

Extrême weather teaches lessons on why improving river channels can mitigate flood damage.

The disaster experience from typhoon Ondoy in 2009 was one of the examples of the urgent need to invest in pre-disaster strategies to save lives. That is why in the face of climate change, the fourth phase of the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (PMRCIP) Phase IV of Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and JICA is more relevant than ever.

Pasig and Marikina Rivers are the foremost bodies of water in the National Capital Region (NCR) with a catchment area of 600 square kilometers. When they overflow due to heavy rains, it can cause floods not just in the cities but also in surrounding areas.

As early as 1973, DPWH and JICA had started investing in flood control measures in the Pasig-Marikina River channel. The latest include the river improvement of lower-middle part of Marikina River and the installment of Manggahan Control Gate Structure to regulate the flood water to the city center, both using Japanese techniques that allow the project to be cost efficient and mitigate the social and environmental impact.

A simulation (see illustration 2) shows that the DPWH-JICA cooperation in flood mitigation could lower the number of affected persons by about 97% and damages by about 85% in Manila



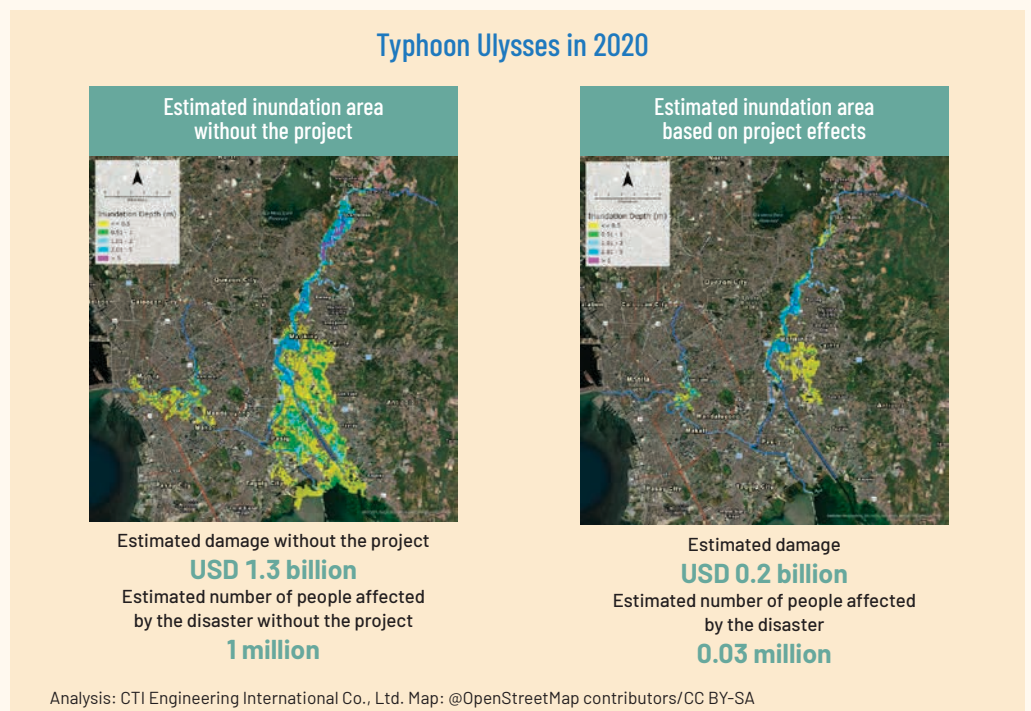
1 against the Typhoon Ulysses which struck the Philippines November 2020.

Such investment in flood resilience from the project bodes well for the Philippines which is one of the most disaster-prone countries in East Asia. Statistics in 1980-2022 alone showed that storm and flood disasters accounted for 82% of the casualties and 95% of the damages in the Philippines. This is expected to worsen with the severe weather events brought about by climate change.

Japan has been supporting pre-disaster investment aligned with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the latest international guideline for disaster risk reduction. The active involvement of international partners like JICA, local government and administrative agencies for the Pasig-Marikina River certainly helps communities adapt to increasing risks from climate change at the local front. ■

1 PMRCIP2 site view from Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge.

2 Simulation of PMRCIP effectiveness for Typhoon Ulysses 2020.



2

Revolutionizing Weather Forecasting



PROJECT TITLE

Development of Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines

PERIOD

2017-2023



TRIVIA

The ULAT project is the 3rd Disaster Risk Reduction project of JICA and the Philippines under the Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS) since 2009. The others include Enhancement of Earthquake and Volcano Monitoring and Effective Utilization of Disaster Mitigation Information in the Philippines and Development of a Hybrid Water-related Disaster Risk Assessment Technology for Sustainable Local Economic Development Policy.



1

The frequency of natural disasters teaches humanity lessons on why preparedness should be pursued as a way of life.

In the Philippines, weather scientists and forecasters understand that being disaster-ready also means having the knowledge of weather events using advanced technology and systems. At the Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), science researchers partnered with Japan's Hokkaido University and JICA to upgrade the country's weather forecasting system using data from microsattellites.

Their cooperation Understanding of Lightning and Thunderstorm for Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines or ULAT project provided capacity development to more than 70 Filipino science researchers not just locally but also in Japan.

In 2021, the project installed 40 lightning detection and automated weather stations (AWS) called POTEKA nationwide. This ground receiving station, which can receive satellite images for the development of short-term weather forecasting reports, was installed in Iloilo province and handed over in 2023.

DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. said, "the Iloilo ground station will provide DOST with the platform for research and development for the use of space data that would complement ground-based lightning measurements. It will directly impact and substantially aid in our disaster risk reduction and management efforts, especially when faced with extreme weather events."

The ULAT project likewise sent Filipino science researcher Meryl Regine Algodon in Hokkaido University to study cosmosciences which includes studying clouds to estimate typhoon intensity. Beyond this, the project has paved the way for Filipino science researchers like Algodon to exchange ideas with Japanese scientists and introduce innovations in local weather forecasting. Her research on 3D cloud modeling gives weather forecasters new knowledge on analyzing how typhoons develop.

Using data from these ground weather stations and microsattellites combined with new knowledge from the expertise of Japanese researchers make a formidable combination. They not only elevate Philippine weather forecasting; they are also arming decision makers with sound data to plan for disasters and save more lives. ■



2

1 Installation of the ground receiving station antenna in Dumangas, Iloilo. Photo courtesy of DOST-ASTI.

2 The POTEKA lightning detection and AWS device. Photo courtesy of DOST-ASTI.

SHAPING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Fighting Climate Change Together



PROJECT TITLE

Data Collection Survey for Climate Change Measures and Green Transformation

PERIOD

2023-2024



TRIVIA

JICA Philippines is currently collaborating with the government and local communities to implement climate action initiatives, including 14 public-private partnerships, 10 infrastructure improvements, 5 capacity development projects, a forestland management project, and standby loans.



1

The scenes after a typhoon are often stark reminders to us of displacement and destruction often associated with extreme weather events brought about by climate change. The Philippines ranks as first in the 2023 World Risk Index which further highlights the call to action against climate change.

The Philippine government understands the costs that climate change entails particularly

Already, Japan has committed to collaborating with ASEAN countries towards a decarbonized and resilient society under the so-called ASEAN-Japan Climate Change Action Agenda 2.0. As both Japan and the Philippines battle the climate crisis and are equally vulnerable to natural disasters every year, such partnership is a right fit.

“This partnership—the first official collaboration between CCC and JICA—demonstrates our shared dedication, drawing upon and utilizing each other’s strengths. With Japan’s vast expertise in climate-related challenges, this collaboration presents opportunities, enhancing our programs, and fine-tuning our strategies,” said CCC Secretary Robert E.A. Borje.

CCC and JICA will identify possible new short-to long-term areas of cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation specifically on Paris Agreement implementation, energy, industry, agriculture, forestry, natural and urban environment sectors.

Other cooperative agencies in the survey are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Energy (DOE), and Department of Agriculture (DA).

As experiences tell us, climate change equally impacts everyone up until the next generation. The partnership of JICA and CCC to tackle this threat together is a good reset in shaping a climate resilient future based on data and sound evidence. ■



2

1 JICA, together with its survey team, during a meeting with CCC.

2 CCC Assistant Secretary and Deputy Executive Director Romell Antonio Cuenca (3rd from left) and JICA Chief Rep. SAKAMOTO Takema (4th from left) presents the signed Letter of Understanding for the DCS.

upon its economic growth targets that it has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the country by as much as 75% under its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) in the global climate agenda. For this, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) and JICA partnered for a Data Collection Survey (DCS) of the country’s issues, challenges, and needs to craft climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.

Leading the Way for Science-Based Coastal Conservation and Management



PROJECT TITLE

Comprehensive Assessment and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and their Services in the Coral Triangle (Blue CARES)

PERIOD

2017-2023

It has been said, ‘the entire ocean is affected by a pebble’ (Blaise Pascal).

While it sounds cliché, the truth in this line is more evident with the impact of human activities on coastal ecosystems. Our seas store blue carbon in mangroves and seagrasses, that when these ecosystems are destroyed, the carbon is returned to the atmosphere and contribute to the increase of greenhouse gases. That is why various aspects of blue carbon were studied under JICA’s Comprehensive Assessment and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and their Services in the Coral Triangle (BlueCARES) Project with Philippines and Indonesia.



Obtaining information on the coastal ecosystem was no easy feat, but through the project, equipment for geochemistry, ecology, integrated modeling, and geomatics were donated to counterparts for capacity development. The University of the Philippines Diliman was the main implementing partner in the Philippines. Researchers were also sent to Japan for further training. The project fills in the gap for information on coastal conservation, and has led efforts in creating a Blue Carbon Network where different stakeholders from various parts of the country can continue implementing what the project started through field surveys, conservation activities, and development of a blue carbon strategy.

“The blue carbon strategy is an effective scheme to enhance local efforts to conserve blue carbon ecosystems and improve their resilience, and thereby contribute to mitigation of global warming,” said Dr. Maria Lourdes Mcglone of the University of the Philippines Diliman.

In Aklan, for example, part of the blue carbon strategy is creation of the Aklan Rivers, Bays, and Coasts Integrated Management Council and a provincial ordinance for sustainable implementation of conservation efforts. Dr. Yasmin Tirol of Aklan State University, BlueCARES local collaborating partner, shares her expectations saying, “Together with LGUs, and community stakeholders, we look forward to disseminating research results towards mobilizing an integrated management body and operationalize an action plan for a localized Blue Carbon Strategy.”

By understanding coastal ecosystems, local governments and communities can make informed decisions on how to best manage the environment. ■



1

1 JICA and UP Diliman turned over a drone, one of the equipment provided to UP Tacloban College under BlueCARES Project during the Eastern Samar Blue Carbon Stakeholders Summit and Blue Carbon Network Training-Workshop.

With support also from the Japan Science and Technology Agency, the cooperation pioneered research on blue carbon in the Philippines including mapping, monitoring, method development, modeling of mangroves and seagrasses, and assessment of their ecosystem services. The main sites were Palawan, Northern and Eastern Panay Coast including Aklan, and Eastern Samar, with Bolinao and Boracay Island as sub-sites in the Philippines. Highlights of BlueCARES studies were presented in a regional symposium participated by government and non-government organizations, academe, local government units from the Philippines and Indonesia. The goal is to advance efforts on conserving and managing coastal ecosystems, including science-based policy making to address challenges.

How Boracay Champions Circular Economy and Environmental Preservation



PROJECT TITLE

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

PERIOD

2018-2024



TRIVIA

SDGs Business Supporting Surveys is a program aimed at building win-win relationships between developing countries that want to use new technologies and Japanese companies that offer said innovations. Since 2010, a total of 1,448 proposals have been adopted under this scheme worldwide. (~2022)

Looking at the waters of Boracay makes it easy to fall in love with the island's natural beauty.

The burst of tourism, however, impacts on the island's waste management that the local government unit (LGU) has started a partnership with a Japanese company to achieve a circular economy and deal with this perennial problem. As an LGU taking steps in making its island environmentally modern, Malay community in Aklan has piloted recycling waste cooking oil as a substitute to diesel fuel.

Their recycling model is an apt answer to Boracay's efforts to preserve the island's resources, and to address frequent brownouts.

Such move, together with Japanese company Kanazawa Engineering Systems, Inc. (KES), is part of JICA's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Business Supporting Surveys Program that promotes technology, innovations, and ideas from the Japanese private sector in addressing society's problems.

Malay LGU, KES, and JICA are collaborating for the Renergy Project where waste cooking oil from establishments in Boracay are collected and recycled as alternative power using KES' technology. The electricity generated is used for electric tricycles that transport tourists and residents in the island. Under the project, a charging station was built in Barangay Yapak so more tourists can explore attractions like Puka Shell Beach.

