

JICA PHILIPPINES
ANNUAL REPORT 2024



Empowering Innovation Through Collaboration



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Empowering Innovation through Collaboration

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Message from the Chief Representative

It is with great pride and gratitude that I present to you JICA Philippines' 2024 Annual Report. Aptly themed, *Empowering Innovation through Collaboration*, this report is a celebration of 70 years of Japan's development cooperation with the Philippines, built on mutual trust and a shared vision of economic and social transformation for a better quality of life for every Filipino.

The report's theme resonates closely with our mission and values, quality growth and human security. In every undertaking, JICA endeavors to empower people for a prosperous future, always considering the vulnerable or marginalized. No one should be left behind. We strive to give them the skills, know-how, and tools to become self-reliant and proactive nation-builders.

Based on this solid direction, JICA has been espousing innovation, reframing challenges as opportunities and finding ways to address them together. By combining Japan's cutting-edge technology and expert advice with the Philippines' ingenuity, resilience, and strong sense of community or '*bayanihan*', we have unlocked new possibilities and developed creative solutions to bridge social and economic gaps. It is an honor to be able to say that our collective efforts with Philippine counterparts, stakeholders, international development partners, and others have made substantial progress in key areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, Mindanao peace process, and human resources development through various projects and programs across the Philippines.

This milestone would not be possible without the very close and invaluable partnerships that have fueled our journey. Every project we undertake is a reflection of the trust placed in us, and we are deeply honored to be in a partnership that truly makes a difference, indeed. In the three years since my assignment to the Philippines, I have personally witnessed the utmost trust and confidence given by our friends from the government and other groups. I cannot thank you enough for walking this journey with us. The Philippines is truly a promising country, despite its huge development challenges. JICA will continue to be your close ally and powerful supporter. *Kasama niyo kami*. We are always with you as a steady and reliable partner.

Beyond our accomplishments, what drives us to give and do even more are the stories of transformation and hope from our project partners and beneficiaries. Some of these are featured in this report. I hope their words inspire us to continue our work steadfastly, as there remain challenges that we must face. Climate change, for example, requires further action, and high-risk countries like the Philippines should step up its mitigation

“

Every project we undertake is a reflection of the trust placed in us, and we are deeply honored to be in a partnership that truly makes a difference.

and adaptation efforts. Another area of great concern is health, as it is both a fundamental component of human security and a necessary condition for overall well-being, safety, and dignity. Needless to say, infrastructure is also one of the pressing needs to be addressed among other priorities.

JICA continues our close, thorough, and frank dialogues—both at the national government level to discuss transformative growth, as well as at the grassroots to ensure that our initiatives are inclusive and responsive to the community's needs. We remain intentional with our project selection, prioritizing those that have the greatest and long-term impacts to enable us to build a prosperous, safer, inclusive, and brighter future for our next generations.

I am positive with hope and determination that the trust and partnership we have cultivated over the years will grow even stronger. Heart to heart and hand in hand, we continue to move forward together on this challenging yet meaningful and promising journey.

Maraming maraming salamat po at Mabuhay.

SAKAMOTO Takema



About JICA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an administrative agency of the Government of Japan that implements Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA).

JICA remains steadfast in supporting socio-economic development through its ODA activities in over 140 developing countries and regions in the world.

Vision

Leading the world with trust

Mission

JICA, in accordance, with the Development Cooperation Charter, will work on human security and quality growth.



Types of Cooperation

Technical Cooperation

People to People Cooperation:

This supports human resource development of partner countries using the knowledge, experience, and technologies of Japan through trainings and dispatch of experts.

Finance and Investment Cooperation

Lending / Investing of Funds in Concessional Terms:

This refers to loans with generous lending conditions given to infrastructure and other initiatives that require large funding. It also includes Private Sector Investment Finance to support private sector activities in developing countries.

Grants

Infrastructure Development / Equipment Provision:

This refers to funds without obligation of repayment for building facilities like schools, hospitals, wells, and roads, as well as provision of equipment.

Citizen Participation

Broad-based International Cooperation:

This is cooperation with NGOs, local governments, universities, and other organizations. It includes dispatch of Japanese professionals to support development under the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) and support to development education to deepen understanding of global issues.

Emergency Disaster Relief

Response to Natural and Other Disasters:

JICA sends Japan Disaster Relief (JDR) teams as response to requests of governments. The JDR engages in rescue and treatment, provides emergency relief supplies, and assists in recovery.

Research

Co-Creating Practical Knowledge for Peace and Development:

JICA works with partners on the conduct of quality research with impact on policies, peace, and development.

Public-Private Partnerships

Private Sector Business for Socio-Economic Development:

Japanese private companies introduce technologies and products with socio-economic impact. This also includes Private Sector Investment Finance and support programs for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

Priority Areas in the Philippines

I

Strengthening a Foundation for Sustainable Economic Growth

1. Improvement of traffic and transport network of the Greater Capital Region (GCR) and major cities outside the GCR
2. Improvement of energy and water infrastructure
3. Securing maritime safety
4. Human resource development for industries

II

Ensuring Human Security for Inclusive Growth

1. Improvement of hard and soft infrastructure related to natural disasters and environment
2. Development of safety nets, including healthcare
3. Enhancement of agriculture productivity and processing, and distribution of agricultural products

III

Peace and Development in Mindanao

1. Reducing poverty through improvement of access to social services
2. Community development through improvement of infrastructure and industry promotion
3. Strengthening local governance

Seven Decades of Cooperation

1954

Japan joined the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific; began providing ODA to Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, as part of reparation payments in the post-war era

1961

Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), the implementing agency for loan aid furnished by the Japanese government, was established

1962

Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA) was established



1950

1960

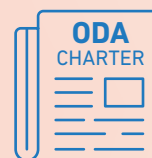


1999

Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) was established by merging the Export-Import Bank of Japan (JEXIM) and the OECF

1992

Formal approval of Japan's ODA Charter, which was established to garner international support for Japan's role in world peace and prosperity



1990

2000

30,000
Volunteers



2007

JOCVs dispatched in the fields reached 30,000; number of countries receiving ODA loans from JICA reached 100



2008

The new JICA was launched

2010

2003

JICA transformed from special public institution to an independent administrative institution

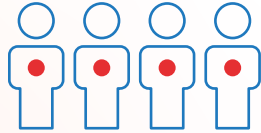


1964

Japan formally joined the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

1966

First batch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) was dispatched to the Philippines



1969

OECD introduced the concept of Official Development Assistance (ODA), and donor countries pledged to allocate 0.07% of their GDP to ODA

0.07%
GDP pledged
to ODA

1989

Japan became the world's top ODA donor; At present, it remains to be among the top 5 globally



1970



1978

Japan announced five consecutive medium-term ODA targets for the country

1974

JICA Law was promulgated; JICA started operations in the Philippines

1980

2017

Japan pledged the "1 Trillion-Yen Commitment" to the Philippines through a combination of ODA and private investments

¥1
Trillion
Commitment



2023

Japan became the Philippines' top donor country

70

1954 YEARS 2024

2024

Japan celebrates 70 years of ODA in the Philippines

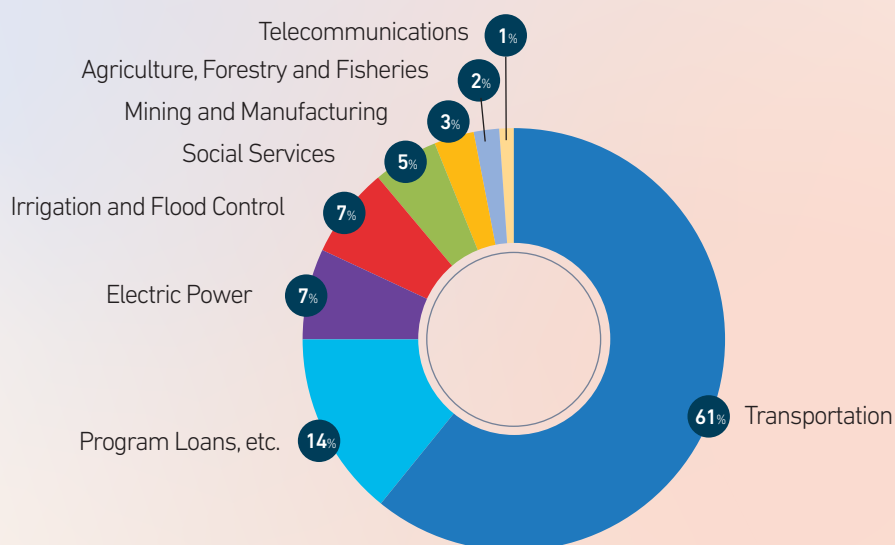
2020

By the Numbers: Japan's Bilateral Assistance to the Philippines

(Cumulative as of FY* 2023)

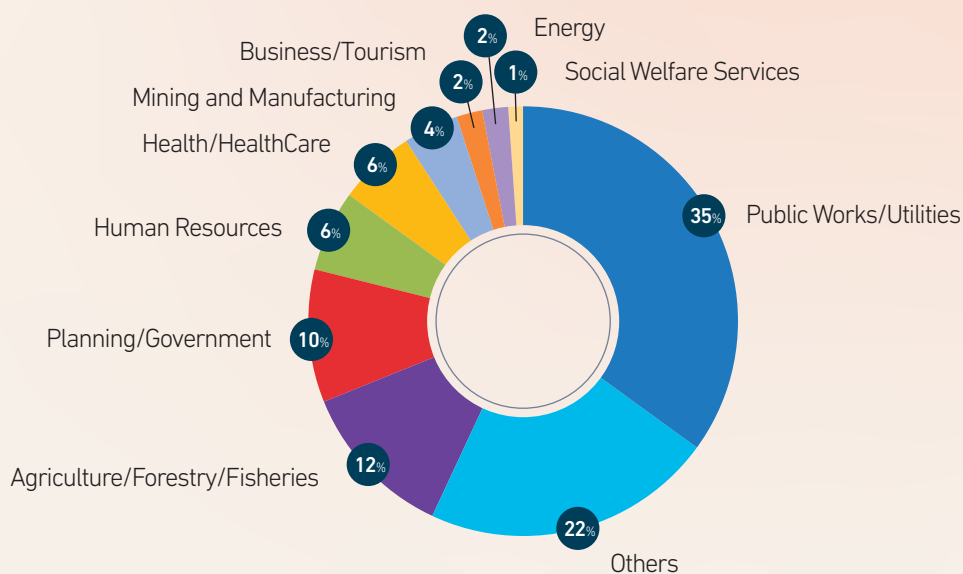
ODA Loan and Private Sector Investment Finance Commitment

¥4,339,669 million



Technical Cooperation

¥282,327 million

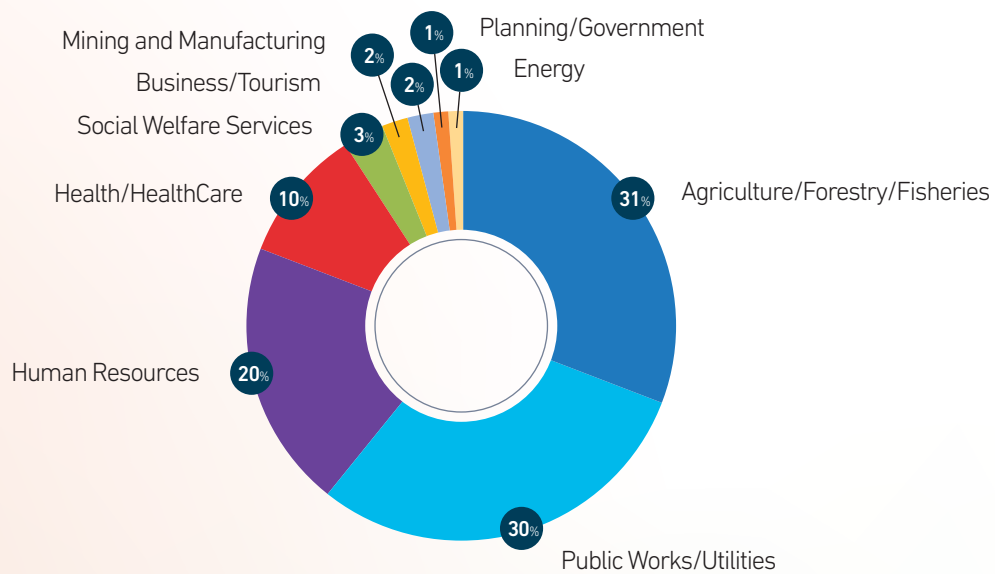


(¥1 = ¥2.67997 as of Mar 2024)

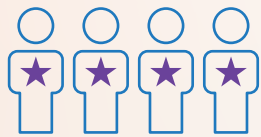
*Japanese Fiscal Year: April to March of the following year

Grant Aid

¥250,410 million



(Cumulative as of FY 2023)



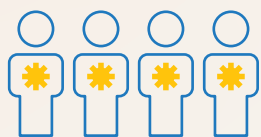
11,145

Japanese experts deployed to the Philippines



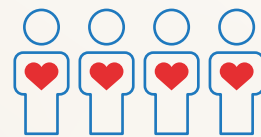
22,056

Japanese study team members sent to the Philippines



43,091

Filipinos trained by JICA



1,692

Japanese volunteers dispatched to the Philippines



Transformative Partnerships for Sustainable Solutions

JICA's impactful collaborations have allowed the agency to address complex challenges and deliver transformative solutions through innovative schemes. The stories below feature some of the most epoch-making projects and celebrations that stand as testaments to the power of cooperation, showcasing how *bayanihan* or community spirit is the foundation of progress and sustainable development.



Project of the Century

The Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP) is one of the major flagship projects between JICA and the Department of Transportation (DOTr) aimed at constructing the Philippines' first underground railway system. It is hailed as the "Project of the Century" because of its impact on urban mobility and contribution to the modernization of the Philippine transportation sector.

JICA supports the project through a JPY 357 billion ODA loan package that facilitates the entry of topnotch Japanese railway technologies of Sumitomo Corporation and Mitsubishi Corporation. Their expertise in advanced tunneling and railway systems, among others, ensures the project's adoption of state-of-the-art technology and compliance with construction and engineering safety standards.



First Equity Financing

JICA's first equity investment in the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) project represents its ever-evolving role in supporting infrastructure development. It is JICA's first-ever direct equity participation not only in the Philippines, but also in the overseas railway sector in general.

The LRT-1 Operation and Maintenance Improvement Project was done in collaboration with Sumitomo Corporation and Hankyu Corporation, a Japanese private railway company with expertise in the innovative strategies that JICA plans to introduce such as passenger-oriented approach, land value capturing, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), and area development.

As a result of this financing, JICA now holds a stake in the Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC), the operator of LRT-1, giving it a direct role in the railway's operation and maintenance (O&M). This completes JICA's involvement in railway development—from master planning to construction, and now up to O&M.



10 Years into the Peace Agreement

As an advocate of peacebuilding, JICA celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB), a historic peace deal between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). The landmark agreement represents the culmination of 17 years of peace negotiations, which proved to be a pivotal step toward ending decades of armed conflict and advocating lasting peace and progress in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

JICA has been a key partner in the Bangsamoro peace process. It has supported efforts to promote peace and development in the region even before the formal negotiations began. With projects like the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD) in 2006, for example, JICA has extended a variety of socio-economic assistance to the community, in partnership with local stakeholders.



First Trilateral Collaboration

The pioneering alliance among Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States is poised to reshape healthcare in the BARMM. Through a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), JICA, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have committed to advancing **Universal Health Care** and addressing critical health challenges in the previously underserved region.

As the first health-related collaboration among the three development agencies in Asia Pacific, it sets a new standard for international and multi-agency partnerships as it demonstrates how shared resources and expertise can create meaningful and lasting change in marginalized communities. With clear vision and designated roles, the agencies shall carry out its projects to improve health information systems, promote public health financing, and expand quality healthcare services in BARMM.



10 Years of JICA Community

The JICA Alumni Association of the Philippines (JAAP) has made remarkable progress over the past decade, transforming from a network of scholars to a vibrant community of leaders inspiring positive changes for Filipinos.

With over 2,500 members from various sectors, JAAP has contributed to the country's growth by applying the knowledge and skills they gained through JICA-sponsored academic programs and specialized trainings. This milestone marks not only the network's expansion, but more importantly, its deeper commitment to sustainable development.

With its growth, JAAP has become one of the largest and most engaged JICA alumni networks in the ASEAN region. JAAP's success in its 10-year journey solidifies Japan's role as a reliable and trusted development partner.

Powering Progress Together



Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr.

Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

As the Secretary of the DOST, I am filled with immense gratitude for our enduring partnership with JICA. Over the years, JICA has been one of our most steadfast allies, particularly in enhancing our monitoring and warning systems for disaster risk reduction and management.

