

# News FROM Philippines

A P R I L T O J U N E 2 0 1 9



## JICA cited as Development Aid Partner of the Year

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) acknowledged the role of its partners from government and communities after being named Development Aid Partner of the Year, and receiving the top honors in Science, Technology, and Innovation; Trade and Investment; Infrastructure Support; and Transportation Infrastructure for its contribution to Philippine economic development.

JICA Philippines Chief Representative Yoshio Wada and other JICA officials received the awards from executives of the Business Mirror, a local business newspaper that spearheaded the Mission: PHL Awards that aim to foster understanding and appreciation for nations that helped the Philippines.

The Mission: PHL Awards recognized JICA and its projects as important contributors to economic growth, social progress, peace, security, and stability. Aside from the Mission: PHL Awards, JICA also received the Magsaysay Award or Asia's Nobel Peace Prize equivalent for its JICA volunteers in 2016. •

*“What truly sets JICA’s development cooperation activities apart is how we also try to promote self-reliance among our partner countries like the Philippines by sharing Japanese know-how and expertise. We are honored to work with our counterpart government agencies and local communities all these years.”*

**YOSHIO WADA,**  
JICA CHIEF REPRESENTATIVE

## JICA backs major Philippine railway projects

JICA is currently supporting five priority railway projects of the Duterte administration with a total loan commitment amounting to around JPY 595 billion.

This covers the first tranche of the Metro Manila Subway Project, North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project (and the first tranche of the Extension Project), Metro Rail Transit Line 3 Rehabilitation Project, Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 Cavite Extension Project, and LRT Line 2 East Extension Project. *(continued on Page 2)*



Secretary Tugade and JICA Chief Representative Yoshio Wada at the Emerald Station of the LRT Line 2 East Extension Project

# JICA backs major PH railway projects

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The Philippine Government, through the Department of Transportation (DOTr), has jumpstarted the construction of said railway projects, eyed to expand Metro Manila's current 79-kilometer railway lines to as much as 244 kilometers including links to surrounding areas.

"JICA's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the railway sector aims to impact on wealth being distributed to other areas outside Metro Manila through investments and jobs. Once completed, these transport infrastructure projects will help realize the shared vision of JICA and the Philippines towards reduced traffic congestion, seamless mobility, and better quality of life of many Filipinos," said JICA Philippines Senior Representative Kiyo Kawabuchi.

For his part, DOTr Secretary Arthur P. Tugade expressed gratitude to JICA for its continuing support to the Duterte administration's vision of enhanced mobility and connectivity for Filipinos.

JICA also underscored its support to build the capacity of the Philippines in railway management under the ongoing Philippine Railway Institute (PRI) project. The PRI will act as a training center for railway operators in the Philippines. •



(L-R) Philippine National Railways General Manager Junn Magno, JICA Senior Representative Kiyo Kawabuchi, Transportation Undersecretary for Railways Atty. Timothy John Batan, and JICA Railways Expert Hideharu Igarashi at the JICA Press Briefing: The Future of Philippine Railways

**Our partnership with Japan, through JICA, will be remembered in history as the cornerstone of modern Philippine railway infrastructure development. It is my hope that this partnership endures, as we transport the Filipino from the present to the future.**

**SECRETARY ARTHUR P. TUGADE,  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

## Workshop on Food Value Chain Analysis in the Philippines



A food value chain (FVC) issue analysis workshop to support Filipino farmers was held recently with representatives from JICA, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the private sector, as well as non-profit and donor organizations in the Philippines. •

"Our support to the Philippines' FVC is part of Japan's commitment to the Philippines' sustainable development under the Philippine Development Plan (PDP). We are partnering with the DA so we can contribute to improving the lives of the Filipino farmers," said Ayumu Ohshima, JICA Philippines Senior Representative. Said area is also part of the agreement between Japan and the Philippine Government during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippine-Japan Dialogue on Agriculture Cooperation in 2017.

At present, JICA is conducting a survey to identify areas where JICA and DA can work together, including production, processing, distribution, and marketing of Philippine agriculture products. JICA's future technical cooperation with DA can therefore include improving productivity, reducing food waste, and improving food security in the country.

Since the 1960s, JICA has supported the Philippine agriculture sector through quality seed production and research, establishment of agriculture centers, fishing ports projects, irrigation facilities, agribusiness promotion, and new technology. •

## Japan, Philippines hold disaster response training, marine pollution exercises

Recently, the Japan Maritime Defense Force, Western Army, and Japan Ground Self Defense Force (JGSDF) held a disaster response training in Subic Bay, while the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) held marine pollution exercises in Davao City with their counterparts from the Philippines and Indonesia.

In Subic, officials of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Philippine Navy, Philippine Marine Corps, Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and Department of Health (DOH) attended the training. The Japan Maritime Defense Force emphasized the importance of “sea basing capability” in cases of maritime and non-maritime disasters. The sea basing capability includes organizing a helicopter base at sea and a central command post ready to respond in case of disasters.

