



ANNUAL REPORT
2016

Japan International Cooperation Agency



Partnership for
CHANGE

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Partnership for Change

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JICA Corporate Profile



About the Cover

The cover reflects the spirit of mutual partnership between JICA and the Philippines in transforming the lives of many Filipinos. Photo shows Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) Yui Uneme with students from Tigbauan Central Elementary School. JICA volunteers embody the genuine, reliable, and strategic partnership of JICA with the Philippines, while giving voice and opportunities to those in need. Recognized among "Heroes of Asia" in the 2016 Magsaysay Award, JOCVs are testament to the continuing role of JICA in building a world of solidarity and genuine change that benefits all.

Partnership *for* CHANGE

The year 2016 has been eventful. Japan and the Philippines marked its 60 years of diplomatic relations. Leaders of both countries likewise exchanged visits to further strengthen bilateral ties. Globally, nations are working together towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to ensure that no one is left behind in development.

In the Philippines, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a friend, and strategic development partner committed to various programs and activities to improve the lives of many Filipinos.

This publication features JICA's milestones and activities in 2016 and how we are contributing to the socio-economic agenda of the present Duterte administration.

We share with you narratives on how JICA and the Philippines are working together as mutual partners in a rapidly changing world. The stories show how we continue to share Japan's experience, know-how, and network through our official development assistance (ODA) projects all over the Philippines. In the same way, we also hope to mutually learn from the Philippines' economic development experience.

As we tackle various development issues, let us also keep a broader perspective of the future. The Philippines is in a demographic sweet spot where many young people are brimming with ideas on creating positive change. Our young Japanese volunteers, for example, are also doing their share to contribute and add value to JICA's development cooperation in the Philippines. Let's therefore keep in mind the next generation who will benefit from the efforts we do today.

The way ahead may be challenging, but by working together, JICA is confident we can all rise above the challenges.

To our partners in the Philippines, thank you for your trust with JICA and for your support to our activities. JICA is determined to continue our role in promoting inclusive and dynamic development to help the Philippines, and the rest of our development partners, achieve a better future for all.



SUSUMU ITO

Chief Representative
JICA Philippines



2016

YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2016 marked many historical milestones in JICA-Philippines relations. Participating in remembering 60 years of Japan-Philippines diplomatic relations, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) receiving the 'Asia's Nobel,' the Ramon Magsaysay Award, signing of new development cooperation projects — all these important moments make 2016 a year of hope and change.

(Image from Malacanang Photo Bureau) Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited the Philippines commemorating the 60th anniversary of Japan-Philippines diplomatic relations and met with JICA volunteers dispatched in the country



JICA, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) trained African extension workers on quality rice seed production



JOCV marked its 50th anniversary in the Philippines

JOCV received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for promoting peace and international solidarity



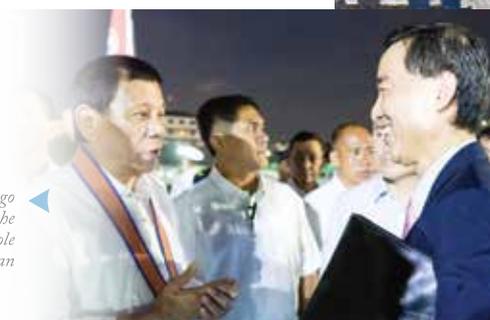
JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka visited the Philippines and inaugurated a farm-to-market road in Mindanao and met with MILF leaders to discuss JICA's support to peace and development in Mindanao

JICA and Japanese non-profit group Salt Payatas opened a training center in Rizal for urban poor children



JICA joined the 25th anniversary of Ormoc's flood disaster while citing Ormoc as model of resiliency

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte commissioned the 'Tubbataba,' first of 10 multi-role response vessels from Japan





Chapter 1

Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth



The proposed NSCR route

Safer, faster, reliable mobility for Filipinos

The sign for change in commuting is everywhere. Rising over the stretch of Malolos in Bulacan to Tutuban in Manila is a 37.9-kilometer North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project, the Philippines' new elevated railway.

The government and business leaders have agreed that a safer, faster, and reliable transport system is key to carry more passengers from one point of Luzon to another for work or tourism purposes.

"The NSCR project aims to promote the mobility of Filipinos by reducing travel time from neighboring areas like Malolos in Bulacan to Tutuban in Manila from the current 2 hours using traditional transportation like buses and jeepneys, to just 35 minutes using railway, while also allowing economic activities currently concentrated in Manila to flow into nearby areas," said Mr. Munehiko Miyata, Project Manager for the NSCR detailed design team.

In 2015, the Philippine government and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed the loan agreement of the landmark NSCR project to support sustainable development in one of the Philippines' economic centers and surrounding areas. Currently, the detailed design study through JICA grant is on-going until August 2017. Said study includes preparing detailed design, such as alignment of the NSCR line, design of elevated structures, architectural design of stations and depot, technical requirements for signalling system and rolling stock, and the draft bidding document of the NSCR project.

The project is a game changer in the public transport system

of a country whose population density is at 19,000 persons for every one square kilometer, higher than Tokyo and most Asian cities. It also promotes better connectivity addressing the country's lack of available public transport infrastructure such as a mass transit system from north to south amid the rapid speed that Metro Manila is currently expanding.

The project will also use advanced Japanese technologies including the seismic design from Japan. For example, the latest seismic design from Japan will be adopted in the NSCR design. This seismic design has now been incorporated into the Philippines' seismic design through a technical cooperation between JICA and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

By adopting said technology, the Philippines which is equally vulnerable to earth quakes, will benefit from a disaster resilient NSCR.

"The North-South Commuter Railway is a physical example of the strong relationship between Japan and the Philippines. Once completed, it will contribute significantly to economic growth, provide affordable and safe transport options to commuters, and improve the quality of life of many Filipinos," said Department of Transportation Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Garry De Guzman.

Through the project, Filipino commuters are also assured of a new kind of mobility that also helps cities and suburban areas accommodate economic growth, build resiliency, and promote happier, quality way of life. ❖



The NSCR will use Japanese technology and seismic design that can withstand natural disasters



The NSCR is among the transport infrastructure projects identified to help decongest traffic under the Transport Infrastructure Roadmap for Sustainable Development of Metro Manila and Surrounding Areas

Fast Facts

"The NSCR will contribute significantly to economic growth, provide affordable and safe transport options to commuters, and improve the quality of life of many Filipinos."

¥241.991 billion
(\$1.99 billion)

Amount of Official Development Assistance (ODA) extended to the project, largest loan extended by JICA to a partner country

2,238 persons for every 8-car train unit

Passenger capacity of the NSCR project

\$1.87 billion

Economic benefits of NSCR to the Philippines through reduced travel time, fuel cost, and air pollution in a span of 20 years

Metro Manila is an evolving city with towering skyscrapers symbolizing a hive of opportunities



Decongesting Metro Manila, spreading growth



With vast mix of transport infrastructure being built along the way, measurable benefits like quality living and working environment for urban dwellers and more attractive investment opportunities are likely to be seen

Like other prosperous urban centers, Metro Manila faces issues of rapid urbanization alongside too much traffic.

Metro Manila, a major urban center and historically a cultural and economic hub, accounts for the largest share in the Philippine economy, with 36.5% gross domestic product (GDP) as of 2015 according to data from Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Despite this, however, issues like traffic and housing continue to become red-hot topics alongside Metro Manila's prosperity.

The Philippine government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have been working together to improve the Metro Manila's urban environment in various ways.

For example, commuter railway, roads and interchange projects, as well as air traffic management systems project are in progress. Also, feasibility studies for Mega Manila subway and Circumferential Road 3 (C3) projects are underway. An information collection survey for the Philippines' new international airport had been completed.

Already, JICA and the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) have laid the foundation to address Metro Manila's enormous growth challenges and keep ahead of changes in the urban landscape. The JICA Roadmap Transport for Transport Infrastructure Development for Metro Manila and its Surrounding Areas (Region III and Region IV-A) in 2014 has outlined key transport infrastructure projects to fill the infrastructure gaps and challenges in Metro Manila. Three years have passed, and the government of the Philippines and JICA are now cooperating to update the roadmap.

"We want to help the Philippines create equal opportunities for all and strengthen its middle class by promoting projects that will promote a better quality of life in Metro Manila, while helping spread economic opportunities in nearby growth areas," said JICA Chief Representative Susumu Ito.

With vast mix of transport infrastructure being built along the way, and once the construction dust settled, measurable benefits like quality living and working environment for urban dwellers and more attractive investment opportunities are likely to be seen. ❖



A cultural and economic hub, Metro Manila is dotted with 18th century buildings and was a global trade route during the Spanish period

A Preview of JICA's Current Transport Infrastructure Projects in Metro Manila and its Surrounding Areas

LOANS

- Central Luzon Link Expressway – March 2012*
- Arterial Road Bypass – March 2012*
- Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems – March 2013*
- Metro Manila Interchange Construction (Phase 6)- March 2015*
- Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement – August 2015*
- North-South Commuter Railway – November 2015*
- New Communications Navigation Surveillance / Air Traffic Management (CNS / ATM) Systems Development – March 2002*

*Loan Agreement signing month and year

STUDIES

- Feasibility Study for Mega Manila Subway
- Feasibility Study for Circumferential Road 3
- Information Collection Survey for New Manila International Airport



The JICA transport infrastructure projects in Metro Manila aim to contribute to a better quality of life in the city



The arterial road bypass in Plaridel, Bulacan will alleviate traffic in Metro Manila's nearby areas



(Image from Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines) JICA's support to air traffic management systems is visible through the new satellite technology installed in Metro Manila and 14 other regions in the Philippines



(Image from Toyota Motor Philippines) Philippine automotive industry eyes a global position using GVC analysis approach



DTI Assistant Secretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy Dr. Rafaelita M. Aldaba cites role of evidence-based policy making

How a global value chain study supports Philippines' race to global competitiveness

For many decades, local manufacturers count on a fundamental fact: you have to know your strengths to compete in the global market.

But lately, with the integration of ASEAN economies and changing market trends, the regional value chains and global transactions have become increasingly competitive.

Thus, the two-year technical cooperation project Elaboration of Industrial Promotion Plans Using Value Chain Analysis to support the Philippines' industrial promotions strategies on auto-related manufacturing industries was initiated in 2016. This involves the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Board of Investments (BOI), and other government agencies working together in helping the Philippines craft an industrial promotions policy, boost competitiveness, and create jobs.

"For the Philippines to maximize the benefits of being part of a global production network, we have to further develop our skills in scientific and evidence-based policy making. Through JICA's technical assistance, it will be

easier for us (government, academe, and local industry) to implement our policy approaches, understand and help each other, and compete better in a globalized environment," explained Rafaelita Aldaba, Assistant Secretary for Industry Development and Trade Policy of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The project is recently using the Philippine Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy (CARS) Program providing fiscal support for specific investments of automotive makers as benchmark.

The global value chain (GVC) analysis, according to Masashi Takano, study team leader, aims to look into the strengths and weaknesses of local companies including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Philippines' car industry and identify a promotions strategy to attract more investments into the country.

