

JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema's Speech for the Final Seminar of
**"The Project for Introducing Evidence-based Relapse Prevention Program to Drug
Dependence and Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines (IntERlaPP)"**
21 May 2024, 2:00 PM, The Bayleaf Hotel, Intramuros, Manila

- Honorable Secretary of Health, Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa,
- Undersecretary of UHC-HSC Area III, Dr. Gloria Balboa,
- Undersecretary of UHC-HSC Area IV, Dr. Glenn Matthew Baggao,
- Director, Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB), DOH,
Dr. Anna Marie Celina
- University of Tsukuba, Professor HARADA Takayuki
- Teine Keijinkai Medical Center, Professor SHIRASAKA Tomohiro
- Chief Advisor, IntERlaPP project, Dr. KANAMORI Shogo,
- Distinguished Guests, *Kasama* and *Kapuso*,

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for gracing us with your presence at the culminating event of our joint project.

Today marks a significant milestone as we gather to reflect upon and celebrate the remarkable journey of "the Project for Introducing Evidence-based Relapse Prevention Program to Drug Dependence and Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines", commonly known as "IntERlaPP" project.

As we stand here today, our seven years journey since the inception of the IntERlaPP project, I am filled with immense pride in witnessing the culmination of our collective efforts.

Throughout this endeavor, we have witnessed the transformative power of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering dedication.

Our journey began in response to a pressing need to fortify Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers, DATRCs.

Spearheaded by the Department of Health (DOH), collaboration with JICA materialized into the IntERlaPP Project, aimed at bolstering the capacity of DATRCs to deliver effective drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation services.

Since its inception in 2017, the IntERlaPP project has left an indelible mark on the landscape of drug rehabilitation in the Philippines.

Through the introduction of the evidence-based treatment modules in DOH-managed DATRCs, we have achieved remarkable advancement. We are honored that we could successfully incorporate elements relevant to Filipino culture and settings.

We could develop research studies to gauge module effectiveness, and establish a robust supervision system emphasizing post-training evaluation and supportive supervision.

With the strong and able leadership of Secretary Herbosa and dedication that DOH colleagues have shown, we are confident that the gains from the project will be sustained, and that the treatment modules will be institutionalized and incorporated in the existing rehabilitation program of the DATRCs.

Our commitment to Human Security, an absolutely fundamental principle of JICA's development framework, emphasizes the protection of every individual's dignity and well-being.

We protect everyone from threats to their lives, livelihoods, and fundamental rights. This commitment is in harmony with the Filipino concept of '*Bayanihan*', epitomizing communal unity, collaboration, and collective efforts towards the shared goal, that is a sustainable, resilient and inclusive society.

Rest assured, JICA continues to stand with you as the most trusted and long-standing partner.

Let us continue our collaborative efforts to secure a future, where individuals can break free from dependence and pave the way for generations to come.

Kasama nyo kami. Magbayanihan tayo. Sama sama tayo, para sa Bagong Pilipinas!

Thank you for your kind attention.

Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay.

END