In 2023, the Malay LGU officials visited Japan to study the latter's waste management practices and explore its applications to Boracay.

"I saw Japan's integrated recycling method where waste cooking oil, food wastes, and other recyclables make up their business recycling model. This has potential in places like Boracay so we can alleviate the burden on our landfills and promote sustainable tourism," said Dante Pagsuguiron, Malay municipal council chairman for laws, ordinances, rules, and privileges.

The officials also visited Higashitomi City in Shiga Prefecture, among the first local governments in Japan to use waste cooking oil for soap powder and biodiesel fuel. Residents of this city practice recycling to preserve Lake Biwa and its natural resources, similar to Boracay's efforts. "The visit," according to Virgilio Sacdalan, chairman of Compliance Association of Boracay and director of Boracay Foundation, Inc., "was a chance to observe why local governments and the private sector must invest in recycling to help preserve the environment." ■



1



2

1 Kanazawa Engineering Systems, Inc. shows how waste cooking oil is used in growing vegetables to representatives of the Malay local government and the Boracay private sector during their visit in Japan.

2 Electricity generated from waste cooking oil is used to power e-tricycles in Brgy. Yapak.

Women in Ifugao Stand Up for Cordillera’s Remaining Forests



PROJECT TITLE

Forestland Management Project

PERIOD

2012-2024



1

1 Award received by GPAHI in 2023. Photo courtesy of GPAHI.

2 GPAHI hosts a training workshop on tablea quality control measures for cacao stakeholders. Photo courtesy of GPAHI.

A forestland management project is paving the way for communities to become custodians of the Philippines’ remaining forests.

This is the same story for a women’s group in Hingyon, Ifugao who succeeded in running an agro-enterprise producing ginger and cacao, while promoting the conservation of 280 hectares of forests in their area.

The women’s association Greener Pasture ad Holnad Inc. (GPAHI) is one of the 149 people’s organizations (PO) that received support from the Forestland Management Project (FMP) of Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and JICA. Through capital and capacity development support, the GPAHI women were able to maintain the delicate balance of growing an agro-based enterprise, while promoting sustainable forest management.

“We are not only entrepreneurs and forest caretakers, we also try to teach other farmers in other upland communities to safeguard the environment, and their livelihood,” said Gladys Tumiguig, GPAHI president.

GPAHI has registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and acquired intellectual property rights to their tablea brand “Holnads Best (HB)” and Tablea de Cacao. Their products are being sold not just in Baguio, but also as far as Canada. As a PO, they received

numerous awards, including Top Performing Organization from JICA and DENR in 2023.

The JICA-DENR FMP cooperation has long recognized the role of people’s ownership in forest conservation not just in Cordillera but also in places like Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, and Iloilo. It involves transforming the mindset of farmers and communities to embrace sustainable forestland management practices, and enterprise development to address deforestation.

Beyond the climate benefits, FMP has given recognition to many indigenous groups in the upland and the women sector who are often vulnerable due to poverty and natural disasters.

The GPAHI women have also engaged in creating environment awareness in their community by actively joining the Save our Watersheds campaign, teaching technical-vocational students forest management, and spearheading clean and green campaigns in barangays and schools.

‘A strong woman stands up for herself, a stronger woman stands up for everybody else.’ This embodies GPAHI, and they are showing that we can also learn from them how we can save our forests. ■



2

Leveling Up in the Age of Space Tech Development



PROJECT TITLE

Human Resource Development for Space Technology Utilization

PERIOD

2021-Ongoing



TRIVIA

The JJ-NeST program aims to graduate 20 students in five years from countries like the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and Rwanda.

JICA is contributing to the Philippines’ foray in space technology development.

A young Filipino from the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) has graduated under a JICA scholarship in partnership with Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). John Paul Almonte is one of the first recipients of the JICA-JAXA Network for Utilization of Space Technology (JJ-NeST) scholarship, and has completed his Master’s in Electrical and Space Systems Engineering at Kyushu Institute of Technology in September of this year.

Now back in the Philippines, Almonte says, “I plan to mentor new satellite engineers on the next generation CubeSat for the Philippines using the expertise in satellite development and operations I learned in Japan. CubeSats are utilized for technology demonstration, earth/astronomical observation, and scientific experiments, among others. As an example, it can be used by private institutions and government agencies for agricultural and disaster management data analysis. Academic institutions can employ it for conducting experiments in electronics testing as well.”

The Philippine space technology sector is relatively young. Almonte said capacity development efforts backing young scientists and engineers can go a long way. “The JICA scholarship provided me the opportunity to work on multiple satellite projects that deepened my

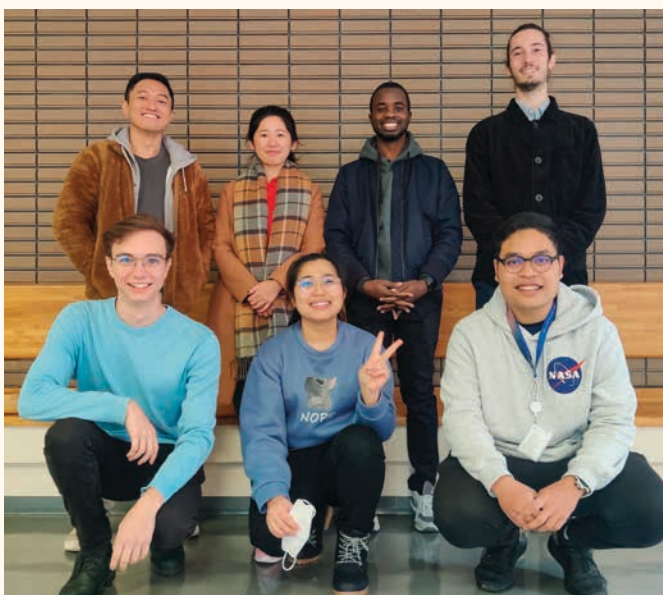


1 knowledge on the entire satellite development process. I also was able to collaborate and form good relationships with Japanese and foreign colleagues in the same field,” he said.

In Japan, Almonte immersed himself in the works of JAXA and completed research on a tracking system of satellite networks for remote data collection. These are used in environmental monitoring, emergency communications, and telemedicine.

At PhilSA, Almonte will be operating the Philippines’ second microsatellite, DIWATA-2 and aims to help automate part of the operations to simplify tasks. Said microsatellites have been developed by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and University of the Philippines (UP) with Japan’s Tohoku University and Hokkaido University.

With JICA tapping the best and the brightest from the Philippines, the doors are now open for the country to level up in the space technology game. ■



2

1 Almonte’s graduation photo with Kyutech diploma and JICA certificate

2 Almonte (top leftmost) and his batchmates in the Space Engineering International Course of Kyutech

A Balancing Act in Science and Sustainable Development



PROGRAM TITLE

Knowledge Co-Creation Program
Long-Term

Two young Filipino scholars who completed their studies in Japan are changing the game in mining and energy policy, championing sustainable development in the country.

Mel Anthony Casulla, a Senior Geologist at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), qualified for JICA’s Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) Human Resources Development in Mineral Resources Rich Countries or KIZUNA Program in 2019. He has completed his doctorate at Japan’s Kyushu University under said program and is now armed with fresh ideas in mineral resources development.

“My studies in Japan showed me that a science-based approach in decision making can also help solve society’s problems. In terms of mineral resources development, policy makers can learn from this approach to achieve balance and should always strive for a win-win relationship in the mining sector,” he shared.

Another Filipino scholar Dwane Darcy Cayonte from the Department of Energy completed his Master’s in Public Policy at Japan’s National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) under JICA’s KCCP Energy Policy Program. Cayonte’s paper “Economic Implications of Power System Reliability in Off-Grid Areas” cited the need to improve energy reliability in remote areas to equalize access to public services.

In his study sites in the MIMAROPA region, it was found that a mere one percent increase in power outage frequency and duration leads to GDP reduction of 0.01% to 0.025%. Considering the country’s focus to attract investments in the regions, such finding highlights the detrimental impact of power outages to the economic development in off-grid areas.

“Japan has deepened my awareness of sustainable energy technologies and infrastructures. It’s through my studies there that I had the opportunity to develop the mindset and network so I can also somehow contribute to the energy sector,” Cayonte said.

As the battle looms to preserve our remaining natural resources, Casulla and Cayonte are showing promise that policy decisions can change the game when it balances sustainability and a healthy environment. ■



1

1 Casulla (middle in brown vest) during field research in Bicol.

2 Dwane Cayonte of DOE receiving his master’s diploma.

In Eastern Labo in Bicol, Casulla studied how characterizing potential copper-gold mineralization can shed light on the country’s mineral resources development. The DENR issued an administrative order promoting standards for responsible mining as an answer to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 12 or Responsible Consumption and Production. To this, he stressed that wider collaboration from different stakeholders is key to the sector’s sustainable development, as in the practice in Japan.



2

Every Drop Counts – A Local Push for Clean Water



PROJECT TITLE

Project for the Septage Management of Metro Cebu Water District

PERIOD

2023-2026



PROJECT TITLE

Project for Masterplan Study for Comprehensive Wastewater Management in Davao City

PERIOD

2023-2026

Local governments of urbanized cities like Davao and Cebu are joining the race to give wastewater treatment a push for the well-being of communities.

A cooperation between the local government units (LGUs) of these two cities partnered with JICA to promote clean and sustainable water resources through treatment of wastewater. The Clean Water Act of 2004 mandates all LGUs operating without piped sewerage systems to implement septage management. Usually, when septic tanks are not managed, water can get contaminated, which leads to deterioration in living and hygiene environments.

In Cebu, the Metro Cebu Water District (MCWD) received a JICA grant for the construction of a 430-square meter septage treatment facility, and operating system for septage management as well as vacuum trucks. This move is inspired by the “Mega Cebu Vision 2050” where part of the sustainable development initiatives is to address water



1

supply, storm water, and wastewater. It also comes timely considering the 15% projected population increase in the project areas from 2017 to 2025.

In Davao, inadequate management of septic tanks threaten the natural environment and pose hazards to the health of its citizens. Thus, a JICA-Davao LGU Master Plan Study on Comprehensive Wastewater Management is in full swing. The Masterplan is composed of wastewater management planning with Japanese experts, feasibility study on centralized and decentralized wastewater systems, and capacity development of local officials involved in the project. This highly complements the JICA-assisted Davao City Infrastructure Development Plan and Capacity Building Project (IM4Davao) completed in 2018 that aims to modernize infrastructure and make Davao a premier investment hub.

JICA noted that since clean water is crucial to the economy – providing a lifeline to food production, exports, and tourism – the sewerage system projects in Cebu and Davao set an example on effective management of water assets. This goes a long way in ensuring that everyone is assured of clean water while reducing water pollution. ■

