J-BiRD
- Towards Enduring Peace in Mindanao -
New Phase of the "Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development"

Embassy of Japan in the Philippines
WHAT’S J-BiRD?

Launched in December 2006, J-BiRD (Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development) is designed to contribute to the peace process and development in the Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM) and the surrounding areas in the ARMM (Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

OBJECTIVES

» To contribute to the Peace Process between the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front by means of development in the Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM) through Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA);

» To enable the people and the communities in CAAM to enjoy the “dividends of peace” on the basis of “Human Security” principles.
During the State Visit of President Aquino to Japan, the Government of Japan announced J-BIRD2, the new phase of J-BIRD in the Joint Declaration of the summit meeting in June 2015. J-BIRD will focus more on economic autonomy in Bangsamoro Area in this phase.

"The Government of Japan recognizes the Philippines' commitment towards lasting peace, stability and development in Mindanao and supports the Philippines' steady implementation of economic development projects based on the "Bangsamoro Development Plan." To that end, the Government of Japan will advance the new phase of its initiative under the name of J-BIRD2. J-BIRD2 will focus more on ensuring economic autonomy in the Bangsamoro Area. These efforts will also open up opportunities in trade and investment that will benefit not only the Philippines but also Japan and the entire region."

Japan-Philippines Joint Declaration paragraph 7
2002 DEC  
Prime Minister Koizumi launched the "Support Package for Peace and Stability in Mindanao" Program

2006 OCT  
The Government of Japan started to dispatch socio-economic development expert to International Monitoring Team (IMT).

2006 DEC  
On the Occasion of Prime Minister Abe’s visit to the Philippines in December 2006, the Government of Japan announced the launch of the "Japan-Bangsamoro Initiative for Reconstruction and Development" (J-BIRD)

2009 DEC  
Upon the request from the negotiating parties and the Government of Malaysia, Japan started to participate in the International Contact Group (ICG).

2011 AUG  
The Government of Japan supported holding on an informal meeting between President Aquino and Chairman Murad in Narita (suburb of Tokyo)

2014 MAR  
The Government of the Philippines and MILF signed the "Comprehensive Agreement of Bangsamoro"

2015 JUN  
The Government of Japan announced the new phase of J-BIRD under the name of J-BIRD2, which focuses more on ensuring economic autonomy in the Bangsamoro Area on the occasion of the State Visit of the President Aquino.
JAPAN'S ASSiSTANCE PRIORITY AREAS for the PHILIPPINES

(1) Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth through Further Promotion of Investment
(2) Overcoming Vulnerability and Stabilizing Bases for Human Life and Production Activity
(3) Peace and Development in Mindanao

Assistance in Mindanao Region is one of the three major pillars of Japanese ODA Assistance. To secure and stabilize peace in Mindanao through the promotion of the peace process by means of socio-economic development in the conflict-affected areas, and also to eradicate poverty, Japan provides assistance for:

1) The Strengthening of Governance;
2) The Reduction of Poverty including the Improvement of Access to Social Services; and
3) The Community Development Through the Improvement of Infrastructures and Promotion of Industries.
J-BIRD PROJECTS

The Government of Japan has assisted

Grant Aid: $21.3 Million

- Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP): $7.67 million
- Grant Aid for Japanese NGO's Project
- Emergency Grant Aid to the Philippines in Response to Typhoon Bopha
- Emergency Grant Aid to the Philippines in Response to the Evacuees from the Armed Conflict in Mindanao

Technical Cooperation

- ARMM Human Capacity Development Project
- Topographic Mapping for Peace and Development in Mindanao
- Project for Capacity Building for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CD-CAAAM)
- Rice Based Farming Technology Extension Project for ARMM with Philippine Rice Research Institute (TIPS)
- Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Autonomous Regional Government
- Comprehensive Capacity Development Project for the Bangsamoro
- Hiroshima Peacebuilding Human Resource Development Project for the Bangsamoro Government in Mindanao
over $240 million under the J-BIRD initiative (as of Oct 2016)

Yen Loan: $188.89 million
- Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development Project (MINSAAD)
- ARMM Social Fund for Peace and Development Project (ASFDP)
- Central Mindanao Road Project
- Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation (HARVEST)

Non-Project Grant Assistance Counter Value Fund: $7.23 million
- Construction of Japan-ARMM Friendship Hall and Training Center
- Equipment Supply for Improvement of Road Network in ARMM
- Personal Computer for Public High Schools Projects

International Monitoring Team
Senior Advisors for Socio-Economic Assistance of IMT,
(Japan has dispatched 8 senior advisors)
Our Commitment to Mindanao with J-BIRD continues...

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All the photos on page 4-5 are provided by Masataka Otuka/JICA unless otherwise indicated.