



JICA PRIORITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Sustainable Economic Growth Aimed at Creating Employment Opportunities

Support for Financial Reform/Good Governance

JICA supports Philippine efforts toward good governance in the public sector as a means to improve the business and investment environment. It likewise supports fiscal reform, as this helps to promote investment by reducing country risk and enables more infrastructure development by increasing revenues.

The support for fiscal reform is in the form of advice in policy formulation and cooperation in policy implementation, such as through improvement of tax collection capacity.

To further encourage investment in the Philippines, JICA helps to provide needed capacity in such areas as maritime safety and airport and seaport security.

Investment Promotion

To promote private investment in the Philippines, JICA assists in (1) formulation and implementation of pertinent policies; (2) financing, capacity-building and startup of small and medium-scale enterprises; (3) efforts toward transparency and stability of business regulations; (4) efforts toward smooth and prompt customs services; (5) human resources development and skills training to develop a highly skilled workforce.

Improvement of Transportation Network

To enhance the Philippines' international competitiveness, it is important to reduce traffic congestion in Metro

Manila and to improve the transportation infrastructure in such areas as Calabarzon, where electronics companies (which are the largest export sector) are concentrated, and in such industrial centers as the Subic-Clark-Batangas "Growth Corridor," and Cebu.

To this end, JICA assists in: (1) improving major transportation networks; (2) strengthening linkages between these networks; (3) the planning, operation and maintenance and financial management of infrastructure; (4) improving management of government corporations involved in infrastructure; and (5) promoting private sector participation in infrastructure.

Enhancing Power and Energy Sector

JICA assists in enhancing the capacity of the Department of Energy and the National Electrification Administration towards more efficient operations, especially in reducing systems loss.

Tourism

JICA assists in improving infrastructure in priority tourism areas (air/seaport, road, water supply, sewage, waste disposal, etc.) in a more comprehensive manner, balancing economic benefit and environmental considerations.

JICA also helps to strengthen the capacity of the Department of Tourism and local governments for proper planning, promotion and sustainability of tourist destinations, especially for ecotourism.

Poverty Reduction

Livelihood Improvement

In rural areas, JICA gives priority to agriculture and fishery development, such as by providing technology for proper operation and maintenance of production facilities, and strengthening management of farmers' and fish folks' associations. It also helps to develop transportation infrastructure and distribution systems that link rural areas to urban markets.

JICA assists in improving farmers' incomes through microfinance and the promotion of local industries in cooperation with local governments and the local private sector.

In urban areas, JICA helps to provide of poor workers with skills training as a means to increasing their incomes. It also cooperates with the Philippine government in enhancing the business environment for microenterprises and small and medium-scale enterprises as a way of creating employment opportunities.

Enhancement of Basic Social Services

In accordance with the thrust of the Department of Health, JICA assists the Philippines in strengthening health systems to improve delivery of health services.

In education, JICA assists in strengthening teacher competency and school management capacity as well as in increasing the number of classrooms.

Environmental Protection and Disaster Prevention

JICA assists the Philippines in building, maintaining and managing flood-control and erosion-control infrastructure in high-risk sites, and in enhancing disaster preparedness. When natural calamities occur suddenly, JICA provides prompt emergency assistance and support for rehabilitation.

To conserve and protect the environment, JICA helps especially in proper management of forests and coastal areas.

Peace and Stability in Mindanao

Administrative Capacity-Building

JICA helps the ARMM government to develop and train human resources in such fields as policy formulation and implementation, especially for formulating ways and plans to address the needs of its residents.

Improving Delivery of Basic Human Needs

In Mindanao as a whole, JICA helps to improve provision of such basic human needs as healthcare, education, water supply, livelihood, and infrastructure that helps to improve the quality of life of residents.

The ARMM Social Fund, for instance, supported the construction of infrastructure based on the needs

which the people identified. In conflict-affected areas, JICA supported the formulation of the socio-economic development plan which addresses the gaps that impede economic development and peace in Mindanao.

JICA also helps to improve farm productivity in Mindanao especially by providing needed infrastructure and technology, including transportation infrastructure and distribution systems.

Peace-Building

JICA assists in community development in Mindanao and cooperates in improving public security to foster peace and consciousness among residents.





JICA ASSISTANCE SCHEMES

Yen Loan

JICA provides low-interest, long-term and concessional ODA funds (in Japanese yen) to developing countries above a certain income level, to help in their growth efforts. The loans are for large-scale infrastructure and other developments that require substantial financing.

Technical Cooperation

To help develop the human resources and build the administrative systems of developing countries, JICA dispatches experts, provides necessary equipment, and accepts personnel for training in Japan and other countries. The cooperation plans can be customized to address a wide range of issues.

Dispatch of Experts

JICA sends experts to provide technology and make recommendations to key economic and social development administrators and technicians in respective recipient countries.

Acceptance of Trainees

This program involves the transfer of Japanese specialized knowledge and technology, and contributes to resolving issues in respective recipient countries. Training programs for administrators, technicians and researchers from developing countries are done with the cooperation of Japan's national and local government agencies, universities, private enterprises, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other relevant parties.

Grant Aid

Grant aid is the provision of funds to developing countries that have low income levels, without the obligation of repayment. It is used for improving basic infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, water supply facilities, and roads, along with obtaining health and medical care, equipment and other requirements.

Disaster Relief

In cases of large-scale disasters, JICA dispatches Japan Disaster Relief teams in response to requests from the governments of the affected countries or international organizations to the Japanese government. These teams help in search and rescue efforts, provide medical treatment, and suggest ways to achieve recovery. JICA also ships in emergency supplies, such as blankets, tents, and medicines.

Cooperation through Citizen Participation

JICA promotes participation of Japanese citizens in diverse ways with NGOs, local governments, universities, and other organizations that participate in international cooperation activities.

Partnership with NGOs

JICA welcomes in-depth, grassroots collaboration especially where programs with partner governments in developing countries cannot reach effectively. A strong focus is on health and education, with direct impact for the betterment of life and livelihood.

The JICA Technical Cooperation for Grassroots Projects (TCGP) assists in projects planned by Japanese partners, mainly NGOs, local government units, and universities in Japan, based on their accumulated experiences and technologies in social and economic development at the grassroots level.

Volunteer Program

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) is established in 1965. Volunteers (aged 20 to 39) spend two years living and working with people in host communities; there are also short-term volunteers who stay for up to 10 months.

JOCV participants are trained and qualified professionals in a variety of technical disciplines. They work at the local level, with the aim of helping to fill the needs of their host countries and, together with their local counterparts, build up the capacity of their host organizations. Their work also helps to deepen the understanding of cultures and build genuine friendships between volunteers and hosts.