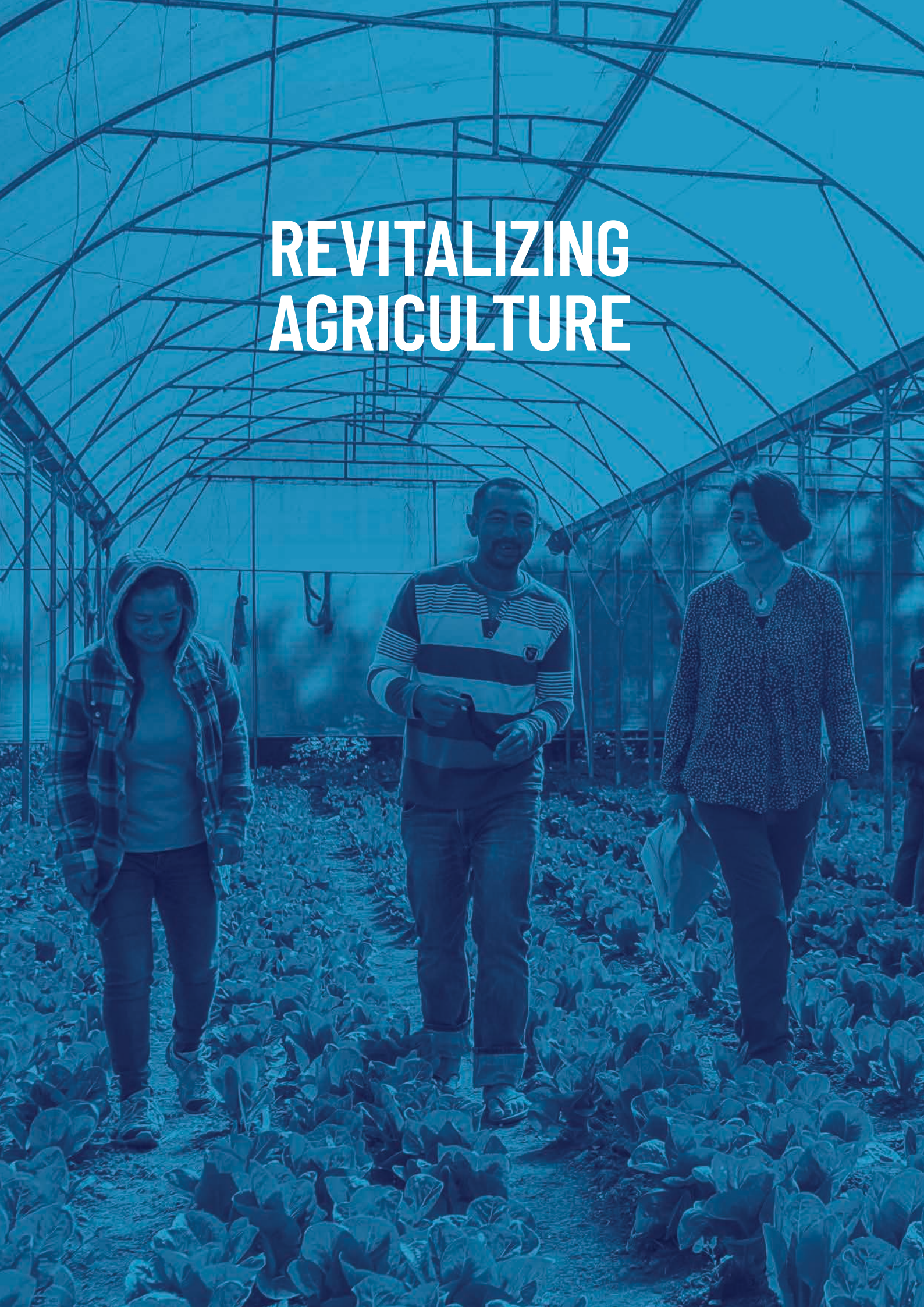
2



1 MCWD and JICA officials during the turnover of grant agreement for the septage management project in Cebu.

2 JICA Chief SAKAMOTO and Davao Mayor Sebastian Duterte signing the Record of Discussions for the Master Plan Study on Comprehensive Wastewater Management.

REVITALIZING AGRICULTURE



Securing the Future of the Philippine Vegetable Industry



PROJECT TITLE

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

PERIOD

2022 - Ongoing



TRIVIA

As part of JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program, five (5) counterparts of the MV2C-TCP from the DA Central and Regional Offices have been trained in the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) Approach to date. The SHEP Approach, first established by JICA in Kenya in 2006, attempts to shift farmers' mindsets from "grow and sell" to "grow to sell," resulting in "Market-Oriented Agriculture."

It has been said that, ultimately, the agriculture sector benefits people and communities, and the world by helping move forward the food supply for everyone.

In the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and JICA recognize that investing in the vegetable value chain is key to uplifting the lives of Filipino farmers and other players in the vegetable industry, as well as improving food security and consumers' quality of life. With rising food prices and the continuing plight of our vegetable farmers, the challenges in the sector are manifesting from both ends of the value chain.

This is why farmers in Benguet and Quezon are receiving much needed boost from an ongoing cooperation via the Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines (MV2C-TCP). It engages more stakeholders in the value chain and introduces innovations to uplift the sector. The DA-JICA project, which began in 2022, has been implementing pilot projects which involve training farmers, and sharing Japanese expertise to improve production, distribution, processing, linking with institutional traders, and consumption in the vegetable sector. The pilot projects are intended to be effectively combined to develop inclusive Food Value Chain models that can be replicated in other parts of the country. Complementing the Philippine



1

Vegetable Industry Roadmap 2021-2025, the MV2C offers holistic solutions to the problems of vegetable supply chains nowadays.

In Benguet in northern Luzon, known as the country's salad bowl, supplying most of the country's highland vegetables, the project is introducing several technologies to optimize greenhouse cultivation in 14 pilot farms. In addition, the project has set up a pilot humidifying refrigeration system at Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC) in La Trinidad to achieve long-term storage of selected vegetables and to modify shipment times.

1 Mr. Drino Quinisan, President of the Buguias Japan Agricultural Trainees Association (BJATA) in his tomato farm.

2 JICA MV2C Expert KUBOTA Aki (left) with members of the BJATA farmers association in Benguet.



2

Meanwhile, in the southern part of Luzon in Quezon Province known for its vast expanse of agricultural lands, and in supplying lowland vegetables in some parts of the country, the MV2C is collaborating with 6 farmer groups and is training their farmer members to improve their profitability through introduction of high-quality seedlings and varieties. In one of the pilot projects, a pre-cooling facility was installed at *Sentrong Pamilyan ng Produktong Agrikultura ng Quezon Foundation Incorporated (SPPAQFI)* in Sariaya which will be used to rapidly bring down the temperature of newly harvested leafy vegetables to prolong their shelf life.

The project presents opportunities for the local vegetable sector to ensure that economic development benefits all value chain players. As the farming sector gets its shot in the arm by equipping farmers with new market-oriented approaches, other value chain players also get the chance to improve their operations by investing in promising technologies, leading to a stronger Philippine vegetable industry in the future. ■



3

3 Land preparation training at Dolores Quezon.



4 Chinese cabbages transported in plastic crates provided by MV2C-TCP to BAPTC, in preparation for delivery to Ilocos Norte/Sur.

4

Shaping Future Leaders in Agriculture



PROGRAM TITLE

Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security Program

PERIOD

2018 - Ongoing



TRIVIA

To date the Agri-Net program has awarded scholarships to five (5) Filipino scholars in Japanese universities, four of whom have already graduated and are applying their postgraduate skills to their respective institutions. The program supports human resource development in the agriculture sector and continues screening for new Agri-Net scholars.

They went to Japan to study agriculture and returned to the Philippines keen to contribute to this field in ways they can imagine.

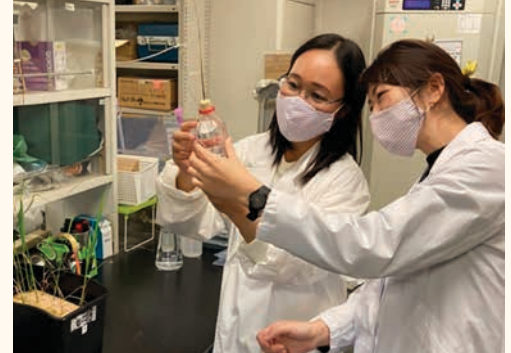
Dr. Thelma Saludes, Director of the Philippine Carabao Center at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), and Ms. Maria Corazon Cabral, a Senior Science Research Specialist at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) were the first among Filipino scholars to complete their scholarship under the Agriculture Studies Networks for Food Security (Agri-Net) program of JICA.

The scholarship was conceptualized to primarily address the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

Saludes finished a doctorate degree in Agricultural Science under Nagoya University's Transnational Doctoral Program for Leading Professionals in Asian Countries.

The support of the Agri-Net program made it possible for her to conduct four (4) studies on raising productivity of smallholder dairy buffalo, which incorporates lessons she learned from interviewing Hokkaido dairy farmers and the Japan Agricultural cooperatives. Throughout her studies, she also published her research in international and local scientific journals. After completing her studies, she continued to lead the PCC at UPLB while applying the skills and knowledge she obtained from her PhD to further advance the dairy buffalo industry in the country.

Just like Saludes, Cabral also completed her masters' degree in Agricultural Science from Nagoya University. Her study on root system



1

development of rice under multi-abiotic stress conditions was also published in international and local scientific journals and was presented in several conferences in Japan.

Upon her return to PhilRice, she continued to research about multi-abiotic stresses in rice, geared towards increasing rice productivity amidst stress environments caused by climate change and soil degradation. Since then, she has been promoted to a senior position and is now serving as project leader in related research studies in PhilRice.

Cabral shared that "It is imperative nowadays to equip crops with multi-stress tolerance to relieve the pressure of environmental changes and to meet the demand for population growth. It was a great opportunity for me to learn what I am interested in, in a country where the advanced knowledge and technology is present, to contribute to the agricultural development in the Philippines."

For both scholars, their postgraduate studies have been instrumental in advancing their careers in their respective offices. The program provided them the opportunity to visit different places in Japan and to be mentored by excellent research supervisors. On top of academic supervision, Saludes shared that she was inspired by her professor, Dr. TAKESHITA Hironobu, "by his commitment to help the Japan dairy industry and convinced me to do my best to help my country's struggling livestock and dairy sector."

The timing of the Agri-Net scholarship program is just right. As the world faces food security challenges, the knowledge and expertise that they are bringing back to their field can contribute to the Philippines' quest to ensure there is food in every table, and the endless opportunities in agriculture are not missed. ■

1 Cabral (left) shows to Dr. NAKATA Mana (right) the growth of rice seedlings in stressed condition under her hydroponics experiment.

2 Dr. Saludes (rightmost) and her staff measures the distances between plants and furrows for forage production.



2

Capacitating Filipino Farmers Towards Achieving Food and Nutrition Security



PROGRAM TITLE

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

PERIOD

Ongoing



If agriculture goes wrong, nothing else will have a chance to go right.

– M.S. Swaminathan, advocate of green revolution

yield, access to modern farming techniques, and low market prices. With the support of JOCV MIMURA, the local government of Cuenca is inching towards revitalizing their demo farms and promoting eco-friendly farming practices in the barangays.

As MIMURA has worked at the Kumamoto Prefectural Agricultural Research Center in Japan, she aims to share her knowledge in vegetable production by conducting hands on trainings and developing guide books that the local farmers could use. “I plan to train Cuenca municipal agricultural staff in transplanting and crop health management, among other things. I hope to increase crop productivity and profit for



TRIVIA

JOCVs played a crucial role in introducing innovations in remote rural communities in the Philippines such as artificial insemination breeding techniques to cattles in the 1960s. To date, more than 700 volunteers have been dispatched to the Philippine agriculture sector.

They both enjoy a fulfilling career in agriculture in Japan prior to pursuing volunteer work under the JICA’s Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program. Living with farming communities in Batangas and Negros Oriental, JOCVs MIMURA Mari and KUDO Shohei see for themselves the value of boosting farmers’ productivity and income by introducing innovative Japanese agriculture practices at grassroots level for sustainability and healthy living.

In the town of Cuenca in Batangas, farmers relied on existing local agricultural practices while also facing challenges in terms of crop



1

1 and 2 JOCV MIMURA and counterparts from Cuenca Municipal Agriculture Office.



2



3

3 and 4 JOCV KUDO and DFADCO counterparts.

Cuenca farmers by sharing my knowledge and experience,” said MIMURA.

With farming as a main source of livelihood in remote communities in the Philippines, JOCV KUDO said, “Despite the difficulties experienced by Dumaguete’s small-scale dairy producers, the popularity of the cooperative’s dairy products suggests a strong market demand. This emphasizes the local dairy industry’s potential for expansion and profitability.”

In Negros Oriental where KUDO is assigned, the dairy industry is relatively young which began only 15 years ago. Its Dairy Farmers of Dumaguete Cooperative (DFADCO) is working with KUDO in improving hygiene management for handling dairy products and in streamlining DFADCO manufacturing operations, among others. Their goal is to increase their farms’ milk production, and promote food security.

An agriculture management major from Hokkaido College of Agriculture, KUDO intends to introduce sustainable composting technology using cow manure to reduce DFADCO’s production costs, improve their environmental sustainability and market competitiveness, and meet the growing demand for local dairy products.



4

The contribution of JOCVs in implementing innovative and environment-friendly farming practices not only enhances the communities’ farm productivity and resilience but also minimizes environmental impact. Their sustainable farm practices support the transformation of agricultural communities in achieving food and nutrition security. ■

DEVELOPING PHILIPPINE HUMAN CAPITAL



Bangsamoro's Journey to Peace



PROGRAM TITLE

JICA Program for Japanese Studies

PERIOD

Ongoing

LOCATION

Nationwide



TRIVIA

In 2023, JICA President TANAKA Akihiko became the first foreign national to deliver a speech before the Bangsamoro Parliament. Notably, JICA was also cited for its role in peace building in the region for its famous program Japan-Bangsamoro Initiative for Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD) launched in 2006.

The JICA Program for Japanese Studies (JICA Chair), which was launched in 2020 and has held four lectures in the Philippines, is now reckoned as a platform to share Japan's unique modernization history and development experiences with Filipino students, academia, and practitioners.

For 2023, the JICA Chair, together with Ateneo de Manila University, focused on Bangsamoro's Journey to Peace and highlighted Japan's history of peace building and reconstruction from World War II as well as JICA's cooperation in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) through a lecture and a panel discussion.

