



"Her big smile and firm handshake was enough for us to understand the lady's gratefulness," said Mr. Floro Adviento, a JICA National Staff, as he shared one of his most unforgettable moments at work. The lady (photo in previous page) is one of the beneficiaries of the ARMM Social Fund for Peace and Development, implemented through JICA's Yen Loan Scheme.

JICA has always been keen in assisting Mindanao in balancing the latter's social and economic stance amidst armed clashes. The Japanese Government launched the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development (J-BIRD) since FY 2006, in view of massive needs of reconstruction and development, once final peace agreement is attained in the area.

Aside from the ARMM Social Fund, JICA's assistance for socio-economic development in the south includes the Mindanao Sustainable Settlement Area Development and the Central Mindanao Road Project. Through these projects, various kinds of infrastructure such as schools, training centers, water supply systems, and roads have been rehabilitated or constructed.

In addition to these, JICA has been conducting the Study for Socio-Economic Reconstruction and Development of the Conflict-

JICA likewise works closely with the grassroots through its Community Empowerment Program (CEP) that is co-implemented by non-governmental organizations.

More recently, JICA signed a grant agreement with the United Nations World Food Programme amounting to about JPY860 million (approximately USD9.2 million) equivalent to 7,500 metric tons of rice, for emergency food aid to internally displaced persons in war-torn Mindanao.

## PEACE and STABILITY in MINDANAO

