

Statement for the Opening of Critical Information Infrastructures Protection (CIIP) Summit
Sequoia Hotel Manila Bay, Paranaque City
October 10, 2024 9:00AM – 10:30 A.M.

Message from JICA Philippines Office Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema

Good morning to all of you!

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat na narito ngayon para talakayin ang napapanahong usapin sa pagtitipong ito. Ako po si Sakamoto, Chief Representative ng JICA Philippines. Ikinagagalak ko kayong makilala

1. JICA's ongoing collaboration with DICT

It's a great pleasure and honor to be here with you, my dear friend Secretary Ivan Uy, to further enhance our partnership. Moreover, I am very happy to also acknowledge the presence of the US team, our invaluable development partner. JICA deeply shares the importance of the agenda of today's event, protecting Critical Information Infrastructures (CIIs). At the outset, in front of the participants gathered today, let me fully commit JICA's unwavering support in this DICT's initiative, as the close and reliable partner of Filipinos.

The pressing need for the Philippines to address the challenges to protect the nation in the field of cybersecurity is inevitable. Actually, the Philippines ranks 53rd in the 2024 United Nations Global Cybersecurity Index, which has improved from 61st in 2020, and it should be commended loudly. Congratulations! However, according to another report by Kaspersky, a global cybersecurity firm, the Philippines still placed 4th in the global ranking of countries with the highest web threats in 2023. The Philippines ranked first in terms of the most attacked country by hackers in Southeast Asia region.

At any rate, Digital Transformation or DX is imperative for the world we live currently in the digital age. And, a prosperous future cannot be assured without proper protection of digital assets. In other words, it is clear that the internet is a global network that requires global protection. If one system is compromised, all systems are at risk, and everyone becomes vulnerable. These circumstances led JICA to swiftly enhance partnership with DICT.

As you know, JICA has started a 2-year technical cooperation¹, through the dispatch of Japanese cybersecurity experts, to support DICT's initiatives strongly.

We are very pleased to share Japan's knowledge, experiences and lessons learned with the spirit of "Bayanihan". Specifically, JICA is enthusiastic to support DICT's capacity development, and to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration for more effective collective actions. Moreover, noting the importance of public awareness, our JICA experts are also engaged in various activities necessary for awareness raising.

In addition, JICA has been accepting the first scholar from DICT-NCERT, for one year study program in Japan. The scholar is now studying in Tokyo to obtain master's degree on "Promotion of Cybersecurity". As such, JICA intends to comprehensively address the cybersecurity threats together with DICT, in line with the National Cybersecurity Plan 2023-2028.

2. Trilateral cooperation among Japan, Ph and US

Now, allow me to point out that today's summit also marks a significant moment in our trilateral cooperation among the Philippines, Japan, and the US. Last July, we also partnered for our historic joint training program. It was the first strategic collaboration swiftly following the Philippines-Japan-the US

¹ 2 years from Oct 2023 to Sep 2025. The project aims to strengthen the cyber resilience of the Philippine Government CII's and raise awareness of the Filipino citizens in line with the National Cybersecurity Plan 2023-2028 aimed at achieving Trusted, Secure, and Reliable Cyberspace for every Filipino.

Trilateral Summit Meeting held in Washington DC in April. As these three top leaders confirmed to strengthen cooperation in the field of cyber, today we get together to re-exemplify our stronger collaboration among DICT, JICA and USAID in cybersecurity.

3. Introduction of two Japanese resource persons

Now, it is my great pleasure to introduce our distinguished resource persons from Japan. First, Mr. SASAKI Hiroshi. He is the Director of world's No.1 network security company, Fortinet. He is also serving as an ICT Security Advisor of the Government of Japan, and a Visiting Associate Professor of Nagoya Institute of Technology, with his extensive knowledge and experience in cybersecurity. Today, Mr. SASAKI will lead our discussion on "Collaborative Defense: Public-Private Partnerships in CII Protection."

Next, Mr. NAKAYAMA Kenta. He is a Visiting Researcher at Nagoya Institute of Technology and a distinguished cybersecurity engineer at a worldwide ICT service company. He is also selected as a participant in the US government visitors program, with his rich experience in cybersecurity and human resource development. Mr. NAKAYAMA is here to kindly share with us his expertise on improving cybersecurity capacity through education and workforce development later.

4. Conclusion

In closing, I would like to reiterate that DX boosts growth, uplifts living standards, and empowers all, and that Cybersecurity is truly essential in this regard. Our close partnership and gathered efforts will go beyond just cybersecurity. Today's collaborative approach marks a significant milestone, but it requires continuity.

So, I encourage everyone to fulfill your respective roles toward our common goal, and to continue to work together to protect our CIIs and national security. I count on every one of you to gain the most from today's summit. Let us further strengthen our partnership with the spirit of Bayanihan. Together, achieve our shared goal of building a stronger and more secure digital nation.

Mag Bayanihan tayo!

Kasama N'yo Kami!

Sama sama tayo!

Para sa Bagong Pilipinas!!

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Good morning to all of you.

[END]