At the lecture, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Professor SHINODA Hideaki said, that the experience of Japan in peacebuilding may be interesting and beneficial but he also emphasized that there are no two identical cases of peace processes or post conflict reconstruction in the world even for countries in the same region. JICA Chair provides a venue to learn about the different perspectives in peacebuilding in order to find similarities or differences and most importantly, the lessons learned from each case.

For JICA's part, Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema emphasized that the lecture puts the spotlight on three key lessons that Japan and the Philippines can learn from each other, namely: "seeking solutions through cooperation, not through force and threat; building and strengthening mutual trust and illustrating clear vision for the brighter future."

In line with the Bangsamoro Organic Law, which is paving the way for an autonomous government in the BARMM, JICA bolsters the capacity development in the region to enhance their administrative capability and promote good governance, among others. This year's JICA chair aims to contribute to these efforts by encouraging further stakeholder support. Through the lecture and the panel discussion, JICA added that its ongoing cooperation in the BARMM aims to help the region become a model of peace building in the world, that peace and stability are possible when people collaborate for common goals. ■



1



2

1 Professor SHINODA Hideaki, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

2 During the JICA lecture series held in the Ateneo.

21 Years of Honing Next Generation Public Servants



PROJECT TITLE

Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid

PERIOD

Ongoing



TRIVIA

Over 400 young Filipinos have benefited from the JDS Scholarship, many of them now leaders in their own fields, and/or playing a role in Philippine policymaking.

Ada Colico, Assistant Secretary in the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) was one of the hundreds of young Filipinos who studied in Japan under the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid, or JDS Project. “My study experience enhanced my skills in public governance, cross-cultural communication, research and analysis, leadership, and management. It allowed me to work with diverse teams, make informed decisions, and drive organizational success. Additionally, the scholarship provided me with a network of professionals, fostering collaboration and industry trends,” she shared.

Every year, JICA sends more than 20 young Filipinos in public service to study in premier Japanese universities under the JDS Project. It is in this context that Filipino scholars learn from Japan’s development history and its fascinating story as one of the very few countries from a non-Western background to achieve modernization, democracy, and prosperity while preserving their rich cultural heritage. Theirs is one that capitalized on education – sending its young people to study abroad and bring back new ideas to Japan.

Essentially, the JDS Project capacitates young people in public service who will be future leaders in nation building to learn from Japan and give back to their own country and society.

The JDS Project offers scholarships in the following areas such as public administration,



1

finance and monetary administration, trade and industry investment and promotion, infrastructure improvement, water resource management, environmental management, and disaster risk reduction, among others. This unique program offers scholars to immerse themselves in Japanese culture, visit respected Japanese institutions, complete graduate research, take JICA-sponsored international development courses and extra-curricular activities, and build a network with other young professionals from Japan and all over the world.

The Japanese universities participating in the JDS are Hitotsubashi University, International University of Japan, Kobe University, Meiji University, Nagoya University, Rikkyo University, University of Tsukuba, and Yokohama National University, among others.

Considered to be one of the countries in Asia with the youngest population, the Philippines benefits immensely from the JDS Project – sharing Japan’s best practices with its young people, and building their core values such as integrity, patriotism, and mutual respect in public service. ■



2

1 Asec. Colico (right) after her graduation ceremony.

2 Asec. Colico (fourth from left) attending a Japanese Festival.

Nurturing Global Filipino Leaders



PROGRAM TITLE

Knowledge Co-Creation Program Long Term



TRIVIA

The SDG's Global Leader Program has dispatched 43 Filipino scholars to Japan since 2019.

For the Philippines, the times call for building human resources that can help steer the country's future policies and international relations. Its partnership with JICA has honed so many young leaders, determined to carve a niche in nation building through their studies in Japan's leading universities.

In 2023, 17 young Filipino leaders were sent to Japan under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Global Leader Program. In their pursuit to grow their career, while contributing to society, these young men and women channeled their efforts in post-graduate courses in fields such as governance, sustainable development, agriculture, infrastructure, health, disaster risk reduction among others. They are the latest batch who represented various government agencies like Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Transportation (DOTr), Department

of Finance (DOF), Local Government Academy, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PHILRICE), and Talavera General Hospital in Nueva Ecija.

Rachel Gladys Audar, batch 2021 scholar and Economist from DOF, said, "Let us be agents of change, advocates for the SDGs, builders of a Philippines and a world where no one is left behind. Let's not just leave with memories of Japan, but with renewed conviction and a shared purpose to translate our knowledge into tangible impact for the DOF and beyond."

The SDGs Global Leader Program, established in 2019 under the JICA Development Studies Program, offers special curriculums on Japan's development experiences and internships in Japanese institutions.

JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema said the program fills in the gap in Philippine human resources, giving Filipinos long-term study opportunities in different areas of development. He said graduates of this program can "influence sustainable policies, change mindsets, and catalyze social innovation."

Participants to the SDGs Global Leader Program attend lectures, conduct research or participate in internships with Japan's public or private sector.

"Aside from studying, I also enjoyed learning from Japanese policymaking and policy implementation experts, making new friends and building connections, experiencing various extracurricular activities, and immersing ourselves in Japanese culture, food, and sports," said Feljune Pangilinan, batch 2020 scholar and Senior Economic Development specialist from NEDA.

Indeed, the program is a testament that JICA does not only focus on hard infrastructure, but also in soft measures like capacity development - all meant to share Japan's expertise and experiences not just for the good of communities, but also for the good of society as a whole. ■



1



1 SDGs Global Leaders program scholars for 2023 with JICA Philippines staff.

2 Pangilinan (6th from the left) during his graduation ceremony.

From Japan to Philippines: Young Trainees Make a Difference in their Local Governments



PROGRAM TITLE

Knowledge Co-Creation Program
Group Region Focus and
Young Leaders



TRIVIA

At the height of Covid-19, from 2021 to early 2022, young Filipinos participated in this JICA Program online.

Young Filipino professionals who trained under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) both online and in Japan learn from Japan's experiences to bring fresh perspectives into their communities.

Two Group and Region Focus (GRF) trainees are now making a difference in their local governments. Roel Dolaypan Jr. is a project development officer at the Provincial Cooperative and Enterprise Development Office in Nueva Vizcaya and Maja-Lane Edejer is a municipal environment and natural resources officer of the Municipality of Cabagan in Isabela province. The two trained in separate courses under the KCCP GRF: Strategic Management and Marketing for Sustainable Local Industry Development, and Enhancement of Solid Waste Management Capacity for the Introduction of Waste-to-Energy, respectively.

Dolaypan learned organic farming practices and circular economy in Hokkaido Prefecture. Upon completion of the training, he helped establish Vizcaya Optimization of Incubation Centers for Economic Sustainability (VOICES), a blueprint for the province's economic sustainability. His transformative leadership also expanded Nueva Vizcaya's Farm School which now promotes sustainable agriculture practices. He envisions that by 2030, the

province will become a center for sustainable agriculture, and eco-tourism.

Meanwhile, with more local government units (LGUs) rethinking their waste management strategies, Edejer introduces a 'Japinas' approach to solid waste management in Isabela. The approach combines Japan's core principles in managing their wastes – *mottainai* (material-recycle culture) and *atarimae* (cleaning as a way of life). Edejer notes that Japan's technology on recycling and waste management, wide-area waste collection and transport, and waste segregation and characterization contributed to their success in solid waste management. "I hope to mainstream these Japanese concepts and practices in Isabela through information and education in schools, and involving local companies in waste management," she said.

The Philippines already has laws in place such as the Local Government Code empowering local governments to be self-reliant. The participation of Dolaypan and Edejer in JICA's KCCP helps ensure that local governments use their distinct voice and power to create an impact in sustainable development.

Aside from GRF, JICA also sends a group of young leaders yearly under the KCCP Young Leaders (YL) Program. In the Philippines, 13

1 Participants of the 2023 KCCP YL for Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Development.



1



2

young Filipinos completed training in Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Development course under the program in 2023.

The Philippines is a disaster-prone nation just like Japan, and the program, which runs for about two weeks, is a way for Japan to share its experiences in disaster recovery and policy making. The trainees immersed themselves in

lectures and field visits learning from Japan's earthquake recovery in the Tohoku Region.

As part of the program, they visited the Tsunami Memorial Museum at Rikuzentakata City which educates visitors on disaster prevention based on their 2011 tsunami disaster. They learned from the city's officials their disaster resiliency measures such as disaster-proofing buildings, early warning systems, evacuation planning, and community education to promote a culture of resiliency and safety. The experience taught them practical knowledge and approaches which they can apply in their localities.

Upon their return, some of the trainees already crafted plans to transfer their knowledge within their organizations, promote disaster preparedness in their network, and become advocates of disaster risk reduction. "Their acquired knowledge from their study visits would certainly contribute to the Philippines disaster resiliency efforts," said Teresito Bacolcol, supervisor of two trainees from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). ■

2 Dolaypan (3rd from the left), receiving a recognition award during the National Innovation Day 2023.

3 Edejer partners with the DepEd in promoting solid waste management programs.



3

How JICA Volunteers Support in Shaping the Future



PROGRAM TITLE

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

PERIOD

Ongoing

They have built their careers in Japan and have packed their bags to live in the Philippines to share their expertise with Filipinos in school and community settings.

The respect they received from their places of assignments is proof that they are making positive changes in the communities they serve. Meet some of the volunteers who are part of the JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program.

Creating Change, One Recipe at a Time

MIYAGAWA Yoshimi

A chef for more than 40 years in Japan, MIYAGAWA was among the first batch of JICA volunteers sent to Manila under the program after the pandemic. At the Rizal Experimental Station and Pilot School for Cottage Industries (RESPSCI), MIYAGAWA teaches cookery to senior high school students and handicraft to junior high school students, and trained teachers on Japanese healthy cooking. RESPSCI is hoping to develop a Japanese-Filipino fusion cookbook called “Japoy” which can be used as a learning tool based on the healthy Japanese recipes introduced by MIYAGAWA. MIYAGAWA also assists parents to become self-reliant by holding a cooking bootcamp so they can learn new skills that can contribute to their livelihood.

The Philippines is currently implementing the K to 12 curriculum where cookery courses are taught to senior high school students taking up technical vocational courses. “Sharing Japanese-Filipino fusion recipes with young students and teachers can have an impact when it comes to improving their jobs prospects and their livelihood,” she shared.

Coding the Future

SEKIGUCHI Takuya

He paused his information technology career in Japan to become a volunteer in the Philippines. SEKIGUCHI Takuya, like MIYAGAWA, is assigned to work with teachers and students in Cavite State University (CvSU) – Rosario Campus. His volunteer work includes sharing programming skills that develop computational thinking in the university.



1



2

1 MIYAGAWA and her students during one of her cooking classes at RESPSCI.

2 SEKIGUCHI teaching *micro:bit* and *micro:maqueen* to his students in CvSU-Rosario Campus.

The university aims to raise their accreditation level in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) education. SEKIGUCHI supports in introducing new software technology to prepare students as future workforce and entrepreneurs. "ICT education prepares Filipino students for global competitiveness by equipping them with essential skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities, preparing them for various career opportunities in technology-driven industries," he said.

Teaching Community-Based Emergency Preparedness

KAWAMURA Akihiro

The town of Cuenca in Batangas was among those severely affected when the Taal Volcano erupted in 2020. Its Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Office admits that they need technical assistance when it comes to facing large scale disasters such as volcano eruption.

It is around this need that Japanese firefighter KAWAMURA Akihiro will conduct training activities for municipal DRRM personnel and committees in two pilot barangays to enhance their knowledge and skills in disaster response strategies and protocols for emergency situations. "Communities must establish robust communication networks and emergency response plans, including educating residents on disaster preparedness, conducting regular drills, and identifying safe evacuation routes," he said. ■



1



2



TRIVIA

The JOCVs have been in the Philippines for many decades. They had been awarded the Magsaysay Award, Asia's Nobel Prize equivalent, for their work in communities. Beyond their work, they continue to bridge friendship and mutual trust between Japan and their partner countries like the Philippines in facing uncertainties and challenges in the future.

1 KAWAMURA (leftmost) demonstrating proper roping techniques to Cuenca DRRM personnel.

2 KAWAMURA and his colleagues at Cuenca DRRM Office.

FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY AND WELFARE



Where No One is Left Behind – Promoting a Resilient Health System



PROGRAM TITLE

The Programme for Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support

PERIOD

2022-2023



TRIVIA

It was through JICA's grant aid in 1981 that the Philippines established its first research institute against infectious diseases, known as Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). This highlights JICA's continuing commitment to promote resilience against public health challenges for decades.

Recovery and resilience are the latest buzz words when it comes to making the health care system cope with future pandemics. With Covid-19 receding to the background, a JICA health cooperation with the Department of Health (DOH) is helping the Philippines fast track its immunization program and reach geographically hard-to-reach places.