"This is an opportunity for the Philippines to study mechanisms such as industry clustering for example in integrating its SMEs from the manufacturing industry in the GVC," Takano said.

"Through JICA's technical assistance, it will be easier for us (government, academe, and local industry) to implement our policy approaches, understand and help each other, and compete better in a globalized environment."

The current challenge in the automotive sector, for instance, is angling the position of local SME suppliers' in producing the roughly 30,000 parts needed in automotive assembly. Countries like Thailand and India have been far ahead of the game, and the Philippine industry shows promise in growing its share in the years to come.

Aldaba said, "The project is a welcome support to our policy formulation process and approaches. With this initiative, we hope to equip ourselves with the right skills in finding the best position for Filipino manufacturers and services providers in the global marketplace." ❖



SPECIAL FEATURE

A Retrospective: Partnership for quality transport infrastructure

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has actively supported quality transport infrastructure in the Philippines since the 1970s. In fact, 45% of JICA's ODA loan portfolio over the years was channeled to support transport infrastructure to enhance mobility and connectivity, facilitate trade and investments, promote rural development and agricultural production and accelerate economic growth up to the remotest areas in the Philippines.

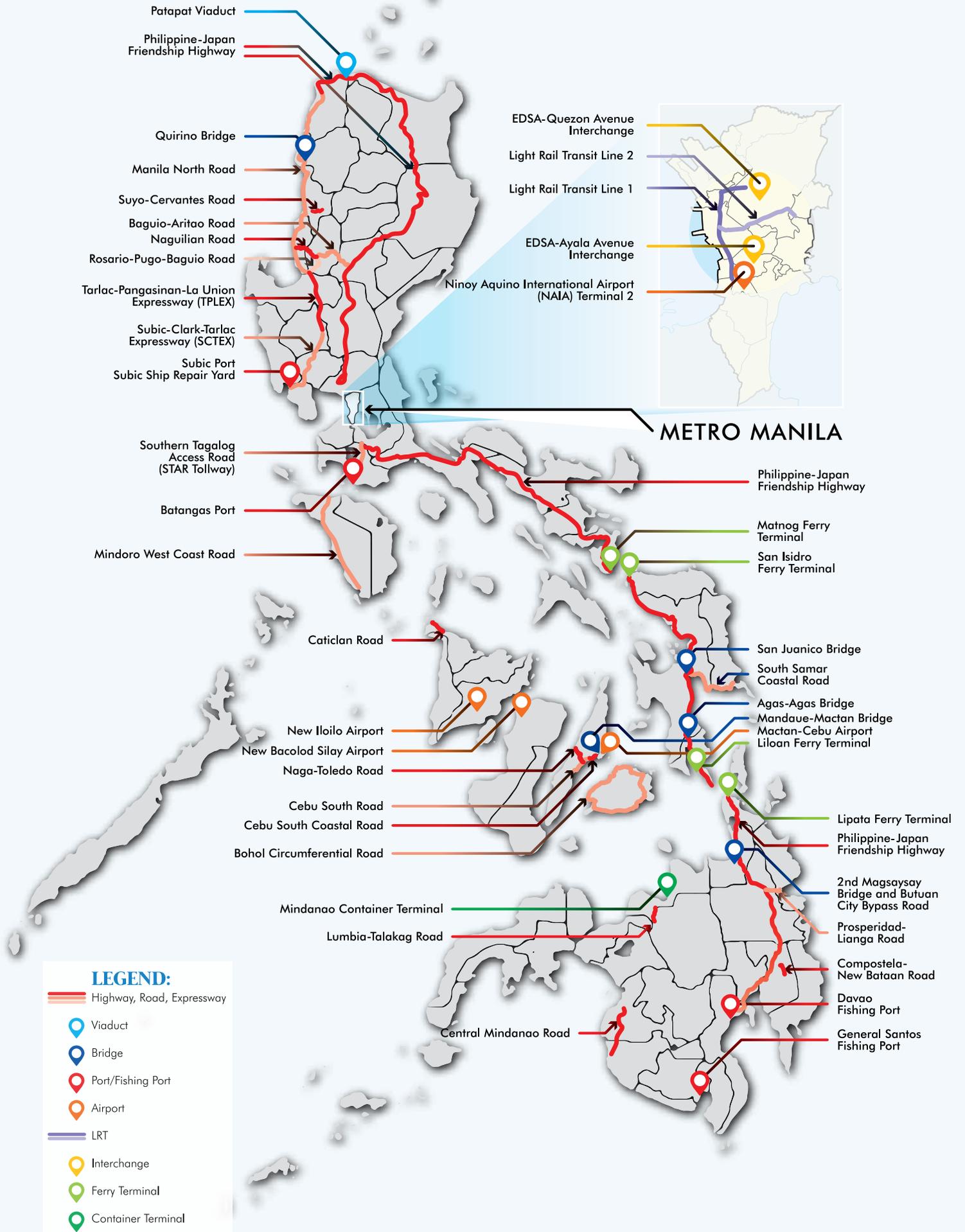
Most of JICA's infrastructure projects can be seen until today, proving their safety and resiliency amid major natural disasters and rising urbanization.

Here are examples of infrastructure projects built by JICA through the years to contribute to Philippine connectivity and economic growth.



Top to bottom: (1) Mindanao Container Terminal; (2) Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX); (3) Central Mindanao Road Project; (4) Bohol Circumferential Road; (5) Agas-Agas Bridge; (6) Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAA) Terminal 2

JICA Philippines Transport Infrastructure Map





Chapter 2

**Overcoming
Vulnerability and
Stabilizing Bases of
Human Life**



Above: (Image from BiotechJP) At the food processing facility of low protein rice in the Philippines

Left: Local farmers may find additional source of income through low protein rice product

A Japanese technology that raises the bar in high-value rice production

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) afflicts more than a million adult Filipinos and is among the top causes of mortality in the Philippines.

This data from the National Nutrition and Health Survey (2003-2004) does little to assure farming communities and the general population of healthy, productive lives. The situation has driven the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), and Japanese small and medium enterprise (SME) BiotechJP Corp. to innovate on the Filipinos' staple food, rice, to reduce the protein in rice that aggravates CKD.

"The project's aim is to develop a novel product in the form of healthy, low-protein rice that every Filipino family with a CKD patient can afford," said Dr. Manuel Jose Regalado, chief science research specialist of PhilRice.

With help of a rice processing technology from BiotechJP, a low-protein rice pilot plant was established at PhilRice in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Through conventional food processing and biotechnology operations (washing and soaking milled rice with purified water, fermentation, steaming, sterilizing, and packaging), protein in rice is reduced to minimum resulting in a "high dietary therapeutic value rice grain."

The product, according to BiotechJP, could actually be an additional source of income for local farmers. Launched in

"Through the project, the Japanese private sector finds opportunity to work closely with the Philippine government in improving the socio-economic situation of Filipinos."

November 2016, a box of 20 low-protein rice packs (200 grams) sells at P2,000.

"We've already started distributing the products to hospitals and clinics. Through the project, the Japanese private sector finds opportunity to work closely with the Philippine government in improving the socio-economic situation of Filipinos," shared Trisha Ann Garcia, registered nutritionist-dietitian of BiotechJP.

Among the plans of the project is to export the product to Southeast Asia and contribute not just to farmers but also to the local export industry.

Philippine government 2012 data showed that poverty incidence is high in the farming sector (38%). By adding value to farmers' produce through Japanese technology, some health gaps can be addressed while helping ordinary Filipino farmers seize new opportunities. ❖



Above, clockwise: (1) Through CBARAD, a disaster management system was created in pilot barangays; (2) Barangay Dungon-A officials discuss their roles in disaster management; (3) A barangay worker shows the marker remembering the Typhoon Frank disaster in Iloilo; (4) PWDs as trainers of disaster management in the community

A coastal city in Panay Island adopts inclusive view of disaster preparedness

"We are all equal and we can all go beyond our limits as human beings."

A marker of the 7.2 feet flooding from Typhoon Frank in 2008 in Barangay Dungon A in Iloilo City is found under a rainbow graffiti in the barangay hall. The marker was a constant reminder of the flooding that affected 300 houses in the area, and the people's resilience to worst-case flood scenarios.

Eight years after Typhoon Frank, communities in Iloilo have stepped up their disaster planning efforts.

The city, together with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), CITYNET Yokohama Project Office, and Yokohama City, implemented a Community Based Adaptation and Resiliency Against Disasters (CBARAD) Project to strengthen the disaster preparedness of vulnerable barangays. The project has since expanded to its second phase building capacity of more communities and strengthening the operational capability of the City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council.

"The CBARAD project helped us realize that everyone has a stake in disaster risk reduction management (DRRM). The city set up a system where the council and a Secretariat Disaster Augmentation Team (SecDat) unite

together to arrive at sound decisions in times of disasters," said Darwin Joemil G. Papa, executive officer of City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (CDRRMO).

The CBARAD initiative paved the way for the city's inclusive approach to DRRM, taking into account vulnerable groups like PWDs, senior citizens, and children.

"Our sector was recognized as leaders and trainers for students on DRRM," said Mark Espesor, president of the Federation of Persons with Disabilities Associations in Iloilo City (FPDAIC).

Through Disability Inclusive DRR trainings, barangay officials and residents learn the kinds of disabilities and community participation during disasters. They also hold Kabalaka (an Ilonggo term for care) camps to teach DRR prevention education to students using games, and originally introduced through Plus Arts, an NGO based in Kobe, Japan.

"In times of disasters, everyone is vulnerable and we should be united. We try to help bring back the Filipino value of mutual help or bayanihan and correct the mindset of people on PWDs. We are all equal and we can all go beyond our

limits as human beings," added Espesor.

The CBARAD project further paved the way for a "localized DRRM system and structure" where barangays establish an early warning system and identify community hazards.

"The CBARAD project encouraged multi-stakeholder involvement in disaster preparedness in Iloilo. Through soft structures like crisis management trainings, we complement JICA's hard infrastructure DRR support for the city," said CITYNET programs director Kendra Hirata.

Aside from PWDs, universities in Iloilo are now also actively sharing new knowledge and research to support DRR. "We try to listen to everyone and encourage collaboration at all levels to strengthen DRR. The flooding in Iloilo is a wake-up call on the vulnerabilities we all face during disasters," said City Councilor Lady Julie Grace Baronda.

To ensure sustainability, the city has introduced a number of ordinances and resolutions to continue activities introduced through CBARAD for long-term resiliency building for the people of Iloilo. ❖



Left: A warning post under EFCOS helps advance flood warnings; Right: JICA staff joined a briefing of the EFCOS operations including the Rosario master control structure

Disaster awareness rises with help from a flood control project

"I hope that EFCOS will continue as an instrument to create public awareness on flood disasters which had always been the project's intention."



Ms. Maxima Quiambao, who has retired from government service, was the former EFCOS head and a recipient of the 2016 JICA Recognition Award

A flood control initiative that spans decades has raised public awareness on disasters in Metro Manila.

