

Message of Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema
At the 2nd Philippine Railway Conference
Nov 07, 2024

Distinguished Guests and All Participants,

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

Good morning to all of you. On behalf of the entire JICA, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to DOTr and PRI¹ on this Second Philippine Railway Conference.

This event reaffirms the Philippine Government's commitment towards ① urban mobility modernization, ② modal shift from private to public transportation, ③ the safe and reliable railway network, and ④ livable urban development. The theme of this conference this year is, "Reinforcing Safety and Security in the Philippine Railway Sector".

As safety being the paramount, we JICA expresses its 100% support and commits to collaborate with all stakeholders to pursue the above-mentioned 4 points, ① urban mobility modernization, ② modal shift, ③ the safe and reliable railway network, and ④ livable urban development.

¹ PRI : Philippine Railway Institute

Last June, we have successfully completed our first phase of our Technical Cooperation Project for the Establishment and Capacity Development of the PRI. This was noteworthy to showcase and share Japan's reliable O/M experience and know-how on long years of Japan's railway development, especially, including how to ensure the safety of the railway system.

We will soon commence the next phase of our Technical Cooperation Project for PRI to further strengthen its training capacity and research and development function for the capacity development of human resources and institutions of the Philippine railway sector. Talking about Japan's railway systems, for example, "the Bullet Train" or "Shinkansen", which is Japan's world-renowned and reputable high speed railway network, is an enduring symbol of efficiency and safety. Since commencing its operations in 1964, for six decades, there is no passenger fatalities recorded.

This is because the highly modernized operation system or technologies and well-trained operators' capability are backed by the steadfast commitment to the high quality infrastructure. Today, experts, officials and delegates from the ①Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), ②Japan Transport Safety Board (JTSA), ③Railway Technical Research Institute (RTRI), as well as private companies kindly got together here, to discuss and share their invaluable knowledges and experiences with my dear Filipino friends.

On behalf of JICA, with the sincerest appreciation to our Japanese delegates, I declare that all of us are absolutely enthusiastic to contribute to the safe and reliable railway system modernization in the Philippines. As I reiterate on every occasion, let

us continue to work together to realize such “Japan-quality” public transportation systems in this beautiful country.

You can do it.

We can do it, together.

Kasama nyo kami!

Sama sama tayo!

And, this is indeed a testament of the deepening ties between our two countries, the Philippines and Japan. Like many Filipinos, I truly look forward to the earliest opening of the new railway lines, such as the Metro Manila Subway and the North South Commuter Railway. In addition, JICA is jointly working with DOTr on the 30-year railway development master plan for more extensive and high-density future rail systems. However, at the same time, I am pleased to note that DOTr is “also” strongly emphasizing the importance of safety and security in our transportation systems.

In closing, once again, congratulations on the success of this important conference, and let’s continue to work closely hands in hands for a safe and reliable transportation network for the Filipino future! Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Maraming maraming Salamat po at Mabuhay!

Good morning to all of you.

[END]