

Opening Remarks for JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema
JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Survey Pop-up Event
on 22 FEB 2024 at MITSUKOSHI BGC

- Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, HE KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko (越川 和彦)
 - President of MITSUKOSHI FEDERAL RETAIL, INC. KAWAGUCHI Yoji (川口 洋司)
 - President of BIOTECH JP Corp., EGAWA Kiyosada (江川 清貞)
 - President of Takara Inc., TAKARADA Kimio (寶田 喜美男)
- and all distinguished Guests and Participants;
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Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.
おはようございます。

It is truly my honor and pleasure to welcome all of you today.

JICA is excited to host “JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Survey Pop-up Event” at Mitsukoshi BGC, to introduce our partners from ① BIOTECH JP Corp., ② KUWANOSATO Inc., and ③ TAKARA Inc.

These three companies from Japan showcase their very unique and high-quality products here, such as ① low-protein rice, ② mulberry leaf tea, and ③ black garlic.

These unique products have huge potential towards achievement of ‘SDGs x Healthy Lifestyle’ in the Philippines.

For today's very meaningful event, my appreciation goes to MITSUKOSHI FEDERAL RETAIL, INC, too.

Now, let me introduce a little bit more about each company and product.

First, BIOTECH JP Corporation.

BIOTECH JAPAN was born in the rice capital of Japan, Niigata prefecture, as an R&D oriented venture company.

The company's own fermentation technology has been developed in collaboration with International Rice Research Institute, IRRI, under JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Survey program, and its affiliated company BIOTECH JP Corp opened a new factory in Tarlac Province in 2019.

Through the production and marketing of its unique low-protein rice, BIOTECH JP Corp aims to address the social issue of the increasing number of cases with chronic kidney disease.

At the same time, BIOTECH JP Corp also helps farmers generate more income by the introduction of its value-added technology, and supports the rice production initiatives of Tarlac province.

Second, KUWANOSATO Incorporated.

Ichikawa Misato-cho (市川三郷町) in Yamanashi prefecture is the birthplace of the famous Ichinose mulberry, one of Japan's endemic mulberry species.

Originally, KUWANOSATO was founded as a family business in that town.

Subsequently, KUWANOSATO struggled to revitalize mulberry industry.

Consequently, the company has successfully developed a healthy mulberry leaf tea.

It is really commendable that KUWANOSATO could achieve the economic revitalization of the town.

Under JICA's Business Supporting Survey program since 2016, KUWANOSATO carried on a mulberry cultivation and mulberry leaf tea making project in Pampanga province in collaboration with Pampanga State Agricultural University, PSAU.

Mulberry leaf tea can lower blood sugar, and attribute for fighting heart disease and diabetes.

Also, KUWANOSATO creates job opportunities, and helps local farmers.

Third, TAKARA Incorporated.

TAKARA Inc is located in Takko-machi (田子町), Aomori Prefecture.

The town is well-known throughout Japan as the "Garlic Capital".

The Black Garlic, made by aging the finest garlic, contains many healthy ingredients such as various amino acids and polyphenols, and is recognized as a special product that supports daily energy and health.

Under JICA's Business Supporting Survey program since 2018, TAKARA Inc has been working in Ilocos Norte province, with Mariano Marcos State University, MMSU, to

improve garlic cultivation and black garlic production.

TAKARA Inc helps local Agro-Industry development, and helps people stay healthy.

As you know, JICA has been extending powerful Official Development Assistance, ODA, to the Philippines, such as Metro Manila Subway Construction, through wide ranging schemes, such as provision of soft loan, grant assistance and technical cooperation.

In addition to these conventional ODA schemes, in these years, JICA has been putting higher priority on PPP promotion program including this SDGs Business Supporting Survey.

This PPP promotion program aims for win-win impact for beneficiary countries, such as the Philippines, and for Japanese companies' business opportunities.

It can contribute both to address various development challenges, and to boost further socio-economic growth.

Furthermore, it works up business appetite of Japanese companies, including SMEs, in promising overseas markets, like the Philippines.

And so, we sincerely hope that this event will be an igniting milestone to achieve the SDGs, and to help people lead healthier lifestyles.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Maraming Salamat Po!

Mabuhay, at Magandang Umaga po sa inyong lahat !

ありがとうございました。