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- DPWH Secretary, *Hon. Manuel Bonoan* (マニユエル・ボノアン)
 - DA Usec, *Cheryl Marie Caballero* (シェリル・マリ・カバリエロ)
 - DENR Usec, *Jonas Leones* (ジョナス・レオネス)
 - PEZA DDG, *Vivian Santos* (ビビアン・サントス)
 - DTI Director, *Lanie Dormiendo* (ラニィ・ドルミエンド)
 - Embassy of Japan, Minister, *Hanada Takahiro*
 - JCCIP Vice President, *Fujii Nobuo*
 - RCBC PCEO, *Eugene Acevedo* (ユージン・アセヴェド)
 - RCBC Corporate Vice Chairman, *Cesar Virata*
(セサール・ヴィラタ)
 - RCBC Advisory Board Member, *Lilia de Lima*
(リリア・デ・リマ)
 - SMBC Country Head, *IWATA Yasushi*
 - Colleagues and friends from Government agencies and private sectors, including RCBC and SMBC
 - No less than Presenters of JICA-supported Japanese companies

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Good morning, おはようございます

And, welcome to today's Business Matching Event.

This is really an epoch-making initiative by JICA, together with RCBC and SMBC, to (1) address various development challenges, such as agriculture,

disaster risk reduction, and environment, (2) boost precious business opportunities, and (3) strengthen broader partnerships between companies from both countries.

As you know, JICA has been vigorously working for the development and prosperity of the Philippines, for more than half a century, by providing powerful Official Development Assistance (ODA), which is so-called the “Government-to-Government” cooperation.

Recently, JICA is also enthusiastic to promote private sector business deployments between two nations. In this context, in addition to the said conventional Government-to-Government cooperation, JICA has also been putting a high priority on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) promotion programs. One of JICA’s PPP promotion programs is the SDGs Business Supporting Surveys.

This survey scheme pursues a win-win scenario for both partner countries. Obviously, this JICA’s scheme stimulates further business appetite of Japanese companies, as it derisks their business deployments in the Philippines. Moreover, JICA’s support also drives (1) sustainable economic growth, (2) job creation, and (3) better Quality of Life in this lovely country.

Indeed, the unique and advanced technologies, know-how, and/or business models, offered by Japanese companies, can contribute to solving a wide range of development challenges.

Now, let me thank RCBC and SMBC, which are two of the leading banks in the Philippines and Japan, for making today's business matching event possible. Today, we invite prominent 17 Japanese private companies, who are working or have worked under JICA's SDGs Business Supporting Survey. They will meet with potential customers, partners, distributors, and/or investors in the Philippines. Thank you again, RCBC and SMBC, for the great matching, through the professional advisories in advance.

Eventually, I strongly hope that our distinguished participants can tap into the advanced and unique technological trends and innovations from Japan. As you know, Japan's brand guarantees the high quality with complete trust.

I am quite sure that, in addition to JICA, RCBC and SMBC also can support your future business sincerely. *Don't miss opportunities!*

I am confident that today's business partnerships will significantly contribute to the deeper *Heart-to-Heart Ties* between Japan and the Philippines as well. All of you can be powerful promoters to elevate our close partnership to even new heights.

In conclusion, I would like to quote a special phrase that Japanese Prime Minister *KISHIDA Fumio* used in his historic congress speech in Manila last November;

"Golden Friendship, Golden Opportunities"

I am truly honored and thrilled to be a part of today's invaluable event with you. I am quite optimistic that today's event is definitely fruitful.

Sama sama tayó!

Para sa Bagong Pilipinas!!

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay !

ありがとうございました。