Perils from the country's increasing average annual rainfall (up to 4,064 millimeters) that could cause similar inundations of 2006 (Typhoon Milenyo), and 2009 (Ondoy) have been reduced. Thanks to the newly restored telemetry equipment under the Effective Flood Control Operating System (EFCOS), a project provided to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) under a technical cooperation of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

"I've seen how EFCOS helped establish an effective warning system for flood management in the Pasig-Marikina-Laguna Lake areas. The project helped raise public awareness on flood disasters, even saving lives of more than 3,000 families living along the riverbanks during the project's early operations in the 1990s," said Maxima Quiambao, former head of the EFCOS project and past director of MMDA's flood control and sewerage division.

EFCOS, which began in 1993, established a telemetry system in the country to monitor floods and communicate flood alerts. Due to extreme rainfall events in 2006 and 2009, some parts of EFCOS have been severely damaged.

The rehabilitation project in 2016 helped restore the telemetry and radio systems as well as nine flood warning posts along the Manggahan Floodway. The system supports flood operations in the city's flood control structures, Rosario Weir Floodgates and Napindan Hydraulics Control Structure.

"I hope that EFCOS will continue as an instrument to create public awareness on flood disasters which had always been the project's intention in the 1990s," said Quiambao. With nearly three decades of her career spent on being part of EFCOS, Quiambao remains positive that the rehabilitation project will usher in less flood damage, and save more lives.

A recipient of JICA Recognition Award 2016 for her long-term contribution to JICA's activities, Quiambao is thankful that even after her stint at EFCOS, the flood control project is being improved. "The work is never really done yet. My wish is for the sustainability, expansion, and enhancement of the system to promote a flood-resilient metropolis." ❖

Sewerage project supports drive towards balanced development

Nothing beats the iconic sunset that greets one when passing by Manila Bay, a natural harbor bounded by several cities in Metro Manila. A hub for commerce and trade, it is hard to deny that rapid urbanization, thriving industries, and human activities have taken its toll on the rancid, poor water quality in this major port.

But, that could soon change. By 2018, a PHP 5.3 Billion sewage treatment facility of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) shall commence operation with the hopes of improving the city's sewage system and lessening the water pollution problem in Manila Bay's tributaries. The facility received funding assistance from the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) through JICA's two-step loan scheme called Environmental Development Project (EDP).

"The project aims to improve wastewater treatment in one of Metro Manila's key cities," said Crisanto Golocinda, MWSI project manager for Wastewater facilities and conveyance projects.

The 28,000 square meters facility located in Sucat, Parañaque is one of the sub-projects financed under EDP, which extends financial assistance to the public and private sector for projects that contribute to the improvement and preservation of the environment.

The facility can treat an average of 76,000 cubic meters of waste water daily from the city of Parañaque and parts of Las Piñas. It is estimated to service 444,252 members of the population in these areas.

Based on 2015 statistics, less than 10% of waste water is treated in the Philippines putting the country's water bodies

A model PPP where public institutions and a private company work in tandem to finance projects towards balanced economic development

at risk of contamination. Furthermore, according to a 2008 World Bank study, "Economic Impacts of Sanitation in the Philippines," poor sanitation that includes failure to provide waste water treatment services results to an estimated annual economic loss of 78 billion pesos. This is brought on by its negative impact on public health, water resources and tourism, among others.

"When our water sources are contaminated, we are putting at risk the health and ecological balance of our community," added Golocinda.

The sewage facility initiative can be viewed as a model of public-private partnership (PPP) where public institutions and a private company work in tandem to finance and implement projects with long-term impact towards balanced, sustainable economic development.

"In the near future, we will expand our coverage to provide other concession areas with municipal wastewater treatment services and contribute to the country's efforts to preserve our waterways," Golocinda said. ❖



On-going construction of the sewage treatment facility project



Japanese and Filipino engineers work in tandem under the JICA-MWSI initiative



Left: Engineers at work inside the SCADA room
Below: Training MCWD personnel on SCADA's operations



"We've been using this technology in Japan and by sharing it with the Filipinos, we hope that it can help identify countermeasures and minimize water supply issues."

Modernizing Cebu's water infrastructure

After years of grappling with manual recording of the water status of its pumping stations, the Metropolitan Cebu Water District (MCWD) adopts a new technology and sees better prospects in its water management system.

The technology Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) was introduced in Cebu in 2016 through MCWD's partnership with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and Japanese firms NJS Consultants, Yokohama Water, and Hitachi-Yokogawa JV.

The SCADA initiative, a grant aid from the Japanese government, addresses the need for real-time monitoring of water flow, pressure, water level in Buhisan dam, and reservoir in all of Cebu's water supply systems.

"Before, we only learn of water problems from the complaints of our consumers, but now with the SCADA technology we are able to improve our services and address water supply issues ahead," said Mr. Edgar Ortega, MCWD production and distribution head. MCWD currently supplies water to more than 175, 000 households in Metro Cebu.

Located in the MCWD office at the center of Cebu's urban area, the SCADA is composed of computer-aided monitoring

systems operated by engineers with support from a Japanese expert from Hitachi-Yokogawa JV Kiyoyuki Kitaoku.

"We've been using this technology in Japan and by sharing it with the Filipinos, we hope that it can help identify countermeasures and minimize water supply issues," Kitaoku explained.

In addition, the SCADA project also aims to reduce MCWD's current 25% non-revenue water using the technology's database management system.

To accelerate effective use of SCADA, the project is also training MCWD engineers on its maintenance and operations.

With Cebu's potential as economic growth center outside Metro Manila, MCWD has recognized the considerable opportunities technology can provide to manage Cebu's water supply using SCADA in other areas. "Eventually, we hope to apply the technology not just in water distribution but also in water production management," added Ortega.

By stepping up its operations, the project shows that the private sector like MCWD is also a partner in securing a stable future for the next generation in the area of water supply. ❖



Tagum National Trade School is the only tech-voc high school offering Automotive Servicing course in Tagum City

Schools could use available resources to improve the quality of education and match students' skills with industry's needs

A trade school in Mindanao builds students' future through industry-based classes

Three students tighten the bolt of a red Suzuki hatchback in a classroom resembling an automotive servicing shop at Tagum National Trade School (TNTS) in northern Davao.

The auto shop set-up was part of the innovation introduced by the school to its senior high school students enrolled in automotive servicing course. The facility is part of the school's Free Automotive Services (FAST) Program that aims to develop real-life skills of its technical vocational students.

FAST was established in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) who provided the school

with a P1-million automotive servicing facility, the first of its kind in Region XI. FAST allows TNTS students perform basic repair and car maintenance for Tagum residents and nearby communities

"We saw how advanced Japan is in training technical vocational students in their facilities and laboratories," said Dr. Mario Gregorio, TNTS school principal. "Japanese students do not need immersion activities because equipment in their classes are already what the industry uses. That is why here we try to improvise a program that gives students actual industry experiences."

In the second quarter of 2016,

Gregorio along with Mr. Felipe Epe, TNTS assistant principal were trained in Japan under JICA-Department of Education (DepEd) Project Supporting Senior High School (SHS) Program in Technical Vocational High Schools. TNTS was selected as one of the model technical vocational schools to participate in the training to help improve SHS implementation in the country.

Through lectures and school visits in Japan, Gregorio and Epe saw how schools could use available resources to improve the quality of education and match students' skills with industry's needs.

"For places like Tagum with limited industries, our training in Japan helped us come up with innovations like FAST to help students learn in industry settings," shared Epe.

To date, the program has served about 30 clients in Tagum already.

"We also want to help our low-income students eventually earn from their practical classes as well as share our facility with other schools in Tagum," Epe added.

At the JICA-assisted facility, students test to see what's wrong with the car mounted on the hydraulic lifter, which was as real as life in automotive career can get. ❖



JICA provided the automotive servicing facility for hands-on learning and practicum of students

In Leyte, community-based health governance addresses maternal and infant mortality

"The challenge is to sustain JICA's assistance and continue improving our health facilities to maintain the success of our maternal and child health services."



In a coastal town in front of Leyte Gulf called Dulag, Ma. Cecilia Palejaro visits a barangay carrying a pregnancy tracking form as she undertakes a mission: to ensure that pregnant mothers in Dulag have quality pregnancy.

Palejaro is one of the 325 members of Dulag's community health team (CHT) involved in the monitoring initiative that aims to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

In Dulag, where the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the rural health unit (RHU) of the Department of Health (DOH), and the local government worked together for a project Strengthening Maternal and Child Health Service in Eastern Visayas (SMACHS), a development cooperation promoting facility-based delivery and strengthening health systems is paying off.

The rate of maternal mortality is on a decline, and there are LGU ordinances incentivizing CHT members for promoting quality pregnancy.

"We've sustained zero maternal deaths for the past 10 years with help from the project. This was also in part due to the JICA-assisted trainings of our health workers and assistance on Maternal and Neonatal Death Review that helped us implement proper referrals and appropriate medical care," said Dr. Allan Alvarez, Municipal Health Officer of Dulag.

The project also introduced supportive supervision (SSV) where supervisory teams of core referral facilities or hospitals monitor the RHUs' health services. Through SSV, continuous monitoring and coaching to improve Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC) services is assured.

Since 2010 when the project began, CHT members in Dulag maintain a detailed recording of pregnancy data and family planning practices of each barangay. The municipality also institutionalized a system where a CHT member receives a portion of the municipality's Maternity Care Benefit Package under PhilHealth for pre- and post-natal referral to the birthing facility. This incentive has further encouraged 100% facility-based deliveries in Dulag.

"The challenge is to sustain JICA's assistance and continue improving our health facilities to maintain the success of our maternal and child health services. Eventually, we aim to computerize all our medical records and expand our laboratory services at par with private hospitals," said Mayor Mildred Joy Que of Dulag.

The MCH success in a small municipality like Dulag is a fine barometer of widening access to health care of rural communities that can be replicated to other areas in the country. ❖



Top to bottom: A mother having a pre-natal check-up; Mother and child during check-up; Health team of the Dulag Municipal Health Office with Mayor Mildred Joy Que (4th from left) in front of the Dulag RHU, one of JICA's quick impact projects (QIPs) for Typhoon Yolanda recovery.



3D printed prosthesis promotes inclusivity of PWDs



3D printed prosthesis allows PWDs like Ludovice to lead productive lives

How 3D printing technology is changing the lives of Filipino PWDs

"Through 3D printed prosthesis, we hope that PWDs could have a better advantage in finding jobs and exploring other opportunities."

Ernesto Ludovice, 60, who lost his leg from diabetes six years ago was among the beneficiaries of a 3D printed prosthesis, and is now already walking without crutches.

Impelled by a growing number of Filipinos suffering from diabetes and poor nutrition whose needs include amputation treatment and persons with disabilities (PWDs) without access to low-cost prosthesis, a 3D printed prosthesis project is changing many aspects on how PWDs live.

Kanagawa-based firm SHC Design Inc., Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and local clinic Orthopaedie Frey Far East, Inc. piloted the project to 7 patients, the first in the Philippines.

As opposed to traditional prosthesis, 3D printed versions can be manufactured in about 30 hours and cost under P10,000.