Japan’s Western Army in charge of defense and security in Kyushu and



*Firefighting demonstration at the joint marine pollution exercises*

Okinawa in Japan also shared their experience in disaster operations like using various search and rescue equipment in cases of earthquakes, tsunami, and other disasters.

Meanwhile, the JGSDF underscored the role of Japan’s military in saving lives, removing debris, search and rescue, transportation, and livelihood activities during disasters.

The JGSDF has assisted disaster-stricken nations all over the world including the Philippines during Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

Meanwhile, in Davao City, the Indonesia-Philippines-Japan Regional Marine Pollution Exercises (MARPOLEX) were held as part of ongoing efforts to enhance the capacity of Southeast Asian countries against marine pollution such as oil spills.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), JCG, and Indonesia’s Directorate General of Sea Transportation joined the search and rescue, fire-fighting, and oil spill response exercises. Said activity is part of a 1992 regional agreement to respond to the Sulawesi Sea oil spill. •

## New capacity building project for Bangsamoro launched



*JICA Chief Representative Yoshio Wada (left) and BTA Interim Chief Minister Al-Haj Murad Ebrahim at the signing ceremony for the project*

JICA recently launched the Capacity Development Project for Bangsamoro to build the capacity of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) towards a Bangsamoro government by 2022, and jumpstart economic activities in Mindanao’s conflict areas.

BTA Interim Chief Minister Al-Haj Murad Ebrahim said, “There are many things to accomplish for the establishment of the new Bangsamoro government so we appreciate the continued assistance of the Government of Japan to the Bangsamoro people. This new project will contribute in promoting good governance and livelihood development in the Bangsamoro region.”

The project, which will run from July 2019 until December 2022, includes strengthening BTA’s organizational and institutional capacity and improving the living conditions for the agricultural sector in the region. It seeks to sustain the gains from a recently concluded JICA initiative in the Bangsamoro, the Comprehensive Capacity Development Project or CCDP.

JICA also recently signed a 202.04 million USD loan agreement for the Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao to help build about 100 kilometers of roads linking Mindanao’s main cities. •

## JICA, PH kick off LRT 2 electro-mechanical system installation

JICA and the Philippine government kicked off recently the installation of the electro-mechanical (EM) system of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 2 East Extension Project to boost the train's capacity and to promote seamless connectivity in Metro Manila.

The EM system is the last component of said railway extension project. The extension is within a 4-kilometer span of viaduct and two additional stations built by the government along Emerald Drive in Marikina City and Masingag in Antipolo City.

The EM system package for LRT Line 2 includes the power distribution system, signaling and telecommunications, operation control center, tracks, among others to meet the technology demands of an efficient railway system.

The extension project is expected to be completed in the latter half of 2020 and transport an additional 80,000 passengers daily to the current daily ridership of 240,000. •



## Davao LGU, DPWH personnel take cue from Japan's flood control model

Officials from the local government of Davao City and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) visited Japan recently to study flood control model and practices in Japan that can be applied locally.

The visit is part of an ongoing development cooperation with JICA called Masterplan and Feasibility Study on Flood Control and Drainage in Davao City. The delegation from Davao visited Kobe, Osaka, Tsukuba, and Tokyo and met with key Japanese institutions in charge of flood control management.

In 2017, Typhoon Vinta hit Davao City and caused major damage in their tributaries. The City of Davao and DPWH later sought JICA's assistance in preparing a masterplan and building the capacity of local engineers. The study visit included looking at Japan's river channel improvement projects, and disaster information networks in Osaka Prefecture, as well as river renovation and erosion control in Kobe City among others.

"We learned that a combination of hard (infrastructure) and soft measures (education campaign, flood drills) is important to mitigate flood disasters. Japan's centralized river information system also helped improve information sharing between government and the public," said Engineer Newton Apao of DPWH District Office in Davao. •

### **CONTEST ALERT!**

Get a chance to win an all expense-paid trip to **Japan** by joining the first-ever **JICA VIDEO BLOG CONTEST!**

Tell us your experiences on the theme:

**How does Japan and JICA impact my life as a Filipino?**

**Deadline of Submission: November 17, 2019**

Click on the link below for the contest details:

<https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/office/topics/190718.html>

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# JICA study on blue carbon ecosystems zeroes in on mangroves' role in disaster resilience

Japanese and Filipino scientists are studying the characteristics of the mangroves that survived Typhoon Yolanda in Eastern Samar, saying it may help unlock findings that could help boost disaster resilience of coastal areas and enhance marine conservation in the Philippines.

The activity is part of an ongoing JICA-assisted project called Comprehensive Assessment and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems and their Services in the Coral Triangle, also known as BlueCARES, meant to identify the dynamics of the blue carbon or carbon dioxide stored in marine ecosystems in the Coral Triangle. The Coral Triangle, the global center of marine diversity, is composed of the following countries: Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, and Solomon Islands.

When the blue carbon system is damaged, an enormous amount of carbon is released to the atmosphere,

adversely contributing to climate change.

