

# News FROM Philippines

J U L Y - S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 0

H  
E  
A  
D  
L  
I  
N  
E  
S

## JICA's COVID-19 emergency assistance released to step up recovery efforts by the Philippine Government against pandemic



Loan Signing Ceremony

*“JICA stands with the Filipinos in this time of Bayanihan... We will continue to explore new and innovative ways to deliver our development cooperation program in response to the Philippines' immediate needs and consistent with our mandate to promote inclusive and sustainable growth and a better quality of life for all.*

-AZUKIZAWA Eigo

JICA Philippines Chief Representative

### IN THIS ISSUE:

#### NEWS FROM THE FIELD

- JICA, MILG hold impact survey of COVID-19 in BARMM
- Metro Manila Subway Project: Virtual Tour for the Production of Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs)

#### NEWS IN PHOTOS

- JICA, ACTION supply hygiene kits to child care facilities
- Training on anxiety management in child care facilities
- JICA, DPWH flood control projects eyed to mitigate floods in Mindanao
- Filipino scholar in Japan champions stakeholder collab in DILG

On 14th August, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) made the disbursement to the Philippine Government following its request of 50 billion Japanese Yen under the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan to immediately help the Philippines deal with the pandemic.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has confirmed the health crisis' impact to the economy with latest contraction of 16.5% during the second quarter of 2020, and unemployment of 7.3 million people (April 2020 data). The Department of Finance (DOF) announced that JICA's assistance "underscores the deep friendship between Japan and the Philippines" and the support will form part of the Philippines' economic recovery program.

The Philippines is the first recipient of JICA's special facility "Emergency Support Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan for COVID-19" and is the first partner country to disburse the fund. The trusted partnership between the two countries allowed both governments to respond to the crisis in a "fast and sure" manner.

In addition to COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan, JICA continues to assist the Philippine Government in its effort to boost the economy by providing jobs to many Filipinos through new and ongoing infrastructure projects in support of the Build, Build, Build Program.●



## JICA announced JPY 50-billion Post-Disaster Standby Loan Phase 2 to PH economy amid COVID-19

JICA announced the 50 billion Japanese Yen Post Disaster Stand-by Loan Phase 2 (PDSL 2) to ensure that contingent funds are available for the Philippines' response to the financial demands of the post-disaster recovery phase in cases of natural and public health disasters. Through the project, JICA also supports the Philippines in promoting the implementation of policy actions to mitigate and manage disaster risks and to take measures against infectious diseases.

"Among Japan's partner countries, the Philippines is the first case that JICA is extending PDSL which is applicable to health-related disasters. We recognize that these are extraordinary times and economic uncertainties remain, not just in the Philippines but also all over the world. JICA, as a trusted development partner of the Philippines, therefore stands ready to provide further financial support should it become necessary," said JICA Philippines Chief Representative AZUKIZAWA Eigo.



Loan Signing Ceremony

The new assistance is the second phase of JICA's post-disaster standby loan for the Philippines. Back in 2014, the first post-disaster standby loan helped the Philippines to address Typhoon Yolanda recovery and rehabilitation needs including assisting the country in implementing policies on disaster risk reduction and management, responding to temporary financial needs when large-scale disasters occur, and supporting immediate recovery. •

## Philippines to receive additional support from JICA to aid fight against COVID-19

JICA is giving additional support to the Philippines' COVID-19 response through laboratory equipment and supplies for use of the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine (RITM) and San Lazaro Hospital as virus cases rise. The laboratory equipment and supplies will further boost the testing capacity of the two facilities and ensure quality of test results.

Said support complements the COVID-19 Crisis Emergency Support of Japan to the Philippines that sought to strengthen the Philippines' response to the pandemic and revitalize economic activities.

Both RITM and San Lazaro Hospital are institutional partners of JICA in addressing public health challenges since the 1960s. The Department of Health (DOH) established the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) through a grant from JICA. The RITM, to date, is at the forefront of coronavirus testing and diagnosis in the country.