The project is under the SME Partnership Promotion scheme of JICA where Japanese companies are tapped to address development issues in partner countries like the Philippines.

A former Japanese volunteer under JICA's Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program Yutaka Tokushima is helping introduce the technology to the Philippines. "Ninety percent of amputees use crutches for life. Through 3D printed prosthesis, we hope that PWDs could have a better advantage in finding jobs and exploring other opportunities," he said.

To date, SHC is training the staff of local clinic Orthopaedie Frey Far East, Inc. on 3D printing technology. "We hope that eventually rural areas and other small islands in the Philippines could have their 3D prosthesis center as this could mean jobs for the center and more gainful employment for PWDs." Tokushima shared. ❖



Chapter 3
**Peace and
Development
in Mindanao**



Left: A local farmer at a farmer field school in Matanog, Maguindanao; Right: Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, JICA Chief Representative Susumu Ito, farmer leader Ibrahim Dimasangkay from Poblacion, Barira, Maguindanao, Moro Islamic Liberation Front Chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, and Bangsamoro Transition Commission Chair Gbadzali Jaafar during the graduation ceremony held in Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao

Farmers show the way in leading change in Mindanao's conflict areas

Local farmers Tamano Abdullah and Farouk Puting embody the changing agriculture picture in what used to be former Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) camps in Matanog and Barira towns in Maguindanao.

They have learned the wisdom of using high quality seeds, monitoring rice yields, and managing their farms. Through an upland rice-based farming technology transfer program for the Bangsamoro, farmers like Abdullah and Puting embraced new farming methods and way of thinking that improved their harvests and income.

Having experienced decades of conflict in their community, farmers in Maguindanao are steadily reaping the rewards of the ongoing efforts in Mindanao towards peace building and sustainable agriculture. "The trainings taught us the importance of unity among farmers and knowing that what we are doing is also part of our faith so we have to take care of our land," said Abdullah.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) –ARMM, Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), and Bangsamoro Leadership and Management Institute (BLMI) have trained 362 farmers under the training program.

"The training emphasized the relevance of Islamic values and leadership and management trainings in relation to rice farming. We've incorporated values transformation to bridge concerns on values, peace, and sustainability," said PhilRice Executive Director Dr. Sailila Abdula.

The project, a two-year training initiative under JICA's Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the

"The trainings taught us the importance of unity among farmers and knowing that what we are doing is also part of our faith so we have to take care of our land."

Bangsamoro (CCDP-B) in partnership with the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC), includes information campaign and advocacy, establishment of farmers field schools (FFS), and study tours of farmers and ulamas (religious leaders).

Aside from leadership trainings, farmers were taught upland palay check system or using quality seeds and proper cropping methods as well as vegetable and livestock production.

"Aside from additional knowledge on farming, I also learned to be humble and how to work better with my co-farmers," said Puting, who like other farmers in Maguindanao, discovered the delicate balance of technical knowledge and leadership values.

Rising above decades-long obstacles, farmers in these conflict-affected communities are showing the way towards lasting and inclusive peace and development. ❖



Top: Cacao farmers in Maragusan, Compostela Valley are part of a cooperative that sells cacao to local markets and consolidators
Bottom: With help from JICA and LANDBANK, cacao farmers are able to find their markets in the value chain

Igniting positive change in rural farms



Farmer-entrepreneur Bolonia shows his cacao harvest

"Through the LANDBANK-JICA credit facility, local farmers learned to leverage their agriculture skills and find the right markets in the value chain."

Fifty-eight year old Galicano Bolonia is a cacao farmer in Barangay Mapawa, Maragusan, Province of Compostela Valley. From zero income, he now earns as much as 105 pesos for every kilo of cacao. A good harvest yields cacao farmers like him as much as 78 kilos. His income sends his children to school and provides for his family.

Like an entrepreneur, Bolonia is managing his farm like a business. He accessed financing support from Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) under the bank's Agricultural Credit Support Project with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and used the money to buy more seedlings, fertilizers, farm supplies, and a budget for farm maintenance.

"I used to grow bananas and corn but we discovered there's more worth to our farm when we began growing cacao," said Bolonia.

The topography of Bolonia's farm and the Compostela Valley region was ideal for cacao farming. Farmers in Maragusan diversified into this commodity to increase their agriculture productivity and eventually compete in the local and global market.

About 6,559 farmers in Maragusan including Bolonia compose a local cooperative MAGROW MPC (Maragusan Growers Multi-Purpose Cooperative) that sells their cacao to local markets and to a consolidator, which then supplies cacao to an American global chocolates manufacturer. Under the Cocoa Production and Purchase Agreement (CPPA) with MAGROW MPC, the consolidator also provides technical

assistance in cacao production to ensure the quality of MAGROW's cacao.

MAGROW MPC is further supported by JICA's Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development Project (MINSAAD) with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), which provides small scale agriculture infrastructure (including communal irrigation, farm-to-market roads, rural water supply, and post-harvest facilities) and agriculture/organizational capacity building support.

"The LANDBANK-JICA project has uplifted the lives of our farmers. The low interest credit offered under the project helped us maximize our productivity and buy seeds and equipment," said Arcadio Sabella, chairman of MAGROW MPC. "Our farmers receive training before granted loans, including good agriculture practices and entrepreneurial values. They've become at par with professionals and businessmen."

From merely growing bananas 22 years ago, farmers here learned how to turn their farms into something more through cacao and eventually specialty coffee.

"With credit support from LANDBANK since 1995, MAGROW has successfully increased its assets from about 47,000 pesos to 278 million pesos. Through the LANDBANK-JICA credit facility, local farmers learned to leverage their agriculture skills and find the right markets in the value chain," said Vice President Charlotte Conde, Head of LANDBANK-Davao Lending Center. ❖



Japanese expert Koji Demizu (left) with a palm oil farmer in Maguindanao

Creating innovations in the rural value chain

Pundato Alug is an abaca farmer in Calanogas, Lanao del Sur. For several years, lack of planting materials hampered abaca production in their community. But, when a mix of knowledge and mentoring reached their farmers' cooperative, they found an opportunity to scale up their abaca sales.

With help from an on-going technical cooperation Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project (AICCEP) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-ARMM, players in the abaca industry build up their strengths and found ways to create innovations in their cluster.

Abaca, a natural fiber indigenous to the Philippines, used to be a prime export commodity but production has fallen over the years. Finished abaca products, according to Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 2015 data, contribute 78% to the country's total abaca earnings, proving the industry's promise.

"The project's pilot nurseries helped us find sources of planting materials. Through our cluster consultations with academe and other government agencies, we also learned new methods and skills to diversify our products into twines, ropes and bags for example," shared Alug.

Their Abaca Farm Producers' Cooperative in Calanogas now supplies abaca fiber to an international company at a reasonable price and without intervention of middlemen. "Through AICCEP, farmers like us learned the value of collaboration, continued search to develop and innovate our products, and developed discipline in ourselves and our workers," he added.

AICCEP is a product of an earlier industry cluster project of JICA and DTI in Davao in 2007. The project's success benefited other industries as it expanded into national level supporting 24 industries, and then the ARMM clusters.

The model encouraged farmers like Alug to invest in their own industry, share resources, and upgrade their skills. "The industry's benchmarking also provided them opportunities to diversify their products. As abaca production increases, jobs also increase since every hectare of land will need more workers to plant and harvest abaca," said Mautante Marohombosar, abaca cluster coordinator in DTI-ARMM in Lanao del Sur.

With support to other clusters like rubber, seaweeds, palm oil, coffee, and coconut, AICCEP is truly helping create an innovation ecosystem in remote rural areas, one industry cluster at a time. ❖



(Image from DTI-ARMM) A woman abaca weaver shows bag making in Mindanao

Vignettes of AICCEP's Impact

“The project is an example of public-private partnership where government collaborates with private sector (coconut industry) in creating jobs and opportunities like diversifying coconut products.”

*- Abdullah Sumael,
Coconut Industry Cluster*

“We learned from Japan’s system on how to promote our SMEs, as well as the role of agriculture cooperatives in helping the farmers, understanding wholesale markets, and applying best practices in marketing and branding.”

*- Domingo Narsico,
Rubber Industry Cluster*

“We were able to work together to address productivity and product quality. Through the project, more land owners and cooperatives became interested in coffee farming.”

*- Salem Tayong,
Coffee Industry Cluster*

“The project ushered in many opportunities for SMEs. They were given access to raw materials for manufacturing while developing other industries that can use the by-products of major industries like coconut and abaca.”

*- Fernando de Dios,
DTI-ARMM Regional
Industry Focal Person*

“AICCEP provided us technical know-how in palm oil farm management. We were able to access support from different government agencies and implement best practices from our technical trainings and benchmarking activities.”

*- Subarto Ibay, Maguindanao
Palm Oil Industry Cluster*

“AICCEP taught us the concept of industry clustering that brings together all stakeholders as partners rather than competitors. The farmers were given equal opportunities to enjoy the gains of interventions and value adding practices. Moreover, the project taught us Japan’s cooperative system that advances the needs of ordinary farmers and how their vulnerabilities can be protected from market malpractices.”

*- Evelyn Martinez,
Seaweed Industry Cluster*



JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka said that peace and development in Mindanao has always been part of JICA's priorities in the Philippines



Residents in front of a component of the farm-to-market road in Alamada that was recently completed

Giving people equal opportunities to improve their lives is a starting point towards peace

Road to peace

When one walks around in Alamada, North Cotabato, it is easy to spot the effects of decades-old conflict among communities.

Unpaved roads, one of the visible signs of tragic conflict, deprived many farmers with opportunities to transport their goods to the markets easily.

But things are beginning to look up. Thanks to an 8.6-kilometer farm-to-market road project under the Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CD-CAAM) of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Alamada in 2016.

JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka, who led the project's groundbreaking in March 2016, emphasized that JICA's development cooperation activities in Mindanao aim to "reduce poverty and realize peace dividends".

Aside from Alamada, North Cotabato, JICA also supports farm-to-market roads in Datu Paglas in Maguindanao and Bumbaran in Lanao del Sur.

The farm-to-market road project, along with other JICA-assisted ongoing projects in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas, prove that giving people equal opportunities to improve their lives, is a starting point towards peace. ❖

\$240++ million

Development assistance from the Government of Japan and JICA under the Japan Bangsamoro Initiative for Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD) as of 2016

Supporting an urban center's boom in Mindanao



NEDA XI Regional Director Maria Lourdes Lim shares Davao's balanced development efforts

"The JICA technical cooperation assistance will help local government and development planners identify the optimal mix of multi-modal integrated and efficient infrastructure network to attract more investments and sustain regional growth."

One can easily see the soul of this rising urban center in southeast Mindanao – busy cityscapes, trucks and cars plying the streets blending in with skilled human resources from various places in the region.

Welcome to Davao City, a home in the middle of a huge boom where over a dozen financial centers, manufacturing companies, and business process outsourcing firms are in the frontiers.

Amid this urban growth, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), City Government of Davao, and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are working for the city's Infrastructure Development Plan and Capacity Building project that will support Mindanao's economic powerhouse.

