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**J**Embassy of  
**Japan**  
in the Philippines

## PRESS RELEASE

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **Japan to cooperate in the rehabilitation of 3 Vocational Training Centers and improvement of farm-to-market roads in BARMM**

On 22 March, 2022, upon completion of the signing of the Grant Agreement between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Ambassador KOSHIKAWA Kazuhiko stated that “nation building starts with human resource development, and this project “The Programme for the Urgent Improvement of Socioeconomic Infrastructure in Bangsamoro Region” will be one major step towards providing useful and practical vocational training opportunities to the people in Marawi, Sultan Kudarat, and Basilan, as well as people in the surrounding areas.”

Ambassador Koshikawa furthermore stated, “It is the hope of the Government of Japan and Japanese people that the people living in Mindanao will be able to enjoy peaceful and fulfilled lives. We believe people should be able to choose their own life paths by acquiring the livelihood skills they desire. We believe the vocational training centers to be rebuilt through this project will be able to support the youth and elderly alike in achieving their goals by providing more options for the skills needed in adapting to a new environment. To really make a difference to the people in Mindanao, I sincerely hope the facility and equipment will be effectively utilized by BARMM officials for people to have the means for a better life.”

Ambassador KOSHIKAWA also conveyed, “I believe another component of this project, the improvement of farm-to-market roads will surely make a difference not only to farmers but also to people who want to acquire freshly harvested vegetables at affordable prices and I believe this will be useful for both producers and consumers.



This project is one example showing how Japan is fully committed to continuously supporting the Mindanao Peace Process and the implementation of many development projects in Mindanao, through JICA, to make a difference for future generations.”

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