In the Philippines, the project sites include Palawan, Aklan, and Eastern Samar. The team surveyed and mapped mangroves using drones along the coasts of Hernani and Balangkayan in Eastern Samar. "The project takes a long-range vision of hopefully contributing to a framework on blue carbon ecosystem conservation that is based on scientific evidence, and also identifies conservation strategies at the local level," said JICA Philippines Senior Representative Yo Ebisawa.

The project is the first tripartite cooperation among Tokyo Institute of Technology, University of the Philippines Diliman, and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fishery in Indonesia, and is under the JICA Science and Technology Research Partnership for Sustainable Development or SATREPS. •



## Did you know?

The Philippines has about 50% of the total mangrove species in the world. Mangroves are among the carbon-rich forests providing protection against strong waves and storm surges

A two-year project Elaboration of Industrial Promotion Plans Using Value Chain Analysis with the Department of Trade and Industry-Board of Investments (DTI-BOI) has trained government personnel on positioning Filipino automotive and automotive parts manufacturers in the global market. Under the project, JICA supported study tours in Thailand, Japan, and India to share with participants other nations' approaches and policies on Industry 4.0, research and development, and engineering services outsourcing (ESO).

Trade Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo cited opportunities for the Philippines to explore electric vehicle manufacturing to complement other countries like Thailand and Indonesia when it comes to advanced automotive manufacturing.

**“ JICA recognizes the multiplier effect of the automotive industry to investments and jobs in the Philippines, and we will continue to support the government in its human resource and supply chain development initiatives. ”**

**- KIYO KAWABUCHI  
JICA SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE**

**JICA, DTI-BOI project  
on industrial human  
resource development  
to boost auto industry**

This year, JICA is also set to work with DTI-BOI on a new technical cooperation project called Industrial Competitiveness Enhancement through Industrial Human Resource Development (IHRD) and Supply and Value Chain Development (SVCD) to encourage academe-industry-government collaboration and to come up with an operations model for IHRD and SVCD in partnership with private companies in the Philippines. •



A local government in Negros Occidental is mixing agriculture and ecotourism to attract more tourists and promote sustainable development.

Victorias City, known for its natural parks, limestone caves, beaches, and other ecotourism sites, recently built a tourism facility called Okinawa House (shown left), meant to deepen mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the Philippines. This is the only place in the Philippines where one can enjoy Okinawa culture.

The city also received technical assistance from JICA together with the local government of Nanjo City in Okinawa, Japan, under the Technical Cooperation for Grassroots Project (TCGP) Strengthening Regional Vitalization for Sustainable Development to boost organic farming and sustainable livelihood in the area.

Nearly 11,000 workers in agriculture and tourism industries in Victorias will benefit from the project. Victorias bears resemblance to Japan's Nanjo City in terms of available ecotourism parks, limestone caves, and other beaches. Under the TCGP, the local government of Japan's Nanjo City in Okinawa shared their agri-ecotourism model and supported ecotourism activities such as birdwatching and farm stay experience. Aside from ecotourism, about 500 farmers in Victorias City also trained in organic farming under the project. •

## Negros' Victorias City finds inspiration from Japan's Nanjo City

## Young Japanese volunteers stress importance of disaster management

Three young Japanese volunteers are helping raise disaster management skills of vulnerable areas in Aklan, Negros Oriental, and Albay underscoring the role of trainings and education to build the Philippines' disaster resiliency efforts.



Kitamura

Japanese volunteer Natsuko Kitamura worked in Negros Oriental to train local government on basic emergency response and operations using ambulance and fire trucks.



Naito

Meanwhile, another Japanese volunteer Kazuyoshi Naito helped the local government in Aklan develop a manual for their emergency operations center, and trained personnel in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (DRRMO) on basic life support, and rope and water rescue. Terence June Toriano, from a local DRRMO in Aklan, said they learned from Naito "the importance of establishing a system in their tactical emergency operations center." Said center acts as a command center of the municipality in case of disasters and hosts the town's Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system for DRR monitoring and security, among others.



Tsunoda

Japanese volunteers are also supporting disaster education in Albay. Naoaki Tsunoda teaches students on preparing emergency kits using local materials. He also holds DRR seminars, hazard mapping, and emergency drills in schools and communities. Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer Manuel Damo said, "We are constantly exposed to a number of natural and man-made hazards, like storm surges, landslides, and rise of sea level in coastal communities. We appreciate the support from the Japanese volunteer in terms of disaster preparedness and prevention. •

### About JICA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is the executing agency of Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA), which handles technical cooperation, ODA loans and investment, and grant aid, as well as cooperation volunteers and disaster relief programs. JICA is the world's largest bilateral aid agency with its volume of cooperation amounting to about USD 19.57 billion for JFY 2017 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.

### JICA Philippines Office

40F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza  
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City  
Telephone: +632 889-7119  
Facsimile: +632 889-6850  
Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/>  
Editorial Team: Jennifer Erice, Maffy Carandang-Patio, Amanda Bacani