Through JICA's unwavering support, DOST has been able to protect not only the lives of countless Filipinos, but also their livelihoods, especially in times of calamity. These efforts have empowered communities to withstand adversities and chart a path toward economic resilience and sustainable growth.

JICA's assistance continues to inspire hope and transformation in our nation, strengthening our resolve to build a future where science and technology drive both resilience and prosperity. We look forward to deepening this partnership as we work together for a safer and thriving Philippines.

Thank you, JICA, for your invaluable contributions and shared commitment to creating meaningful change.



Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman

Department of Budget and Management (DBM)

Our long-standing friendship with JICA has truly been a force for positive change and development in the Philippines. JICA is not only a part of our history, but also of the success story of the Filipino people.

JICA's assistance in strengthening the Public Financial Management (PFM) systems in the country, especially in the BARMM, is among many notable accomplishments. The DBM and JICA successfully conducted the PFM Competency Program for BARMM ministers, middle managers, and PFM practitioners, thereby helping the Bangsamoro government establish a sound PFM system.

JICA has also been supporting our efforts on Gender and Development. At the UN International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security, JICA launched programs promoting gender equality and addressing women and children's health needs in BARMM.

They have proven to be an invaluable partner of the Philippines, supporting us in areas of governance, livelihood, community and economic development, and ensuring peace and development in Mindanao. May our partnership continue to grow even stronger in the coming decades as we work harder towards achieving inclusive and sustainable development in our Agenda for Prosperity.





Secretary Ivan John E. Uy

Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

Our partnership with JICA has been instrumental in the success of the Cybersecurity Building Project. I take great pride in this initiative as it strengthens our digital defenses and reinforces our commitment to a secure cyberspace.

Through targeted training on threat assessment, incident response, and policy development, we have equipped our personnel with technical and policymaking expertise. They integrate their learnings into our programs and initiatives, building safer digital environments for our communities and allowing us to embrace technology with confidence.

JICA's support has provided invaluable resources and expertise that have elevated the project's effectiveness. JICA has been a catalyst for innovation, pushing us to reimagine the future of cybersecurity. The DICT is grateful for the opportunity to be part of this transformative effort, and we look forward to continued collaboration as we strengthen our digital resilience and secure a future where technology empowers and protects us all.



Secretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr.

Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU)

I extend our heartfelt gratitude to JICA for the invaluable support it has given to OPAPRU over the years.

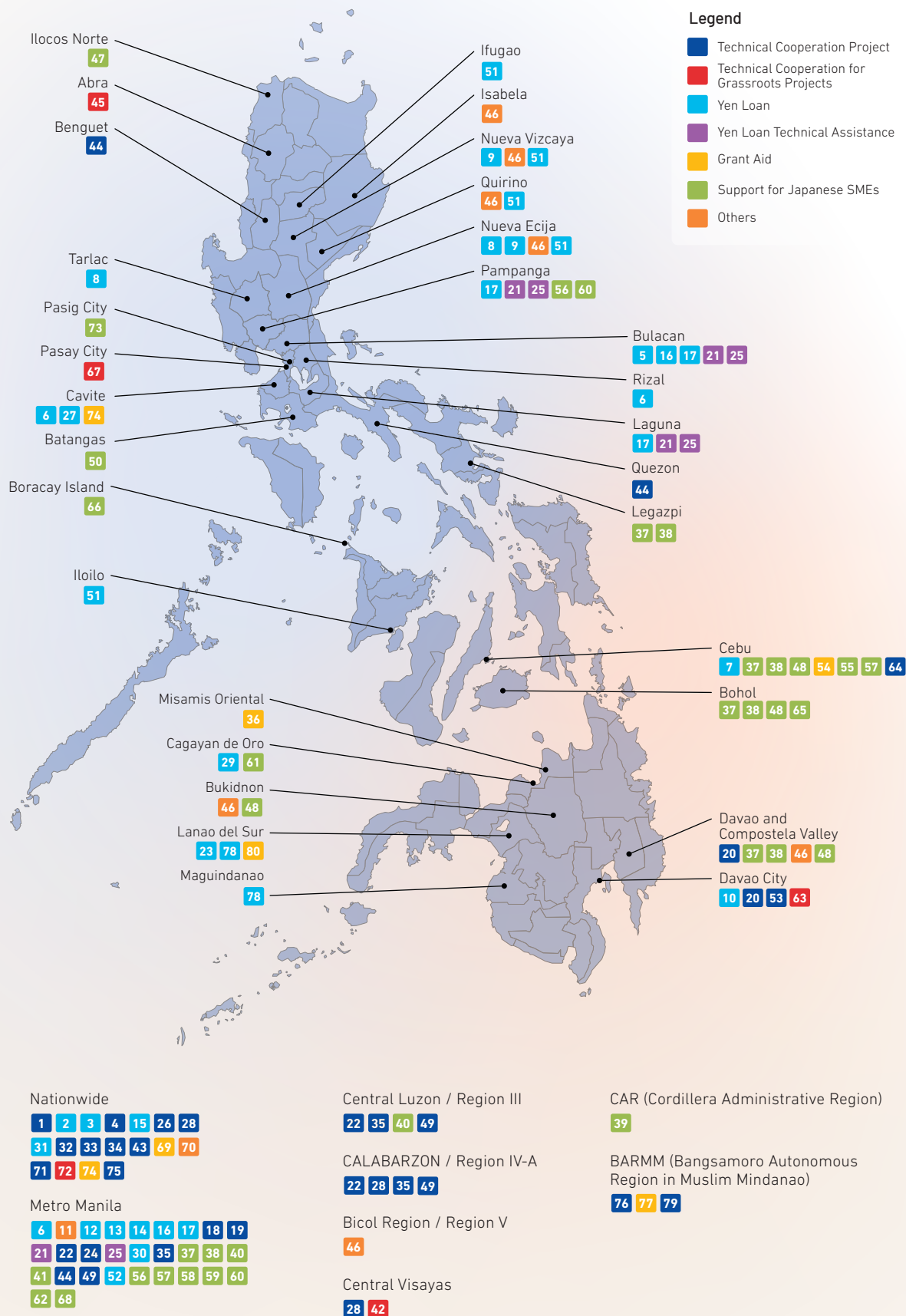
JICA's long-standing commitment to the peace process and normalization projects for the former combatants in the BARMM has been crucial to our collective vision of bringing greater peace, development, and progress to all Filipinos.

We appreciate JICA's invitation for us to present the Bangsamoro peace process at the CAB's 10th anniversary event in Tokyo. It was an opportune moment to highlight the milestones of the CAB and commemorate the breakthroughs with our partners from the international community.

Moreover, the signing of the tripartite agreement among JICA, KOICA, and USAID to improve the health outcomes in the BARMM is a welcome development.



Operations Map



Project List

Priority Area: Strengthening a Foundation for Sustainable Economic Growth

Governance

- 1 Enhancement of Customs Operations – [Nationwide](#)
- 2 Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (Phase I and II) – [Nationwide](#)
- 3 Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (Phase III) – [Nationwide](#)
- 4 The Project for Establishment of Credit Risk Database in the Philippines – [Nationwide](#)

Economic Infrastructure

- 5 Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III) – [Bulacan](#)
- 6 Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project – [Metro Manila](#), [Cavite](#), [Rizal](#)
- 7 Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project – [Cebu](#)
- 8 Central Luzon Link Expressway Project – [Tarlac](#), [Nueva Ecija](#)
- 9 Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project – [Nueva Vizcaya](#), [Nueva Ecija](#)
- 10 Davao City Bypass Construction Project – [Davao City](#)
- 11 LRT Line 1 Operation and Maintenance Improvement Project – [Metro Manila](#)
- 12 Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project – [Metro Manila](#)
- 13 Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase I) – [Metro Manila](#)
- 14 Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project – [Metro Manila](#)
- 15 New Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/ Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Systems Development Project – [Nationwide](#)

- 16 North-South Commuter Railway Project (Malolos - Tutuban) – [Metro Manila](#), [Bulacan](#)
- 17 North-South Commuter Railway Extension Project – [Metro Manila](#), [Laguna](#), [Bulacan](#), [Pampanga](#)
- 18 Project for Capacity Development of Public Utility Vehicles in Metro Manila – [Metro Manila](#)
- 19 Project for Capacity Enhancement for Transit Oriented Development – [Metro Manila](#)
- 20 Project for Comprehensive and Sustainable Urban Development Master Plan for Metropolitan Davao – [Region 11 / Metropolitan Davao](#)
- 21 Project for Road Disaster Preventions and Other Countermeasures on Mountainous Roads – [Metro Manila](#), [Laguna](#), [Bulacan](#), [Pampanga](#)
- 22 Project on Formulation of a 30-Year Railway Master Plan for the Greater Manila Area – [Metro Manila](#), [Region III](#), and [Region IV-A](#)
- 23 Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao – [Lanao del Sur](#), [Maguindanao](#)
- 24 Technical Assistance Project on Railway Innovative Technologies for Sustainable Development (TRAINTCHS) – [Metro Manila](#)
- 25 The Detailed Design Study of the Malolos-Clark Railway Project and the North-South Railway Project - South Line (Commuter) – [Metro Manila](#), [Laguna](#), [Bulacan](#), [Pampanga](#)

Investment Promotion and Industrial Development

- 26 Capacity Development for Cybersecurity – [Nationwide](#)

Priority Area: Ensuring Human Security for Inclusive Growth

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

- 27 Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project – [Cavite](#)
- 28 Disaster Risk Reduction and Management - Capacity Enhancement Project (Phase II) – [CALABARZON](#), [Central Visayas](#), [Nationwide](#)
- 29 Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan de Oro River – [Cagayan de Oro](#)
- 30 Pasig Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV) – [Metro Manila](#)
- 31 Post Disaster Stand-by Loan (Phase 3 – [Nationwide](#))
- 32 Project for Strengthening Financial Resilience of Public Asset to Natural Disasters by Improvement of Public Insurance – [Nationwide](#)
- 33 Project for Capability Enhancement for High Quality Weather Observation, Forecast, Warning and Information in the Philippines – [Nationwide](#)
- 34 Project for Capacity Development in Coastal Engineering for Disaster Resiliency – [Nationwide](#)
- 35 Project for Development of a Hybrid Water-Related Disaster Risk Assessment Technology for Sustainable Local Economic Development Policy under Climate Change in the Philippines – [Central Luzon](#), [CALABARZON](#), [Metro Manila](#)

- 36 Project for Improving of Flood Forecasting and Warning System for Cagayan de Oro River Basin – [Misamis Oriental](#)
- 37 SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for AI real-time crisis management information system using SNS information – [Metro Manila](#), [Legazpi](#), [Cebu](#), [Bohol](#), [Davao](#)
- 38 SDGs Business Verification Survey with Private Sector for AI Real-time Crisis Management Information System utilizing Social Networking Services (SNS) Information – [Metro Manila](#), [Legazpi](#), [Cebu](#), [Bohol](#), [Davao](#)
- 39 SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for Introduction of Technologies that Enable Both Slope Disaster Prevention and Forest Conservation in Republic of the Philippines – [CAR](#)
- 40 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Erosion Control and Vegetation Mat for Slope Protection – [Metro Manila](#), [Central Luzon](#)
- 41 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Utilization of Self-Navigation Assembly Salvage Barge for the Construction Works on Disaster Management and Disaster Restoration – [Metro Manila](#)
- 42 Strengthening and Promoting School-Based Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Visayas – [Central Visayas](#)

- 43 Technical Cooperation Program on Capacity Development for Monitoring and Information Dissemination of Earthquake, Tsunami and Volcano – *Nationwide*

Agriculture and Agribusiness Development

- 44 Project for Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines – *Metro Manila, Quezon, Benguet*
- 45 Project for Reduction of Agricultural Production Cost in Peñarrubia Municipality and Surrounding Areas in Abra – *Abra*
- 46 Project for the Development of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao – *Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Aurora, Isabela, Bicol Region, Bukidnon, Davao*
- 47 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Value Chain of Black Garlic – *Ilocos Norte*
- 48 SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for DX of workplaces utilizing 3D-pico hydro generator system in Philippines – *Davao del Sur, Cebu, Bohol, Bukidnon*

Environment and Energy

- 49 Advisory Service for Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of the Philippines – *Metro Manila, Region III, Region IV-A*
- 50 Collaboration Program with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Electricity Distribution System and Management in the Philippines – *Batangas*
- 51 Forestland Management Project – *Ifugao, Nueva Vizcaya, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Iloilo*
- 52 Non-Revenue Water Improvement Project in the West Zone of Metro Manila – *Metro Manila*
- 53 Project for Master Plan Study for Comprehensive Wastewater Management in Davao City – *Davao City, Metro Davao*
- 54 Project for Septage Management of Metro Cebu Water District – *Metropolitan Cebu*
- 55 SDGs Business Model Formulation Survey with the Private Sector for the Production of Biochar and Feed Production Using Food Waste – *Cebu*
- 56 SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Development of Circular Business through Value Maximization of Damaged Vehicles – *Manila, Pampanga*
- 57 SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Eco-Friendly Flange Manufacture by Transformation of the Left-over Materials from Shipbuilding Yards in the Philippines – *Cebu, Manila*
- 58 SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey for Effective Renewable Energy Supply and disaster Prevention by introducing Solar Power System with Battery Storage in the Philippines – *Metro Manila*

Priority Area: Peace and Development in Mindanao

Mindanao

- 76 Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro – *BARMM*
- 77 Programme for the Urgent Improvement of Socioeconomic Infrastructures in Bangsamoro Region – *BARMM*
- 78 Road Network Development Project in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao – *Lanao Del Sur, Maguindanao*

- 59 SDGs Business Needs Confirmation Survey on High Reflective Coating for Cooling Roofs and Saving Energy in the Philippines – *Manila and surrounding regions*
- 60 SDGs Business Validation Survey for Strategic Multi-Stakeholder Process Originating from the RECYINT Pilot Model in the Philippines – *Manila, Pampanga*
- 61 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Advanced Dispersible Microbe System in the Philippines – *Cagayan De Oro*
- 62 Small and Medium-Size Enterprise (SME) Partnership Promotion Survey for Marketing Study on RECYINT (Integrated Recycle Business Model for ELV) – *Metro Manila*
- 63 The Project for Improvement of Municipal Solid Waste Management System in the City of Davao – *Davao City*
- 64 The Project for Master Plan Study on Comprehensive Sewerage System Development – *Metropolitan Cebu*
- 65 Verification Survey with Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Septage Management Improvement with Advanced Treatment Method in Panglao, Bohol – *Bohol*
- 66 Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for Recycling Waste Cooking Oil as a Substitution of Diesel Fuel with Renergy System in Boracay island – *Boracay Island*

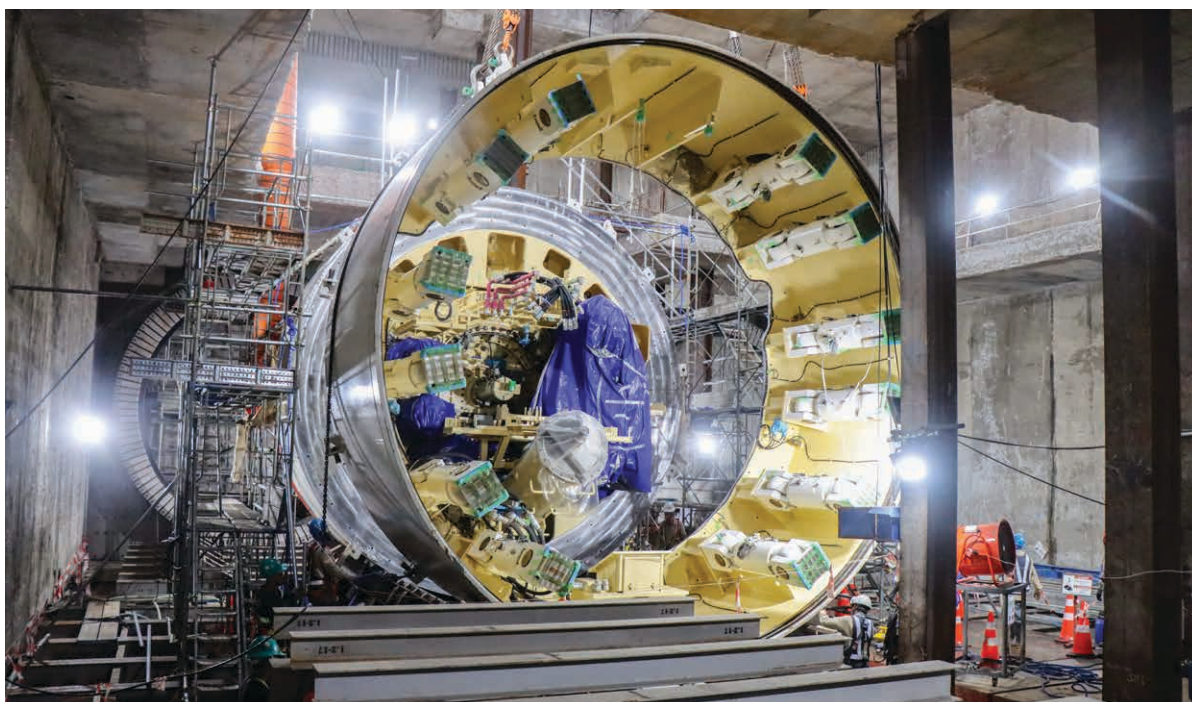
Health and Social Development

- 67 Comprehensive Empowerment Support for the Parent with Challenging Backgrounds - Social Adaptation Improvement Project for Impoverished Families in Vicinity of Pasay City – *Pasay City, Manila*
- 68 Deployment of a PACS System with Medical Collaboration Service Function Aimed at Correcting Inequality in Medical Access – *Manila*
- 69 Japanese Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) – *Nationwide*
- 70 JICA Program for Japanese Studies (JICA Chair) – *Nationwide*
- 71 Project for Strengthening the Philippine National Health Laboratory Network for Infectious Diseases – *Nationwide*
- 72 Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities (RCF) and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines – *Nationwide*
- 73 SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Introducing Japanese Style Nursing-Care System – *Pasig City*
- 74 The Programme for Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users (CARE) – *Cavite, Nationwide*
- 75 The Project for Introducing Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Programs to Drug Dependence Treatment & Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines (InterIaPP) – *Nationwide*



Pillar 1:
**Strengthening
a Foundation
for Sustainable
Economic Growth**

Advancing Growth through Modernized Mass Transportation



Ongoing works at the Camp Aguinaldo Station Site. Photo by Sumitomo Mitsui Construction Co., Ltd.