JICA expressed confidence that through international cooperation, the global community will overcome the current challenge. •



Cobas e 411 analyzer for immunoassay tests

“COVID-19 is not only a challenge of one nation, but of the rest of the world. JICA will continue to work closely with our partner nations like the Philippines, as we have done in the past, so we can get through this public health challenge together.”

-AZUKIZAWA Eigo  
JICA Philippines Chief Representative

H  
E  
A  
D  
L  
I  
N  
E  
S



## JICA, MILG hold survey to assess impact of coronavirus in BARMM, help economic recovery

JICA and the Ministry of Interior and Local Government in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (MILG-BARMM) completed a rapid assessment survey on how the coronavirus has affected individuals and communities in conflict-affected areas. The survey is part of the ongoing Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro (CDPB) to support the transition of the Bangsamoro government by 2022.

The survey targeted 113 municipalities, two cities (Marawi and Lamitan), and 63 barangays in North Cotabato within the boundaries of the provinces under BARMM. Respondents included some 1,700 local government officials, barangay executives, and residents in the areas.



© MILG

*JICA will continue to support peace building initiatives in the Bangsamoro, particularly in revitalizing its economy in the midst of this pandemic. The global health crisis is particularly hard for Filipinos in conflict-affected areas where many rely on public services. The survey will help assess the impact of COVID-19 and determine the needs of the communities so they may receive assistance in economic recovery.*

- EBISAWA Yo, JICA Philippines Senior Representative

According to the survey, COVID-19 affected the region when it comes to “accessing basic necessities and emergency needs as well as in bringing goods and services to main markets” due to limitations in movement and transportation. Among the top reported socioeconomic impacts are anxiety to residents, challenges in public transportation, high price of food and daily necessities, insufficient supply of goods, and insufficient income.

In terms of interventions needed, respondents replied medical supplies and food, improving infrastructure, jobs, and resumption of agricultural activities as among the potential interventions for recovery. •

## Metro Manila Subway Project: Virtual Tour for the Production of Tunnel Boring Machines

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) recently organized a “Virtual Media Factory Tour and Factory Acceptance Test” for the first of 25 Tunnel Boring Machines (TBM) to be utilized for Phase 1 of the Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP).

The event, which was held last 4 September 2020 and witnessed by various Philippine and Japanese media representatives as well as thousands of viewers from DOTr’s Facebook page, provided a glimpse of the TBMs various parts and capabilities broadcasted live from Yokohama City in Japan. TBMs are used for excavating underground tunnels and are thus vital to the realization of a subway system. The fully-assembled TBM, measuring 6.99 meters in diameter and 95 meters long, is expected to arrive in the Philippines by January 2021.

Dubbed as “the project of the century”, the MMSP Phase 1 will have a total length of 36 kilometers with 17 stations from Valenzuela City to NAIA Terminal 3 and will serve as an important transport backbone for Metro Manila. JICA has provided 104.53 billion Japanese Yen as first tranche of Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan for the implementation of the project and remains committed to support the Government of the Philippines until it is fully completed and operational. •



*This proves that the realization of the first-ever subway system in the country is gaining momentum despite the COVID-19 pandemic and that it is only a matter of time before Filipinos can experience a high-quality railway system similar to Japan*

-AZUKIZAWA Eigo, JICA Philippines Chief Representative

# NEWS FROM THE FIELD

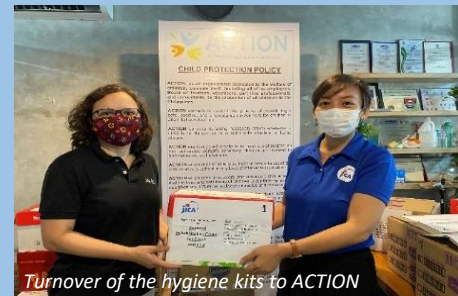




JICA and ACTION staff



Hygiene kits



Turnover of the hygiene kits to ACTION

JICA, Japanese non-profit group ACTION supply hygiene kits to child care facilities in Philippines during pandemic



