

Message from JICA Philippines

- USec Jeremy Regino, DOTr Undersecretary for Railways
- Hon. AFP General, Romeo Brawner. Jr,
- Hon. Brigadier General of the Philippines Army, Armand Arevalo,
- Economic Minister of the Embassy of Japan, NIHEI Daisuke
- Authorized Project Director of Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd., YAMAJI Hitoshi,
- Distinguished Guests and Friends,

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat,

Good afternoon to all of you!

It is my great privilege and honor to join you today in this momentous event, for the TBM Initial Driving Ceremony of the Contract Package 103.

This key segment of the Metro Manila Subway Project covers the construction of the Camp Aguinaldo and Anonas stations with associated tunnels.

This TBM Initial Driving Ceremony of the Contract Package 103 is another proof that the momentum of this project is unstoppable.

It was not possible without the tireless efforts and commitment of DOTr, the consultants, and contractors, and the full support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

We recognize that it took a lot of hard work to reach this point, but the dream of having a subway in Metro Manila is now coming to life.

And JICA is very honored to be the close partner of the Philippines in this grand ambition.

This Camp Aguinaldo Station is located in a very strategic area of Quezon City, surrounded by a number of government offices, business establishments and residential areas.

So, we cannot overemphasize its importance not only for the residents within the vicinity, but also for many commuters who need to reach the various establishments and services nearby.

We, JICA, acknowledge that the TBM Initial Driving Ceremony of the Contract Package 103 is truly a great progress, but is only the beginning and we still face various challenges need to be addressed, such as ① smooth acquisition of Right-of-Way, ② timely Budget Appropriation and Contractual Payments, and ③ close coordination among the various stakeholders including land owners, residents and LGUs.

Nonetheless, we are confident that, under the leadership of Hon Secretary Bautista and Usec Regino, and their excellent team, the Project will continue to flourish and overcome difficulties along the way, and gear up towards its successful completion - full speed ahead.

Of course, continuous full collaboration by AFP and PA is also counted in, to help achieve the completion of this project in the coming years.

In addition, let me commend the tireless work of the Japanese contractor involved in this package – Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd. as well as the consultant team of Oriental Consultants Global Joint Venture.

I am quite sure that they will fully demonstrate high quality of works with Japan standards.

At the same time, as the most reliable partner of the Philippines, JICA reassures you of our unwavering cooperation to realize “Japan-quality” public transportation systems.

We work together with you to alleviate congestions by ① safe, ② reliable, ③ comfortable and ④ environmental-friendly railway systems, through the MMSP and other major railway projects, such as North-South Commuter Railway, MRT-3 rehabilitation, LRT-1 and -2 extensions.

In this regard, we sincerely congratulate all of you for today’s momentous event in line with the “Build Better More” policy of President Bongbong Marcos’s administration.

We can collaborate further in a productive manner – in the Filipino spirit of *Bayanihan*.

Also, we strategically utilize all of our possible support instruments, including technical cooperation, such as for the Philippine Railways Institute and for modernized TOD, and training and scholarship programs, among others, to ensure the brilliant impacts of our cooperation.

Moreover, we do actively encourage Japanese companies to be engaged in the related Public-Private-Partnership initiatives, for example, a key component of railway system that is Operation and Maintenance, where Japan has extensive experiences around the world, for further collaboration between the two countries.

Once again, congratulations to all of us!

We are making our history!

Sama sama tayō!

Para sa Bagong Pilipinas!!

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay kayong lahat.

Manigong Bagong Taon!

[END]