The JICA Programme for Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support was not only meant for implementing Covid-19 vaccinations, but it also aims to help the Philippines prepare better during outbreaks through rollouts of other vaccines with speed and efficiency.

The last pandemic brought about challenges to the Philippine health sector as far as deploying vaccines to remote areas. There are thousands of geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs) in various parts of the country that need equitable access to quality health care products and services.

To address this, JICA provided the DOH with a grant composed of refrigerated vans, delivery vans, pickup trucks, wing van trucks, biothermal packaging systems, and ice pack freezers. These equipment aim to support the Philippines' cold chain management and logistics for vaccination.

"These resources are instrumental in ensuring that our healthcare workers, essential personnel, and vulnerable populations have access to life-saving vaccines, medicines, and medical equipment," said DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa. He added that the DOH plans to maximize the effectiveness of the JICA vehicles and equipment through proper maintenance, operation, distribution, and collaborations with international partners, public health agencies, and local communities.

Further, this cooperation also complements the Philippines' immunization program by improving vaccine deployment and cold chain and supply management. Under the Republic Act 101521 "Mandatory Infants and Children Health Immunization Act of 2011, the government shall take a proactive role in the preventive health care of infants and children by adopting a comprehensive immunization program for vaccine preventable diseases.

As countries take lessons from the last pandemic, filling the logistics gap in deploying vaccines is an important measure to become more prepared against health threats in the future. ■



1



2

1 JICA-donated trucks and vehicles to DOH.

2 DOH also received cold chain equipment from JICA, used for safe storage of medicines and vaccines.

Paving the Path to Recovery



PROJECT TITLE

The Project for Introducing Evidence-based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines

PERIOD

2017-2024



TRIVIA

Methamphetamine abuse is a major social issue in Japan and the Philippines. Several decades ago, the Matrix Model was introduced to prison settings in Japan to treat prisoners who use methamphetamine. Through the process of developing INTREPRET and ENTREPOSE, the project has incorporated Japan's experience of adapting the Matrix Model into the culturally acceptable treatment model in the Philippines.

They say when everyone is included, everyone wins.

This piercing truth is visible in treatment and rehabilitation centers (TRCs) helping people who use drugs (PWUD) get their life back and integrate in society.

A JICA project with the Department of Health (DOH), in fact, highlighted this by developing new treatment models in these TRCs to promote well-being of PWUD. The Philippines has been implementing its policies for drug-free society, and this cooperation is making an impact towards improving relapse rate, building the confidence of patients, and aiding recovery.

"We visited 22 different TRCs and observed the interactions of patients using the treatment models developed under the project. We noticed that they become more open and participative, and more self-confident in their recovery," said JICA Chief Advisor to the project Dr. KANAMORI Shogo.

The treatment models were a result of JICA-DOH cooperation, "Project for Introducing Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Program to Drug Dependence and Treatment Rehabilitation Centers (IntERlaPP)". The project trained Filipino health professionals on the new residential and outpatient treatment models, namely Intensive Treatment and Rehabilitation Program for Residential TRCs (INTREPRET) and Enhanced Treatment Program for Outpatient Services for Drug Users (ENTREPOSE), developed by adapting the Matrix Model used in the United States. These models comprise cognitive behavioral therapy program, social support program, psycho-education program, and self-help group meetings, and uniquely incorporate Filipino



1

culture and perspective in their activities.

Under INTREPRET and ENTREPOSE, patients participate in a series of group therapy sessions to understand their thoughts, feelings and behaviors that may often drive them to drug use. The patients and their family also attend sessions to obtain accurate information about addiction, recovery, treatment, and the resulting interpersonal dynamics.

"The InteRlaPP Project is the first serious attempt to standardize group sessions in residential & outpatient settings through evidence-based methodologies, fostering a more cohesive and effective therapeutic environment. This standardization ensures consistency, aligns rehabilitation practices with the latest research, and elevates the overall efficacy of rehabilitation efforts. The investment in the InteRlaPP Project proves to be worthwhile, yielding tangible results that contribute to the holistic well-being and successful recovery of those under their care," said DOH-Tagaytay Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center Medical Center Chief II Dr. Ma. Teresa C. Iñigo.

Now on its 6th year of implementation, the JICA-DOH cooperation continues to fill in the void when it comes to enabling PWUD to bounce back in life and become more productive members of society. ■



2

1 Participants during the role playing activity.

2 Participants during the online training course on ENTREPOSE and INTREPRET.

Enhancing Education Through New Teaching Methods



PROGRAM TITLE

Knowledge Co-Creation Program
Country Focused Training



TRIVIA

JICA has deployed over 380 Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) to the Philippines' education sector, working closely with local communities and institutions. Their initiatives have improved teaching methods, curriculum development, and overall educational quality in the country, among others.

A JICA-hosted study trip in Ishikawa Prefecture is providing transformative insights to Filipino teachers.

Twelve (12) educators from the Department of Education (DepEd) completed a two-week training in Japan under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) Educators' Knowledge and Skills Development program. This program aims to equip educators with understanding of Japanese-style education methods and management. It also focuses on developing their capacity to assess educational issues in the Philippines by comparing policies, systems and actual practices between Japan and the Philippines.

Through in-depth discussions with the Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City Board of Education, the participants were able to have an appreciation of how a decentralized education system works, the different roles of the central, prefectural, city and municipal government and the level of autonomy they have.

The participants were extremely grateful to JICA, saying the exposure "reaffirmed the importance of continuing professional development in the teaching profession." The training featured visits to various schools in Kanazawa City. They also observed training programs on teaching foreign language, technology, and fine arts at the Ishikawa Faculty Comprehensive Training Center.

"It is inspiring to witness how Japan prioritizes the education of every child, laying a strong foundation for their future success," said National Educators Academy of the Philippines Director Leah Apao.

In the feedback session after the training, participants shared their key learnings and potential applications in the Philippines such as the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals in the curriculum, setting of priority subject areas for national assessment and enhancement of the pre-service and in-service teacher education and training, among others.

The participants also noted how Japan's curriculum focuses on honing the critical thinking skills and community development through in-depth social studies lessons, fostering a sense of community and cultural identity among students.



1

JICA's training program for educators is just one way it contributes to improve the education system of partner country. In the Philippines, JICA also supported various cooperations with DepEd, such as the Project for Supporting Senior High School Program in Technical Vocational High Schools, which assisted in developing the Guidelines for Building Partnerships for the K to 12 Basic Education Program or DepEd Order No. 40.

Now with new technology and innovative ideas such as Artificial Intelligence already being explored in education, sharing Japan's experiences gives the teachers a new perspective on enabling Filipino learners to be more adaptive to a changing world. ■

1 Presentation on the status of Philippine Education.

2 Educators that participated in the program.



2

Capacity Development Efforts Help Reimagine Bangsamoro's Future



PROJECT TITLE

Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro

PERIOD

2019 - Ongoing



TRIVIA

As of 2023, CDPB has trained a total of 1,188 individuals in various topics including good governance, SHEP, Covid-19 countermeasures, and industry promotion.

The journey to an autonomous government in the Bangsamoro region is given a much-needed push through a partnership with JICA.

Since 2019, the Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CDPB) of JICA has supported this journey by strengthening organizational and operational capacity through various activities.

In 2023, the Citizen's Charter of the Office of the Chief Minister (OCM) was finalized with the support of CDPB - a crucial first step towards good governance in the Bangsamoro and accountability under Republic Act No. 11032 or Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services law. Trainings, and workshops on the Citizen's Charter were held for some selected ministries, with the expectation that these ministries will cascade their knowledge to the other ministries.

Director Narcisa Macog of the Administrative Management Service of the OCM said, "The OCM's Charter demonstrates the Bangsamoro

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) government's commitment to providing efficient, responsive and accessible services. The Citizen's Charter is a pledge to uphold the core principles of moral governance and place the needs of the Bangsamoro region at the forefront of service delivery."

Also, decades of conflict deprived many people in the region to uplift their livelihood, especially the farmers. The CDPB has started to introduce the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) approach. The effectiveness of the SHEP approach has been proven in many countries and its most important feature is the shift of the farmers' mindset from 'grow and sell' to 'grow to sell.' Through the consultants of CDPB, at least 12 municipal agriculturists and agricultural technologists from the towns of Barira and Matanog in Maguindanao Del Norte province were trained on agricultural land preparation, sowing, seedlings production, transplanting techniques, cultivation, and pest control management. Moreover, farmers were trained in sowing and nursery management, and agricultural record keeping.

Aside from these components, the CDPB also provided trainings on planning for recovery and rehabilitation against Covid-19. These are meant to build the capacity of frontliners and health care workers in the Bangsamoro in light of emerging infectious diseases. The Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) and local government units joined these trainings for streamlined and uniform response in times of health crisis.

To also help improve the business environment in the Bangsamoro, the CDPB profiled micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises (MSMEs) and Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) and assessed their needs. During the profiling, the CDPB proposed the so-called Personal Initiative (PI) training, a psychology-based training program for an entrepreneurship mindset to the Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism (MTIT). The MTIT started the training with the support from CDPB. One participant said that the training provided knowledge and tools to set clear goals for expansion and effective financial management of their business.



1

1 Official launch and unveiling of the Citizen's Charter of BARMM's Office of Chief Minister.



2

2 Participants during the Citizen's Charter Implementation and Sustainability Training.

3 Training of Trainers for SHEP participants.

4 Participants from the Bureau of Fire Protection sharing their existing health emergency protocols during the Outbreak Response Training.

5 Participants of the Train the Trainers in Personal Initiative Training for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).



3



4



5

All these, combined with other interventions, have been supporting the transition government navigate the challenges of strengthening the bureaucracy to effectively serve the needs of its people. Other interventions under JICA assistance include capacity development in financial management, policy development for human resource practitioners, and strengthening the Bangsamoro International Development Assistance Committee's Infrastructure Development Sectoral Working Group.

Lawyer Ubaida C. Pacasem, Finance, and Budget, and Management minister underscored the significance of public financial management training in shaping a well-functioning Bangsamoro government. Bangsamoro Treasurer Naila Z. Dimaraw also shared that with the program, 'meaningful autonomy guided by moral governance can be achieved.' She cited that since public servants implement programs and activities, knowledge on sound financial management will help manage public funds better. The training supported by JICA, further set standards when it comes to accountability and transparency in the spending of the budget for the Bangsamoro.

Essentially, the Bangsamoro transition to an autonomous government is a vivid example that when stakeholders come together, and collaborate to sustain peace building, the aspiration to realize the dividends of peace becomes more attainable than ever. ■

Fishing for Wisdom and Harvesting Innovation: BTA-CAFAR Explores Japan's Agriculture Prowess



TRIVIA

Hiroshima University President OCHI Mitsuo and BARMM Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim signed a Joint Statement of Cooperation on 10 March 2020, aiming to further strengthen the partnership between Japan and the Philippines and establish areas of cooperation between the BARMM and Hiroshima University through training, education and other fields of collaboration and exchange.

It was through a study trip in Japan that a delegation from the Bangsamoro Transition Authority's Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (BTA-CAFAR) saw before their eyes how good governance in a parliamentary system works for the greater good.

Decades of conflict have pushed back economic development in the Bangsamoro region that visiting the Hiroshima Prefecture gave the delegates a chance to learn from post-war reconstruction in Hiroshima. The study trip commenced at the Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Memorial Park, focusing on the repercussions of war, the significance of peace and understanding history to prevent tragedies. Delegates paid courtesy visits to Hiroshima Prefecture Governor YUZAKI Hidehiko, Hiroshima City Mayor MATSUI Kazumi, and Hiroshima University Executive Vice President KANEKO Shinji. They also visited a lemon plantation in Setoda town, Fisheries and Marine Technology Center, Saijo Agricultural High School, and Satake Corporation, offering insights into the agricultural and fisheries sector's contribution to the region's food security.

Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform Minister Mohammad S. Yacob says, "The study trip helps bridge our shared commitment to peace and development, as we navigate the dynamics of governance and grapple with challenges that shape the Bangsamoro Region. It also shows that our relationship with JICA goes beyond technology transfer and policy enhancement but also in building the foundation for peace and development."

In Tokyo, their delegation met with Mr. MORIYAMA Hiroshi, Chairperson of the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League, an association composed of members of Japan's Diet that promotes inter-parliamentary relations between Japan and Philippine Congress. Chairperson MORIYAMA said that the goal of the study trip is to share Japan's parliamentary cabinet system, the basis of their national government, and the success of the agriculture sector.



