



Development Inclusive and dynamic

The long, continuing history of our partnership with the Philippines started in 1954 (sending training participants to Japan). Fifty-four years later, a turning point came: The Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA, became the major donor agency representing Japan.

Merged into the new JICA were the technical assistance programs of JICA, the official development assistance (ODA) loan function of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, and a portion of the grant aid program of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The three modalities of assistance made JICA the world's largest bilateral aid agency. JICA is present in more than 150 countries and has about 100 offices overseas.

The new JICA was the result of a new vision of "Inclusive and dynamic development" that is made concrete through a comprehensive and holistic strategy.

In the Philippines, JICA strategy calls for increased assistance in all modalities, including ODA loans, grant aid, technical cooperation, and volunteer programs, with the aim of generating greater impact with every project.

Our strategy in the Philippines is aligned with the JICA global agenda, which addresses food security, environmental conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and energy sufficiency. Recurring problems in electricity supply, water supply, sanitation, and disaster preparedness underscore the vital need for cooperation in these areas.

The strategy likewise strengthens our partnership with international organizations and other donor institutions, private sectors, academe and nongovernmental organizations.



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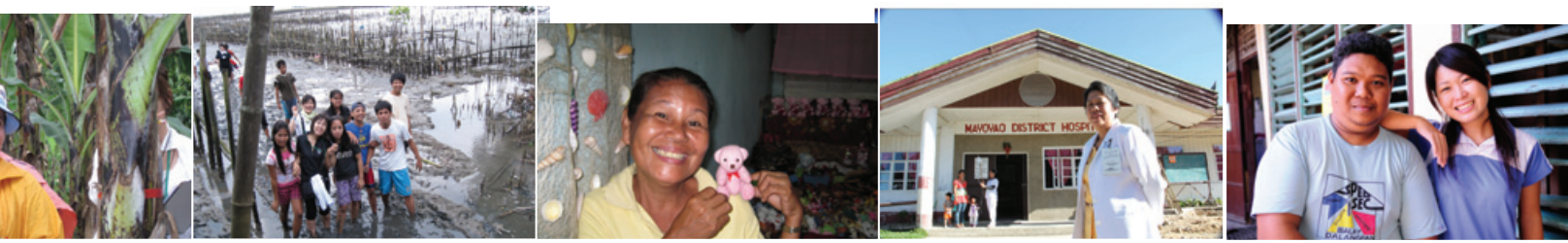
DOST PRDC was a partner of JICA in a four-year technical cooperation project that helped over 100 local food manufacturers to improve the shelf life and packaging design of favorite Filipino delicacies. The project was completed in June 2009.

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In governance, we are taking a systematic approach to developing capacities of institutions and capabilities of human resources. This includes promoting the proper attitude that will prolong the life and use of infrastructures that we help to build — a mind change that will lead to sufficient allotments for proper operation and maintenance.

We maintain our focus on three priority pillars of our development assistance to the Philippines:

- (1) Sustainable economic growth aimed at creating employment opportunities
- (2) Poverty reduction
- (3) Peace and stability in Mindanao



JICA support for the Philippines will remain strong even as a new country assistance strategy that is to be prepared in light of a new Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan that will take effect at the end of the year.

Sustainability of development support and assistance has been our emphasis for 40 years, and will continue to be so. After JICA projects are turned over to the Philippine government and community partners, it remains important that they be pursued with a sense of ownership and a view of sustaining them over the long term.

Maraming salamat po.

Norio Matsuda

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