"It's time to rebalance development towards rural areas and new urban centers beyond Metro Manila," said Maria Lourdes Lim, NEDA XI regional director. "The technical cooperation between the Philippines and JICA offers opportunities for economic development planners to give Mindanao its due in the national economic pie."

For the past five years, Davao City and its entire region's GDP averages 8 to 9%, higher than the national

average. Latest population data is at 1.6 million. Investments beyond traditional agriculture commodities are also rising.

The other side of the coin is the burgeoning traffic and fast paced lifestyle offering ample evidence of development and a changing city.

"The JICA technical cooperation assistance will help local government and development planners identify the optimal mix of multi-modal integrated and efficient infrastructure network to attract more investments and sustain regional growth," said Lim.

Capacity building activities for planners and local government will also identify interventions and priorities for Davao.

Under the National Spatial Strategy and Mindanao Spatial Strategy and Development Framework, Davao City is a metropolitan center and an economic hub.

"The project will help assess, design, and manage huge investments for infrastructure development," she added.

In the middle of Davao's boom, one can see how local people are balancing development, riding its wave, and shaping the direction where the wave takes them. ❖

Left: At the center of bustling Davao City stands People's Park, a key landmark tourist attraction; Right: An image of the massive flow of vehicles plying Davao City.





Young leaders from Mindanao including Ofong (front row, 2nd from left) visit Hokkaido under JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program

"The training in Japan showed the importance of turning problems into opportunities."

Young trainee returns to Lake Sebu with renewed vision to help indigenous community

Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have.

– Margaret Mead

Zerimie Ofong works at the local government of Lake Sebu, assisting development projects and preparing documents and communications at the Mayor's Office.

Like other young people, Zerimie has her share of dreams for fellow indigenous youth in her hometown. After a 3-week Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Young Leaders) of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Zerimie aims to organize a group to promote Lake Sebu's tourism and be involved in preserving and promoting local culture.

Home to indigenous groups T'boli and Ubo, Lake Sebu is an ecotourism paradise perched on South Cotabato's highlands.

"The training in Japan widened my perspective on how to further develop Lake Sebu and help uplift our people's living standards," she said.

One of the activities she also aims to do after returning from Japan is a youth seminar on Indigenous People Rights Act with the National Commission on Indigenous People and the

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). Many indigenous people especially the youth are not yet familiar with the contents of the Indigenous People Rights Act.

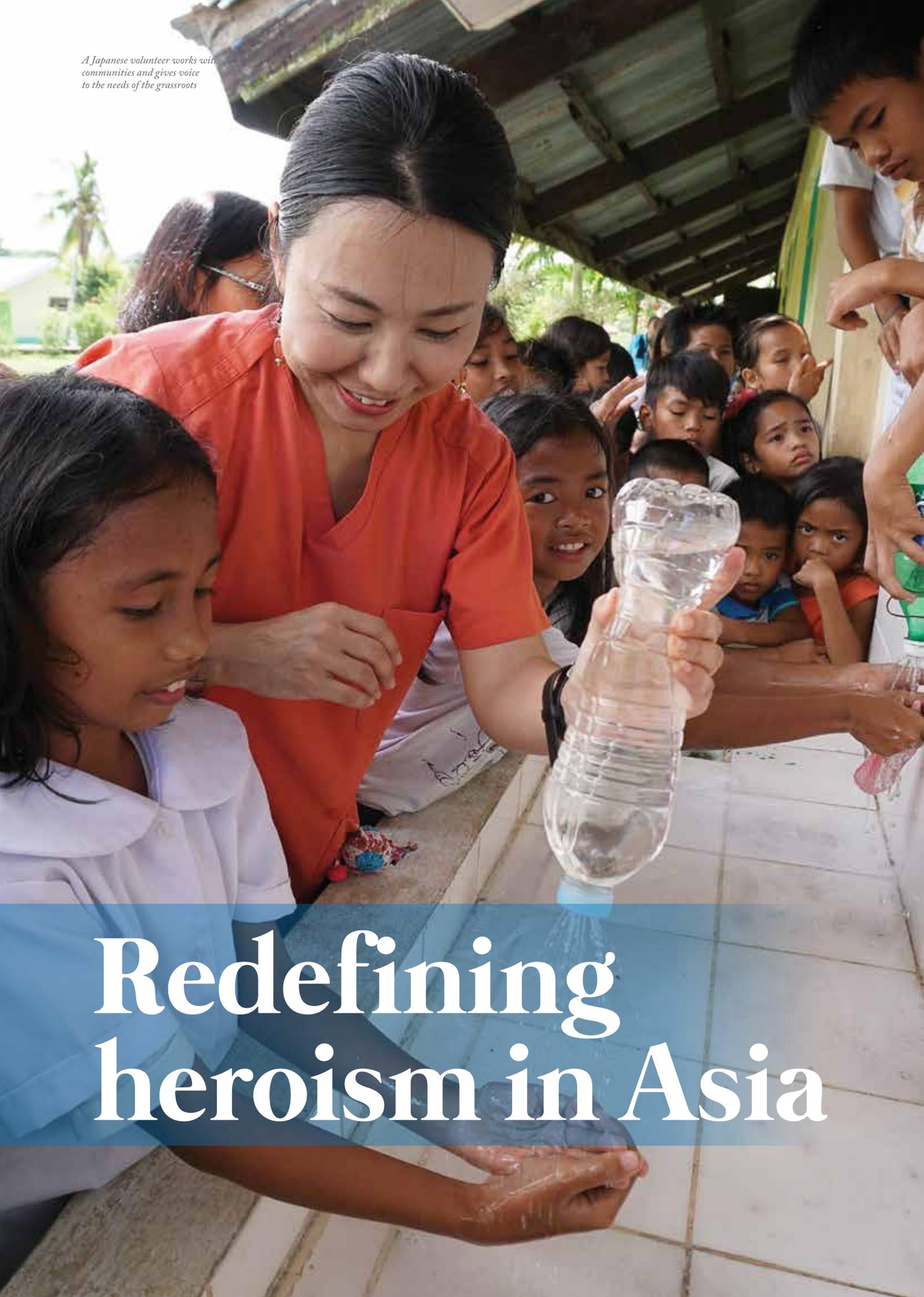
In Hokkaido, Zerimie joined 14 other young Filipinos for a course on Comprehensive Regional Development Planning (a course on Mindanao Regional Development) that included a visit to Sapporo local government in Hokkaido, Japan

"We learned how Japan was able to find opportunities in their problems. Hokkaido's local government and people, for example, continuously struggle with snow hampering their daily activities. Because of the Japanese persistence and resourcefulness, they transformed their problem with snow into opportunities for tourism and as energy source to develop Hokkaido."

Such mindset of turning problems into opportunities, she added, is what she wants to share with her co-employees in the local government.

As a T'boli herself, Zerimie said that caring about her community means being there for them, pushing for programs to improve their lives. "I hope to integrate the ideas I learned in Japan in developing LGU programs that will benefit our community," she added. ❖

A Japanese volunteer works with communities and gives voice to the needs of the grassroots

A photograph showing a Japanese volunteer in a red shirt pouring water from a plastic bottle into the hands of a young girl in a white school uniform. The volunteer is smiling and looking down at the child. In the background, a group of other children are watching, some with their hands raised. The scene is outdoors under a corrugated metal roof.

Redefining heroism in Asia



JICA President Shinichi Kitaoka (far right) and former JOCV Dr. Kenichi Kubota (second from right) at the Ramon Magsaysay Award ceremonies in Manila; The Ramon Magsaysay Award medal



*"From working with communities,
I learned the value of being a human being."*

*- JOCV Hidekazu Kumano, one of the first JOCVs
dispatched in the Philippines in 1966*

The stage is filled with six recipients of the 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Awards, Asia's Nobel Prize equivalent, each of them representing stories of new heroism in Asia.

The Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCVs) are among these recipients whose heroism helped give voice to the grassroots and promoted international solidarity.

CREATING CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE

Japanese volunteers work, live, and think together with local communities, giving voice and introducing solutions to the communities in the spirit of international cooperation. But, an invaluable part of JOCV work is also developing a global perspective.

The story of Dr. Kenichi Kubota is an example. He was dispatched for science training program at the Technological University of the Philippines (TUP) Manila in 1980. "At the end of my volunteer work, I realized that my future should be directed towards educational development in developing countries. I learned so much from the Filipinos that when I returned to Japan, I felt that I had to do something for the Philippines as well as for other developing countries," he shared at the Magsaysay Awards Lecture Series.

After his assignment, Dr. Kubota, like other JOCV alumni, continued

development work in different countries. He also created a "Meet the Globe Project" where Japanese children interact with developing countries like the Philippines. "Developing nations like the Philippines can contribute to more advanced nations in terms of understanding important global issues. Volunteer work is not just a one-sided activity; it is mutually beneficial that allows us to learn from each other," added Kubota.

CREATING CHANGE IN COMMUNITIES

In a remote island in Central Visayas, a young JOCV Genki Morishita works with communities on capitalizing on the island's charms and healing traditions to boost local tourism.

Despite the island's tourism promise -- with its pristine coastal lines, diving spots, historical churches, and orange sunsets -- its tourism capital, the Municipality of San Juan has yet to create a tourism master plan that will promote the island's tourism charms.

"I want to help promote sustainable tourism as an economic driver in the community," said Morishita. Morishita works for Japan's Wakayama Prefecture local government's public relations before coming to the Philippines as member of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program.

One such unique tourism potential in Siquijor, according to Morishita, is *bolobolo*, a healing tradition where the healer utters a prayer over a glass of water with magic stones. The glass is then rubbed

across the patient's body as treatment.

"By helping the LGU discover its unique position in the tourism market and adopt a tourism mind set, then we will be able to attract more tourists," added Morishita.

Morishita is currently working on contributing to San Juan's ecotourism master plan and tourism code to promote tourism effectively and conserve the environment. As first step in formulating the master plan, Morishita and his counterparts are working together on a survey to analyze tourism preferences of individuals and groups.

At the community level, Moroshita, like other JOCVs, is showing that by joining hands together, creating positive change is possible. ❖



JOCV Genki Morishita with counterpart from the LGU at the Capilay Spring Park

"Improving child care standards of house parents is crucial in teaching children to become self-reliant and productive members of society."



(Image from ACTION) House parents during one of the trainings to boost child care standards

Training puts spotlight on house parents in childcare facilities

A group of eager house parents from Visayas and Mindanao huddled together drawing diagrams on a brown paper. They were the first batch of trainees outside Central Luzon learning rights-based house parenting introduced by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

A house parent is a person that cares for and supervises disadvantaged children in residential facilities. As members of the rehabilitation team together with social workers, house parents are important for social workers in giving proper intervention for abused, neglected or orphaned children and play a major role in the child's rehabilitation.

"Capability building activities were seldom given to house parents before. But, now the DSWD is working in full force to train Filipino house parents on positive discipline and understanding the dynamics of abuse in young children in need of basic protection," said Ms Emelita Cruz-Bolivar, center head of the DSWD Regional Home for Girls

childcare facility in Nueva Ecija.

