

Signing of Minutes of Meeting

SDGs Business Verification Survey with the Private Sector to Tackle the New Effluent Standards and Effective Development of Sewer Infrastructure with Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Technology in the Philippines

August 27, 2024, 14:00

Newtown Plaza Hotel, #43 C.M. Recto Drive, Leonard Wood Road, St. Joseph, Baguio City

Opening Remarks for Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema

Honorable Baguio City Mayor, **BENJAMIN B. MAGALONG**

FujiClean Executive Officer, **TABATA Yosuke (田畑洋輔・執行役員)**

Distinguished Guests and Friends,

Naimbag nga Malem Kadakayo Amin!
Good Afternoon Everyone!
Konnichiwa!

It was just a year ago when we successfully conducted the Seminar on “the Effectiveness of On-site Wastewater Treatment” here in Baguio City.

I recall the enthusiasm of various stakeholders in learning more of FujiClean’s “**Johkaso**” system, which is its unique system with special high quality decentralized wastewater treatments.

This “**Johkaso**” system is the innovative technology, easy to locally install, operate, maintain, and disseminate.

Accordingly, FujiClean's product is relatively economical, where you can save the cost for installation, operation and maintenance.

And it is also able to comply with the current effluent standards.

Even more, it should be underlined that FujiClean’s energy-efficient technology has also been certified in many countries like Japan, the United States, Australia, Germany and Japan.

As Baguio City continuously exerts its utmost efforts to address the serious wastewater treatment challenge, and striving to achieve a much better water quality environment, I am proud to say that we are committed to strengthen our “friends-closer-than-brothers” relationship by supporting Baguio City’s strong initiative in this regard.

“Kasama nyo po kami” sa byaheng ito!

Actually, Japan has a long history and extensive experiences in wastewater treatment.

Japan overcomes the challenge of rejuvenating contaminated water, creates very clean and livable environment, and realizes recycling society by advanced and unique technology.

Subsequently, through the guidance of FujiClean experts, we would like to share the secrets of them, and impart all of this knowledge to our friends in Baguio City.

You may recall, JICA has a long-standing partnership with Baguio City, through various collaborations, to name a few, enumerating;

- 1) Sewage treatment field since 1980s,

- 2) Health system improvement with DOH, Benguet General Hospital, and other agencies,
- 3) Pesticide damage improvement with a Japanese company, Daikyo-Giken,
- 4) Slope disaster prevention and forest conservation with a Japanese company, Daisho,
- 5) Mountainous road Disaster Prevention with DPWH,
- 6) Market-driven vegetable value chain enhancement with DA,
- 7) Dispatch of dozens of JICA volunteers in various fields since 1970s.

We are close friends!

Sama sama tayō!

Now we are all gathered here today, to usher into a new cooperation among Baguio City, FujiClean and JICA.

We team up here to introduce FujiClean's innovative and efficient "decentralized wastewater technology", also known as "Johkaso" system, raise public awareness and support the city's initiatives to improve sanitation.

As one of the highly urbanized cities and the key economic center of the region, Baguio City plays an important role serving as a model for innovation, especially toward its sustainable environment.

Given its fast-growing population expected to reach 400,000 by 2024, combined with the large number of tourists¹ per year, and the effect of climate change such as the dry spell which resulted to widespread agricultural damage and harsh living standard among others, the demand to secure more water resources is now truly crucial.

Water is life, however it is a limited resource.

Consequently, we need to find new ways to efficiently utilize water and give high priority in protecting or conserving our valuable water sources.

¹ 1.6 million local and foreign tourists in 2023 ([Baguio still Cordillera tourism anchor \(inquirer.net\)](#))

As such, this new cooperation is undoubtedly important and helpful to keep our water resources clean without harmful contaminants, and to pursue our more livable environment.

Moreover, this project may even open new doors to further explore the water reuse or recycling for various beneficial purposes, for instance, drinking water, agriculture and irrigation, industrial usage, groundwater replenishment.

Thus, I reiterate our strong commitment, as your close Kaibigan, to extend our unwavering support to Baguio City.

Here I cite a famous quote, “***when the well is dry, we will know the value of water.***”

It's no longer an option for us to stay still and just wait for magic wands to solve our water woes.

Now is the time to act.

"Ngayon na ang oras para kumilos."

Again, JICA will be with you all the way as your reliable partner in promoting sustainable growth and improving environment.

If I may say a little more, JICA hopes that our joint collaboration will spearhead succeeding business deployments in this beautiful city.

Further engagement of Japanese companies, or deeper and broader engagement of Fujiclean, leads further sustainable and clean environment, livable standards, tourism development, economic boost, job opportunities, and so on.

Our *Japanese Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio* advocated the concept of “**Golden Friendship, Golden Opportunities**” in his congress speech in Manila last November,

Yes, in this context, I believe we are the front-runner.

Congratulations *at Mabuhay!*

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat.

Good afternoon to all of you.

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