The **Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP), Phase 1** is the first underground railway system project in the Philippines being implemented by the Department of Transportation (DOTr). It involves the construction of a 33km railway line with 17 stations that will connect Valenzuela City in Northern Metro Manila to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3 in Pasay City. The project also includes the procurement of 30 units of 8-car train sets, which can serve an estimated 519,000 passengers per day.

The MMSP is expected to be completed by 2029.

TRANCHE	LOAN SIGNING DATE	LOAN AMOUNT (IN JPY)
1	Mar. 16, 2018	104.5 billion
2	Feb. 10, 2022	253.3 billion
3	Mar. 26, 2024	150.0 billion

Strategic investment in public transportation is a key driver for sustainable growth. The Philippines, keen on modernizing and revitalizing its railway network, partnered with JICA to ensure the adoption of topnotch, cutting-edge Japanese railway technologies.

The existing mass transportation system in the capital region is characterized by inadequate services that are unable to cater to the daily demands of the riding public. The MMSP is a critical step towards an important modal shift from private to mass public transportation.

From 2018 to 2024, JICA and the Government of the Philippines executed three loan agreements to augment government funds in implementing this PHP 488.5 billion flagship infrastructure project. The MMSP is expected to be constructed by top Japanese contractors and consultants, in partnership with Filipino companies, whose expertise in railway construction, operation and maintenance will ensure safe and efficient rollout of the project. Since the civil works began in 2019, the MMSP had generated more than 5,000 jobs for Filipinos, while more are



During the Groundbreaking Ceremony with MMSP proponents led by Secretary Jaime Bautista (leftmost). Photo by DOTr

eyed for training to become future subway staff and operators.

An infrastructure project as massive as the MMSP is expected to improve the mobility and productivity of the Filipino commuters, reducing further transportation costs and economic losses caused by traffic congestion in Metro Manila. The MMSP is also seen to spur wider economic growth and create job opportunities for many Filipinos. Environmental benefits are likewise highlighted considering rail transport is more energy-efficient, produces less emissions, and is, thus, more sustainable.

Despite some concerns met during implementation such as the pandemic, Right-of-Way issues, and other technical matters, the DOTr reported that the overall progress rate of MMSP is about 45% as of November 2024. Once fully operational, travel time from Valenzuela City to NAIA Terminal 3 will be reduced from an hour and a half to about 40 minutes.

The MMSP is only one part of a unified railway network that JICA is supporting in the Philippines. It complements other JICA-supported railway projects such as the North-South Commuter Railway, Metro Rail Transit Line 3, and Light Rail Lines 1 and 2, making up the primary arteries of the heart of the capital region. ■



Manufacturing of the first train set. Photos by DOTr.

Engineering Solutions for Better Connectivity



Representatives from DPWH, JICA, national and local government, and Embassy of Japan during the inauguration of ARBP Phase 3.



Aerial view of the newly constructed flyover.

Improved Connectivity in the Metro



The **Arterial Road Bypass Project (ARBP)** is a road infrastructure project of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that aims to improve connectivity between Metro Manila and Central Luzon, and alleviate traffic congestion in the Pan-Philippine Highway, also known as the Maharlika Highway, along the municipalities of Plaridel, San Rafael, and Baliuag City in Bulacan. It involves the construction of a 24.6km arterial road that links the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) in Balagtas, Bulacan to the Maharlika Highway, in San Rafael, Bulacan.

PHASE	LOAN SIGNING DATE	LOAN AMOUNT (IN JPY)	COMPLETION DATE
1	Mar. 30, 2004	6.22 billion	Nov. 2012
2	Mar. 30, 2012	4.59 billion	Jul. 2018
3	Feb. 28, 2018	9.40 billion	Aug. 2024

Bulacan Province is considered the northern gateway to the National Capital Region (NCR), a vital corridor for trade and commerce. Its strategic location, bordering major highways from NCR and northern provinces, positions it as a crucial entry point and hub for economic activity. This makes the ARBP an integral national highway that fortifies economic growth in Region III, the NCR, and beyond.

The first two phases saw the construction of a 2-lane road connecting Brgy. Borol, Balagtas at the NLEX exit to the Maharlika Highway in Brgy. Maasim, San Rafael. While the new road effectively eased the traffic, the growing number of road users necessitated a further upgrade of the ARBP.

Phase 3 expanded the original 2-lane road to 4 lanes, catering to about 15,000 vehicles every day. It also included the construction

of 10 bridges, 2 flyovers, and reinforced drainage and slope protection systems using Japanese technology. More than the financial assistance, JICA supported the project by sharing Japan's expertise in engineering and project management.

The completion of the final phase or Phase 3 of the ARBP in 2024 resulted in shorter travel time – from over an hour to nearly half the time from NLEX to the Pan-Philippine highway in Bulacan.

The ARBP enhanced the connectivity of main roads in Metro Manila and adjacent provinces, allowing better movement of people, products, and services, which in turn, helps boost the agricultural, commercial, and tourism industries in Bulacan and the rest of Northern Luzon.

Scaling Up Infrastructure in the Regions



Davao City Bypass Construction Project, a road construction project involving the first full-scale and long-distance mountain tunnel project in the Philippines, was conceptualized to alleviate the traffic congestion in Davao City and neighboring areas. Its main component includes the construction of a 45.62km, 4-lane bypass road from Brgy. Sirawan, Toril in Davao City to Brgy. J.P. Laurel, Panabo City in Davao del Norte.

Target completion of the project is in December 2027.

TRANCHE	LOAN SIGNING DATE	LOAN AMOUNT (IN JPY)
1	Aug 25, 2015	23.9 billion
2	Jun 16, 2020	34.8 billion



Part of the 2.3km mountain tunnel

JICA's financial and technical support to road infrastructure have been extended to many regions in the Philippines. In Davao, JICA cooperates with the DPWH in the planning and implementing the Davao City Bypass Construction Project, as part of its development agenda for the region.

The project seeks to strengthen the position of Davao City as Mindanao's trade and center hub by improving land connectivity, allowing better movement of products to boost its agro-fishery, mineral, and manufacturing industries. Further to addressing the concerns on logistics traffic, the project also aims to boost tourism in Mindanao by enabling easier and faster road travel for both locals and tourists.

More than financial support, Japanese consultants are facilitating the transfer of technical knowledge to Filipino engineers and construction workers as they adopt the advanced technology required to build the state-of-the-art mountain tunnel. The 2.3km tunnel that will be built under this project is longer than the 0.3km Kaybiang Tunnel in Cavite, and will be the longest road tunnel in the Philippines once completed.



Project implementation team inside the ongoing tunnel works. Photo credit to the DPWH

Among the infrastructures for construction under the JICA loan are the following:



29.7 km
4-lane main road



2.3 km
4-lane tunnel



6 bridges
with a total length of 1.5km



12 buildings
for tunnel operation and control, toll plaza, engineering, and power and transmission lines

Upon the expected project completion in December 2027, the travel time from Davao City to Davao del Norte will trim down from almost 2 hours to about 50 minutes. More importantly, the project will stimulate the economic growth in Mindanao and support the priority projects outlined in the Davao Regional Development Plan 2023-2028. ■

Safeguarding the Seas for Today and Tomorrow



The **Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (MSCIP)** is a joint initiative of JICA and the Government of the Philippines to improve the capacity and capability of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to carry out its functions in maritime safety and security, search and rescue, and marine environmental protection, among others. The MSCIP aims to provide additional Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs) and conduct capacity development activities to enhance the capability of the PCG.

PHASE	LOAN SIGNING DATE	LOAN AMOUNT (IN JPY)	PROJECT SCOPE
1	Dec. 14, 2013	18.732 billion	10 units, 44m MRRVs
2	Oct. 26, 2016	16.455 billion	2 units, 97m MRRVs
3	Jun. 10, 2024	64.380 billion	5 units, 97m MRRVs

In 2024, JICA continued to enhance its partnership with the PCG – both in terms of hardware assets and technical competence – with its support for the implementation of MSCIP Phase III.

This cooperation project accelerates the PCG’s aspiration to modernize and strengthen its capacity and capability. The MSCIP Phase III supports the PCG to acquire five new units of 97m MRRVs, the biggest among its capital ships to date. These MRRVs, similar to the previously delivered vessels, are envisioned to facilitate its search and rescue operations, oil spill response, as well as maritime environment protection activities, among others.

Apart from the implementation of the MSCIP, JICA also supports the PCG in enhancing their knowledge and skills through dispatch of Japanese experts, training and scholarship programs that are focused on coast guard operations, maritime safety



PCG operations of the 97m MRRV. Photos by the PCG.

and security best practices, and proper maintenance and operations of the 44m and 97m MRRVs.

This is a clear testament to the profound value of JICA’s unwavering cooperation efforts, especially with the PCG, in saving human lives, protecting marine environment, and promoting peace and prosperity for all. ■

Protecting Critical Systems from Cyber Threats



The **Capacity Enhancement on Cybersecurity** is a 2-year technical cooperation project of JICA and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). It aims to strengthen the capability of DICT officials in protecting the integrity of the country's Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), such as energy, transportation, and telecommunications. It also aims to establish proper protocols for incident handling within and among government agencies, and heighten public awareness on the importance of cybersecurity.

The rapid digital transformation has led people to increase reliance on interconnected systems for their daily life, including government agencies. These agencies use digital platforms to carry out crucial functions related to national security, communications, and other essential services. However, since these institutions also use digital systems to handle sensitive information, they are constantly exposed to cybersecurity risks.

Reports from the United Nations Global Cybersecurity Index (UN GCI), Kaspersky (a private international cybersecurity company), and other reputable organizations show that the Philippines is among the top countries in the world with the highest cyber threats. A cyber attack on government systems will have severe consequences that may compromise the country's economic stability and public safety, to name a few.

Recognizing the imperative to protect the operational integrity of the Philippines' CII, JICA and the DICT joined forces to implement the Capacity Enhancement on Cybersecurity project. In this technical cooperation, JICA dispatches Japanese cybersecurity experts to conduct learning sessions for DICT and other government agencies' officials. The customized trainings and knowledge exchange are aligned with the framework and aspirations contained in the Philippine National Cybersecurity Plan 2023-2028 and will cover topics such as policy development, sectoral coordination, and incident handling and monitoring.

Following the Japan-Philippines-United States (US) Trilateral Summit in Washington, D.C. in April 2024, JICA likewise partnered with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Better Access and Connectivity (BEACON) project. JICA and USAID have the shared vision of supporting the Philippines' economic growth through



L-R: USAID Deputy Mission Director to the Philippines, Pacific Islands, and Mongolia Rebekah Eubanks; JICA Philippines Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema; DICT Assistant Secretary Philip Varilla; and the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, Economic Minister NIHEI Daisuke.

a robust information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure.

In July 2024, JICA, DICT, and USAID held a 3-day collaborative training on the Cybersecurity Risk Management as part of the project's capacity development activities. About 80 representatives from the DICT, Supreme Court, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Transport (DOTr), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), and other agencies benefitted from the training. Apart from cybersecurity risk management, the participants also learned about emerging cyber threats and the latest measures to prevent and counter them.

JICA reiterated its solid support to the DICT and its plans to build a more resilient and secure digital landscape for the Philippines at the Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) Summit 2024. ■

A Decade of Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders



JICA Alumni Association of the Philippines (JAAP) is the official alumni association of Filipino recipients of JICA scholarships and specialized training programs in Japan. It unified three alumni associations under JICA, namely:

1. Philippine-Japan Fellows Association (PHILJafa);
2. Philippine-ASEAN-Japan Friendship Association for the 21st Century, Inc. (PAJafa-21); and
3. Japan Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS).

Its goal is to foster stronger relationships among former Filipino JICA scholars and trainees, the Japanese government, and JICA alumni from other countries through development programs targeted at communities.



Over the past 10 years, the JAAP has grown into a solid community of Filipino scholars who have committed their time to serving their industry and the country as their way of paying forward the valuable opportunity they received from JICA. Now with more than 2,500 members representing the national and local government offices, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations, JAAP remains to be among the most active JICA alumni network of scholars in the ASEAN region.

With the members as grassroots ambassadors championing the thriving relationship between the Philippines and Japan, JAAP seeks to strengthen the fellowship among the members and enable them to work toward their shared vision of sustainable development. Filipino recipients utilize their Japanese education and experience to introduce innovations in their

respective organizations and communities, thus contributing to JICA's development work in the Philippines.

To amplify their impact, JAAP also collaborates with other stakeholders to carry out community service programs such as disaster response and calamity rescue operations, civil and social work, and many others. Doing so ensures that their important work is not only confined to national reforms and policy-level discussions, but is also felt at the grassroots.

As part of its 10th anniversary celebration, JAAP held an event on March 16, 2024 with the theme, "JAAP: Celebrating a Decade of Friendship and Success." It featured select alumni who shared their inspiring journeys from being a scholar to an innovation-driven leader in their organization and community. Representatives from JAAP's partner agencies including the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Embassy of Japan, and the ASEAN-Japan Friendship Programme of the 21st Century Alumni Association (AJAFA-21) also sent congratulatory messages in honor of the event. ■



To amplify their impact, JAAP also collaborates with other stakeholders to carry out community service programs such as disaster response and calamity rescue operations, civil and social work, and many others.

Throughout its 10-year history, JAAP members have represented the association, and have actively participated in or implemented knowledge-sharing sessions and network-building activities through regional and national events such as:

EVENT NAME	DATE	LOCATION
AJAFA-21 28th Regional Leaders Forum 2024	Nov 28 – Dec 01, 2024	Pampanga, Philippines
JAAP 10th Anniversary	Mar 16, 2024	Pasig City, Philippines
40th Anniversary of the Training Program for Young Leaders and AJAFA-21 36th Executive Council Meeting	Feb 29 – Mar 03, 2024	Tokyo, Japan
Shinnenkai 2024	Feb 2, 2024	Makati City, Philippines
AJAFA-21 50th ASEAN Japan Friendship Anniversary	Dec 11, 2023	Tokyo, Japan
ASJA-ASCOJA-PHILFEJA* Symposium 2020	Feb 7, 2020	Makati City, Philippines
Special Seminar with Nagoya University and Kobe University	Feb 22, 2018	Makati City, Philippines
Special Seminar with Hiroshima University and International Christian University	Feb 22, 2017	Makati City, Philippines
30th Anniversary of the Training Program for Young Leaders and AJAFA-21 27th Executive Council Meeting	Feb 05 – 09, 2015	Tokyo, Japan
Ramon Magsaysay Award Ceremony for JOCV* Recipients	Aug 31, 2016	Manila, Philippines

* **JST** – Japan Science and Technology Agency, **ASJA** – Asia Japan Alumni International, **ASCOJA** – ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni, **PHILFEJA** – Philippine Federation of Japan Alumni, **JOCV** – Japanese Overseas Cooperation Volunteers

Cultivating People's Potential through Education and Service

Innovators in Energy and Mining



The **Knowledge Co-Creation Program Long-Term (KCCP LT)** is a program that empowers researchers, educators, and government officials from developing countries by providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education in top Japanese universities and contribute to the attainment of the SDGs, while strengthening the bilateral ties between Japan and its partner countries.