Bolivar is among the trainors of a capacity building program of the DSWD in partnership with Japanese non-profit group A Child's Trust is Ours to Nurture (ACTION). The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is also supporting the project, now on its second phase under the Technical Cooperation for Grassroots Project scheme.

"We went to Tokyo to observe Japan's best practices in child care facilities. Their government supports child care programs and we've seen the discipline of children, which we hope we can achieve here," added Cruz-Bolivar. "The project strengthened DSWD's belief in capacity building to benefit the children."

Initially began in Central Luzon, the project now targets training 280 house parents and social workers in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Central Luzon in 2017. In the last quarter of 2016, the DSWD initiated the training for house parents in Visayas and

Mindanao, one of the positive outcomes of the ACTION-JICA initiative.

The training program has 10 modules that the project developed with DSWD Region 3, social workers of ACTION, and faculty from College of Social Work and Community Development in the University of the Philippines.

"Improving child care standards of house parents is crucial in teaching children to become self-reliant and productive members of society," said ACTION Project Manager Hajime Yokota.

The training program shows that house parents need not pull themselves up out of the bootstraps when caring for disadvantaged children. The training gives them the 'straps' or capacity to better equip themselves in working with these children.

During the training, the house parents were smiling and cheering each other on as they proceed to their next module. "We are happy to give hope to children in need," said a house parent from Mindanao. ❖



JAAP was instrumental in organizing the alumni network in Caraga in Mindanao

Creating opportunities to foster Japan-Philippines friendship

"The programs enriched us as young leaders by exposing us to people with diverse backgrounds."

The capacity building programs of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have trained scores of individuals, all carving a niche in their profession. But, they seldom find opportunities to reconnect with their host families and nurture friendships with their past Japanese counterparts.

The JICA Alumni Association of the Philippines (JAAP) seeks to remedy this situation. In 2016, a group of past Filipino trainees returned to Japan bringing along their families – a first among the JICA alumni associations worldwide. They reconnected with their Japanese friends, met with the Development Association for Youth Leaders of Japan, and visited the JICA Tokyo International Center, Ikebukuro Life Safety Learning Center, and local government of Itabashi City.

"We thought of a way to give back to Japan by organizing visits of past trainees and their families to Japan. It's not only a good way to sustain our friendship with our Japanese counterparts, but also introduce to our own families the Japanese hospitality we experienced during the JICA training," shared JAAP President Powell del Rosario.

"The programs enriched us as young leaders by exposing us to people with diverse backgrounds. We are also introduced to development sectors other than our own, making us appreciate other areas where we can contribute," he added.

Powell attended a rural development course (Young Leaders) and learned Japan's agriculture practices from the young farmers in Akita and Iwate Prefectures.

JAAP is also an active member of the Philippine Federation of Japan Alumni (PHILFEJA), the umbrella association representing various sectors of the Japan alumni community in the Philippines. JAAP is the incoming leader of PHILFEJA in 2018, giving the JICA alumni vibrant role in international dialogues.



JAAP reconnecting with former JICA Philippines Chief Representative Takabiro Sasaki

JAAP also recently organized its CARAGA group and re-launched the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) group, confident of the training opportunities and alumni activities that former trainees in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas could join.

Although they come from different backgrounds, the more than 1,500 members of JAAP reflect the essence of Japan-Philippines evolving friendship. "I'm happy to inject passion and youthful spirit into JAAP and as an association, we look forward to making people work together to foster friendship between Japan and the Philippines," Powell said. ❖



Corporate Profile

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In accordance with its vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development”, JICA supports the resolution of issues of developing countries by using the most suitable tools of various assistance methods and a combined regional-, country- and issue-oriented approach.

Since joining the Colombo Plan (an international organization established to support socio-economic development of countries in South Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific) in 1954, Japan through JICA has proactively contributed to solving various development challenges to promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the international community. JICA is the world’s largest bilateral aid agency working with over 150 countries and regions and about a hundred overseas offices including the Philippines.

In the Philippines, JICA remains a long-standing strategic, reliable, and genuine development partner implementing a broad range of support and programs. For many decades, JICA acts as a bridge linking Japan and the Philippines through hundreds of development cooperation initiatives.

Assistance Schemes

JICA is committed to support developing countries through the following assistance schemes:

Technical Cooperation

Human resource development and institution building are important aspects of JICA's development cooperation, and this scheme helps address wide-range of issues through dispatch of experts and trainings.



Japanese experts work with Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to raise disaster awareness

DISPATCH OF EXPERTS

Japanese experts are dispatched to developing countries to transfer technology and recommend policies for socio-economic development.



Participants of the KCCP (Young Leaders), Fishery Using Resource Management Course

KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAM (KCCP)

Implemented with Japan's national and local governments, universities, research institutes, private sector, NGOs, and other relevant organizations, this training program provides technical and practical knowledge to participants from developing countries.

Loan Aid



Multi-Role Response Vessel Tubataba, part of JICA's assistance to the Philippine Coast Guard

ODA LOAN

JICA supports developing countries through low interest, long-term, and concessional funds for large-scale infrastructure and development needs requiring substantial funds.

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT FINANCE

JICA supports accelerating developing countries' socio-economic growth through the private sector, through debt and equity investment for development projects of private companies.

ODA Grants

JICA's assistance is visible in improving basic infrastructure (schools, hospitals, waster supply facilities, roads), health and medical care, and equipment among others through grants or funds given to developing countries without obligation of repayment.



Benguet General Hospital, La Trinidad, Benguet

Priority Areas

Disaster Relief

JICA sends Japan Disaster Relief Teams as response to requests of governments of countries affected by large-scale disasters. The teams provide search and rescue support, medical aid, and recovery. JICA also extends emergency relief supplies in disaster-affected areas.



Japan Disaster Relief Team response to Typhoon Yolanda in Leyte and Samar

Research

The JICA Research Institute undertake research and studies to substantially provide solutions to development challenges and contribute to JICA's aid strategies.

Cooperation through Citizen Participation



A JOCV assisting farmers in Libacao, Aklan

JICA dispatches volunteers such as Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOVC), manages projects under JICA Fund, and cooperates with NGOs, local governments, universities and other organizations that participate in international cooperation activities.

Achieving sustainable economic growth through further promotion of investment

To improve the Philippines' investment climate, and achieve sustainable economic growth, JICA provides assistance focusing on

- (1) improvement of traffic and transport network of the Greater Capital Region (GCR) and major cities outside of GCR;
- (2) improvement of energy and water infrastructure;
- (3) securing maritime safety; and
- (4) human resource development for industries.

Overcoming vulnerability and stabilizing bases for human life and production activity

To overcome vulnerability to risks affecting the impoverished sector, and stabilize the foundation for human life and production activities, JICA provides assistance to the Philippines on

- (1) improvement of "hard" and "soft" infrastructure related to natural disasters and environment;
- (2) development of safety nets including health care; and
- (3) enhancement of agriculture productivity and processing and distribution of agricultural products.

Peace and development in Mindanao

To help stabilize peace in Mindanao through the peace process and socio-economic development in conflict-affected areas, and poverty alleviation, JICA assists the Philippines in

- (1) reducing poverty through improvement of access to social services;
- (2) community development through improvement of infrastructure and industry promotion; and
- (3) strengthening local governance.

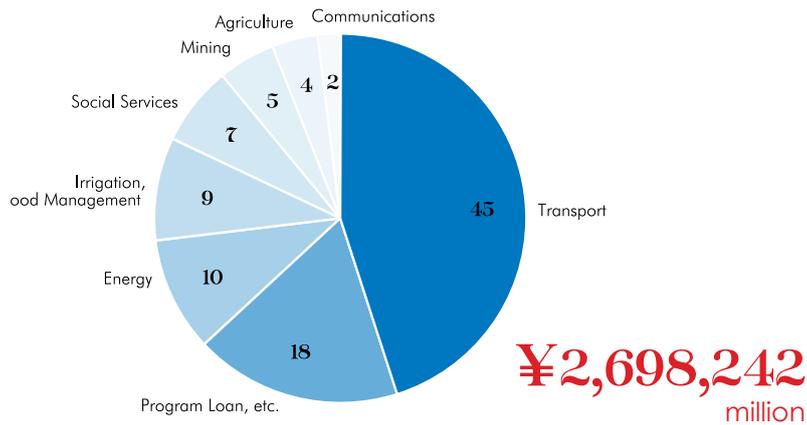
Fast Facts



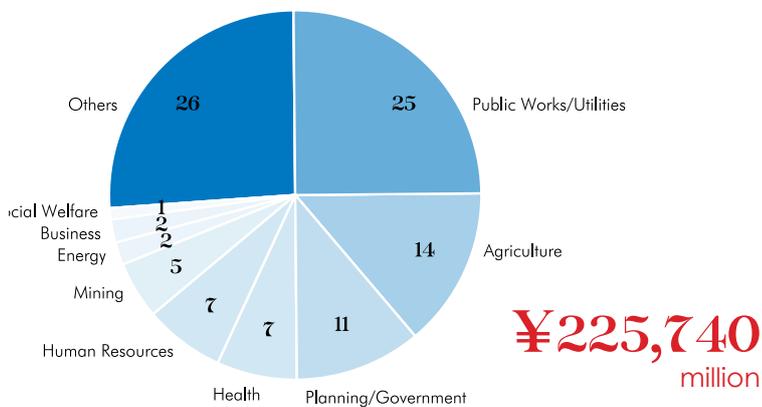
Japan's Bilateral Assistance to the Philippines

(in percentage/as of 2015)

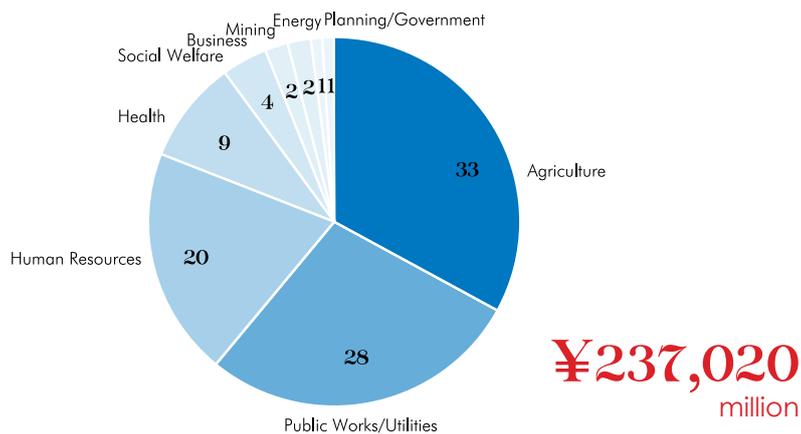
ODA LOAN



TECHNICAL COOPERATION



GRANT AID



Dispatched Personnel

40,979

Filipinos trained by JICA



8,796

Japanese experts deployed to the Philippines



1,604

JICA volunteers dispatched to the Philippines



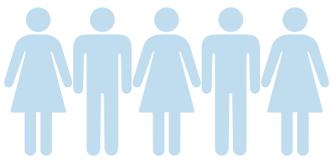
17,049

Japanese study team members to Philippines





Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)