1

One of the major takeaways of the delegates was the significance of technological innovation application and farmers' cooperatives for developing the agriculture sector in the Bangsamoro region. They participated in a lecture by the House of Representatives Secretariat on plenary sessions and committees in the Japanese Diet. Furthermore, they attended a lecture from National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies Professor TAKADA Hirofumi on the Parliamentary Cabinet System and Political Parties in Japan, providing guidance to BTA Parliament Members on crafting legislation tailored to their specific context.

The study trip is part of JICA's support to the Bangsamoro Government in strengthening their organizational capacity as well as improving socioeconomic status of the Bangsamoro people.

With the region's preparation for a Bangsamoro Autonomous Government in 2025, the visit to Japan rewards the Bangsamoro delegates with exchange of ideas and new perspective on good governance, transparency, and accountability. The study trip is an impetus for the Bangsamoro autonomous government to learn the highest standards from another nation in rebuilding the region's future. ■

1 BTA-CAFAR members visit Saijo Agricultural High School. Photo courtesy of Office of MP Matarul M. Estino.

2 BTA-CAFAR delegates visit the Hiroshima Prefectural Office. Photo courtesy of Office of MP Matarul M. Estino.



2

Giving Children in Conflict with the Law a Better Shot at Life



PROJECT TITLE

Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in RCFs and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines

PERIOD

2021-2024



TRIVIA

JICA is the only international partner cooperating with ACTION, Inc. for this project. Aside from Life Skills Intervention, ACTION and JICA are working to train the trainers on houseparenting.

It is often said that children are our best hope for the future.

For the past years, JICA, Japanese non-profit organization in Japan, A Child's Trust is Ours To Nurture (ACTION, Inc.), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) have been busy honing the life skills of children in conflict with the law (CICL) living at residential care facilities (RCFs).

Through the Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in RCFs and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines, ACTION, Inc. and JICA capacitates houseparents in these facilities using a Life Skills Intervention Toolkit that features modules on the most important life skills such as self-awareness, empathy and critical thinking. The toolkit also includes a Facilitator's Guide for effective intervention sessions, which encourages CICL to adapt to society and make their own lives after leaving the RCFs.

The toolkit, a culmination of years of contribution by on-site social workers, houseparents, and children, ensures that



1

"Houseparents play a crucial role in the day-to-day operations of RCFs, as well as in the lives of the children. The training that social workers like myself received through the project helps me guide the houseparents, and assist them in performing their duties and responsibilities," said Mary Joan Pasigue of the Bahay Pag-asa Youth Development Center in Laoag, Ilocos Norte.

Around 1,800 children in RCFs already benefited from the life skills they learned from houseparents who got trained under the project. Already, the JJWC has endorsed the toolkit to the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to be included in their Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit promoting interventions for CICL at local government level. The project also developed a network of trainers across various regions in the Philippines.

DSWD Region 3 Assistant Regional Director Maribel Blanco welcomed the project's contribution to make sure no child is left behind, and while there are still work to be done, she said, "the training on the toolkit assures that humankind will have the best it has to offer to every child."

Now on its third year, the project helping CICL develop life skills has come a long way changing the life of every child for the better. ■



2

1 Child participants of the Life Skills Intervention for CAR and CICL in ACTION Olongapo showcase their clay sculpting skills in one of their activities under the Life Goal Setting module.

2 A social worker from one of the participating Bahay Pag-Asas in Visayas shares her experiences and insights during one of the discussions under the "Helping Others" cluster of the LSI Toolkit for CAR and CICL.

houseparents are equipped to provide needed interventions so that children can learn how to tell right from wrong, how to deal with emotions, how to communicate their feelings, how to have healthy relationships, and how to take care of themselves. Under the Juvenile Justice Act of 2015, CICL refers to a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offense and has not reached 18 years old on the date of commission of the offense. The DSWD serves some 10,000 CICL, mostly 14-17 years old coming from poverty-stricken families.

SPECIAL FEATURES



Reinvigorating Philippines-Japan Heart-to-Heart Ties

In many points in the Philippines' economic development journey, JICA was there as a partner in promoting peace and development in Mindanao, human security, and quality growth to benefit every Filipino.

The visit of JICA President TANAKA Akihiko to the Philippines in 2023 is testament that the relationship between JICA and the Philippines is reaching new heights amid changing times.

Full and unwavering support to Peace and Development in Mindanao

In his third opportunity to visit the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

(BARMM), JICA President TANAKA made history by being the first foreign national to give a speech at the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) Parliament.

He conveyed in his speech that "The peace process in Mindanao gives hope to the world that consolidation of peace is possible through constructive dialogues. Peace is maintained by ensuring human security for all."

At the visit, he met with Chief Minister Ahod Ebrahim, and other BTA Ministers to reassure continuity of JICA's cooperation. He also visited a JICA Quick Impact Project in Upi, Maguindanao Del Norte and met with pupils studying at the donated school building under the "Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro" and met with farmers who underwent agricultural training under the "Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro" (CDPB). JICA has been working closely with partners in Mindanao to accelerate the peace process in the Bangsamoro through community development projects, livelihood support, and enhancement of technical-vocational training for former combatants thereby ensuring that people can benefit from the dividends of peace.

For over three decades, JICA has been on a steadfast mission to collaborate with its partners in Mindanao to establish a strong



1

1 JICA President TANAKA and BTA Chief Minister Ahod B. Ebrahim.

2 JICA delegation during their visit to Kibleg Elementary School in Upi, Maguindanao Del Norte.



2

foundation of holistic development in the conflict-affected area.

“JICA has been one of our most trusted partners in our journey to peace starting from the peace talks up to the transition period. We would like to express our gratitude to the Japanese government and JICA for expanding its support to the Bangsamoro government,” said the BTA Chief Minister.

Advancing collaboration with Philippine partners

As both the Philippines and Japan label their relationship as ‘friends closer than brothers,’ JICA President also met in person Filipino leaders and policymakers for discussion on how both countries can address development challenges today.



3

In a meeting with Vice President Sara Duterte, the Vice President took note of JICA’s more than 50 years of cooperation, also mentioning the latter’s support in Davao City. President TANAKA also met with Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin who cited JICA’s important role in Philippine infrastructure development. He also met with other Cabinet officials – Budget and Management Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity Carlito Galvez Jr., and Public Works Secretary Manuel



4



5

Bonoan – to emphasize cooperation in other areas that impact inclusive growth, such as maritime affairs and disaster prevention.

3 TANAKA during his courtesy visit to Philippine Vice President Duterte (left).

4 JICA delegation riding the MRT-3 on a Friday rush hour.

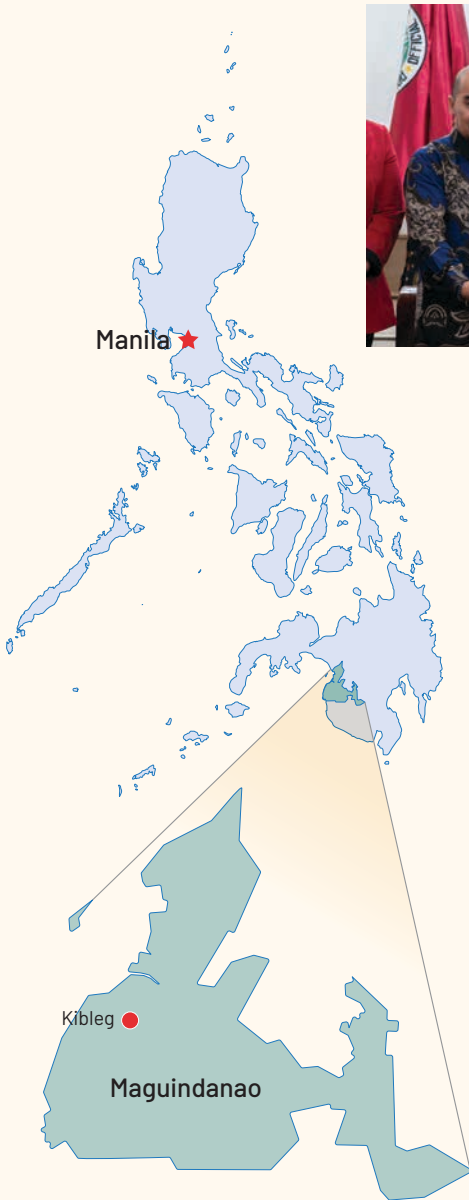
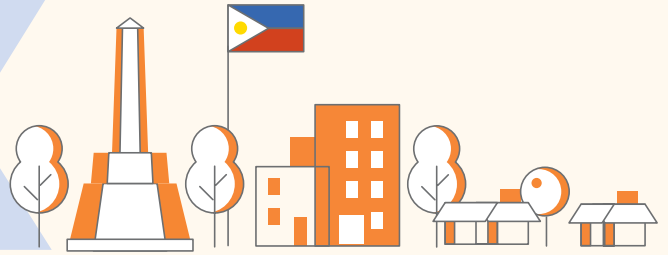
5 TANAKA was welcomed aboard the new MRRV by PCG Officials.

Reviewing JICA projects

The President’s visit was also an opportunity to review and see the impact of JICA’s cooperation in communities. This includes assistance to the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3 improving its operation speed and intervals, and Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project which reduced flood damage in the area. He also boarded the newest Multi-Role Response Vessel (MRRV) provided under JICA’s cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) highlighting the importance of maritime safety and security in the region.

As Japan and the Philippines chart the future of their relations, it can be said that their ties are strong and important. The President’s Visit is tangible proof that JICA continues to work hand in hand with the Philippines towards building a better future where everyone has an opportunity to make their lives better. ■

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE VISIT



BTA RESOLUTION

BTA Parliament issued a resolution recognizing JICA's contribution to the consolidation of peace, and other cooperation in the region.



BAI MYNEAH GUIANALAN

One of the beneficiaries of the JICA-assisted classroom building in Kibleg. She was a 4th grader at the time of TANAKA's first visit, in 2023 she is in grade 11.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Farmers from Demo farms in Upi, Maguindanao Del Norte conveyed their gratitude to President TANAKA for JICA's trainings and farmer field schools under CDPB.



Tech + Social Impact

How Japanese Technology is Powering Inclusive Development

The advent of digital transformation (DX) has been changing the world in ways we can imagine, including the way cooperation projects work to address pressing issues like healthcare or disaster management to name a few.

JICA is mainstreaming these innovative solutions to the foreground, consistent with JICA's Global Agenda on the "Promotion of Digitalization". In the Philippines for one, the authorities are realizing the need to adapt to new technology to ensure that no one is left behind.



1

First AI tech for TB detection in the Philippines

JICA and Fujifilm Inc. took the first steps to offer the first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-aided Tuberculosis (TB) detection technology in the country. The Philippines has one of the highest TB burdens in the world, with 737,000 TB cases detected in 2022 (Global TB Report 2023), with most cases found in marginalized areas. JICA's partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) is addressing this through the pilot of Japanese technology at the local level.

JICA and Fujifilm introduced AI Computer Aided Detection (AICAD) technology in selected areas like Muntinlupa City to improve TB screening and diagnosis. This transforms what used to be a manual way of detecting cases using X-ray machines. This time, an X-ray AICAD that digitizes images and tracks patients proves to be a valuable means in TB detection.



2



1 Radiologist from Putatan Health Center taking an X-ray.

2 Patient X-ray analysis using the AI-CAD system at Putatan Health Center.

3 Spectee, Inc. Team with JICA HQ and PH Officials in a visit to Japan.

3

The early detection of TB prevents the further spread of infection. By enhancing the speed of diagnosis through the use of AICAD, more lives can be improved and saved in the long run.

AI for disaster resilience

Another cutting-edge technology from a Japanese company is being introduced in the country to help visualize crises like disasters using data from social media, climate information, river or road cameras, and people traffic among others.

Japanese company Spectee, Inc. is partnering with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to pilot

the technology in their disaster prevention operations in real-time. Spectee's AI solution picks up and analyzes the information related to crises and delivers them to its customers for their responsive and efficient decision-making during disasters and emergencies. In Japan, approximately 1,000 licenses from Spectee are utilized by central agencies, local government, newsrooms and other private companies.