JICA complements its infrastructure-centric technical and financial assistance to the Philippines by developing the innovators and future leaders who will inspire and support the sustainable development of the country. In 2024, JICA continued to implement the KCCP Long-Term, focusing on the energy and mining sectors as two key economic pillars in the country, especially amid climate change.

Two new scholars were sent to Japan under the KCCP Green Transformation (GX) Human Resources Development (HRD) for the Energy Sector Program. Jordan Ballaran, Senior Science Research Specialist at the Department of Energy (DOE), will pursue

a master's program in Public Policy at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS), while Archibald Echano, Principal Engineer at the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), will take up a master's in Business Administration, specializing in GX, at the International University of Japan. Though their Japanese education, they intend explore data-driven innovations and policy reforms that can help advance the energy sector in the Philippines.

For the mining sector, Aeron Elvin Dela Cruz, a geologist at the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), is set to study Sustainable Resource Engineering at the Hokkaido University under the KCCP Human Resources Development in the Mining Sector or KIZUNA Program. His research will focus on groundwater monitoring and management, specifically on groundwater pollution mitigation in small-scale mining. Like other scholars, he is excited to bring back his learnings and build up his and the organization's expertise in engineering, sustainability, and geo-environmental studies. Ultimately, he hopes that his study will result in innovative solutions that can better address the needs of small-scale miners in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Joric Timothy Alimon and Jomarie Permejo, both from the DOE, have returned to the Philippines after receiving quality education from premier Japanese institutions. Alimon completed his master's program of Public Policy at the GRIPS and studied the various mechanisms to accelerate the integration of renewable energy (RE) sources like solar and wind into the Philippine energy landscape under the



Ballaran during a discussion on National Smart Grid Policy Framework and Roadmap.



Dela Cruz collecting groundwater sample during a well inventory in Bulacan.



Alimon (right) and his professor in GRIPS.



Echano at JICA Philippines.

KCCP GX Program. He also learned about Japan's RE frameworks that can be adopted to boost sustainability and renewable technologies in the country.

Permejo, who recently completed her master's degree in Earth Resources Engineering from the Kyushu University under KCCP KIZUNA Program, is determined to put her advanced knowledge on exploration geophysics to good use. During her three years in Japan, she studied the application of magnetotelluric method (MT), a method used in geothermal exploration, for the modeling of reservoir structure in geothermal sites in the Philippines. Acquiring valuable knowledge from experts at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Kyokuto Valve, and Kyushu Electric Power



Permejo at Kyushu University.

Company, both Alimon and Permejo are expected to step up to leadership roles in carrying out institutional reforms in support of the Philippine Energy Plan 2023-2050.

Scholars for Space Technology

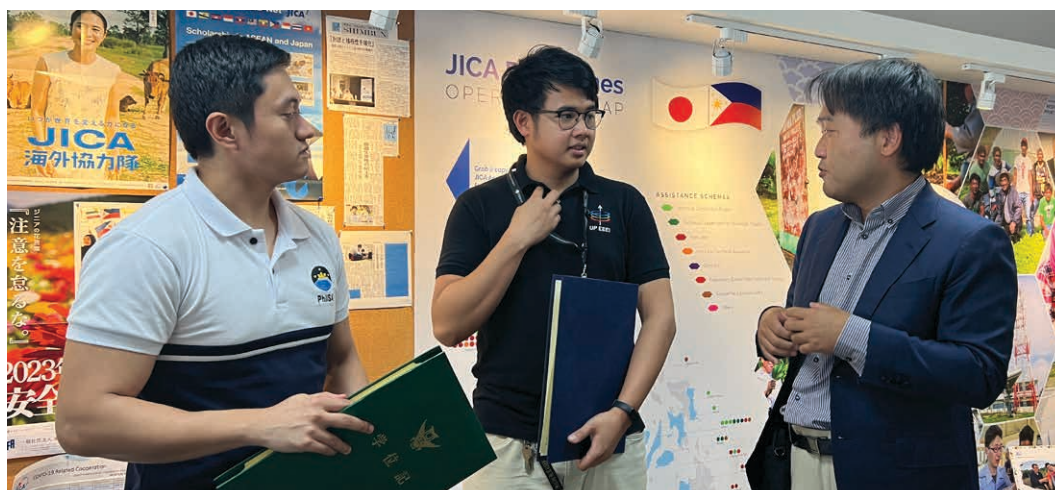


The **JICA-Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Network for Utilization of Space Technology (JJ-NEST)** is a KCCP LT scholarship program aimed at nurturing talents in space technology and innovation to address relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It targets to graduate 20 qualified students from the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Thailand, and Rwanda in the next five years.

Developing talents who will take the lead in space technology can harness immense development potential that touches on a range of sectors. As a strong proponent of human resources development, JICA partnered with the JAXA to nurture the next generation of space technology experts through the JJ-NEST scholarship program.

Charleston Dale Ambatali, a 27-year-old faculty of the University of the Philippines

Electrical and Electronics Engineering Institute (UPEEI), completed his doctorate degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics at the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Engineering under the program. Through the scholarship, he aims to develop a technology that will help marginalized communities, mentor young students in satellite development, and contribute to the advancement of space programs in the



Ambatali (middle) with JJ-NEST batchmate John Paul Almonte (left) discussing their plans with JICA Senior Representative YANAGIUCHI Masanari (right).



Ambatali during his graduation ceremony at the University of Tokyo.

Philippines. His research, Analysis of the MicrowaveWirelessPowerTransferEfficiency of a Furoshiki Space Solar Power Station in Geostationary Orbit, won him the General Chairperson Award at the 34th International Symposium on Space Technology and Science (ISTS) in Kyushu, Japan.

Now back in the Philippines, Ambatali rejoined the UPEEI faculty and serves as an advisor to the scholars of the MAYA-7 satellite project.

Strengthening Education Systems



The **Knowledge Co-Creation Program-Country Focus (KCCP-CF) Educators' Knowledge and Skills Development** is a two-week training designed for school principals, teachers, as well as Department of Education (DepEd) officials involved in curriculum development, learning delivery, and training of teachers, to learn about Japanese-style education. It aims to strengthen the capacity of Filipino educators to improve the quality and system of education in the Philippines.

As a cornerstone to economic growth, JICA amps up its support to the education sector to ensure that it meets the needs of a new generation of learners. Through the KCCP-CF Knowledge and Skills Development program, DepEd officials and decision-makers, school administrators, principals, and teachers gain insight into the Japanese style of education to enhance their own techniques.

In 2024, JICA facilitated a two-week training and immersion program in Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan for 10 Filipino educators, including

participants from various Philippine institutions, with each of them focusing on a particular gap in the country's education system.

The participants were introduced to Japan's strategies related to curriculum guidelines, textbook development, education administration, and teacher education, among others, through school visits, interviews, and discussions with their counterparts. They were introduced to 'Tokkatsu', Japan's holistic approach to education that gives equal importance to academic proficiency and social, emotional, and physical development through special activities.

At the end of their study tour, the Filipino educators noted the key success factors of the Japanese education system, such as upholding high academic standards for both teachers and learners, putting a premium on cultural preservation and moral education, investing in technology integration, and adopting learner-centered methodologies.

Upon returning to the Philippines, the training participants formulated actionable recommendations and identified features of Japanese schools that can be adopted in the country. ■



Participants of the 2024 KCCP-CF Educators' Knowledge and Skills Development program.

Impact in Action



Industry Partner

George T. Barcelon

Chairman

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)

PCCI recognizes JICA for helping shape our country's infrastructure landscape. Throughout its advocacy and policy initiatives, PCCI has engaged JICA, citing its extensive studies on infrastructure, transportation and logistics as they relate to business productivity and the country's economic competitiveness.

We at the PCCI are grateful to JICA for its programs, projects and studies not only on infrastructure, but on education, disaster risk reduction and management, and capacity building. These continue to boost our country's investment climate, have helped to enhance the quality of life for many Filipinos, enhanced human resources and empowered local communities. Moreover, your programs on industry promotion have fostered stronger bilateral relations between our countries, paving the way for more business opportunities and economic cooperation.

It is our fervent wish that JICA will continue on its work in the Philippines as we strive to achieve a better life for all Filipinos.



Partner – Davao City Bypass Project

Emil K. Sadain, CESO I

Senior Undersecretary

Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)

The Davao Bypass Project is a flagship infrastructure initiative that incorporates cutting-edge engineering techniques and innovative structural designs. Expected to drive transformative change in the Davao Region, it will significantly enhance connectivity and create new opportunities for economic growth and improved livelihoods in Davao City.

This revolutionary road project is a demonstration of the government's unwavering commitment to rallying towards "Bagong Pilipinas".

Ultimately, this high impact project will transform the country's national road network with its first-ever long-distance mountain tunnel, bringing its remarkable impact and influence to the economic upswing in Davao City and the whole country.

The successful advancement of the project is made possible through the invaluable support and technical assistance provided by JICA to the DPWH. Their unparalleled expertise, advanced skills, and cutting-edge technologies play a crucial role in strengthening the project, further reinforcing JICA's commitment to supporting the Philippine government in delivering safe, reliable, and resilient infrastructure for the benefit of the Filipino people.



Partner – Maritime Safety Capability Improvement Project (MSCIP)

Jonathan Tariman

Lieutenant Commander

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)

As project manager of the MSCIP, I am most proud that we successfully implemented one of the largest maritime safety and security projects for the PCG. The new MRRVs have proven to be effective and highly instrumental in asserting the Philippines' sovereignty and jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea. They are also valuable assets during search and rescue operations.

The MSCIP has greatly impacted the Philippines' maritime safety and security, marine environment, as well as the well-being of the users of the sea, all of which are critical for the security and sustainable growth of our archipelagic and maritime country.

I thank JICA for being a steadfast partner of the PCG in its modernization efforts throughout the years. Part of the reason for the PCG's significant improvement in its capabilities is because of JICA's role in delivering critical support through the provision of MRRVs, comprehensive training programs, and sharing of technical expertise. These have empowered the PCG to better fulfill its mandate.



Beneficiary - Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Stephanie Russel C. Escaño

Grade VI Teacher

Puguis Elementary School

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to JICA and its project partners for including and choosing our school to be one of the beneficiaries of the JOCV program.

We greatly appreciate the practical knowledge your volunteer shared with our learners on disaster risk reduction, particularly for floods and landslides. This is very helpful to us since our school is in La Trinidad, Benguet, which is prone to natural and human-induced hazards due to its topography and geologic characteristics.

The clear and applicable examples cited, combined with actionable tips, have equipped our learners to better understand and prepare for disasters. The activities inspired us to take proactive steps to safeguard our communities, promote environmental responsibility, and share what we have learned with the others. Your guidance and lectures have not only expanded the awareness of our learners, but also empowered them to contribute to creating a safer and more resilient environment.

Thank you and more power to JICA and JOCV.



Beneficiary – Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Gerlie V. Tacio

LDRRM Assistant

La Trinidad, Benguet LGU

Partnering with JICA in creating DRRM modules for Grade 6 students has been a truly enriching experience. It was a two-way process where we not only shared our expertise in DRRM, but also gained valuable insights from their approach and the experiences of their volunteers. They supported the LGU by bringing in innovative practices and sharing success stories, which significantly enhanced our capacity to serve our communities better.

Our project aims to build a culture of safety and resilience among the children and their communities. By presenting easy-to-understand DRRM concepts, they are able to recognize hazards and take proactive steps to protect themselves and others during emergencies.

Working with JICA has reinforced the importance of building strong partnerships to achieve shared goals. It is more than just exchanging knowledge; it is about creating meaningful change together. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to learn more about their programs and the impact they create for their beneficiaries.



Partner - JICA Alumni Association of the Philippines (JAAP)

Atty. Marites Barrios-Taran

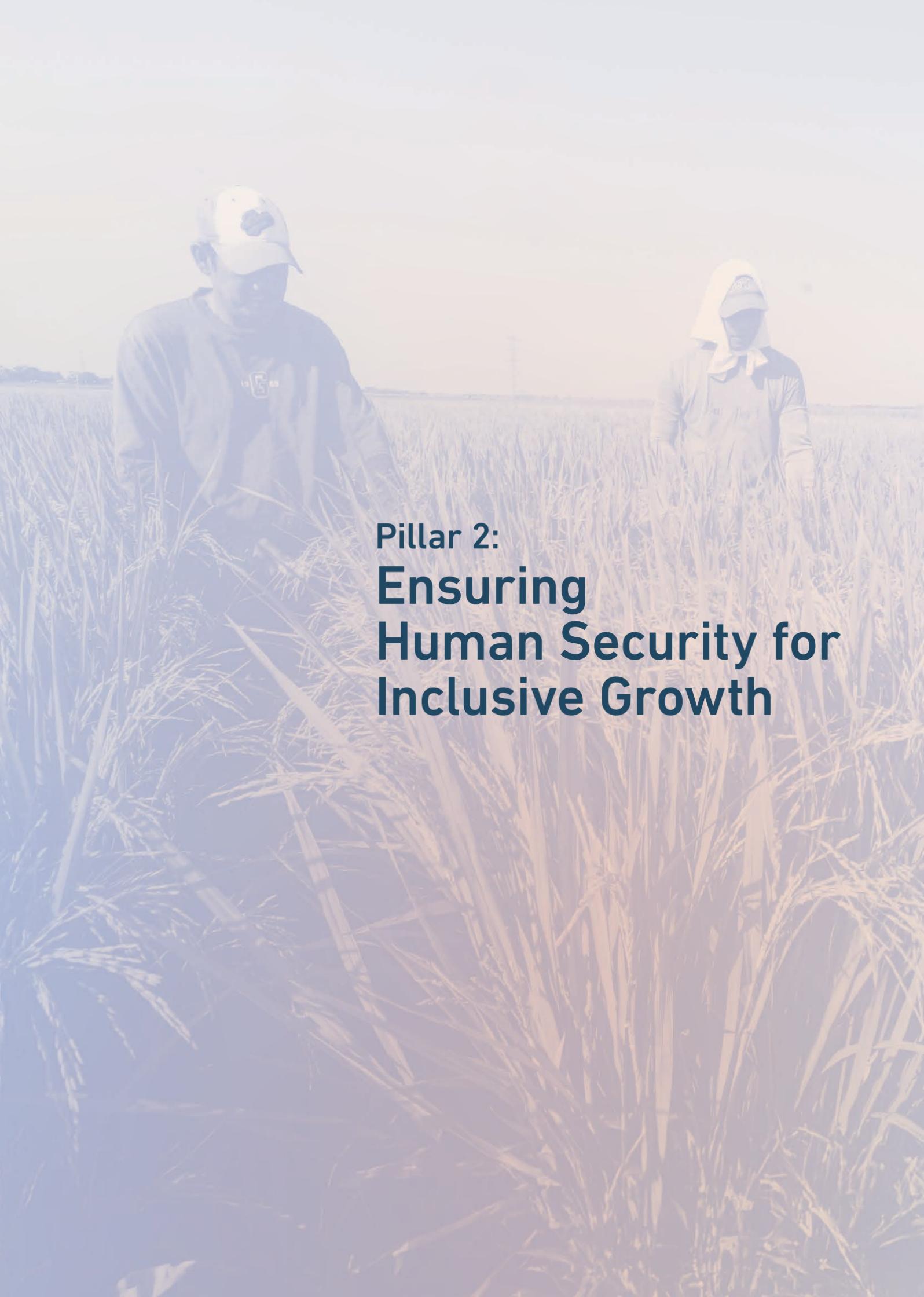
Director General, Commission on the Filipino Language

JAAP President

Our collaboration with JICA has been a game-changer. Their unwavering support, guidance, and trust have inspired our team to strive for excellence. JICA's genuine commitment to empowering communities and fostering global understanding resonates deeply with our values. We are grateful for the invaluable experiences, expertise, and friendships forged through our partnership.

Over the years, JICA has been a diligent and caring family member ('kapamilya') and a true friend ('kaibigan') to JAAP members. JICA's support enabled JAAP to be known as an association of real people who would like to use their Japanese education to have an impact on their family, their community, and at the workplace.

With JICA by our side, JAAP has helped our members by exposing them not only to follow through trainings and conferences, but also to cooperation and friendship. JAAP members have a certain bond that brings them together to fulfill a common goal of being an important part of nation-building.

