JAPAN’S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

PROACTIVE SUPPORT FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH
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**EMBASSY OF JAPAN**

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Overview: Japan’s Assistance toward the Philippines

Many Filipinos may not recognize when they use the Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), the EDSA-Ayala Avenue Interchange, or the Batangas Port, that they are actually experiencing first-hand how Japan has worked closely with the Philippines. More than one can imagine, Japan has been cooperating with the Philippines in a broad range of areas.

Japan and the Philippines have more than 60 years of history with extensive work in development cooperation. Japan accounts for 57% of the cumulative ODA commitments the Philippines received from 1966-2016, reaching a total sum of over USD 27 billion, or close to PHP 1.5 trillion. By far, Japan has been and continues to be the biggest donor of the Philippines.

Japan’s development cooperation covers a broad range of areas including infrastructure, energy, maritime security, disaster management, agriculture, health, education, and peace and development in Mindanao. As shown below, assistance in the transportation sector has been a major sector of Japan’s assistance to the Philippines.

Sectoral Distribution of Cumulative ODA Loans (1968—2017)

Source: JICA Philippines
Japan’s recently revised “Country Development Cooperation Policy for the Republic of the Philippines” articulates that Japan’s basic ODA policy in the country. Making full use of its strengths, Japan will support the Philippines’ pursuit of “inclusive growth, a high-trust and resilient society, and a globally competitive knowledge economy” that the Philippines Development Plan 2017-2022 states as its goals.

The Country Development Cooperation Policy outlines Japan’s development cooperation toward the Philippines with three pillars at its core:

- **Strengthening a Foundation for Sustainable Economic Growth**  
  Japan will cooperate in developing quality infrastructure, strengthening maritime law enforcement and capabilities, supporting industrial development, improving energy situations, as well as ramping up information and communications and public administration capacities.

- **Ensuring Human Security for Inclusive Growth**  
  Japan will help overcome vulnerabilities to various risks impacting the lives of the Filipinos, especially the poor in such areas as natural disaster management, environment, health, and agriculture.

- **Peace and Development in Mindanao**  
  Japan is firmly committed to assisting Mindanao peace and development, recognizing that it is important for peace and prosperity in the Philippines and also in the entire Asia.

In October 2017, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Rodrigo Duterte issued the “Japan-Philippines Joint Statement on Bilateral Cooperation for the Next Five Years.” In this landmark Joint Statement, Prime Minister Abe emphasized Japan’s intention to steadily implement a total contribution of one trillion yen, roughly half a trillion pesos, over the next five years through public and private sector engagement, which was announced in Manila in January 2017.

As confirmed in the Joint Statement, Japan will continue to work closely with the Philippines to further strengthen the Strategic Partnership between our countries.
Establishing arterial and efficient infrastructure—such as railways, road networks, and airports/ports,—is vital to further strengthen the Philippines’ inclusive and sustainable development. Japan believes that organized and balanced development plans based on solid economic and social analysis are essential before embarking on a big infrastructure project. From this perspective, Japan conducted the studies for “the Roadmap for Transport Infrastructure for Metro Manila and its Surrounding Areas” (2014, 2018), “Mega Cebu Vision 2050” (2015)/“the Master Plan Study on Urban Transport System in Metro Cebu Project” (2018) as well as “the Davao City Infrastructure Development Plan and Capacity Building Project” (2018) to help identify the most needed infrastructure projects in these respective cities. Basically Japan’s ongoing projects and projects under formulation are based on these studies.
Metro Manila Railway Projects with Japan’s Assistance

- North-South Commuter Railway Project (Clark International Airport (CIA) – Calamba)
- Metro Manila Subway Project (Quirino Highway – FTI, NAIA)
- MRT-3 Rehabilitation Project
- LRT 1 Extension Project
- LRT 2 Extension Project
With Japan’s state-of-the-art technology including high-level seismic design and centralized traffic control system, Japan’s ODA railway projects seek to effectively address the worsening traffic congestion in the Capital Region, which is estimated to cost 3.5 billion pesos a day. Once operationalized, these railways will provide fast, safe, punctual, and environment-friendly public transportation services, expanding the Metro Manila economic sphere and improving the Philippine investment climate.

**Metro Manila Subway (Ongoing)**

The first subway in the Philippines targets to start its partial operation in 2022 and full operation in 2025. It will stretch about 30km connecting major business districts from Quirino Highway in Quezon City to the FTI station in Taguig, with a branch line to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). It is seen to serve 500,000 people daily.

