

Priority Areas

Sustainable Economic Growth aimed at Creating Employment Opportunities

Support for Financial Reform/Good Governance

JICA supports Philippine efforts towards good governance as a means to improve the business and investment environment. It likewise supports fiscal reform, as it helps to promote investment by reducing country risks and enables more infrastructure development by increasing revenues. Support for fiscal reform includes dispatch of advisers on policy formulation and implementation, such as through improvement of tax collection capacity. JICA also assists in improving capacity for maritime safety and coastal security.

Investment Promotion

To promote private investment in the Philippines, JICA assists in (1) formulation and implementation of pertinent policies; (2) financing, capacity building, and start-up of small and medium enterprises (SME); (3) efforts towards transparency and stability of business regulations; (4) efforts towards smooth and prompt customs services; and (5) human resources development to form a highly-skilled workforce.

Improvement of Transportation Network

To enhance the Philippines' international competitiveness, it is important to reduce traffic congestion in Metro Manila and the transportation infrastructure in such industrial areas as the Subic-Clark-Batangas "Growth Corridor" and Cebu. To this end, JICA assists in: (1) improving major transportation networks; (2) strengthening linkages between these networks; (3) planning, operation and maintenance, and financial management for such infrastructure; (4) improving management of infrastructure-related

related government-owned and controlled corporations; and (5) deregulation and private sector participation.

Enhancing Power and Energy Sector

JICA assists in enhancing the capacity of the Department of Energy and the National Electrification Administration towards more efficient operations, especially in reducing systems loss.

Tourism

JICA assists in improving infrastructure in priority tourism areas (air/seaport, road, water supply, sewage, waste disposal, etc.), in a comprehensive manner, balancing economic benefit and environmental considerations. JICA also helps strengthen the capacity of the Department of Tourism and local governments for proper planning, promotion and sustainability of tourist destinations, especially for ecotourism.

Poverty Reduction

Livelihood Improvement

In rural areas, JICA gives priority to agriculture and fishery development, such as by providing transportation infrastructure and technology for proper operation and maintenance of production facilities. JICA also helps promote local industries, improve distribution systems to link rural producers with urban markets and access to finance, as well as in strengthening the management of farmers and fisher folks' associations.

In urban areas, JICA assists in the provision of skills training for poor workers to help improve their income. JICA also cooperates with the Philippine government to enhance business environment for micro-enterprises and SMEs as a way of creating employment opportunities.

Enhancement of Basic Social Services

In accordance with the thrust of the Department of Health, JICA assists the Philippines in strengthening health systems to improve delivery of health services. In education, JICA assists in strengthening teacher competency and school management capacity as well as in increasing the number of classrooms.

Environmental Protection and Disaster Prevention

To conserve and protect the environment, JICA provides assistance for the proper management of forests and coastal areas. JICA likewise provides flood/erosion-control infrastructure in high-risk sites, and helps enhance disaster preparedness, including through capacity development for the maintenance and management of such infrastructure. When natural calamities occur, JICA provides prompt emergency assistance and support for rehabilitation.

Peace and Stability in Mindanao

Administrative Capacity Building

JICA helps the government of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to develop and train human resources in such fields as policy formulation and implementation, especially to address the needs of its residents.

Improvement of Basic Human Needs

In Mindanao as a whole, JICA helps in the provision of such basic human needs as healthcare, education, water supply and livelihood to improve the quality of life of the local people. The ARMM Social Fund, for instance, supported the construction of infrastructure based on the needs which the people identified. JICA likewise assist in enhancing farm productivity by providing the needed infrastructure and technology to improve production and distribution system. In conflict-affected areas, JICA helped develop a socio-economic plan to address the gaps that impede economic development and peace in Mindanao.

Peace-Building

JICA assists in community development in Mindanao and cooperates in improving public security to foster peace and consciousness among residents.

