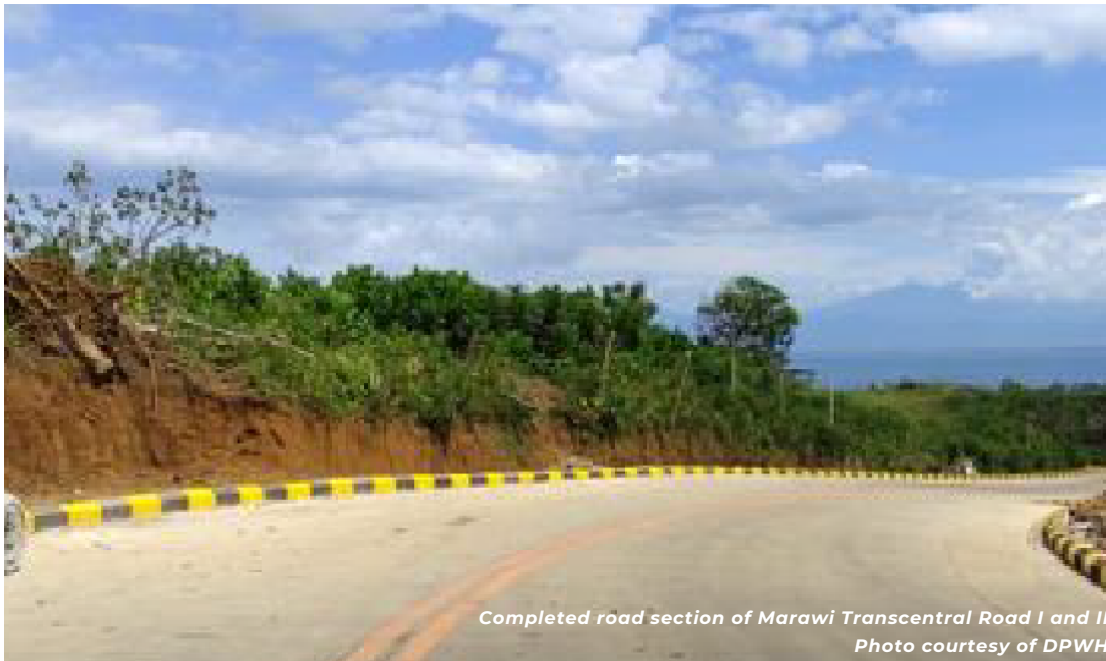


JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



News^{FROM}Philippines

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Completed road section of Marawi Transcentral Road I and II
Photo courtesy of DPWH

JICA CONTINUES SUPPORT TO MARAWI REHAB EFFORTS VIA ROAD PROJECT

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) continues to support the rehabilitation of Marawi via Marawi Transcentral Road Project Phase III, an 18.78-kilometer road rehabilitation project amounting to P700 million.

The project is part of the larger Road Network Development Project in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (RNDP-CAAM) under JICA and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) that aims to support peace building and economic development in Mindanao. "Rebuilding transport infrastructure will make a huge difference in the lives of people of Marawi. When completed, they will provide better access to basic services, increase trade, as well as create more jobs and contribute to economic growth in the region," said JICA Philippines Chief Representative AZUKIZAWA Eigo.

Marawi used to be a trading hub in Mindanao prior to the 2017 Marawi siege. The latter damaged access roads and surrounding communities like Maguindanao, Cotabato, and Zamboanga found it difficult to access Marawi. In 2018, JICA also extended grant assistance to support the rehabilitation of Phases I and II of Marawi Transcentral Road under the Programme for the Support for Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi City and its Surrounding Areas.

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A ROUNDUP OF LATEST JICA ASSISTANCE TO COVID-19 RESPONSE IN THE PHILIPPINES



Pharmaceutical refrigerator provided to RITM will ensure safe and secure storage of temperature sensitive pharmaceuticals, medicines and, biologicals.

As countries pose restrictions once more due to the continuous spread of COVID-19, JICA exerts efforts to help the Philippines cope with the pandemic in a sustainable way. Here's a roundup of JICA's latest cooperation with the Philippines to support build back better from COVID-19.

BOOSTING DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

JICA is working in tandem with health institutions to enhance disease surveillance in the Philippines and curb rising COVID-19 cases. A technical cooperation project is currently being formulated with the Department of Health (DOH) to strengthen the Philippines' laboratory network's capacity on disease management and biosafety. They will develop a roadmap as well as manuals and training modules to boost disease response.



JICA donated laptops, desktop computers, and other ICT equipment to RITM

ENHANCING DATA MANAGEMENT

JICA also provided recently new laptops, desktops, and other information and communications technology (ICT) to the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). These aim to help improve data management and telemedicine for COVID-19 in the Philippines. Earlier, JICA has also provided laboratory equipment to its partner health institutions for COVID-19 testing, and storage of sensitive medicine and pharmaceutical supplies, as well as automated immunoassay analyzer of test results.