**North-South Commuter Railway (Ongoing)**

The North South Commuter Railway stretches about 150km from Clark International Airport (CIA), Pampanga to Calamba, Laguna. All electrified 8 car trains will be operational on the mostly elevated tracks. It is planned to reduce travel time between CIA and Central Manila to around 1 hour.

**Philippine Railway Institute (Ongoing)**

Japan is also embarking on establishing the Philippine Railway Institute to bring Japan’s safe and efficient railway operation culture in the Philippines. Japan’s top railway operators are providing support to the Institute.
Road & Bridge Projects with Japan’s Assistance

NOTABLE ONGOING AND COMPLETED
ROAD PROJECTS
• PATAPAT VIADUCT
• QUIRINO BRIDGE
• MANILA NORTH ROAD
• SUYO-CERVANTES ROAD
• NAGUILAN ROAD
• ROSARIO-PUGO-BAGUIO ROAD
• TARLAC-PANGASINAN-LA UNION EXPRESSWAY (TPLEX)
• CENTRAL LUZON LINK EXPRESSWAY (CLEX)
• SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY (SCTEX)
• PROJECT FOR COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR METRO MANILA
• ROAD UPGRADING AND PRESERVATION PROJECT
• LIPA-JALAMINOS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (REG IV-A: BATANGAS-LAGUNA)
• MINDORO WEST COAST ROAD
• CATICLAN ROAD
• CEBU SOUTH COASTAL ROAD
• NAGA-TOLEDO ROAD
• CEBU SOUTH ROAD
• SECOND MANDAUE-MACTAN (MARCELO PERNAN) BRIDGE
• SURIGAO-DAVAO ROAD (REGION XIII, LIPATA-BOUNDARY AGUSAN DEL NORTE SECTION)
• LUMBA-TALAKANG ROAD
• FARM-TO-MARKET ROADS
• CENTRAL MINDAHAD ROAD
• DAVAO CITY BYPASS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Bridge Projects
• BASUGO-ARITA ROAD
• BORGABON-BALER ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (REG III: NUEVA ECJA-AURORA)
• METRO MANILA PRIORITY BRIDGES SEISMIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (GUADALUPE & LAMBINGAN BRIDGES)
• METRO MANILA INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PH I - IV & VI (EDSA-AYALA AVENUE/EDSA-GUEZON AVENUE/CS-BONI SERRANO INTERCHANGES)
• CATANDUANES CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (REG V)
• PHILIPPINE-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY
• SAN JUANICO BRIDGE
• SOUTH SAMAR COASTAL ROAD
• AGAS-AGAS BRIDGE
• BOHOL CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD
• 2ND MAGSAYSAY BRIDGE
• PROSPERIDAD-ในGA ROAD
• BUTUAN CITY BYPASS ROAD
• COMPOSTELA-RAIN RATAAN ROAD
• PHILIPPINE-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY
Japan has been a long-time partner of the Philippines in the construction and rehabilitation of the Philippines-Japan Friendship Highway and other arterial road networks throughout the Philippines.

**Philippine - Japan Friendship Highway**

The Philippine-Japan Friendship Highway is Japan’s first ODA loan project in the Philippines that began in 1968. As the longest highway in the Philippines, it is composed of over 3,000 kilometers of roads and bridges stretching from Allacapan, Cagayan Province in the north to Carmen, Davao del Norte in the south. The 2.2km San Juanico Bridge (1973) connecting the islands of Samar and Leyte still stands as the longest bridge in the Philippines.

(All photos by DPWH)

**Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway**

After the opening of the 90km, four lane Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway in 2009, the travel time between Subic and Clark was reduced from 120 minutes to 35 minutes, and between Clark and Tarlac from 90 minutes to 22 minutes, respectively.

**Arterial Road Bypass Project (Ongoing)**

The Plaridel Bypass Road, a new 24.6km arterial road bypass in the province of Bulacan, aims to address transport bottleneck as it connects Metro Manila and northern suburban cities. Japan is currently assisting the widening of this bypass road into four lanes.
Japan has been cooperating with the Philippines to construct and improve key hubs for air and sea transportation, including Cebu-Mactan Airport, Iloilo Airport, Subic Port and Mindanao Container Terminal.