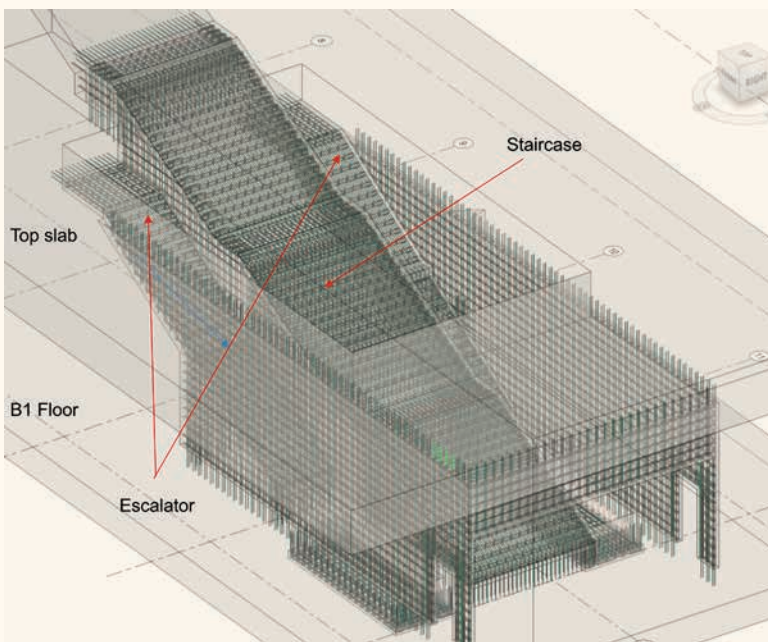
NEGORO Satoshi, Chief Operating Officer of Spectee, Inc. said, "We are really thrilled to launch our service 'Spectee Pro' which is widely accepted in Japan. The Philippines is a disaster-prone country same as Japan and we believe that we can help improve the disaster risk reduction ability and the resilience of the society as a whole."

4 Japanese contractors and consultant at the Metro Manila Subway site.

5 DX technologies are applied for drawing production of North Avenue Station staircase and escalators. (Presented at Railway Summit 2023 in Pasay City)



4



5

Future of Safe and Efficient Infrastructure Construction and Operation

Implementation of various JICA-supported railway projects in the Philippines has also been revolutionized using DX technologies. In JICA's support to the Philippine Railways Institute (PRI), JICA Expert Team, in partnership with PRI, incorporated DX technologies to enhance human resource development of its railway personnel. Under the project, seminars will introduce Japanese DX technologies such as virtual reality (VR) inspection and disaster drills to achieve safe and reliable operations.

Another initiative is "i-Construction" which is being promoted by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) as part of the productivity revolution. DX technologies are utilized by Japanese Contractors in JICA-supported projects such as the Metro Manila Subway and North-South Commuter Railway. For instance, Shimizu Corporation is introducing various tools and technologies used in Japan that reduce cost and travel time, boost productivity, and ultimately accelerate work efficiency in their projects. These include the use of 3-dimensional (3D) modeling and Building Information Modeling (BIM) in their operations such as survey, design, construction, and inspection.

Through promotion of Japanese DX technologies, Filipino railway personnel are more effectively trained to realize "safer, more reliable and comfortable railways" while ensuring that Japanese and Filipino workers have safe and well-managed work sites conducive to success. ■

JICA's Assistance Utilizing Japanese Private Sector Technologies

JICA actively engages Japanese Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in sustainable development by utilizing Japanese technologies in Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects overseas. The entrusted companies are engaged in feasibility study and network building in order to

analyze the potential use of these products and technologies in Japan's ODA projects.

Below are some of the projects being carried out in the Philippines under JICA's Partnership with Japanese Private Sector scheme:

	Project Name	Period	Proposed Japanese Company	Target Area	Project Site
1	Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for Electricity Distribution System and Management	2017-2023	TAKAOKA TOKO CO., LTD (TKTK); TEPCO Power Grid, Inc.	Environment/Energy	Batangas
2	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	2018-2023	Kanazawa Engineering Systems Inc. (KES)	Waste Management	Boracay Island (Aklan)
3	Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Establishing Sustainable Organic Waste Composting Systems in Legazpi City	2018-2023	Okada Manufactory Co., Ltd	Waste Management	Legazpi
4	Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Technologies for Septage Management Improvement with Advanced Treatment Method in Panglao, Bohol	2022-2024	O-M Ltd.	Water	Bohol
5	SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Utilization of Floating Amphibious Excavator for the Construction Works on Disaster Management and Disaster Restoration	2022-2024	Kochi Marutaka Corp	DRRM	Manila
6	SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Erosion Control and Vegetation Mat for Slope Protection	2022-2024	Takino Filter	DRRM	Nationwide
7	SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Introduction of Technologies that enable both Slope Disaster Prevention and Forest Conservation	2023-2024	Daisho	DRRM	CAR
8	SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for the Production of Biochar and Feed Production Using Food Waste	2022-2024	Guun; Takematsu Shoji	Waste Management	Cebu
9	SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for AI Real-Time Crisis Management Information System Using SNS Information	2022-2024	Spectee, Inc.	DRRM	Nationwide
10	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	2022-2023	Fujiclean	Water Purification	Baguio
11	SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Effective Renewable Energy Supply and Disaster Prevention by Introducing Solar Power System with Battery Storage	2023-2024	Advantec Co., Ltd.	Energy	Nationwide
12	SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Eco-Friendly Flange Manufacture by Transformation of the Leftover Materials from Shipbuilding Yards	2023-2024	Towa Kogyo Ltd.	Industry	Cebu
13	SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey on High Reflective Coating for Cooling Roofs and Saving Energy	2023-2024	MIRACOO Co., Ltd.	Energy	Metro Manila
14	SDGs Business Validation Survey for Strategic Multi-stakeholder Process Originating from the RECYINT Pilot Model	2023-2024	Tsuruoka Co., Ltd	Waste Management	Pampanga
15	SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Value Chain of Black Garlic	2023-2026	Takara, Inc.	Agriculture	Ilocos Norte



To view all projects adopted since 2012, please scan the QR code.

IN A GLANCE:

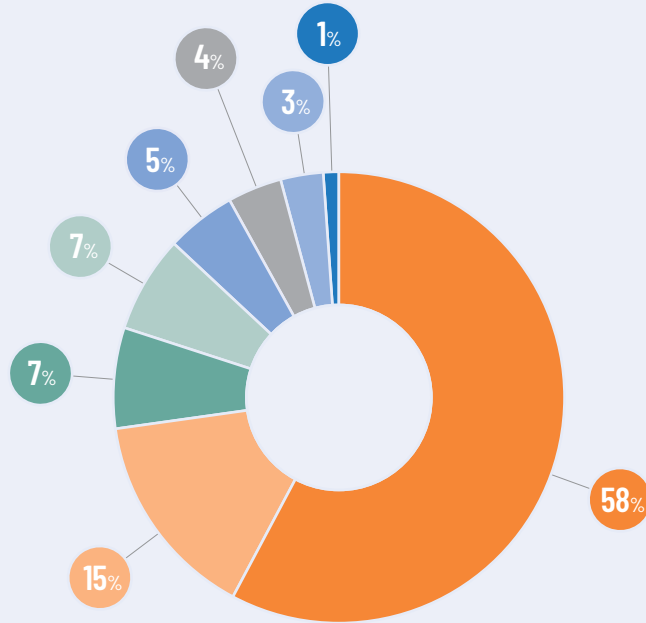
Japan's Bilateral Assistance to the Philippines

(Cumulative as of FY 2022)

ODA Loan and Private Sector Investment Finance Commitment

¥4,042,299 million

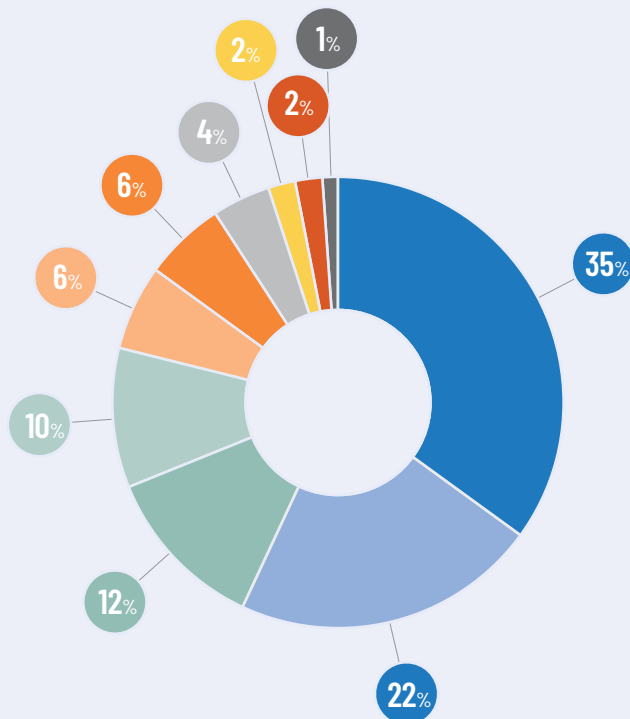
- Transportation
- Program Loans etc.
- Electric Power
- Irrigation and Flood Control
- Social Services
- Mining and Manufacturing
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Industry
- Telecommunications



Technical Cooperation

¥278,838 million

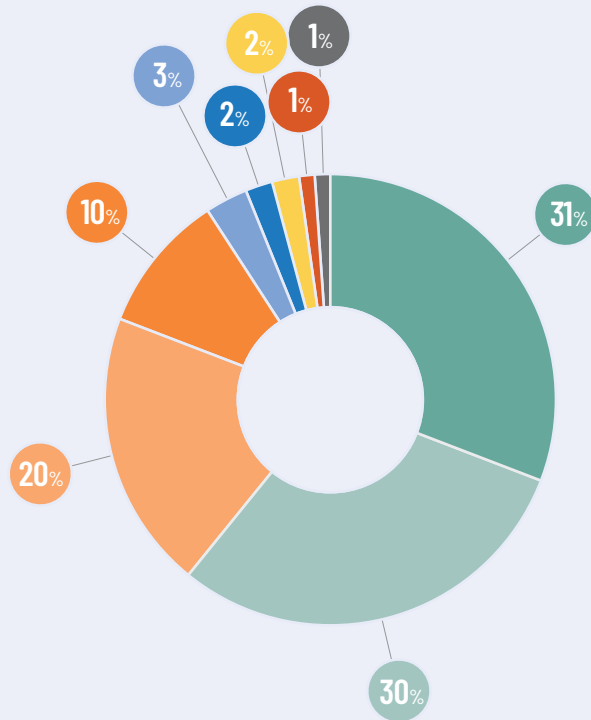
- Public Works/Utilities
- Others
- Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries
- Planning/Government
- Human Resources
- Health/Healthcare
- Mining & Manufacturing
- Business/Tourism
- Energy
- Social Welfare Services



Grant Aid

¥250,097 million

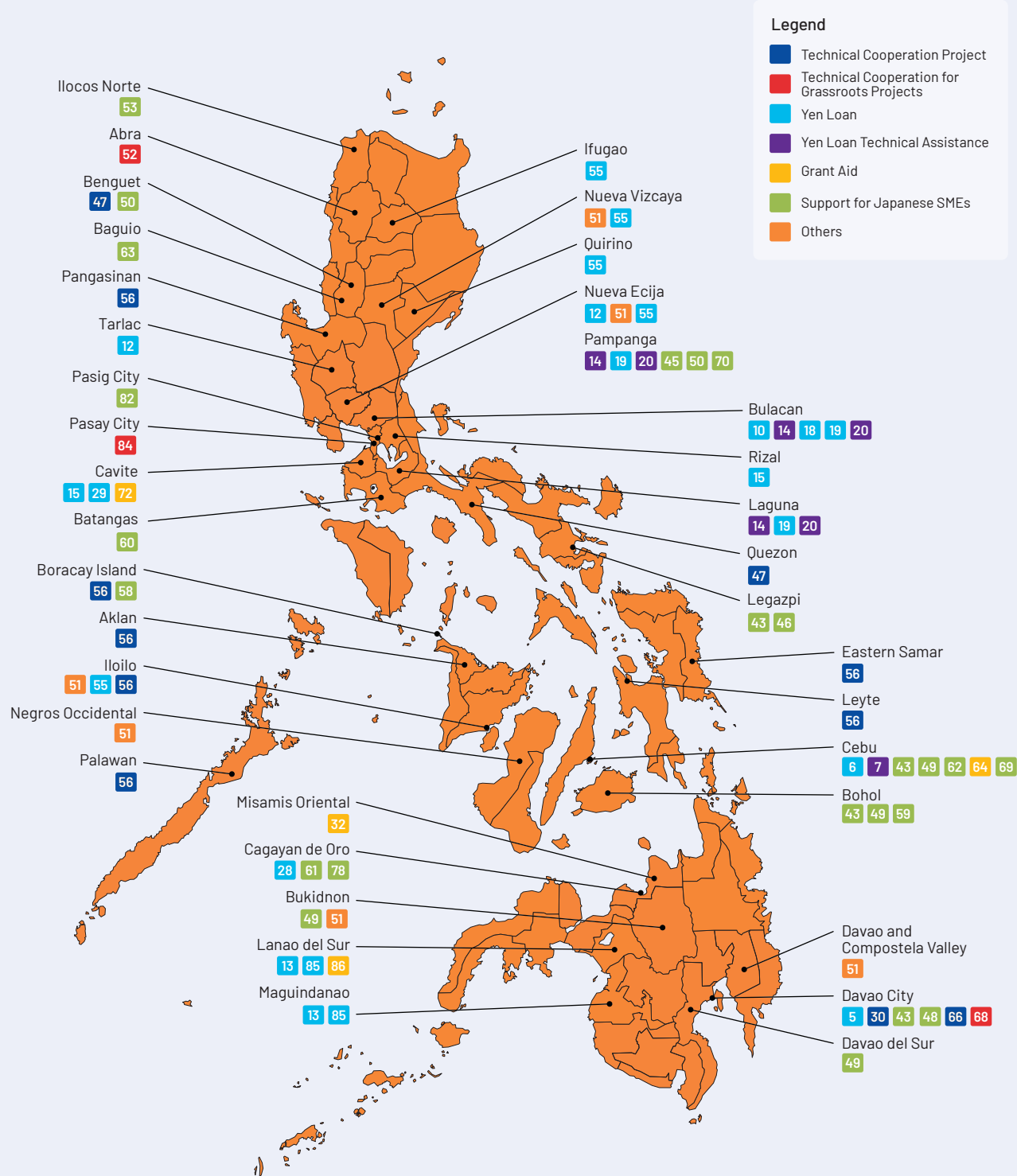
- Agriculture/Forestry/Fisheries
- Public Works/Utilities
- Human Resources
- Health/Healthcare
- Social Welfare Services
- Business/Tourism
- Mining & Manufacturing
- Planning/Government
- Energy



