

What's Inside

Acknowledgments:

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Stories by: Maffy Carandang-Patio

Photographs by: Harvey Tapan



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40th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200
Philippines
Telephone: +632 889 7119
Fax: +632 889 6850
URL: <http://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english>

Comments: pp_oso_rep@jica.go.jp

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About the Cover:
JICA helps improve lives in the grassroots by encouraging a cycle of synergistic and collaborative efforts with the community.



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Foreword

To our partners, stakeholders and friends in the Philippines, we sincerely appreciate your continued support to the programs of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the past years. As a balikbayan (returnee) to the Philippines, I have witnessed the successful cooperation that developed from the shared vision and friendship between the Japanese government through JICA and our Philippine counterparts.

It is JICA's mission to take our successful relations further to a new level built upon our continuing country assistance strategies.

First, JICA shares the Philippines' long-term goal of achieving inclusive growth. We recognize the need to assist the Philippines' manufacturing sector and related industries, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the countryside. Manufacturing is a critical economic driver whose multiplier effect creates the much-needed jobs for the Filipinos, while also creating opportunities for Japanese investors.

We are also supporting the Philippine government's development centerpiece which is the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) program. Through the PPP, specific opportunities for infrastructure development will be created, while also providing Japanese businessman better investment prospects.

Second, the unique ties between the Philippines and Japan through JICA mutually benefited our nations over the years. From partnerships with non-government organizations, local government units and national agencies to training programs, we have achieved milestones in our cooperation efforts.

Our shared experience of coping with unexpected disasters, including the March 11 incident in Tohoku region in Japan and the Tropical Storm Sendong that hit Cagayan de Oro and Iligan Cities in the Philippines in 2011, encouraged us to work together more closely to help our people. Through each other's support during these difficult times, our affinity has grown even stronger. With JICA's assistance and with the courage and resilience of our countrymen, we have risen above these challenges and learned from one another.

Last, JICA's support to Mindanao's peace and stability is part of our forward-looking goal towards Mindanao's prosperous future. We will continue to provide capacity building trainings for the prime movers of Mindanao's development to transform the region's potential into growth economic opportunities.

On this note, we look forward to sharing our vision of approaching a gamut of development gaps through concerted efforts. I am confident that the strong and thriving relationship between JICA and our stakeholders in the Philippines will help realize sustainable, inclusive growth for all.

Salamat po.

Takahiro Sasaki
Chief Representative