A photograph of two farmers working in a rice field. The farmer on the left is wearing a white cap and a dark long-sleeved shirt, and is bent over, working with the rice plants. The farmer on the right is wearing a white hooded garment and a white cap, and is standing upright. The field is filled with tall rice plants, and the background shows a clear sky and distant power lines.

Pillar 2:
**Ensuring
Human Security for
Inclusive Growth**

Building a Strong Public Health Foundation

Infectious Disease Control



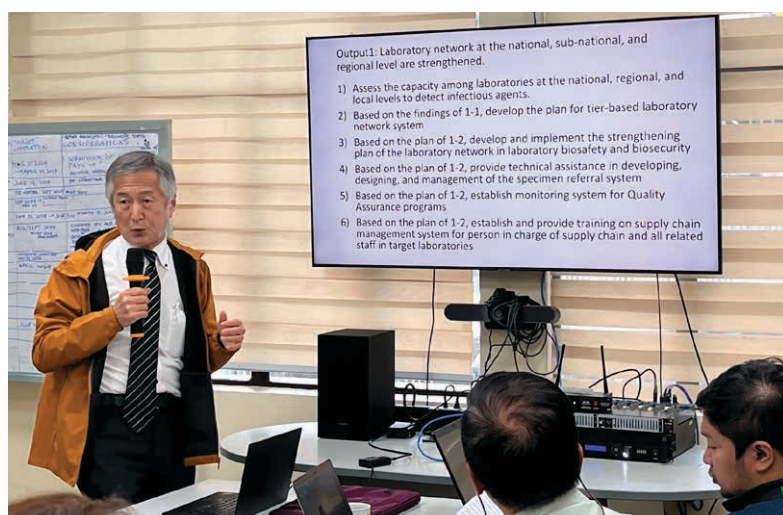
The **Project for Strengthening the Philippine National Health Laboratory Network for Infectious Diseases (PHeLNIDS)** is a project done in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and targets to build the capability of national, subnational, and regional laboratories to test for, respond to, and manage infectious diseases, thereby preparing them for possible COVID-19-like scenarios in the future.

Having a solid public health infrastructure and system are key to a country's quality growth. This is why JICA continues to work closely with the Philippine government through the Department of Health (DOH) in tackling essential public health challenges, such as response to infectious diseases.

Following the successful implementation of Phase I of PHeLNIDS, JICA and DOH moved to Phase II of said project in February 2024. The project team built on the detailed plans and recommendations developed during the initial phase, including surveys on specimen referral and the Web-based Questionnaire Survey (WQS) on laboratory capacity and practices, to shape the second phase's capacity development component. The training programs focused on three key areas, namely, laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, whole genome sequencing, and surveillance data analytics.

A total of 16 personnel from DOH central and regional offices underwent a JICA-sponsored training in Japan to determine possible solutions to issues on human resources, sectoral coordination, and information systems, among others. The participants learned through site visits and meaningful discussions with Japanese experts from the Research Institute of Tuberculosis / Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association (RIT / JATA), National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID), Waseda University, and Shinjuku Public Health Center.

More activities are slated to be conducted until target completion of Phase II in July 2026. These initiatives are aimed at strengthening the country's health laboratory network, to ensure that these facilities are equipped to effectively respond to current and emerging infectious diseases.



During the Kick-Off Meeting of PHeLNIDS Phase II.



DOH personnel during their training in Japan.

Preventing Drug Dependence



The **Project for Introducing Evidence-Based Relapse Prevention Programs on Drug Dependence Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers in the Philippines (IntERlaPP)** is a collaboration project of JICA and DOH that seeks to modernize and enhance the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (DATRCs) in the Philippines through treatment model development, research, and supervision strengthening. This project is aligned with the government's thrust to deliver effective treatment and rehabilitation services to people who use drugs (PWUD) to allow for their reintegration to the community.

Beyond epidemiology and preventing diseases, public health also functions to promote healthy behaviors, particularly in vulnerable groups that are susceptible to health risks. Helping people who use drugs (PWUD) to get back on the right track benefits not only them, but also their families, neighbors, and the community at large. To achieve this, however, a capable treatment and rehabilitation system must be in place.

To address the capacity gaps of DATRCs in the Philippines, JICA teamed up with the DOH to implement the IntERlaPP.

Said project started in 2017 amid the surge of PWUD that surrendered and subjected themselves to a rehabilitation program. It uncovered lapses in the existing rehabilitation system; hence, the effective intervention to generate better health outcomes.

The project developed and implemented the Intensive Treatment and Rehabilitation Program for Residential Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers (INTREPRET) and the Enhanced Treatment Program Outpatient Services (ENTREPOSE), both innovative and evidence-based, and customized to Filipino socio-cultural perspectives despite being modeled after the US-based Matrix Model and with insights from Tsukuba University experts on the Japanese Matrix Model.

The field testing confirmed that INTREPRET fostered better treatment and rehabilitation practices among the staff. More importantly, the program participants exhibited an improved overall well-being, reduced risk of relapse, and enhanced coping strategies.

To ensure that frontline personnel will be able to administer the new models correctly, 763 practitioners from 27 DATRCs across the Philippines underwent training. Apart from procedure, the capacity development sessions also focused on how to effectively understand and manage the emotions,



PWUDs during a session of rehabilitation.



DATRC staff at a facilitators training.

thoughts, and behaviors of the patients. Learning modules on INTREPRET and ENTREPOSE were likewise made available on the DOH Academy E-Learning platform to make it easier for DATRCs to apply said models in their respective facilities.

With the IntERlaPP's successful completion in June 2024, the project became a model of revolutionary drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation for other governments and organizations to replicate. ■

Cultivating Agriculture as a Pillar of Growth



JICA expert on production technique (right) coaching a farmer cooperater (left) on sweet pepper cultivation.



JICA marketing expert (left) and outlet manager promoting vegetable consumption as part of IEC efforts.

Value Chain Development



The **Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain (MV2C)** is a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) between JICA and the Department of Agriculture (DA) that endeavors to strengthen the overall vegetable food value chain in the Philippines, while addressing challenges on production, processing, transportation, and marketing. To do this, the project is developing Integrated Food Value Chain Models with farmer cooperators, businesses, and other stakeholders to foster a better life and future for those in the agriculture sector.

Food inflation in the Philippines continues to pose a threat to food security, driven by high cost of meat, vegetables, tubers, plantains, and other products. The agriculture sector is particularly hindered by low productivity, which can be attributed to the inefficiencies in its value chain and weaknesses of the current support system. Issues in supply, logistics, and transportation costs underscore that the difficulties are mainly in post-production, and not in the production phase.

Aiming to avert further setbacks that may lead to a crisis, JICA entered a technical cooperation with the DA to improve tools and methods in the vegetable industry. The MV2C program adopts a market-oriented approach while introducing different technical solutions across the value chain, encouraging better quality of produce and income for farmers, and achieving food security, accessibility, and affordability for every Filipino.

JICA dispatched Japanese professionals who shared their expertise in effective cultivation techniques with vegetable growers in Benguet Province and Quezon Province

to increase farm productivity. For instance, members of the *Sentrong Pamilyan ng Produktong Agrikultura sa Quezon Foundation, Inc.* (SPPAQFI) were trained to use pre-cooling technology to maintain the vegetables' quality and extend their shelf life after harvest. The Gumaca Vegetable Growers Association (GVGA), for their part, started introducing grafted seedlings of lowland vegetables like tomatoes and ampalaya (bitter melon), which are widely produced in Quezon and are resistant to soil-borne diseases prevalent during off-season production.

In Benguet, field trials on long-term shipment through facility cultivation were carried out in four vegetable-producing municipalities, using tomatoes and sweet peppers as test crops. The farmers were taught growing techniques such as soil conditioning through green manuring, use of grafted tomato seedlings, fertilizer application based on soil analysis, and pest and disease management, to name a few. Meanwhile, the Pinagdanlayan Rural Improvement Club Multi-Purpose Cooperative has adopted

the Merchandising Approach to better understand their target market and develop new products to fulfill customer demand and expand its business.

Another opportunity that will be explored in the MV2C is the low vegetable consumption in the country. Filipino adults are reported to consume significantly less than the World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization recommended daily intake of combined fruits and vegetables.¹

The project addresses this through information, education, and communication (IEC) partnerships with canteens that serve vegetable meals in Metro Manila.

To ensure the program's sustainability, JICA and the DA will also collaborate with other national agencies, local government units, private companies, and entrepreneurs to link the farmers to the end-users, as envisioned in the Philippine Vegetable Industry Roadmap 2021-2025.

Reliable Irrigation Systems



The **National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NISRIP)** is a joint undertaking of JICA, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) that intends to increase rice productivity and ensure food security by upgrading the irrigation facilities in 11 national irrigation systems (NIS) across the Philippines, and supporting Irrigators' Associations (IAs) through capacity development activities.

JICA provided a loan amounting to PHP 3.416 billion (JPY 6.187 billion).

Cultivating staple crops such as rice, corn, coconut, and root vegetables plays a crucial role in ensuring food security and supporting rural communities in the Philippines. Even with the country's natural resources, however, the agriculture sector continues to experience production shortfalls that force the Philippines to rely on imports. Among the key challenges that contribute to this is the lack of irrigation infrastructure, which limits productivity and makes farmlands more vulnerable to drought and erratic weather patterns.

To address this pressing concern, JICA worked with NIA and PhilRice to launch the NISRIP in 2012. Primarily, NISRIP seeks to resolve the technical challenges by rehabilitating and improving the operations and maintenance of 11 NIS in Regions I, III, IV, VI, X, XI, XII, and XIII.

Beyond the infrastructure, NISRIP also aims to address the Filipino farmers' need to learn modern farming techniques, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to optimize their yields, explore other high-value opportunities, and access more markets effectively. Ultimately, these initiatives look to empower the farmers to overcome systemic

poverty as they increase their income and



San Fabian irrigation system.

build better livelihoods.

NISRIP also supports the Philippine government's programs to build the resilience of the agriculture sector and ensure food security, thereby boosting the economic growth of the country.

Over the years, JICA, NIA, and PhilRice have helped over 22,500 farmer beneficiaries and

¹ Source: 2021 Expanded National Nutrition Survey

covered about 36,000 hectares of farmlands. With the project's completion, NIA is now able to provide sufficient irrigation water to

Filipino farmers in Luzon, Visayas, and even in Mindanao, particularly, Agusan del Sur, Sultan Kudarat, and Maguindanao.

Disease Control in Crops



The **Development of Novel Disease Management Systems for Banana and Cacao (BaCaDM)** is a project under the JICA-supported Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development (SATREPS), a program that promotes collaborative research study between a Japanese academic institution and a university in a partner country like the Philippines. In the case of BaCaDM, Japan's Tamagawa University (TU) and Japan Science and Technology (JST) partnered with the Philippines' Central Luzon State University (CLSU) to identify the causes of novel diseases affecting banana and cacao farms, and to develop a solution to effectively manage them.

Banana and cacao, as high value crops, are



A researcher from CLSU collects sample soil infested by Fusarium wilt from one of the pilot sites in Davao.

considered essential products that help maintain the stability of the agriculture sector, boost export figures, and ensure food security in the Philippines. Like other crops, however, they face constant threats from harmful diseases like Fusarium wilt and Sigatoka disease in bananas and black pod disease and vascular streak disease (VSD) in cacao. In 2019, for example, banana plantations in Mindanao were plagued by Fusarium wilt, which resulted in a 10.7% decline in banana export the following year.

To ensure the protection and sustainable production of these products, the BaCaDM project aims to develop and implement an

innovative system that will enable Filipino farmers to address crop diseases through disease examination, forecasting outbreaks, and the adoption of environmentally sustainable cultivation methods.

Through research and field surveys in project sites in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol region, Northern Mindanao, and Davao, the project has successfully identified the Fusarium wilt pathogen in Cavendish bananas. It also confirmed that Anaerobic Soil Disinfestation (ASD) is the best method to manage the disease, and introducing low concentration 1% ethanol as carbon source to activate microorganisms is more effective in preventing an outbreak than chemical fumigants.

The BaCaDM project also hopes to open up more collaboration opportunities among government entities, the private sector, and the academe to pursue research activities and address key challenges in the agricultural sector. The project proponents held the 1st and 2nd International Stakeholders' Forum on Banana and Cacao Pests and Diseases Management in Manila and Davao, Philippines, in 2024 and 2025, respectively, not only to introduce the BaCaDM project to local and international stakeholders, but also to harmonize current studies and initiatives, and create a holistic impact on the banana and cacao industries. ■

Championing Collaboration in Climate, Nature, and Resource Management

Climate Action and Green Transformation



JICA's **Climate Change and Energy Activities** are central to its climate-resilient development agenda and are guided by international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These include initiatives that help the Philippine government strengthen its climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and promote multi-stakeholder discussion and collaboration in environmental protection. To reinforce these initiatives, JICA also conducts capacity building programs for key personnel in national and local government who are involved in climate change policy formulation and project implementation.

JICA has remained true to its commitment to support the Philippines' climate action. One of its most recent efforts is the completion of the Final Report of the Data Collection Survey (DCS) for Climate Change Measures and Green Transformation in 2024. The report provides JICA's review of existing national policies and frameworks like the Climate Change Act (2009 and amended in 2012), National Framework Strategy on Climate Change (2010-2022), National Climate Change Action Plan (2011-2028), and the Local Climate Change Action Plan, to name a few.

The DCS also looked at existing programs, as well as their implementation and impact on the country's climate-related targets, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). Through this comprehensive survey, JICA identified issues and challenges that the government should consider in fine-tuning its climate change mitigation and adaptation plans. Using the results of the study as baseline, JICA proposed possible short- and long-term cooperation programs that will allow the Philippines to attain its Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emission and other climate-related targets.



JICA with Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert Borje during the DCS. Photo by CCC



Scan here
for full report of the
data collection survey



JICA and DOE visit a hydropower plant in Laguna in preparation for their new project.

The key points and recommendations are summarized below (Table 1).

As a result of the DCS, for renewable energy, JICA will collaborate with the Department of Energy (DOE) on a new technical cooperation project in mid-2025, the Resource Inventory of Hydropower Potential Sites. It will focus on updating existing hydropower resource data previously completed in a JICA survey in 2012 by identifying potential sites for large-scale impoundment and pumped

storage hydropower plants with capacities exceeding 100MW. This initiative is crucial to the attainment of the country's targets of having a 35% RE share in the power generation mix by 2030, and 50% by 2040, thereby bolstering energy security, reduction of GHG emissions, and the provision of a sustainable energy source to support economic growth.

JICA has been also in discussions with the Philippine government on a pipeline policy-based loan, as well as technical cooperation activities on strengthening climate change initiatives, sustainability, transparency framework, and forest monitoring.

Complementing these efforts with human resource development, JICA started its recruitment in the Philippines in 2024 for the Knowledge Co-Creation Program (Long-Term) Climate Change Policy Program. The chosen scholars will undergo either a 2-year master's program or 3-year doctor's program from top Japanese institutions. The program seeks to develop their skills in climate-related program planning, policy making, and project implementation, which they are expected to use as they help advance their organization's role in global climate action.

Table 1. Priority Sectors for Climate Change Policy Intervention

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest contributor to national GHG emissions at 49% • Needs more private sector investments on renewable energy power sources
Industry and Private Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounts for 8% of total GHG inventory • Cement, steel, and refrigeration and air conditioning industries make up the majority of the sector's GHG emissions • No legal mandate for private companies and SMEs to take climate-related measures; only incentives such as tax holidays, subsidies, and green financing are provided
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second largest GHG emitter at 26% • Hardest hit by climate-related disasters • Requires efficiency measures, risk-based planning, financing, and modernization to reduce GHG emissions
Forestry/ Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forestry as priority for adaptation measures such as reforestation and access to results-based financing in forest conservation • Coastal / marine and biodiversity sector needs both adaptation and mitigation strategies such as conservation and protection to sequester carbon from the oceans through blue carbon policies
Urban Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accounts for 15% of the Philippines' total GHG emissions • Includes wastewater treatment and solid waste management • Need to promote mitigating measures like recycling, composting, and proper management of waste and wastewater treatment • Requires local government participation and policy setting
Cross-Sectoral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refers to cross-sectoral issues related to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and promotion of private sector engagement in climate action • Need for a comprehensive program to strengthen GHG emission reduction activities

Ensuring a holistic approach in climate action, JICA has been actively advocating initiatives in climate change management, particularly in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and sustainable transport systems like rail-based services. JICA adopts the Co-Benefits Approach to Climate Change, which is an

integrative, inclusive, and holistic process that promotes sustainability while supporting both adaptation and mitigation efforts for climate-resilient development. It focuses on maximizing synergies, minimizing trade-offs, as well as protecting and preserving natural ecosystems and biodiversity.

