

**Speech for Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema for the  
Signing of the Scope of Work for Follow-up Cooperation for the Mini-Hydropower  
Development Project in Ifugao with Provincial Government of Ifugao**  
July 24, 2024, 2pm, JICA Philippines Office, Makati City

- Honorable Ifugao Governor, ***Jerry DALIPOG***,
- Colleagues from Ifugao, DoE<sup>1</sup>, and JICA

*Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat!*

Today, I am pleased to see you again, Honorable Governor Dalipog.

I appreciate you for travelling all the way from Ifugao to Makati for this momentous occasion.

I still clearly remember the first time we met in 2022 when I drove around 10 hours to pay a courtesy visit to your good office in Lagawe,.

Now, it is my turn to receive you at our office.

Welcome to JICA Philippines.

Today marks an important milestone of our stronger ties, as we decide to further strengthen our relationship by signing the

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<sup>1</sup> DOE : Department of Energy

“Scope of Work for Follow-up Cooperation for the Likud Mini-Hydropower Development Project in Ifugao.”

This is a clear testament of our long-standing and unwavering friendship and brotherhood.

Indeed, we are “friends closer than brothers”!

I dare recall that I was honored to be declared as “Son of Mayoyao” by the said municipality in your lovely province.

This is alongside with the Allimit Natum Bridge also named as “Mayoyao-Japan Friendship Bridge” constructed under our “Forestland Management Project” or FMP with DENR<sup>2</sup>.

This episode is one of my sweetest memories and the most salient example of how we are close.

As such, Ifugao has been our constant partner over the decades through JICA’s various cooperation, including our technical cooperation “Maternal and Child Health Project” in the late 2000’s, and aforementioned yen-loan FMP.

In addition, we have also received around 20 trainees and scholars from your esteemed province, who studied in Japan.

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<sup>2</sup> DENR : Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Thus, we have been reinforcing our “Heart-to-Heart ties”, and underpinning further prosperity for the people.

Subsequently, in today’s signing ceremony, we demonstrate JICA’s continuous and strong support to your province.

Based on today’s agreement, we proceed to rehabilitate the Likud Mini-Hydropower Plant or LMHP.

This LMHP project is definitely important, with the aim of ①diversifying energy sources, ②addressing climate change issues, ③improving the quality of life of the local communities, and ④conserving world-famous Ifugao Rice Terraces through the income the plant can generate.

While, originally, the LMHP was completed in 2015 under JICA’s grant assistance, we observe that Ifugao province, in collaboration with DOE and other relevant stakeholders, is kindly requested to continue further efforts for its sustainable operation.

In this context, aside from the rehabilitation works, our new follow-up cooperation will continuously support to develop the capacity of Ifugao Government, too.

Needless to emphasize, however, your strong commitment, active leadership and proper collaboration are vital, Governor.

I envision that, even after this JICA's follow-up cooperation, you will be able to sustain the expected various impacts through your self-help efforts. Ultimately, this is for the benefit of Ifugao and LMHP's long-life operation.

I simply and fully rely on your wise leadership, our esteemed Governor.

*Kaya natin ito<sup>3</sup>!*

If I may add, on the bigger picture, our collaboration is also very relevant and timely in achieving the Philippines' renewable energy target and addressing climate change.

Based on the Energy Plan 2023-2050, the Philippine Government aims to attain at least 35% renewable energy share in the power generation mix by 2030, 50% by 2040, and more than 50% by 2050.

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<sup>3</sup> We can do it!

JICA has been implementing various projects, which are in line with the co-benefit approach.

This co-benefit approach is realistic and effective for a win-win strategy, aiming to both development and climate benefits.

In fact, JICA and DOE are about to launch a new technical cooperation project on “Resource Inventory of Hydropower Potential Sites”.

Ifugao should be honored with pride as it is actually at the forefront in a sense.

In a nutshell, the LMHP project is a legacy of our strong ties, and the absolutely important national project with various significant values.

Rest assured, JICA is always with you.

*Kasama niyo kami.*

*Sama sama tay.*

*Para sa Bagong Pilipinas!*

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

*Maraming salamat po, at Mabuhay!*

Good afternoon to all of you.

END