(Cumulative as of FY 2022)



JICA Philippines Operations Map



Nationwide



Metro Manila



Central Luzon / Region III



CALABARZON / Region IV-A



Bicol Region / Region V



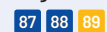
Central Visayas / Region VII



CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region)



BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao)



JICA Philippines Project List

Ongoing projects as of December 2023

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 Davao City Bypass Construction Project - *Davao City*
- 6 Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project - *Cebu*
- 7 Detailed Design Study of Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project - *Cebu*
- 8 Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project - *Metro Manila*
- 9 Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project (Phase VI) - *Metro Manila*
- 10 Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III) - *Bulacan*
- 11 Road Upgrading and Preservation Project - *Nationwide*
- 12 Central Luzon Link Expressway Project - *Tarlac, Nueva Ecija*
- 13 Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao - *Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur*
- 14 Project for Road Disaster Preventions and Other Countermeasures on Mountainous Roads - *Metro Manila, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga*
- 15 Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project - *Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal*
- 16 Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project - *Metro Manila*
- 17 Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I) - *Metro Manila*
- 18 North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos - Tutuban) - *Metro Manila, Bulacan*
- 19 North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project - *Metro Manila, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga*
- 20 The Detailed Design Study of the Malolos-Clark Railway Project and the North-South Railway Project - South Line (Commuter) - *Metro Manila, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga*
- 21 Technical Assistance Project to Establish the Philippine Railway Institute - *Metro Manila*
- 22 Project for Capacity Enhancement for Transit-Oriented Development - *Metro Manila*
- 23 Project on Formulation of a 30-Year Railway Master Plan for the Greater Manila Area - *Metro Manila, Region III, and Region IV-A*
- 24 New Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/ Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Systems Development Project - *Nationwide*
- 25 Project for Comprehensive and Sustainable Urban Development Master Plan for Metropolitan Davao - *Region II / Metropolitan Davao*

INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 26 Project for Enhancement of Industrial Competitiveness through Industrial Human Resource Development and Supply and Value Chain Development - *CALABARZON*

Priority Area: Ensuring Human Security for Inclusive Growth

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- 27 Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV) - *Metro Manila*
- 28 Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River - *Cagayan de Oro*
- 29 Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project - *Cavite*
- 30 Master Plan and Feasibility Study on Flood Control and Drainage in Davao City - *Davao*
- 31 The Project for Development of Extreme Weather Monitoring and Information Sharing System in the Philippines - *Nationwide*
- 32 Improvement of Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Cagayan de Oro River Basin - *Misamis Oriental*
- 33 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - Capacity Enhancement Project (Phase II) - *CALABARZON, Central Visayas, Nationwide*
- 34 The Project for Capability Enhancement for High Quality Weather Observation, Forecast, Warning and Information in the Philippines - *Nationwide*
- 35 Project for Development of a Hybrid Water-Related Disaster Risk Assessment Technology for Sustainable Local Economic Development Policy under Climate Change in the Philippines - *Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Metro Manila*
- 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*
- 44 Post Disaster Stand-by Loan Phase 3 - *Nationwide*

AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 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 - *Metro Manila, Quezon, Benguet*

- 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*
- 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 Project for Reduction of Agricultural Production Cost in Peñarubia Municipality and Surrounding Areas in Abra - *Abra*
- 53 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Value Chain of Black Garlic - *Ilocos Norte*

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

- 54 Small and Medium-Size Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Marketing Study on RECYINT (Integrated Recycle Business Model for ELV) - *Metro Manila*
- 55 Forestland Management Project - *Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Iloilo*
- 56 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*
- 57 Non-Revenue Water Improvement Project in the West Zone of Metro Manila - *Metro Manila*
- 58 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*
- 59 Verification Survey with Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Septage Management Improvement with Advanced Treatment Method in Panglao, Bohol - *Bohol*
- 60 Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Electricity Distribution System and Management in the Philippines - *Batangas*
- 61 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Advanced Dispersible Microbe System in the Philippines - *Cagayan De Oro*
- 62 SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for the production of biochar and feed production using food waste - *Cebu*
- 63 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*
- 64 Project for Septage Management of Metro Cebu Water District - *Cebu*
- 65 Advisory Service for Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of the Philippines - *Metro Manila, Region 3, Region IV-A*
- 66 Project for Master Plan Study for Comprehensive Wastewater Management in Davao City - *Davao City, Metro Davao*
- 67 SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Effective Renewable Energy Supply and disaster Prevention by introducing Solar Power System with Battery Storage in the Philippines - *Nationwide*

- 68 The Project for Improvement of Municipal Solid Waste Management System in the City of Davao - *Davao City*
- 69 SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Eco-Friendly Flange Manufacture by Transformation of the Left-over Materials from Shipbuilding Yards in the Philippines - *Cebu*
- 70 SDGs Business Validation Survey for Strategic Multi-Stakeholder Process Originating from the RECYINT Pilot Model in the Philippines - *Pampanga*
- 71 SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey on High Reflective Coating for Cooling Roofs and Saving Energy in the Philippines - *Metro Manila*

HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

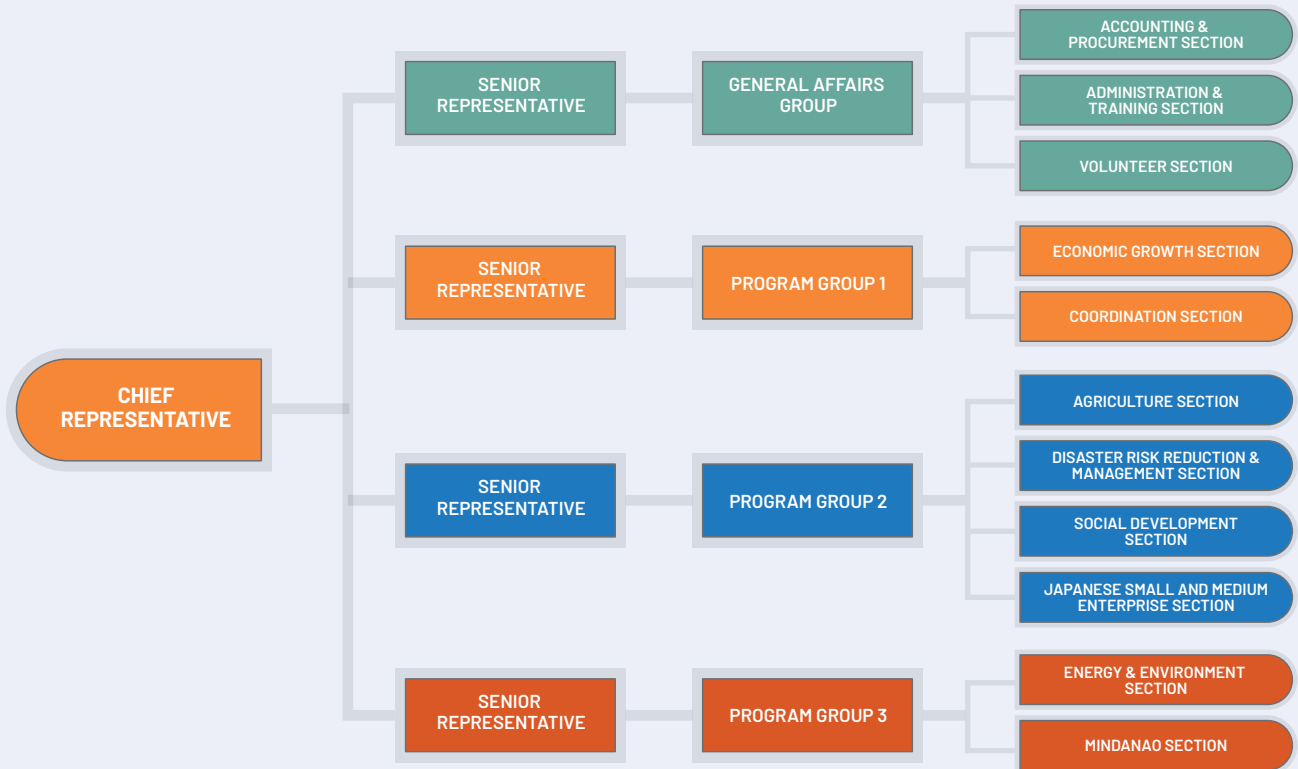
- 72 The Programme for Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users (CARE) - *Cavite, Nationwide*
- 73 The Project for Introducing Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment & Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines (IntERlaPP) - *Nationwide*
- 74 The Project for the Establishment of the One Health Prevention and Treatment Network Model for the Elimination of Rabies in the Philippines - *Metro Manila, Central Luzon*
- 75 Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities (RCF) and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines - *Nationwide*
- 76 Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) - *Nationwide*
- 77 ASEAN University Network/South East Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) (Phase IV) - *Nationwide*
- 78 Verification Survey for the Improvement of Students' Math Performance Using the Hybrid Learning Material "Smart Lecture" - *Cagayan de Oro*
- 79 The Programme for COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support - *Nationwide*
- 80 Project for Strengthening the Philippine National Health Laboratory Network for Infectious Diseases - *Nationwide*
- 81 Project to Develop an Innovative Model for TB Care through the Use of New Technologies - *Metro Manila*
- 82 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Introducing Japanese Style Nursing-Care System - *Pasig City*
- 83 JICA Program for Japanese Studies (JICA Chair) - *Nationwide*
- 84 Comprehensive Empowerment Support for the Parent with Challenging Backgrounds - Social Adaptation Improvement Project for Impoverished Families in Vicinity of Pasay City - *Pasay City, Manila*

Priority Area: Peace and Development in Mindanao

MINDANAO

- 85 Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao - *Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao*
- 86 The Program for the Support for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi City and Its Surrounding Areas - *Lanao del Sur*
- 87 Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro - *BARM*
- 88 Socioeconomic Assistance for Bangsamoro Normalization Process - *BARM*
- 89 Programme for the Urgent Improvement of Socioeconomic Infrastructures in Bangsamoro Region - *BARM*

JICA Philippines Office



General Affairs Group – Administration, Accounting and Procurement, Training, 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



The Management



Acknowledgments

JICA Philippines Office thanks all government officials at the national and local levels, staff at implementing agencies, field staff, non-government organizations, private sector organizations, partner communities, and JICA staff who shared their stories, provided valuable information, arranged interviews, and worked for the success of JICA projects.

Editorial Team:

Jennifer Erice
Laurice Enriquez
Trisha Mendros

Stories by:

Maffy Carandang-Patio

Photographer:

Harvey Tapan

Layout and Design:

Nonie Villanueva
GenioGraphics

Resources and Other Links

For more information about JICA Philippines' activities, please feel free to visit the following webpages:



JICA Philippines
Webpage



JICA English
YouTube Channel



JICA Philippines
Facebook Page



JICA Headquarters
Annual Report 2023



Speeches of the Chief
Representative



Presentations and
Features

BUILDING TOMORROW TOGETHER



JICA PHILIPPINES ANNUAL REPORT 2023

40th Floor Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
Tel +63 2 8889 7119
Fax +63 2 8889 6850
Email pp_oso_rep@jica.go.jp

Jollibee Tower

UnionBank

MARCO POLO