

Speech for Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema
Japan-Philippines Local Administration Seminar
March 17, 2024, 9am-18pm
Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria, Makati City

*The English tentative translation follows the Japanese version.

尊敬する Benjamin Abalos Jr DILG 大臣、滝川自治大学校長、越川駐フィリピン特命全権大使、ご出席の皆さま、おはようございます。

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat !

本日のセミナー開催のご成功にお慶び申し上げます。

JICA はフィリピンで、「パッシング・マリキナ川の河川改修」や「マニラ地下鉄の建設」などの大規模インフラ事業をはじめ、「人材育成」、「災害復興」や「緊急支援」などの多様な協力を、50 年以上の長きに亘り、「Top Partner」として実施してきました。

その一環として、「多重的で多層的な」各界の協働の促進や協調にも努めています。

具体的には、

①留学・研修・専門家派遣なども通じた人的交流や能力向上のほか、②アカデミア間の共同研究、③NGO との連携を通じた草の根技術協力事業、④中小企業含む民間連携事業、そして、⑤地方自治体との協働による事業も推進しています。

例えば、

(1)「セブ州での防災教育支援」を、「兵庫県」の参画を得て実施中です。阪神・淡路大震災の経験も踏まえた、学校防災やコミュニティ防災といった協力を推進しています。

また、

(2)「イロイロ市での防災組織強化」を、「横浜市」と協働しました。イロイロ市では、円借款を通じて放水路や排水施設を整備していますが、それに合わせて、社会的弱者配慮型のコミュニティベースの対策を強化したものです。鶴見川の氾濫対策など(住民と協働した災害対策の)横浜市のノウハウが活用されました。

更には、消防士としてご活躍の「日本の地方公務員」の方々が、「JICA ボランティア」として、フィリピンの地方自治体(LGU)に近々「現職派遣」される見込みです。

【参考】犬山市消防士→バタンガス州、大田市消防士→ベンゲット州(2023 年第 4 四半期派遣予定)

JICA は、今後も、こうした「日本の地方自治体のノウハウや志」をフィリピンの開発に活かすような、「心と心がふれあう」協力を推進していきます。

そうしたことも踏まえつつ、本日のセミナーが、DILG はじめフィリピン側関係者の理解と支援を得つつ、両国の地方自治体間の交流や協力の促進に繋がるように、そして、持続的で、包摂的で、強靱な社会の実現に繋がるように、実り多い議論がなされることを、先んじてお祝い申し上げます。

ありがとうございました。

Maraming salamat po !

Mabuhay !

<以上>

----- English tentative translation -----

➤ Honorable Secretary of DILG, Benjamin Abalos Jr
➤ Principal of Local Autonomy College in Japan, TAKIGAWA Shinsuke
➤ His Excellency Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good morning.
Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat!

I would like to congratulate you on the success of today's seminar.

For more than 50 years, JICA has been a “Top Partner” in the Philippines for a wide variety of cooperation projects, including large-scale infrastructure projects such as the “Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement” and “Construction of the Metro Manila Subway”, as well as “Human Resources Development”, “Disaster Recovery” and “Emergency Assistance”.

As part of our efforts, we also strive to promote and facilitate “multiple and multi-layered” collaboration among various sectors.

Specifically,

- (1) Supporting human exchange and capacity building through scholarship & training programs in Japan, and dispatching experts,
 - (2) Joint research among academia,
 - (3) Grassroots cooperation through Japanese NGOs,
 - (4) Private-sector partnerships, including with small and medium-sized enterprises,
- And,
- (5) projects in collaboration with local governments.

For example,

(1) “Support for Disaster Prevention Education in Cebu Province” is underway with the participation of Hyogo Prefecture.

Based on the experience of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, we are promoting cooperation in school disaster prevention and community disaster prevention.

Also,

(2) “Strengthening Disaster Prevention Organizations in Iloilo City” in cooperation with the City of Yokohama. In Iloilo City, we are constructing a spillway and drainage facilities through a yen loan, and in conjunction with this, we are strengthening community-based measures that take the socially vulnerable into consideration. Yokohama City's expertise (in disaster countermeasures in collaboration with local residents), such as flood countermeasures for the Tsurumi River, was utilized.

Furthermore,

“Japanese local government officials” who are active as firefighters are expected to be dispatched to local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines as “JICA volunteers” in the near future.

[Reference] Inuyama City Firefighter → Batangas Province, Ota City Firefighter → Benguet Province (scheduled to be dispatched in the 1st quarter of 2024)

JICA will continue to promote such “heart-to-heart” cooperation, in which the “know-how and aspirations of Japanese local governments” are utilized for the development of the Philippines.

With this in mind,

we hope that today's seminar will promote exchanges and cooperation between local governments in both countries, with the understanding and support of the DILG and other government officials of the Philippines. I congratulate you in advance for a fruitful discussion to realize a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient society.

Thank you very much.

Maraming salamat po!

Mabuhay!

END