

**Draft Speech for Chief Representative BABA Takashi**

INFIC Inc. Japanese Style Long-Term Care Facility Opening Ceremony

March 19, 2025 14:00 JICA Auditorium

- Pasig City Mayor **Victor Ma. Regis N. Sotto**
- Department of Health Assistant Regional Director  
**Ms. Karen B. Fernandez**
- Department of Migrant Workers Undersecretary  
**Ms. PATRICIA YVONNE M. CAUNAN**
- President of INFIC **Mr. Masatoshi Masuda**

Distinguished international development partners, and esteemed guests,  
Good afternoon!

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat! It is with great honor to join you today at the opening ceremony of INFIC Long-Term-Care & Day Service Facility. I would like to begin by expressing my profound gratitude to every one of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us for this significant occasion.

First and foremost, please allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to INFIC and Pasig city on the successful inauguration of INFIC Long-Term-Care & Day Service Facility. I am very pleased to announce the opening of this facility and unveil it to you as part of the ongoing JICA SDGs Business Verification Survey Project.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the elderly population, which was 4.6 million in 2020 has been reached 9.6 million in 2022 and expected to increase to 11.6 million by 2025. As you may know, President Marcos noted at 2023 ASEAN summit in that our countries need to prepare for the coming Aging society with a clear sense of urgency.

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As a pioneer for the said society, JICA is pleased to introduce this Japan-Brand nursing care project by INFIC in collaboration with Pasig City.

Thanks to the strong commitment and unwavering partnership spirit of the Pasig City led by Honorable Mayor Vico Sotto, this achievement would not have been possible without the tireless efforts, unwavering dedication, and invaluable cooperation of all those involved. For this, we are deeply grateful.

Moreover, It is admiring that the Pasig city had the foresight to choose INFIC as your reputable partner. We are very happy that JICA brings the best of Japan to targeted cities, like Pasig City. INFIC has been accepting caregivers from overseas in Japan for a long time, but for INFIC, the Philippines is the first case to develop their business overseas.

While accepting foreign caregivers from various countries, INFIC found future potential in the Philippine caregiver workforce and selected the Philippines as a country with business potential after a 10-year research period beginning in 2016. I appreciate INFIC's tremendous efforts and involvement in preparing this project and I count on your continuous dedication.

In the face of a rapid aging society, the demand for quality nursing care has been more growing. As such, it has become imperative to nurture future caregivers with specialized knowledge and skills to meet these growing challenges. The goals for social welfare should include elderly people's safety, dignity, and productive lives. This aligns with JICA's Guiding Principle of Human Security and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

In line with this, I am very pleased that INFIC will be able to contribute to the Philippine community as a place to nurture the people who will need for such care. Also, I am very proud of that JICA can play a part of this prosperous and meaningful project.

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With INFIC's unique digital sensing care system, which is demonstrated afterward, elderlies can spend the days more independent and fulfilling. Thereby, we (JICA, INFIC and Pasig City) will encourage the elderlies' participation in society and reduce the burden of society.

As you all know, there is a phrase "Magbayanihan tayo !

sama sama tayo !

"To have a spirit of mutual assistance." In English.

We believe that this project, in which Japanese companies and Philippine local governments join hands and work together, is what will create a wonderful co-creation between the Philippines and Japan.

Finally, I would like to extend my warmest wishes for the future success and growth of this business. It is our hope that the good work we will start in this esteemed Pasig city serve as a model of Japan-brand nursing care system, and will widely spread to the whole country. May the collective efforts of all involved ensure its long-lasting positive impact on the Philippines community.

Thank you once again for all your commitments, and I look forward to the continued success of INFIC and Pasig City.

Thank you.

*Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat. Mabuhay.*