58

Total Number of Volunteers
as of February 2017



26

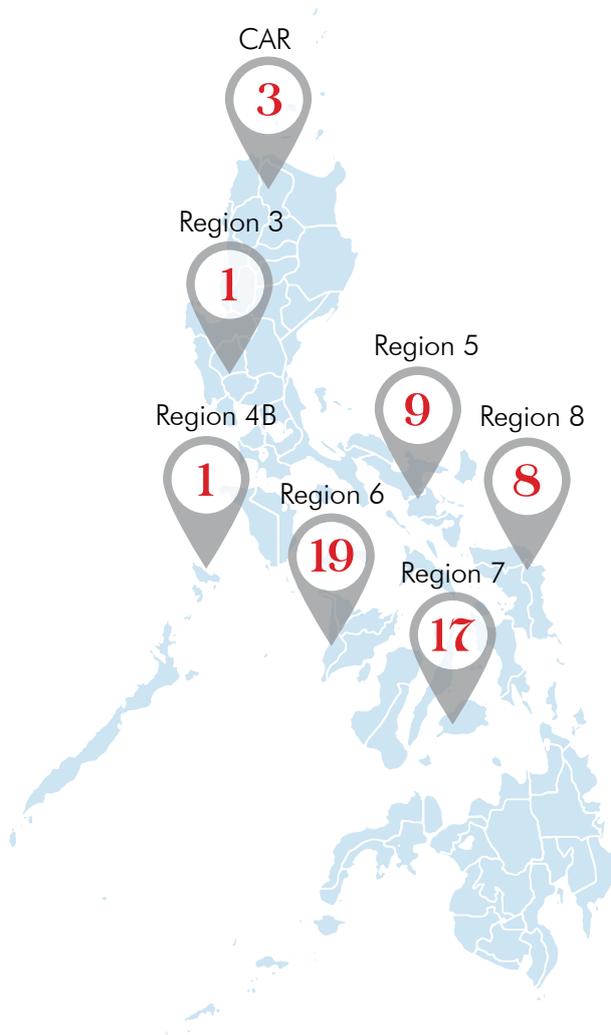
Male



32

Female

DISTRIBUTION BY REGION



Fields of Specialization in the Philippines



Agriculture, Forestry,
and Fisheries



Mining and Manufacturing



Human Resources



Health | Healthcare



Planning and Government



Public Works and Utilities



Social Welfare Services

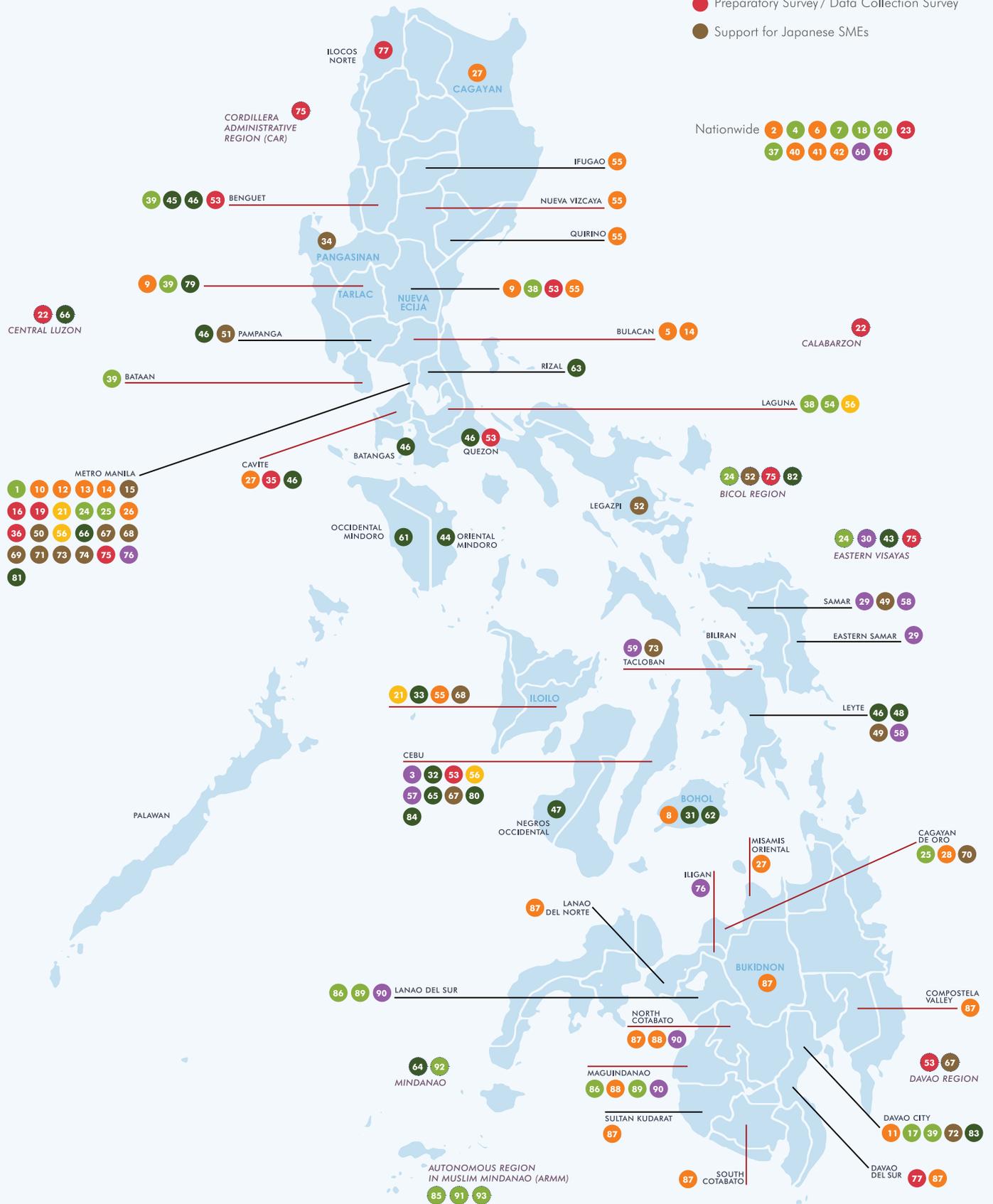


Business and Tourism

JICA Philippines Operations Map

LEGEND

- Technical Cooperation Projects
- Technical Cooperation for Grassroots Projects
- Yen Loan
- Yen Loan Technical Assistance
- Grant Aid
- Preparatory Survey / Data Collection Survey
- Support for Japanese SMEs



Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth through further Promotion of Investment

GOVERNANCE

- 01 The Project for Comprehensive Practical Capability Improvement for Maritime Law Enforcement [Metro Manila](#)
- 02 Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project [Nationwide](#)
- 03 The Project for Enhancement of Communications Systems of Philippine Coast Guard [Cebu](#)

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- 04 The Project on Improvement of Quality Management for Road and Bridge Construction and Maintenance, Phase III [Nationwide](#)
- 05 Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase II) [Bulacan](#)
- 06 Road Upgrading and Preservation Project [Nationwide](#)
- 07 New Communications, Navigation and Surveillance / Air Traffic Management Systems Development Project [Nationwide](#)
- 08 New Bohol Airport Construction and Sustainable Environment Protection Project [Bohol](#)
- 09 Central Luzon Link Expressway Construction Project [Tarlac, Nueva Ecija](#)
- 10 Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project, (Phase VI) [Metro Manila](#)
- 11 Davao City Bypass Construction Project (South and Center Sections) [Davao City](#)
- 12 Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project (Lambingan and Guadalupe Bridges) [Metro Manila](#)
- 13 Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project [Metro Manila](#)
- 14 North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos - Tutuban) [Metro Manila, Bulacan](#)
- 15 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Environmentally Friendly Urban Transportation Systems Using Electric Tricycles [Metro Manila](#)
- 16 Preparatory Survey for Circumferential Road (C3) Project [Metro Manila](#)
- 17 Davao City Infrastructure Development Plan and Capacity Building Project [Davao City](#)
- 18 The Study on Masterplan on High Standard Highway Network Development in the Republic of the Philippines [Nationwide](#)
- 19 Preparatory Survey for the Metro Manila Subway Project [Metro Manila](#)

INVESTMENT PROMOTION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 20 Elaboration of Industrial Promotion Plans Using Value Chain Analysis [Nationwide](#)
- 21 Capacity Development of Public- Private- Partnership Project Formulation [Metro Manila, Iloilo](#)
- 22 The Study on Potential Industry and Further Economic Development for Central Luzon and Calabarzon Areas [Central Luzon, Calabarzon](#)
- 23 The Study for Introduction of Credit Risk Database (CRD) in the Philippines [Nationwide](#)

Overcoming Vulnerability and Stabilizing Bases for Human Life and Production Activity

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

- 24 Weather Observation, Forecasting and Warning Capacity Enhancement [Metro Manila, Bicol, Eastern Visayas](#)
- 25 Project for Strengthening Capacity of Integrated Data Management of Flood Forecasting and Warning [Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro](#)
- 26 Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project III [Metro Manila](#)
- 27 Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River and Imus River [Cagayan, Misamis Oriental, Cavite](#)
- 28 Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River [Cagayan de Oro](#)
- 29 The Project for Reconstruction of Municipal Halls in Lawaan and Marabut Municipalities [Eastern Samar, Samar](#)
- 30 The Programme for Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda [Eastern Visayas](#)
- 31 Project for Enhancement of Capacity for Participatory Disaster Management on Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery in the Municipality of Tubigon, Bohol [Bohol](#)
- 32 Capacity Building on Disaster Risk Reduction through Cooperation between Local Communities and Education Sector in Cebu Province [Cebu](#)
- 33 Community Based Adaptation and Resilience Against Disasters Project (Phase 2) "Yokohama Initiatives" [Iloilo](#)
- 34 Verification Survey for Integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) for Improvement of Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management [Pangasinan](#)

- 35 Preparatory Survey for Flood Risk Management Project for Cavite Lowland Area [Cavite](#)
- 36 Data Collection Survey on the Insurance Mechanism for Incentivizing Disaster Resilient Public Infrastructure in Metro Manila [Metro Manila](#)

AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 37 The Project for Improving Operations and Maintenance of National Irrigation Systems (TCP III) [Nationwide](#)
- 38 Technical Cooperation Project on Extension Capacity Development for Rice Food Security in Africa [Laguna, Nueva Ecija](#)
- 39 Enhancing the Competitiveness of Fresh and Semi Processed Agricultural Product through the Application on Appropriate & Suitable Packaging Technology [Benguet, Tarlac, Bataan, Davao City](#)
- 40 Agrarian Reform Support Infrastructure Project (Phase III) [Nationwide](#)
- 41 Agricultural Credit Support Project [Nationwide](#)
- 42 National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project [Nationwide](#)
- 43 Livelihood of Small Scale Low Income Farmers Affected by Typhoon Haiyan through Enhanced Institutional Capacities of Cooperatives in Eastern Visayas [Eastern Visayas](#)
- 44 Pilot Project on Livelihood Generation for the Yolanda-stricken Mangyan People through Native Pig Farming [Oriental Mindoro](#)
- 45 Capacity Development for the Quality Improvement of Coffee in Tublay, Benguet [Benguet](#)
- 46 Safe Vegetable Production and Marketing Technology Improvement Project in the Philippines [Benguet, Batangas, Cavite, Pampanga, Quezon, Leyte](#)
- 47 Victoria's City Agri-Business/Agri-Eco-Tourism Enhancement Project based on Nanjo City model [Negros Occidental](#)
- 48 Development of Mariculture and Processed Products using Oku-Matsushima Techniques in Typhoon Yolanda-affected Areas [Leyte](#)
- 49 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Typhoon-Resistant Fish Farming Cage with the Submersible Function in the Philippines' Typhoon Stricken Area [Leyte, Samar](#)
- 50 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Low Protein Rice for Nutrition Treatment of Chronic Kidney Disease in the Philippines [Metro Manila](#)
- 51 Feasibility Survey for Philippine Mulberry Project [Pampanga](#)
- 52 Feasibility Survey on Environmental Protection of High-Value-Added Fertilizer by Garbage Composting [Legazpi, Bicol](#)
- 53 Data Collection Survey on Agriculture Marketing System Quezon, Cebu, Davao, Nueva Ecija, Benguet Research for the Development of New Rice
- 54 Variety for Africa (WISH Project) [Laguna](#)

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- 55 Forestland Management Project [Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Iloilo](#)
- 56 Project for Supporting Senior High School (SHS) Program in Technical Vocational High Schools [Metro Manila, Laguna, Cebu](#)
- 57 Improvement of Water Supply System in Metropolitan Cebu Water District [Cebu](#)
- 58 Program Grant Aid on the Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda - Reconstruction of Selected Schools [Leyte, Samar](#)
- 59 Program Grant Aid on the Rehabilitation and Recovery from Typhoon Yolanda - EVRMC/Selected RHU [Tacloban](#)
- 60 Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) [Nationwide](#)
- 61 Establishment and Operation of the Amnay River Cooperative and Formulation of Basis for Independent Development, Occidental Mindoro [Occidental Mindoro](#)
- 62 Project on Promoting Sustainable Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (3Rs) System through Education to Produce Environment-minded Society for Development [Bohol](#)
- 63 Skills Training for Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR) Workers and Communities through the Community Activities for the Empowerment of Children and Adults with Disabilities [Montalban](#)
- 64 Global Hiroshima Project to Enhance Peace-Building Human Resource Development for the Bangsamoro Government in Mindanao, the Philippines [Mindanao](#)
- 65 Saitama-Cebu Comprehensive Human Resource Monozukuri Project Phase 2 [Cebu](#)
- 66 Ensuring Children's Potential for Development and Independence through Improved Residential Care Practices [Metro Manila, Central Luzon](#)
- 67 Survey on Possibility of Introduction Using Japanese Style Nursing-Care System Business [Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao](#)

- 68 Survey on 3D Printed Prostheses Solution [Metro Manila, Iloilo](#)
- 69 Feasibility Survey for Introduction of Refuse Paper and Plastic Fuels [Quezon City](#)
- 70 Feasibility Survey for the Improvements of Students' Math Performance using the Hybrid Learning Material "Smart Lecture" [Cagayan de Oro](#)
- 71 Feasibility Survey for Strengthening Supporting Structure of Disaster Medical Assistant Teams and Management [Metro Manila](#)
- 72 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technology for Improving Environment through Establishment of Waste Cooking Oil Collection as well as Production and Propagation of Biodiesel [Davao City](#)
- 73 Collaboration Program for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for iSPEED Disaster Medical Mission Operating System [Metro Manila, Tacloban](#)
- 74 Collaboration Program for Disseminating Japanese Technology for New TB Diagnostic Algorithm [Metro Manila](#)
- 75 Data Collection Survey on Universal Health Coverage in the Philippines [Metro Manila, Bicol, Eastern Visayas, CAR](#)
- 76 ASEAN University Network (AUN)/South East Asia Engineering Education Development Network (SEED-Net) (Phase 3) [Metro Manila, Iligan](#)
- 77 Survey on Overseas Remittances and Household Finances in the Philippines [Ilocos Norte, Davao del Sur](#)
- 78 Data Collection Survey for Formulating Development Policy Of Water and Septage Management in the Philippines [Nationwide](#)
- 79 Project on Knowledge Dissemination and Actual Implementation of Preventive Care Program among for the Senior Citizens of Capas Municipality [Tarlac](#)
- 80 Project for Supporting Local Fisherfolk Communities through Training on Seafood Processing Methods and Disaster Prevention/Reduction Education [Cebu](#)
- 81 Health Promotion and Quality of Life (QOL) improvement for Diabetics in Metro Manila [Metro Manila](#)
- 82 Expansion of Participatory Local Social Development based on lida Local Governance Model in Legazpi City [Bicol](#)
- 83 Project for Enhancing Solid Waste Management in Davao City [Davao City](#)
- 84 Saitama Active Learning Promotion Project [Cebu City](#)

Peace and Development in Mindanao

AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- 85 Rice-Based Farming Technology Extension Project for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) [ARMM](#)
- 86 Upland Rice-Based Farming Technology Transfer to the Bangsamoro - CCDDP-B [Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur](#)
- 87 Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agricultural Development Project [Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Compostella Valley, Davao del Sur, North Cotabato, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat](#)
- 88 Project for Agricultural Support on Malitubog - Maridagao Irrigation Project (I) [Maguindanao, North Cotabato](#)
- 89 Livelihood Improvement for the Transformation of Underserved Population (LIFT-UP) - CCDDP-A [Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur](#)

ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- 90 Community Development for Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao - Construction of Farm-to-Market Roads [Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato](#)

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 91 Rapid Profiling of 30 LGUs in ARMM under Strengthening Local Governance Capabilities in ARMM - CCDDP-A [ARMM](#)

DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 92 Follow-Up Assistance to the Bangsamoro Development Plan 2 - CCDDP-B [Mindanao](#)

SERVICE DELIVERY

- 93 ARMM Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project (AICCEP) - CCDDP-A [ARMM](#)

CCDDP-A - Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Autonomous Regional Government

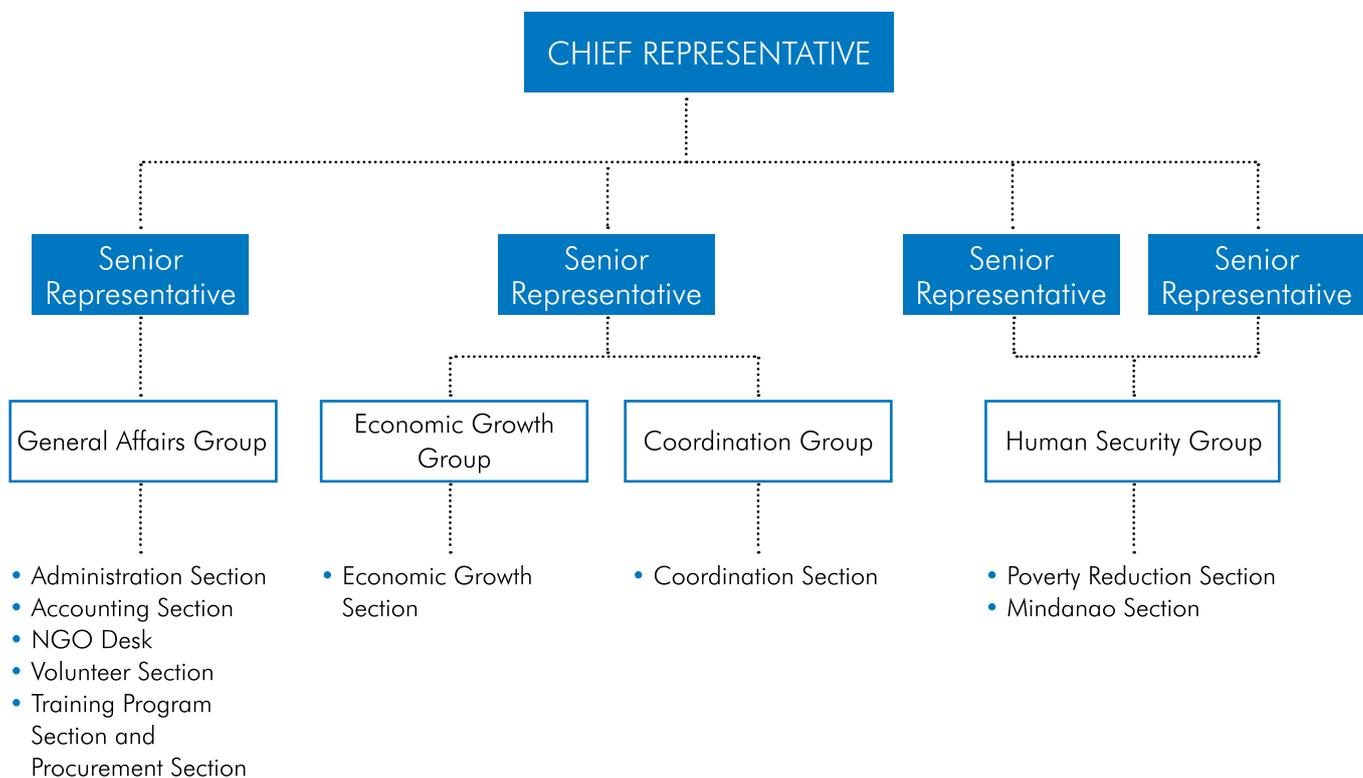
CCDDP-B - Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro

On-going projects as of March 2017



JICA Philippine Office

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





“JICA and the Philippines have long-standing history on development cooperation that helps raise the quality of life of many Filipinos. Let’s therefore continue working together to help the Philippines fulfill its economic growth trajectory in the long-term.”

Tetsuya Yamada

Senior Representative, Economic Growth Group



“JICA’s sincerity in our development cooperation with the Philippines is seen through the many Japanese organizations and citizens sharing their knowledge and know-how with the Filipinos. Our mutual partnership also benefits Japan as we also learn from the Filipinos’ development experiences, and common challenges.”

Kunihiko Nakasone

Senior Representative, General Affairs Group



“JICA has been sharing Japan’s expertise and experience with the Filipinos towards meeting the challenges of poverty for many decades. As Philippines’ reliable and strategic development partner, JICA aims to continue its constructive role of sustaining the Philippines’ economic gains, building a safer and resilient society, and creating more jobs for Filipinos.”

Ayumu Ohshima

Senior Representative, Human Security Group



“JICA remains steadfast in supporting peace and development in Mindanao. We are confident that through collective vision and unity, the people of Mindanao will realize the dividends of peace and the benefits of inclusive growth in their lives.”

Yuko Tanaka

Senior Representative, Human Security Group

The People behind JICA Philippines



Economic Growth Group



Human Security Group



General Affairs Group

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Partnership for
CHANGE



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