Japan has also been assisting in building and rehabilitating major power plants as well as the expansion of electricity transmission grid.

**Bohol Panglao International Airport (2018)**

The new Bohol Panglao International Airport has the capacity to handle nearly three times more flights than the old airport, thereby contributing to the revitalization and sustainable growth of the popular resort island area.

**CNS/ATM (2018)**

Japan helped establish the New Communications, Navigation and Surveillance/Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) which enables air traffic controllers to communicate with, navigate, and monitor the planes throughout the entire Philippines, thereby improving the safety and punctuality of air transportation.

**Waste-to-Energy Facility in Davao City (Ongoing)**

An integrated solid waste management facility, the Waste-to-Energy Facility in Davao City will significantly reduce solid waste by converting it to usable energy with minimal environmental impact. This facility is the first of its kind in the Philippines and expected to serve as an innovative example of an ecological and sustainable waste management.
Since 1989, Japan has been supporting the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to enhance its maritime security through capacity building as well as the provision of vessels and equipment.

**44m-Class Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs) (2016—2018)**

The PCG has recently commissioned ten 44m class Multi-Role Response Vessels (MRRVs) with bulletproof navigation bridges and advanced communications monitoring technology. These made-in-Japan vessels enhance the PCG’s capacity for quick and appropriate response to maritime incidents, such as search and rescue, and maritime law enforcement.

**94m-Class MRRVs (Ongoing)**

Japan is also providing two 94m class vessels to the PCG.

**High-Speed Boats and Coastal Monitoring Radars (Ongoing)**

Responding to the request of President Duterte, Japan is providing a total of thirteen high-speed boats to the PCG for maritime law enforcement. Japan is also to hand over 11 coastal monitoring radar systems to the PCG for Southwest Mindanao.

The radar systems are integrated with the Automatic Identification System (AIS) to help the PCG detect and identify any suspicious vessels in these critical regions.
ENSURING HUMAN SECURITY
FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Human Security, which Japan has long advocated, aims to ensure "the right of people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair," and is based on the idea that "all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential." (UNGA Resolution, 2012)

To help realize Human Security in the Philippines, Japan cooperates in the improvement of both hard and soft social infrastructure for disaster management, in the achievement of universal health coverage, in the agricultural and rural development, and in the resolution of such social issues as illegal drug issues.

Photo by Macbeth Omega
Disaster Management Projects with Japan’s Assistance

**Phivolcs**

- Improvement of earthquake and volcano monitoring system

**Agus River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Pamapan River Basin**

- Flood forecasting project
- Flood management project

**Bicol River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project
- Flood forecasting project

**Ormoc Flood Mitigation Project**

**Mindanao River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Ilog - Hilabangon River Basin**

- Flood risk management project

**Tagoloan River Basin**

- Flood risk management project

**Tagum-Libuganon River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Agusan River Basin**

- Lower Agusan Development Project Phase I, II

**Agus River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Pagasa River Basin**

- Flood forecasting systems project
- Flood management project

**Pasig-Laguna de Bay River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project
- Metro Manila drainage system rehabilitation project
- N. Laguna lakeshore urgent flood control and drainage project
- Metro Manila flood control project - W. Manggahan floodway
- Pasig-Marikina river channel improvement project I, II, III
- Kakanawa flood control and drainage system improvement project
- The Project for improvement/restoration of telemetry system of EFCS
- Flood risk management project for Cagayan, Ticao, and Misamis rivers

**Panay River Basin**

- Iloilo flood control project I, II

**Abra River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Lagong River Basin**

- Flood control and Sabo project

**Cagayan River Basin**

- Flood forecasting systems project
- Flood management project for Cagayan, Ticao, and Misamis rivers

**Manila and Suburbs Flood Control and Drainage Project**

- Programme for the rehabilitation and recovery from Typhoon Yolanda

**Jalaur River Basin**

- Project for evacuation shelter construction in disaster vulnerable areas in Province of Albay

**Ilog - Hilabangon River Basin**

- Flood risk management project for Cagayan de Oro

**Cagayan de Oro River Basin**

- Flood risk management project for Cagayan, Ticao, and Misamis rivers

**Surigao River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Davao River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Buayan-Malungon River Basin**

- Flood control and drainage project

**Notable Ongoing and Completed**

- Disaster Management Projects
- Project for improvement of meteorological radar system (Pagasa)
With Japan’s experience and expertise in disaster management, Japan has long been providing assistance to the Philippines on disaster risk reduction. Over 40 disaster management projects received assistance from Japan.