Solid Waste Management



The **Project for Improvement of Municipal Solid Waste Management (SWM) System in the City of Davao** is a technical cooperation for grassroots project between JICA and the local government of Davao that aims to develop a mechanism for proper segregation, collection, transportation, and recycling of household wastes. It is a follow-up to the earlier initiative, Project for Enhancing SWM in Davao City, implemented from April 2017 to March 2020. Ultimately, the project's goals are to ensure public health and safety, as well as to eliminate wastes that end up in rivers causing water pollution.

Building on a previous cooperation, JICA and the City Government of Davao embarked on a new project to improve SWM in their metro. Based on the data from the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), Davao City generates 1,335.51 tons of solid wastes per day. If left untreated, it may result in public health issues, as well as costly economic and environmental damages.

JICA tapped the expertise of the Kitakyushu City Environmental Preservation Association (KEPA) and the experience of the City of Kitakyushu in Japan, recognized for its comprehensive and highly effective solid waste management system, to help the local officials in developing a mechanism that is tailored to the specific needs of their communities.

The project advances a community-based participatory approach which ensures that all stakeholders—from the residents, *purok*¹ leaders, *barangay*² officials, and up to the city government officials—fully commit to their roles. Emphasis is given to proper waste segregation and disposal at the household level, which makes for a seamless transition to the next steps in the SWM process.

Representatives from Davao City participated in a training program on SWM in Kitakyushu City in November 2024. The project continued picking up momentum with various activities. These include a survey of



Trainees from Davao City were exposed to the practices of a sorting plant in Kitakyushu City.



JICA with residents of Brgy. 76-A and representatives from Kitakyushu and Davao City's environment office during a seminar.

¹ Small district community

² Group of purok, smaller unit within a city.

the residents' understanding of important concepts such as composting and waste segregation, mapping of collection points for both general and recyclable wastes, conduct of kitchen waste experiments to determine the best composting method, and analyzing the composition of solid wastes in the community. The activities were initially done in the target purok and was later expanded to six more areas and additional 300

households. The project team also procured equipment such as tricycles for use in the collection and transportation of waste.

JICA continues to work closely with Davao City and community representatives in carrying out promotion and training sessions, and in identifying the next steps based on the insights from the surveys and interviews conducted.

Forestland Management



The **Forestland Management Project (FMP)**, a 12-year joint project of JICA and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), adopts a comprehensive community-based forest conservation approach for three critical river basins in the Philippines, namely, Upper Magat and Cagayan in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Region II, Pampanga in Region III, and Jalaur, Panay Island in Region VI. Aside from increasing the forest cover, FMP also looks to improve socio-economic conditions of upland communities through enterprise development, and contribute to mitigating disasters and the effects of climate change.



Silvopasture Plantation of Ifugao.

Decades of deforestation are being reversed by a JICA-DENR collaboration with upland communities. The Forestland Management Project is advancing sustainable forest management and watershed protection by empowering the upland communities to take an active part in conservation, while addressing their socio-economic needs.

These efforts highlight how integrated and community-driven approaches can address deforestation and foster sustainable socio-economic benefits. By restoring and strengthening river basin ecosystems, the project also contributes to disaster risk

reduction through agroforestry plantations that help improve soil conditions and water retention.

The construction of several agroforestry support facilities (ASF) is an important component of the FMP that lays foundation to the project's sustainability. Facilities constructed and turned over include rehabilitated farm to market roads and pathways, constructed concrete and hanging bridges, and improved irrigation pipelines. These facilities are integral to improving access to forest and farmlands, basic social and government services, and timely transport of farm produce and goods to local market centers. Irrigation pipeline systems, particularly, help ensure water availability to maintain established forest plantations and farmlands, especially during dry season, and strengthen forest fire prevention.

With much achieved by the project, the upland dwellers grow empowered to further the groundwork that they have started. By taking ownership of sustainable forest management practices, the progress made under the project will be sustained, creating a legacy of environmental stewardship and community-driven development for the generations ahead.

12 Years of the Forestland Management Project


24 

Sub-watershed
management
plans crafted



71,300 ha

of tree and agroforestry plantations
established

5.48%
increase 

in forest cover in project areas



102 

agroforestry support
facilities constructed

3 

Agroforestry Value
Chain Facilities (coffee
processing facility)



103%
increase

in household income for
direct beneficiaries

81% 
increase

in household income for
indirect beneficiaries



**149 People's
Organizations**

organized and
strengthened, including
operationalization of
local enterprises

Clean Water for All



JICA's advisory service on **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** seeks to enhance the capacity of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and National Water Resources Board (NWRB) in the formulation and implementation of national and regional development plans for the water resources sector, preparation of policy papers, studies, and data management methodologies for effective IWRM implementation, and formulation of IWRM master plans. This program builds on JICA's earlier initiative, the Data Collection Survey for Water Resources Development and Management in the Philippines, which started in 2021.

The Philippines is vulnerable to water supply risks and climate volatility. Metropolitan areas like Manila and Cebu continue to face water shortage issues due to rapid population growth and economic development, more so for rural areas. An El Niño³ phenomenon experienced in 2019 brought to the fore the importance of effectively managing the country's scarce water resources to meet the current and future water demands of various sectors and stakeholders through Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

In the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the government pointed to several challenges that hinder the implementation of water resources improvement projects. These include the weak and fragmented institutional setup among many agencies with water-related functions, making it difficult to assign clear accountabilities and to administer



Delegates of the Invitation Program for IWRM-related agencies at the JICA Headquarters for a courtesy visit.

oversight and regulation on water service providers. The impacts of climate change on hydrologic variability, coupled with insufficient water-related data also contribute to the setbacks in the water sector.

³ Climate phenomenon in the tropical Pacific Ocean that can cause droughts, floods, and severe weather conditions.



During JICA Invitation Program to Sameura Dam in Okawa Village, Japan where the Philippine delegation learned about current water conservation efforts.

JICA will leverage Japan's wealth of insights and experiences in water resources management to support the agencies in policymaking, research, data management, and IWRM.

To help address these concerns, JICA, in an advisory role, is providing technical advice to NEDA and NWRB on the implementation of PDP for the water resources sector, policymaking and planning for effective IWRM implementation particularly on establishment of water resources bodies, and preparation and implementation of IWRM plans. JICA will leverage Japan's wealth of insights and experiences in water resources management to support the agencies.

Setting things in motion, JICA organized a week-long study trip to Japan in 2024 for delegates from NEDA, NWRB, DENR-Water Resources Management Office, DPWH,

National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). By engaging in productive discussions with Japanese water resources experts, the participants learned about Japan's best practices in water management strategies, particularly in solving basin-related issues, strengthening organizational systems, and consultative mechanisms for consensus-building. From these visits, the group carefully observed and analyzed the similarities and differences in IWRM approach in the Pampanga and Cagayan River Basins.

Back in the Philippines, JICA conducted a lecture series for young engineers and policymakers in its partner agencies, as well as site visits to existing water resources facilities in Regions II, III, and IV-A. These activities aim to equip the agency representatives with the skills required for the institutional, technical and operational, and stakeholder management aspects of IWRM.



The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector to Tackle the New Effluent Standard and Effective Development of Sewer Infrastructure with Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Technology in the Philippines** is a collaboration among JICA, the City Government of Baguio, and FujiClean Co., Ltd, a leading Japanese developer of onsite wastewater treatment technology and manufacturer of residential and commercial wastewater treatment systems or “*Jokaso*”, aiming to test for the efficacy and applicability of the patented technology of FujiClean in addressing the sanitation challenges in Baguio City.

This undertaking is part of JICA's public-private partnership promotion program which focuses on introducing innovative solutions of Japanese enterprises that respond to various development challenges of JICA's partner countries.

JICA's partnership with the City Government of Baguio spans decades and has covered key environmental, health, and local economic issues. In the 1980s, Japan provided financial assistance for the construction of Baguio's sewage treatment plan, which remains the city's main wastewater treatment facility. However, the facility has faced challenges in keeping up with the city's growing population and increasing wastewater output.

This leaves the majority of the residents using poorly maintained septic tanks that discharge untreated wastewater to groundwater and surface drainage, polluting the river systems and increasing the risk of water supply contamination.

As a major destination, Baguio's sanitation problems become even more evident in the face of economic development, population growth, and the constant increase in number of local and international tourists visiting the city year-round.

While Baguio City has initiated several measures to counter these environmental and health hazards, wastewater treatment facilities remain inadequate. It has also been difficult to implement sewer projects because of Baguio's geographical characteristics. Moreover, the new effluent standard imposed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Administrative Order (DAO) 2021-19 required an innovative wastewater treatment model that is both cost-effective and suitable to the city's unique conditions.

Understanding the urgency of this matter, JICA and the City Government of Baguio signed the collaboration agreement document in 2024 to kickstart the SDGs Business Verification Survey, a project that aims to test FujiClean's decentralized wastewater treatment system (DWTS), or *Jokaso*, as a solution to the city's sanitation challenges. The survey will demonstrate that FujiClean's



Signing ceremony for the survey's minutes of the meeting between FujiClean and Baguio City.

products, technology, know-how, and business model have the performance to achieve DENR's Administrative Orders on the general effluent standards for Class A water body classification and will create a solution to effectively develop sewer infrastructure by combining centralized treatment plant system and FujiClean decentralized wastewater treatment system.

As part of this survey, FujiClean will install a DWTS in a strategic site in Baguio City, check its operational performance, and conduct wastewater effluent testing. The company will likewise train the local community on how to operate, maintain, and manage the system.

FujiClean's model uses a technology that has been certified and proven effective in Japan, United States, Australia, and Germany. The company's DWTS consists of tank and air blowers made from fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) and uses biofilm to effectively remove organics and nitrogen from the wastewater. It is easy to install and maintain even by people without an engineering or technical background. The system's reliable performance, efficient design, and low operational costs make it a sustainable option for wastewater treatment in Baguio City. ■

Fostering Disaster-Resilient Communities



Rosario Weir flood gates on the Manggahan Floodway.



Training Program in Japan.

Flood Mitigation



The **Project for the Enhancement of Flood Control Strategy in Prioritized River Basins** is a project by JICA and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that aims to strengthen the overall flood management framework in the Philippines by reviewing and updating the existing flood control master plans of the Pasig-Marikina and Cagayan River Basins. It also seeks to reinforce coordination among concerned national agencies and local government units as part of disaster risk reduction and management.

Flooding has been a perennial problem in many areas in the Philippines and it continues to affect the most vulnerable communities. Every typhoon reveals a systemic issue that requires an equally systemic solution. Thus, the technical cooperation for the Project for the Enhancement of Flood Control Strategy in Prioritized River Basins was formalized through a kick-off meeting in April 2024 between JICA and the DPWH.

The project intends to alleviate flood risks in the basins by improving the flood control master plans and conducting the pre-feasibility study for prioritized countermeasures. It seeks to unify the flood management strategies of national government agencies and local government units (LGU), creating a holistic and more effective flood control system. Collaborative dialogues are continuous among the

DPWH, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and LGUs, to name a few, to ensure coordinated development of the master plan toward integrated water resources management.

Using Japan's technical know-how and experiences in flood management and disaster risk reduction, JICA aims to usher the Philippines to a 100-year flood safety. A technical consultant team and JICA long-term expert dispatched to DPWH have started working on the Pasig-Marikina River Basin and Cagayan River Basin to collect basic data such as hydraulic information, development plans, and flood hazard and risk map, among others. A training program

in Japan was also facilitated in November 2024 for the counterparts of DPWH and other related agencies. With exposure to Japanese technologies and experiences on flood mitigation, the trainees are expected to reflect their learnings in accelerating flood control measures in the Philippines.

Using Japan's technical know-how and experiences in flood management and disaster risk reduction, JICA aims to usher the Philippines to a 100-year flood safety.

Flood Early Warning



The **Project for Improving Flood Forecasting and Warning System (FFWS) for the Cagayan de Oro (CDO) River Basin** is JICA's support to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in upgrading and modernizing equipment of the river basin infrastructure, enabling the accurate prediction of flood volume and movement.

Northern Mindanao's CDO River Basin is another one of the Philippines' key river basins. It serves as a critical resource supporting the livelihood and local economy of surrounding communities. However, over 75% of the nearby villages are exposed to flood hazards, making the basin's susceptibility to flooding a pressing concern that requires an immediate and sustainable solution.

This vulnerability was further highlighted in the unprecedented onslaught of Typhoon Sendong in December 2011, which claimed over 1,000 lives, displaced around 230,000 people, and caused an estimated PHP 2 billion in combined damages to properties, livelihoods, and infrastructures.

In response to this challenge, JICA and the DOST-PAGASA completed a joint project aimed at improving the CDO River Basin's Flood Forecasting and Warning System (FFWS).

Through a JPY 1.278 billion grant from the Government of Japan through JICA, the project modernized existing river and flood monitoring facilities established by PAGASA and the CDO LGU. It also complemented the flood risk mitigation infrastructure of the DPWH.

This modernization effort involved the construction of new monitoring stations and the installation of advanced equipment across the CDO River Basin and its major streams. Key upgrades included X-Band Radars, which provide wider coverage and more detailed rainfall measurement, as well as telemetered rain gauges and water level sensors. These

innovations now enable timely and accurate reading of parameters to predict river flow and current, significantly enhancing flood forecasting even amid the impact of climate change on weather patterns.

The project also established a robust telecommunication network that seamlessly transmits early warning advisories and other critical weather information to various PAGASA monitoring stations. This system now ensures that relevant national and local government offices receive real-time updates,



Antenna Tower at the PAGASA Regional Services Office in Mindanao. | Rainfall and Water Level Gauging Station V of the CDO River Basin.



Monitoring equipment at the CDO City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office



Cagayan De Oro River Basin Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (CDORBFFWC).

which help them to take proactive measures to minimize damage and prevent loss of life.

With the completion of this project, JICA has reaffirmed its commitment to disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation.

Looking ahead, JICA aims to replicate similar impactful projects and expand its cooperation in disaster risk reduction to create safer and more resilient communities.

Geohazard Monitoring



The **Project for Capacity Development for Monitoring and Information Dissemination of Earthquake, Tsunami and Volcano** is JICA's Technical Cooperation Project (TCP) with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). It aims to enhance the agency's capabilities for earthquake monitoring and tsunami early warning, while integrating improved information on earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic activity into disaster risk reduction efforts.

Among JICA'S initiatives to promote disaster resilience in the Philippines is to support the capacity development of PHIVOLCS and related agencies to mitigate disaster risks associated with earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. This project focuses on enabling timely and accurate earthquake monitoring, issuing tsunami early warnings, and utilizing this information to assist the government—both at the national and local levels—in disaster preparedness and emergency management efforts.

With a modern system for determining earthquake parameters, such as magnitude and epicenter location, using observed seismic data, along with an efficient process for issuing, updating, and canceling tsunami advisories or warnings, PHIVOLCS and its partner agencies will be better equipped to protect lives and minimize economic and environmental damages.

This initiative is particularly crucial given the country's vulnerability to natural disasters. According to the 2024 World Risk Report, the Philippines ranks as the highest risk country due to its exposure to natural hazards and currently inadequate coping and adaptive capacity.

Through this project, PHIVOLCS and other agencies involved in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) will benefit from Japan's extensive expertise in disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. Its experience in dealing with major earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions will be invaluable to the Philippines as it prepares for "The Big One", as PHIVOLCS refers to the next anticipated catastrophic earthquake to hit the country, as well as other geological hazards.

Through information and knowledge sharing activities, PHIVOLCS and DRRM officials are expected to acquire technical skills in earthquake and tidal level analysis, tsunami early warning systems, and the effective use and communication of disaster information. Selected Filipino experts will also have the opportunity to participate in specialized training courses in Japan, enhancing their skills in analyzing seismic observation data, forecasting affected areas when issuing tsunami advisories or warnings, and improving the disaster information dissemination procedures across national level and local levels.

By the end of the project, the tsunami hazard maps for pilot areas from the Philippine Trench and the Manila Trench will also be updated, further strengthening the country's preparedness for geological hazards.



During the signing of JICA's TCP with PHIVOLCS.

Enhancing the discourse on DRR



The **Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)** is the leading regional forum that endeavors to strengthen disaster resilience across Asia and the Pacific, as guided by the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. In October 2024, the Philippines hosted the 10th APMCDRR, which was themed, “Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction”. It fostered innovation and collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders through plenary discussions, networking opportunities, and partner events. JICA was among the organizations invited to hold a partner event.