Handwashing activity



Face masks and vitamins for RCFs

JICA in partnership with Japanese non-profit organization A Child's Trust is Ours to Nurture (ACTION) distributed hygiene kits to benefit almost 2,000 children and personnel in Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) in Central Luzon (Region III) and National Capital Region. The hygiene kits included thermometers, alcohol, bath soap, multivitamins, washable masks, and disinfectants. The project also included capacity building of house parents as well as social workers on hygiene and sanitation management as well as stress and anxiety management to boost frontline RCFs in continuing their services to vulnerable children during these difficult times from the pandemic. •

A series of trainings for house parents and social workers on stress and anxiety management and teaching children health and sanitation management was conducted to benefit 1,607 disadvantaged children in some of the Philippines' RCFs. JICA and ACTION are working together to build the capacity of workers in RCFs on anxiety management and in teaching children how to cope as part of interventions to support children during the pandemic. The training in the form of webinars were partly based on an existing house parenting standards manual that JICA, ACTION, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) developed from 2013-2019. About 489 house parents joined the webinars. •

Training launched to promote stress and anxiety management to benefit Filipino children in residential care facilities



Educating children about COVID-19

# NEWS IN PHOTOS



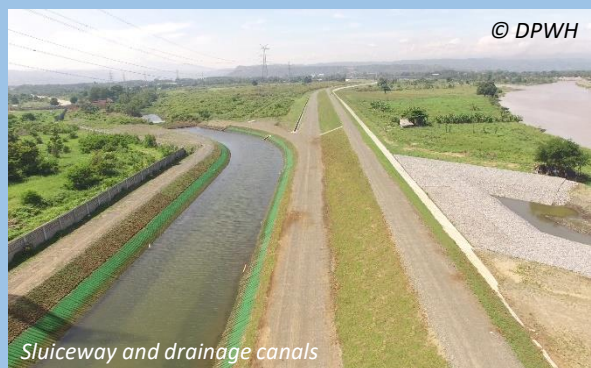
ACTION staff facilitating the webinars



Training of house parents at one of the RCFs



# NEWS IN PHOTOS



@ DPWH

Sluiceway and drainage canals

Amid typhoon season, JICA-DPWH flood control project eyed to mitigate flooding, boost business in Mindanao

As typhoon season sets in the Philippines again, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) said the completed flood risk management project in Tagoloan River is an important project that can help mitigate flooding in the area. More than 1,000 households along the river banks are at risk during strong typhoons. Hence, under the project, a dike was built at the upstream part of the river while sluiceway and drainage canals were constructed using Japanese technology to prevent water overflow and drain rainwater into the river. Aside from flood control structures, JICA and DPWH also implement non-structural measures (e.g. disaster awareness, drills, hazard maps) under the project to mitigate flood disasters. •



Flood Control Project in Tagoloan River

Scholarship in Japan pushes Filipino DILG official to champion stakeholder collab in gov't

Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Assistant Secretary Francisco Relevo Cruz was among the scholars of the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship by Japanese Grant Aid, or JDS when Asec Cruz was a recipient of JDS 2007.



@Cruz

Asec Cruz with Prof. Michio Umegaki

After completing a master's course in media and governance in Japan's Keio University, Cruz returned to DILG and advocated for stakeholder consultation process in the agency's initiatives.



@Cruz

Asec Cruz in Sapporo, Japan

“ They showed professionalism and patience in their work, while also setting good examples for Filipino public servants like myself on the way we should do our work. I also remember from my studies in Japan the concept of 'deviant case' or being attentive to the concerns of the minority, ”  
 -DILG Asec. Francisco Relevo Cruz  
 JICA JDS Scholar

The Japanese scholarship also gave him the opportunity to advance in his career. At DILG, Cruz now helps set the agency's strategic directions, ensuring that its plans and programs have adequate resources and are aligned with the priorities of the national government. •

## 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 14.08 billion for JFY 2018 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines.

Join the conversation. Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/jicaphilippines/](https://facebook.com/jicaphilippines/)

## JICA Philippines Office

40F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza  
 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City  
 Telephone: +632 8889-7119  
 Facsimile: +632 8889-6850  
 Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/>  
 Editorial Team: Jennifer Erice, Maffy Carandang-Patio,  
 Amanda Bacani, Roxanne De los Santos