Signing Ceremony for PDSL 2

FINANCING FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

In June 2020, the Philippines also received the third tranche of JICA Post Disaster Standby-Loan Phase 2 (PDSL 2) amounting to 20 billion yen. This was in addition to the first disbursement of 10 billion yen in October 2020 and another 10 billion yen early this year. The financing support was part of 50 billion yen PDSL 2 of JICA as contingency funds for the Philippines' post-disaster recovery in cases of natural disasters and public health threats.

This support complements the COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan of JICA extended on August 2020 and the Build Build Build infrastructure agenda of the Philippine government.



Blessing of the facility and equipment in Legazpi City



Composting Machine

COMPOSTING FACILITY IN BICOL INAUGURATED TO SUPPORT AGRI, SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT

Japanese company Okada Manufactory Co. Ltd., local government of Legazpi City, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) inaugurated recently a composting facility that transforms wastes into organic fertilizers.

The facility is under the JICA Partnership with the Private Sector scheme called SDGs Business Supporting Surveys where Japanese companies introduce innovations to address social problems. The new composting facility will help increase raw waste processing by 20 times (0.5 to 10 cubic meters per day). The processed wastes may be used by farmers to fertilize lands and save production costs by using such fertilizers instead of chemical ones.

Okada is also partnering with local company Coco Technology Corp. for local assembly of composting equipment for export to Japan and to Southeast Asia.

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Teaching farmers new approaches and methods in sustainable, organic farming can help direct new opportunities to agriculture, especially during this pandemic.

- HIROSAWA Jin

JICA Philippines Senior Representative

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LIFE SKILLS FOR CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW

JICA is supporting a life skills development and rehabilitation project for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) in the Philippines. The initiative is called Project to Strengthen the Support Systems for Children in Residential Care Facilities and Communities in 11 Regions in the Philippines in partnership with Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC) and Japanese non-profit organization A Child's Trust is Ours to Nurture (ACTION).

The Juvenile Justice Act of 2015 defines CICL as a child who is alleged or found to have committed an offense and is below 18 years old on date of commission of such offense.

The project will develop life skills intervention toolkit for children and train house parents and social workers on implementing life skills activities not only in the Philippines but also in Japanese centers. Data from the JJWC also state that Bahay Pagasa or residential care facilities under LGUs are in need of life skills intervention activities.

Prior to this project, JICA has supported the development of house parenting standards for residential care facilities to benefit disadvantaged children in Central Luzon and other parts of National Capital Region (NCR).

FORMER JAPANESE VOLUNTEER CHOSE TO LIVE IN PH, HELP DAIRY SECTOR

A former volunteer from the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program made a choice to live in the Philippines after completing her volunteer work to support the local dairy sector.

YAMAKI Kumiko was among the young Japanese professionals sent to the Philippines in 2008 as a part of the development cooperation activities of JICA. She was assigned to the National Artificial Breeding Center (NABC) under the Bureau of Animal Industry where she helped systematize data on cattle breeding to boost the country's quality meat production.

Yamaki established a dairy business firm together with her husband to create jobs in a local farming community in Tarlac and they are now producing around 50,000 liters of fresh milk to address local demand. "When we were starting, we had a hard time marketing the products but over time, we earned the trust of local customers and are able to address their changing needs and priorities," said Yamaki.

With the pandemic situation, Filipino dairy farmers need all the support they can get. With more consumers paying attention to supporting local sources and businesses they trust, Yamaki's efforts to help create livelihood is one way to help farmers stay in the sector, and survive in these uncertain times.

“When my volunteer work ended in 2010, I returned to the Philippines in 2011 and chose to stay here to support dairy farmers and create jobs for the local people.

YAMAKI Kumiko
Former JOCV Volunteer



Former JOCV Volunteer



Yamaki's dairy business

YOUNG FILIPINOS IN GOVERNMENT LEARN FROM JAPAN

A group of young Filipinos have been attending disaster management courses via distance learning under the JICA Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

Joel Oestar, from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), is taking a master's degree on Seismology, Earthquake Engineering, and Tsunami Disaster Mitigation, while Abner Lawangen from the local government of Tublay Benguet attended the virtual KCCP - Group and Region Focus course on Disaster Reconstruction Assistance.

Aside from disaster management, other courses offered under this program are Development of Sustainable and Reliable Logistics System in Asian Region, Aviation Security, Monetary Policy and Central Bank Operations, Road Asset Management, Composting, Maritime Search and Rescue, Water Supply Administration, Universal Health Coverage, Defense Practice Against Cyber Attacks, and Healthcare among others.

JICA's KCCP aims to share Japan's knowledge and skills as well as the Japanese model in establishing systems and structures. It is usually held in Japan in partnership with Japanese organizations and academic institutions, but due to the pandemic, current courses are being held online. The courses usually run from a few days to weeks, to as long as one year for the master's degree courses.



KCCP Scholar Oestar

“The course helps improve my knowledge on Philippine tectonics and how we can enhance our earthquake monitoring by learning from Japan.

JOEL OESTAR
KCCP Scholar

To learn more about the JICA Group Training courses, please visit this link <https://www.jica.go.jp/philippine/english/activities/activity_01_05.html>.

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 16.37 billion for JFY 2019 and a worldwide network of about 100 overseas offices including the Philippines

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