As the impacts of disasters intensify due to climate change, Japan, with its extensive experience and advanced technologies, plays an increasingly vital role in global disaster risk reduction (DRR). In this regard, JICA remains at the forefront of these efforts through active participation in national and regional discussions to promote human security and quality growth. The APMCDRR, which convenes representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society, and the academia, among others, serves as a pivotal platform for such critical conversations.

In line with the 2024 APMCDRR's objectives, JICA hosted a partner event titled, “Urban Resilience of Metropolises: Incorporation of Multi-Sectoral Spatial Risk Assessment in City Planning for Investing in Resilient Metropolises and Augmenting Local Solutions to Disaster Risk Reduction/Build Back Better with Space Satellite Services.” This session dealt with the risks posed by natural hazards in urban areas and highlighted innovative strategies and advanced technologies to strengthen urban planning and disaster mitigation efforts.

Through case studies from partner organizations in the Philippines, India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Fiji, JICA emphasized the importance of incorporating DRR measures into urban planning and infrastructure development to address the challenges of uncontrolled urbanization and climate change. The session also showcased cutting edge technologies, including earth observation satellite imagery with Web-Geographic Information Systems (Web-GIS), which can enhance the ability to assess disaster risks, identify locations, and predict potential impacts. These tools empower urban planners to develop a more responsive, inclusive, and evidence-based approach to DRR, consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.



Ultimately, the 2024 APMCDRR underscored the critical need for pre-disaster investments, mainstreaming DRR initiatives across public and private sectors, stronger coordination among stakeholders, and adoption of inclusive data-driven strategies.

Building on its proven track record, JICA remains committed to advancing DRR efforts as a shared responsibility among disaster-prone nations. By leveraging its extensive expertise and fostering global collaboration, JICA contributes to creating more resilient societies, safeguarding lives, and ensuring a sustainable future for all. ■

Empowering Voices in Grassroots and Academe



YAMAMOTO and counterparts prepare DRRM learning materials.



KINOSHITA and PRMSU students perform laboratory works on comparative study of liquid fertilizers reusing organic waste.

Volunteers in Action



The **Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)** is a JICA-supported program that provides a platform for Japanese citizens to work with communities in partner countries like the Philippines to address specific development concerns. To create the most impact, volunteers are given assignments, in coordination with the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), that are relevant to their experience and specialization.

Since 1966, JICA has deployed about 1,700 volunteers to the Philippines.

Aside from providing trainings and other learning opportunities, JICA also empowers people by giving them the chance to engage in grassroots programs and build a relationship of mutual trust with the communities. Through the JOCV program, JICA promotes volunteerism among Japanese citizens who would like to meaningfully contribute their time and skills to support the socio-economic development of partner countries. JOCV empowers individuals by fostering personal and professional growth, skills development, and community engagement.

Among the JOCV members is KINOSHITA Tsuyoshi, a Japanese agriculturist who responded to the call for a volunteer in vegetable growing. Recognizing that sustainable agriculture is vital to both the environment and the farmers, he leveraged his practical experience in cultivation technology at Japan Agricultural Cooperatives and research experience in Japan and Ghana to assist the teachers and students at the President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU) in Botolan, Zambales. In particular, he shared his knowledge in practical research methods

and soil management. His research centers on liquid fertilizers using locally-available organic waste instead of chemical-based fertilizers and pesticides, which account for a substantial part of the costs.

Meanwhile, YAMAMOTO Shion, a Japanese firefighter, offered his time and services to work closely with the Municipal Risk Reduction and Management Office in La Trinidad, Benguet as a JOCV. Together, they developed educational materials on disaster preparedness and conducted emergency drills to promote awareness on disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) among grade 6 school students. He devised a simple, 3-step approach to remind the community members on what they need to do. First is to **KNOW** that they live in a city that is prone to disasters such as floods and landslides. Next is to **LEARN** how to deal with them. Lastly, they must **ACT** and take appropriate action when a disaster occurs.

The volunteers' time with the communities turned out to be a valuable learning opportunity for them as well. While teaching their counterparts, they also gained valuable

insights on the Filipino culture, allowing them to better understand Filipino values such as 'bayanihan'. In addition, the volunteers

saw firsthand the community's hard work, dedication, and resilience – attributes that make them thrive despite challenges in life.

Engaging the Academia



The **JICA Chair or JICA Program for Japanese Studies** provides an opportunity for people to learn about Japanese politics, economics, public administration, law, and others through lectures done in collaboration with top universities in partner countries. It also supports Japanese studies and research through reference materials and education opportunities for faculty members.

To share the lessons gained from its modernization journey and international development cooperation efforts, Japan, through JICA, started the JICA Chair in the Philippines in 2020. With Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) as its partner, JICA launched a lecture series that showcases Japan's path to nation-building, economic growth, and institutional reform. The lectures are given by Japanese and Filipino experts to facilitate knowledge exchange and provide meaningful insights for tackling modern development challenges.

The 5th JICA Chair, themed, "Japan's Experience and Strategies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience", focuses on a stronger disaster risk reduction (DRR) program through collaborative bilateral effort.

Professor NISHIKAWA Satoru from the Tohoku University and JICA's Senior Advisor on Disaster Reduction Strategy talked about Japan's history of disaster, the development of its DRR framework and policies, and the importance of pre-disaster investments, which significantly reduced the damage caused by disasters, as well as the costs related to rehabilitation and reconstruction post-disaster.

For the Philippines' side, Assistant Secretary Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV of the Office of Civil Defense shared the government's efforts in adopting comprehensive infrastructure planning, empowering local governments to create their own DRR plans, and implementing pre-disaster investments. He also shared the proposal to update the Metro Manila Earthquake Impact Reduction Plan to incorporate insights from new studies and lessons from previous disasters.

Meanwhile, Professor Emma Porio, Head of Ateneo Coastal Cities at Risk Project on



Speakers, organizers, and participants of the 5th JICA Chair Lecture.



The 5th JICA Chair speakers respond to questions from the attendees.

Disaster Resilience, underscored the impact of development on climate and disaster risks, the role of sustainable investments in building community resilience, and the need for inter-agency and multi-stakeholder collaboration to create science-based, risk-informed, and resilience-driven policies and strategies.

About 300 online and onsite participants were also reminded that in DRR, much like in 'bayanihan', everyone can show community solidarity and cooperation by supporting the government's initiatives and sharing pertinent information to promote disaster preparedness. ■

Impact in Action



Beneficiary - National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NIS RIP)

Renato Lopez

Irrigators Association (IA) President

Samahang Magsasaka ng Apoaporawan at Paradahan, Inc. (Aborlan, Palawan)

We used to struggle because we received little to no support from agencies. However, when JICA's NIS RIP project arrived, we felt very blessed as everything changed for the better.

JICA's assistance has greatly improved the lives of our farmers. Through their initiatives, we received better resources, and because of that, our rice fields are now thriving. Their support has helped us increase our productivity, which in turn, resulted in better harvests and improved livelihoods for us.

We also received modern farming equipment from other agencies, which further enhanced our agricultural operations. Assistance such as this has made farming easier and more efficient for us.

We are deeply grateful to the government, particularly the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and its partner, JICA, for continuously helping Filipino farmers. Their ongoing support has strengthened our association and ensured that we can sustain the progress we have achieved so far. (Translated)



Beneficiary - Improving Flood Forecasting and Warning System (FFWS) for the Cagayan de Oro (CDO) River Basin

Nick Albina Jabagat

Department Manager

City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Department

To JICA and its partners, I would like to sincerely express my profound gratitude for the FFWS project that has made a transformative impact on CDO City and its residents. Your efforts have not only saved the lives of many, but have also instilled a sense of safety, preparedness, and resilience across the community.

Before the implementation of this project, CDO faced significant challenges. Flooding would regularly disrupt the people's daily lives, affecting transportation, infrastructure, and the local economy. Insufficient early warning systems exposed vulnerable populations in the community to sudden or extreme floods. Without an effective flood forecasting system, there was little-to-no time to expedite evacuation during disastrous events.

By investing in this sustainable FFWS and providing valuable education and resources, you have empowered us to face natural disasters with greater confidence. Your commitment to building disaster-resilient communities serves as an inspiring example of what can be achieved through international cooperation and genuine concern for local needs.



Partner – Various Projects

Marissa P. Cerezo

Director, Renewable Energy Management Bureau (REMB)

Department of Energy (DOE)

JICA has proven to be a highly reliable and collaborative partner with a strong commitment to fostering sustainable development in the Philippines. Recognizing that the country's most valuable asset is its human capital, JICA actively invests in developing and nurturing this resource. By building and strengthening local capacity, JICA ensures that its contributions have a meaningful and lasting impact.

As an invaluable development partner, JICA provides expertise, resources, and networking opportunities that empower institutions and individuals. Through training programs, scholarships, and technical cooperation, JICA promotes human resource development, equipping professionals with the skills and knowledge needed to sustain and expand key projects. Additionally, by sharing Japan's experiences and best practices, JICA fosters mutual growth while strengthening diplomatic and cultural ties between Japan and its partner countries.



Partner – Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities (RCF) and Communities

Hajime Yokota

President and Founder

A Child's Trust Is Ours to Nurture (ACTION), Inc.

This joint project with JICA began in 2012. Despite its conclusion, the stakeholders we trained, such as DSWD, Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council, and LGUs, sustained its impact.

House parents and social workers now have a reliable toolkit to teach life skills to children in need of special protection. It empowers children to thrive and make better decisions as they grow. The DSWD also has improved resources and knowledge that enable house parents and social workers to provide better care for the children they serve.

We are deeply honored and grateful for the opportunity to work with JICA. ACTION would not have been recognized as one of the Most Outstanding Auxiliary Social Welfare and Development Agencies in the Philippines in 2023 without their support and trust. Our partnership has left a lasting legacy of hope and empowerment that continues to ensure a more promising future for children.



Partner – Japan-Philippines One Health Rabies Project (JAPOHR)

Fumiya Sankai

Partner Influencer

I am proud that JICA, representing the Japanese people, contributes to solving social issues in the Philippines. Our theme is to be a bridge between the Philippines and Japan, and I feel that this project aligns closely with that goal.

Through the JAPOHR, we were able to vaccinate 600 dogs and cats during a vaccination event, which is significantly greater than the 30 animals vaccinated the previous year. I believe this is a great outcome.

I also take pride in the fact that I am able to use my influence to tackle the social issue of rabies in the Philippines and help as many people as possible. I hope to continue working with our Filipino counterparts on this project to raise awareness and keep the people informed about the dangers of rabies.

Pillar 3:

Peace and Development in Mindanao



Building on the Gains of the Peace Journey



Participants of the symposium commemorating the 10th anniversary of the CAB.

Peace Agreement



2024 marks the **10th anniversary** of the signing of the **Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB)**, a landmark agreement that was instrumental in the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) as a new democratic political entity, as stipulated in Republic Act 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law (BOL).

The CAB is a result of 17 years of peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that sought to end armed conflict and bring lasting peace and prosperity to the region.

Over the past several years, JICA has proactively supported the peace process and socio-economic development in Mindanao as one of Japan's priority areas in its cooperation with the Philippine government. Drawing insights from Japan's modernization experience, JICA has assisted in Bangsamoro's peace journey through various initiatives to strengthen governance, and advance capacity and community development. More importantly, JICA has participated in discussions and interventions for the normalization process, which seeks to help decommissioned combatants transition to mainstream society as peaceful and productive citizens, and transform their areas into thriving and progressive communities, among others.

Three months after the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB) in March 2014, JICA organized the Seminar on Consolidation for

Peace for Mindanao (COP6) in Hiroshima, Japan. This became a platform for meaningful dialogue, touching on issues such as ancestral lands, financing, and fair resource distribution, as well as developing possible solutions to adopt moving forward. The seminar produced the Hiroshima Declaration, which became the blueprint for cooperation and paved the way for further actions leading to the creation of the BARMM.

Despite many challenges, including the Marawi siege in 2017 and the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the CAB resulted in important milestones such as the enactment of the BOL, which created the BARMM, the establishment of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA), and the formulation of the Bangsamoro Development Plan.

JICA celebrates and looks to build on the gains of the

JICA President TANAKA Akihiro delivered his message during the symposium.



Bangsamoro peace journey thus far. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the CAB signing, JICA hosted a symposium in Tokyo, Japan, which was attended by dignitaries and high-ranking officials from the Philippine government and the BTA. The key stakeholders mutually reflected on the progress of the political and normalization processes and acknowledged the need for continued dialogue and cooperation to ensure

human security, socio-economic equality, and stability in the region.

In the same event, JICA reiterated its firm commitment to support the ongoing Bangsamoro peace and development process. On top of this, JICA will continue to implement projects for road network and other infrastructure improvement, industrial and agricultural development, and capacity development in the BARMM.

Women, Peace, and Security



As part of its advocacy on human security and gender mainstreaming, JICA and the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines hosted a **side event for the first-ever ministerial-level International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)** in 2024. With the theme, *Human Security towards a Resilient BARMM – Japan's Approach in Promoting WPS Focusing on Health*, the event presented Japan's initiatives and partnerships related to maternal and child health services and nutrition.

Participants included officials of national government agencies, such as the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation, and Unity (OPAPRU), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and Department of Health (DOH), and the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, composed of the Office of the Chief Minister (OCM), Ministry of Health (MOH), and Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD), among others.



OPAPRU Secretary Carlito Galvez graced the joint side event of the Embassy of Japan and JICA.

In conflict-affected areas, women are often among the most vulnerable to displacement and gender-based violence because of the collapse of health care systems. They are disproportionately impacted by concerns related to reproductive and maternal health, childcare and nutrition, and lack of access to proper health facilities. These limit their opportunities for education, employment, and leadership, thereby widening the gender disparity.



DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman delivered a message during the WPS side event.

As JICA works with the government and local stakeholders to achieve peace and inclusive development in the BARMM, it also promotes gender mainstreaming as a vital element of human security. Beyond its work in the region, JICA also upholds women empowerment, diversity, and inclusivity as guiding principles across all its projects and programs.



Participants during the side event for the International Conference on WPS.

JICA empowers women to be strong leaders in the community, championing peace and security, and providing them with knowledge and resources to actively participate in communal decision-making. However, addressing their health concerns is a crucial first step toward enabling them to become active members of the community.

During the same side event, JICA also proudly announced the implementation of “The Project for Strengthening Services in Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition

Improvement in the BARMM”, a technical cooperation program with the MOH that advocates for improved maternal and newborn health and nutrition, strong community health services, and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) enrollment facility-based deliveries.

Through these initiatives, JICA empowers women to be key players in the community and drivers of peace and inclusive development in the BARMM, thereby contributing to human security.

Trilateral Partnership for Universal Health Care



In September 2024, **JICA, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** signed a **Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)** to advance **Universal Health Care in the BARMM**. Into the next five years, JICA, KOICA, and USAID will provide additional support on top of their current development assistance programs, and work with the DOH and the BTA's MOH to improve the health outcomes in the region.

This cooperation marks the first partnership in health in the Asia Pacific region among the development agencies of Japan, Korea, and the United States.

Universal health care is crucial for peace and inclusive development, as it fulfills basic human needs, reduces inequalities, and solidifies social cohesion. When everyone, regardless of age, gender, or social status, has access to affordable health services, the community thrives and benefits from the trust built among its productive and healthy members. In the BARMM, advancing universal health care will aid in its transformation

into a peaceful and progressive region after decades of conflict.

JICA, KOICA and USAID share the same vision and commitment to support the BARMM's peace journey by establishing a resilient and efficient health care system in the region. Utilizing their respective expertise and resources, the three development agencies agreed to address specific health-related areas. JICA's efforts will



Representatives from JICA, KOICA, USAID and BARMM join hands for the trilateral cooperation for UHC.

center on maternal and newborn health and nutrition, and community health services, while KOICA will focus on sustainable health financing, upgrading of birthing facilities and equipment, and emergency preparedness. Meanwhile, USAID will oversee initiatives on family planning, adolescent reproductive health, tuberculosis, as well as preparedness and response to emerging health threats.

The trilateral partnership aims to build resilient health care systems for the Bangsamoro people. The collaboration intends to strengthen health infrastructure, improve supply chain management, and develop the capacity of health care workers, allowing them to effectively respond

to medical concerns. The partnership underscores improving the delivery and quality of health care services to meet the diverse needs of the BARMM population. Making health services accessible to more people and implementing innovative approaches to care for the community's health needs are part of the partnership's strategies to build a healthier future for the region. Furthermore, to achieve better health outcomes, the agencies will work closely with local partners to strengthen community engagement and awareness, fostering positive norms and behaviors around health practices.

Capacity Development of the Bangsamoro and Socio-Economic Assistance to the Normalization Process



The **Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CDPB)** is one of JICA's projects in support of the sustainable development of the BARMM. It started in 2019 and centers on strengthening the BTA's organizational and operational capability as a self-governing unit, and on expanding economic activities in the region.

JICA also provides livelihood skills training for decommissioned combatants (DC) and their communities (DCC) through the **Socio-Economic Assistance for Bangsamoro Normalization Process**. This initiative enables JICA to assist in transforming DCs into productive and peaceful citizens, ultimately contributing to the economic growth in the region.

Running the Bangsamoro government requires competent officials and staff, and business enterprises and various sectors that can stimulate economic growth within their communities.

JICA initiated the CDPB in 2019 to support the capacity development of the BTA and local government officials. Through the CDPB, JICA has dispatched Japanese experts

who conducted trainings, workshops, and study tours for BTA officials, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to effectively build and implement a governance system tailored to the BARMM's conditions. The learning sessions covered various topics including public financial management, policy development, and human resources.



JICA-CDPB conducts PI training attended by various college students in the BARMM.

Specific to the region's agriculture sector, JICA also launched the Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) project to assist farmers in boosting production by shifting from a cultivation-only mindset to a market-oriented and demand-driven approach.

JICA and the BTA's Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT) have partnered to introduce the region's first psychology-based entrepreneurship program called the Personal Initiative (PI). The program has trained 320 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across the BARMM's provinces. The sessions focus on boosting their technical knowledge and cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset through self-starting attitudes, future-oriented thinking, and

persistence in overcoming barriers to grow their businesses. With the support of partner institutions, such as Notre Dame University and Cotabato State University, 233 aspiring entrepreneurs were able to undergo the training program.

On the other hand, JICA continues to support Bangsamoro's transformation from a conflict-affected region with limited economic opportunities into a region of peaceful and productive citizens. In the Socio-Economic Assistance for Bangsamoro Normalization Process, JICA is assisting the Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Education (MBHTE) to implement effective livelihood skills training for DCs. This allows them to uplift the quality of their and their families' lives.



Decommissioned combatants receive tools and equipment after completion of vocational training for coconut-based production.

Road Infrastructure for Better Connectivity



The **Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (RNDP-CAAM)** is a collaborative initiative between JICA and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). This project aims to construct and improve over 100 kilometers of roads, connecting them to the existing network in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and North Cotabato. The ultimate goal is to support the economic growth of the BARMM through infrastructure investment and development.

Armed conflict disrupts road connectivity, causing damage to infrastructures and limiting access to essential services and public facilities such as markets, hospitals, and schools. It also hinders the movement of goods, leading to economic decline, instability, and poverty in affected communities.

According to the DPWH Atlas 2023, in the Philippines, BARMM has the lowest road density, or the ratio of road network length to total land area, thus highlighting the need for improved infrastructure. To bridge this gap, JICA initiated the RNDP-CAAM and collaborated with the DPWH to establish vital linkages and build the road infrastructure to foster connectivity and growth.

JICA is providing a USD 202.04 million ODA loan to improve the road network in the BARMM, which will enhance the connectivity of conflict-affected areas to the

main cities in Mindanao. In 2024, Phase III of the Marawi Transcentral Road (MTR) was completed under said project. JICA funded the improvement of approximately 18km roads including Emie-Sagonsongan-Linao-Lantian Road, as well as within the Mindanao State University-Marawi City Campus.

A JPY 2 billion grant from the government of Japan through JICA was also provided to design and build an 18.97km road under MTR Phases I and II, which was accomplished in 2021.

Upon completion, the RNDP-CAAM project will provide the Bangsamoro people with smoother, faster, and safer routes. Improved connectivity will enable easier access to workplace and social services. This will also revitalize economic activities, generate jobs, and alleviate poverty, which are key steps to achieving both peace and development in the region. ■



Part of Marawi Transcentral Road (MTR) Phase III, passing next to a school. Photo courtesy of DPWH.

Impact in Action



Partner – Capacity Development Project for Bangsamoro (CDPB)

Ayessa Belle Y. Mamokan

*Trade-Industry Development Specialist
Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT), BARMM*

In my work with MSMEs across the BARMM, I have observed a prevalent “bahala na” (come-what-may) mindset among entrepreneurs who were content with mere survival and lacked the vision and confidence to grow their businesses. JICA's Personal Initiative (PI) training, however, reshaped their mindsets and helped them discover their growth potential. Unlike other programs, PI's transformative approach focuses on self-starting attitude, future-oriented thinking, and persistence.

JICA's training improved the MSMEs' business operations and developed their resilience and innovative thinking. Some have already expanded product lines and entered new market because of this.

My training experience in Japan transformed me personally as well. It inspired me to start my own business and to empower the next generation of business leaders by integrating PI into the BARMM's Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

To JICA and our partners, your support has equipped us with powerful tools for change. Together, we are not just developing businesses – we are building a more resilient and prosperous future for the Bangsamoro people.



Partner – Capacity Development Project for Bangsamoro (CDPB)

Maleha A. Mamasapano

*Trade-Industry Development Analyst
Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Tourism (MTIT), BARMM*

The impact of JICA's PI training became clear during our Financial Management and Business Pitching session. From the participants' presentations, I witnessed how the training reshaped their mindsets. It not only inspired them to persevere, but it also provided practical strategies to maximize available resources to grow their ventures.

Because JICA's training highlighted the importance of business mind-setting, it empowered students, MSMEs, and aspiring entrepreneurs to develop innovative and action-oriented strategies. This foundational shift is crucial to build thriving businesses and sustainable industries in the BARMM.

Given its impact, we plan to carry out the PI training for our coconut farmers and MSMEs next year to equip them also with the right mindset and skills. We believe this initiative will bring significant positive changes to their livelihoods and the region's economy.

To JICA and its partners, thank you for your commitment to fostering growth and resilience in the Bangsamoro communities.



Beneficiary – Capacity Development Project for Bangsamoro (CDPB)

Emraida C. Ali

*Dean, College of Business and Public Administration
Cotabato State University*

Before JICA's intervention, our university struggled to provide practical entrepreneurship education that could effectively bridge academic theory with real-world business challenges in the BARMM. The traditional business education often fell short in developing the innovative mindset our students needed to succeed in today's dynamic market.

JICA has transformed our approach through the Personal Initiative (PI) Training for Trainers, followed by the enlightening Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) in Japan. We have built a strong foundation for innovation in entrepreneurship education because of these. Our exposure to Japanese industry practices and regional development strategies has also provided us with fresh perspectives that we have successfully integrated into our curriculum.

The impact has been remarkable. We've expanded from training our faculty to implementing PI training for both our current Business Administration students and alumni. They now demonstrate enhanced entrepreneurial thinking, actively developing innovative business solutions that address local challenges. JICA's collaborative approach has enabled us to create a sustainable model of entrepreneurship education.



Beneficiary - Socio-Economic Assistance for Bangsamoro Normalization Process

Ramla Hassan

Rajamuda, Ligawasan, SGA-BARMM

Ex-Combatant

Before we became part of the BARMM, our area was one of the battlefields due to political conflict or clan feuds. This had a negative effect on us and our children, to the extent that they had to stop schooling. We also lost our livelihood. That is why we took advantage of the opportunity to participate in the coconut livelihood program of JICA and its partners. We wanted to transform our life from being combatants to entrepreneurs.

Through JICA's assistance, we learned how to make and use coconut products such as coco burger, sinamak, special palapa, coconut oil, and coco jam. We organized our cooperative and started producing and selling these products at our local market to generate more income. Now, we are also doing marketing activities like attending trade fairs and social media promotion.

We are very thankful to JICA, TESDA, and other partner organizations for this opportunity. We learned a lot from their trainers who willingly imparted knowledge and information to us.



Expert

Naoyuki Ochiai

Special Advisor to the Chief Minister of the BTA

JICA Headquarters

In 2024, JICA organized two historic and remarkable events. I am happy to have participated in both events as organizer and resource person as we were able to demonstrate JICA's active and continuous contribution to peace and development in the Bangsamoro. More importantly, I am honored to leverage my long years of experience and expertise to support the peace process efforts in the BARMM.

At the JICA-hosted symposium to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the CAB signing in Tokyo, Japan, we proudly celebrated this milestone with our partners and looked back at the progress of the Bangsamoro peace process. We also discussed several key issues that have yet to be addressed.

In the same manner, JICA advocates for human security in the BARMM. At the recent International Conference on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), we hosted a side event that showcased Japan's initiatives to address women's health concerns related to maternal and child health service and nutrition as one of the ways to achieve peace and prosperity in the BARMM.

Shaping the Future Together

A solution-oriented approach anchored on the voice of the Filipinos will guide JICA's efforts in the years ahead. Understanding the needs and aspirations of our partner communities allows JICA to tailor initiatives that address pressing challenges while ensuring inclusivity and meaningful impact. The agency shall also remain agile, responding to emerging priorities while tackling long-standing issues. By focusing on priority areas that require the most attention, such as infrastructure, health, climate change, and others, JICA is committed to delivering transformative change through every project.

To shape a better future, JICA will continue to take deliberate and meaningful action, backed by strong collaboration. JICA's proactive stance will rely on its solid relationship with the Philippine government and other valued partners to unlock the country's full potential and drive sustainable development.

As JICA navigates this journey with the Philippines, its leaders and employees will be at the forefront – championing innovation, fostering trust, and empowering communities across the country. The expertise and passion of JICA's dedicated teams fuel progress, not just as agents of change, but also as partners and allies to the Filipino people.



JICA Philippines Office

Japan's successful 70-year development work in the country was made possible by the individuals who bring them to life – its hardworking team. Their passion, expertise, and dedication drive the agency's important mission forward, guided by teamwork, creativity, and innovation that reinforce the collective strength that defines JICA.



HORI Kohei

*Project Formulation Advisor (PFA), BARMM
7 years with JICA Philippines*

JICA is more than just an employer – it is a mission-driven organization that champions meaningful collaboration and drives innovation. What truly sets JICA apart is its dedication to building trust and fostering strong partnerships with stakeholders, enabling the creation of innovative, localized solutions. Through its focus on capacity development, as well as socio-economic infrastructure development in BARMM, JICA has created a profound and lasting impact in the region. This inspires and reinforces my belief in the power of collaboration and trust to drive meaningful change.



Marilou Regalario

*Program Officer, Accounting
13 years with JICA Philippines*

JICA fosters a collaborative and inclusive work environment, encouraging employees to take initiative and share their ideas. I am impressed by JICA's meticulous attention to detail and commitment to transparency in financial management. It is deeply fulfilling to be part of an organization that is fully committed with its obligation to its government and to the Japanese taxpayers, where agency operation funding comes from, to properly manage and spend every single penny. This is a model that I think Filipinos should emulate.



Spiro Grape

*Clerk, Social Development and DRRM
4 years with JICA Philippines*

Being in JICA has given me a unique opportunity to not only learn more about Japan's development cooperation in the Philippines, but to also be a part of it. I have always taken an interest in international relations and now, as part of JICA, I am able to witness our countries forge heart-to-heart ties, anchored on mutual respect and understanding. Our projects touch upon important aspects of the daily lives of Filipinos, and so in doing my part, I contribute to alleviating the hardships that they face.

**Mariebel Dulay**

*Senior Program Officer, DRRM
10 years with JICA Philippines*

Working for JICA allows us to contribute to meaningful development-oriented projects that directly benefit the Filipino people. The agency stands out as a uniquely capable partner for the Philippines given its various forms of support in all sectors. Their geographical similarities, combined with Japan's extensive expertise and experience, make JICA's contributions exceptionally relevant and impactful.

By tackling both structural and non-structural aspects of development, JICA ensures that its efforts are not only sustainable but also deeply responsive to the needs of the diverse communities it serves.

**IDE Soichiro**

*Senior Representative, Peace and Development in Mindanao / Environment and Energy
3 years with JICA Philippines*

JICA's strength lies in its comprehensive approach to development. JICA has a wide range of schemes which we utilize in my present portfolio to work with the Philippine government to solve development problems. This makes my work rewarding.

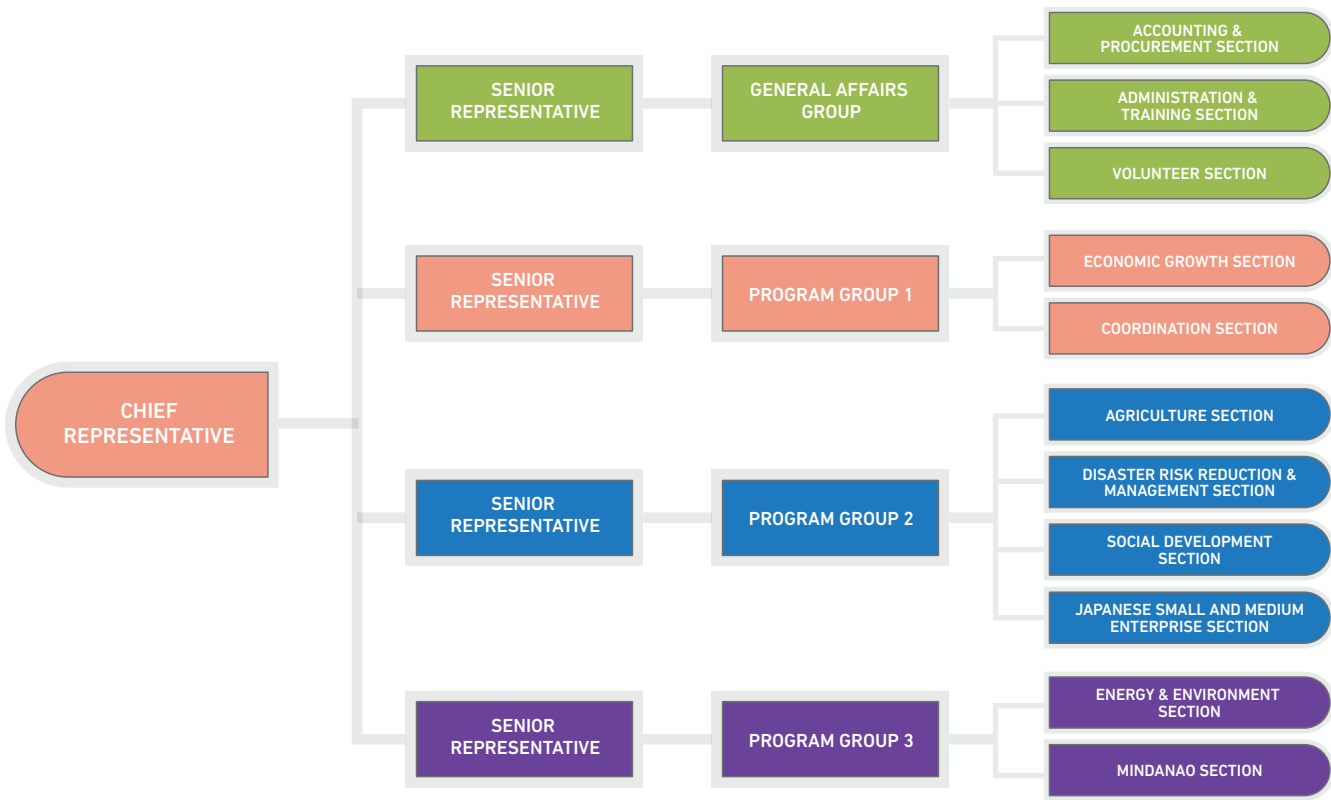
The Japanese government and JICA have been involved in the Bangsamoro socio-economic development for over 30 years and in the peace process. JICA has immensely contributed to the success of the Bangsamoro peace process, which is considered as one of the best models anywhere in the world.

**KATAKURA Yoko**

*Project Formulation Advisor (PFA), Economic Growth
4 years with JICA Philippines*

JICA is a dynamic and supportive employer that fosters both professional growth and meaningful contributions to development. It provides a collaborative work environment where diverse expertise is highly valued. JICA's emphasis on human-centered, innovative, and sustainable development makes it an exceptional organization. Its strong focus on capacity development and empowering local partners fosters a sense of ownership, enabling communities and institutions to sustain and expand initiatives independently. I am most proud to be part of this endeavor and seeing communities own their progress.

Organization Chart



Acknowledgments

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Resources and Other Links

For more information about JICA Philippines' activities, please feel free to visit the following webpages:



JICA Philippines Webpage



Speeches of the Chief Representative



JICA Philippines Facebook Page



JICA English YouTube Channel

1. JICA Philippines Annual Report 2024 summarizes the activities of JICA for Calendar Year of 2023 (January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024).
2. Please note that some figures may vary according to the timing and method of collection/calculation.

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