**Ormoc City Flood Mitigation Project**

The Ormoc City Flood Mitigation Project was completed in 2001 in response to the tragic flash floods caused by Typhoon Uring in 1991 which claimed over 8000 lives. This project built various structures to prevent flooding, including revetment, sluice gate, and slit dams, among others. It also helped establish a Flood Mitigation Committee that promotes local disaster response efforts. The project proved its effectiveness when the city was hit by Typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

**Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project (Phase IV Ongoing)**

Japan has been providing flood control assistance under the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Projects since 1999. The project involves the construction and improvement of dikes and drainage outlets, as well as the partial dredging of these rivers to significantly reduce flood damage in Metro Manila. The final phase is planned to be completed in 2025.

**Assistance to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS)**

Since 1999, Japan has upgraded equipment, including real-time earthquake and tsunami monitoring systems, and providing training to the personnel of the PHIVOLCS to develop its institutional capabilities for the timely delivery of warning and real-time information about earthquakes and volcanic eruptions to the public.
Health, Agriculture & Fisheries, Education Projects

Notable Ongoing and Completed
- Health Projects
- Agriculture & Fisheries Projects
- Water Projects
- Education Projects (Nationwide)
  - Construction and Rehabilitation of Secondary Elementary School Buildings and Classrooms
  - Provision of School Equipment and Educational Materials

Ilocos Norte Irrigation Project

Baguio City Sewer Pipe Network

Sual Fish Port

Pampanga Delta Development Project

Out-Patient Department of the Philippine General Hospital

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine

Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center

National Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory

Lucena Fish Port

Boracay Environmental Infrastructure

Iloilo Fish Port

Out-Patient Department of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center

Bohol Irrigation Project (Phase I, II)

Cagayan de Oro Water Districts Facility (Rehabilitation After Typhoon Sendong)

Zamboanga Fish Port

Nationwide
- Improvement of the Operation and Maintenance of National Irrigation Systems Project
- Irrigation Operations Support Project Multiple Locations
- Groundwater Irrigation Project (Central Luzon)
- National Irrigation Sector Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (NIRIP) (Ilocos Norte, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Guzman, Pahawan, Iloilo, Bukidnon, Davao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Sur)
- Central Luzon Irrigation Project (Pangasinan, Tarlac, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Pampanga)
Japan has supported more than 60% of all irrigation projects countrywide, benefitting roughly 130,000 hectares of farmland. Assistance has also been provided in the construction of eight fish port complexes. Moreover, a number of capacity building projects to boost agricultural productivity has been conducted through technical cooperation projects.

In addition, Japan is currently providing assistance to the Philippines for an effective treatment of illegal drug users. The support consists of 1) the development and execution of a medium-to-long term action plan, 2) the construction of a drug treatment and rehabilitation center in Cavite, and 3) the introduction of a nationwide evidence-based relapse prevention model through technical cooperation until 2022.

Japan has provided assistance in the health sector through technical cooperation, including Maternal and Child Health Care and Infectious Disease Control, and the construction of health-related facilities such as the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) and the out-patient building of the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center.

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Japan has long provided assistance in constructing and rehabilitating a total of over 10,000 school buildings, providing educational equipment and materials, and building the capacities of teachers.
Recognizing that peace in Mindanao is essential for the peace and prosperity of the Philippines and the entire Asia, Japan has put special importance in supporting the Mindanao peace process. It was in this context that Japan helped realize a first summit meeting between then-President Aquino and MILF Chairman Murad near the Narita International Airport in August 2011.

Given the importance Japan places on the Mindanao peace process, Japan provides intensive economic development assistance in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. In 2006, Prime Minister Abe launched an initiative named the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development, or J-BIRD. Under the banner of J-BIRD, Japan has so far provided a total of about 13 billion pesos of assistance since 2006 to all over the Bangsamoro region.
Through J-BIRD, Japan provides support for 1) capacity development of future and current Bangsamoro leaders, 2) the eradication of poverty, and 3) community development. Japan's assistance is designed to create synergy to effectively contribute to a peaceful and prosperous Mindanao. Capacity building supports the success of a new autonomous government, and poverty reduction and community development are aimed to contribute to the stability and prosperity of Mindanao.

**Comprehensive Capacity Development Project (CCDP)**

CCDP is wide-ranging project to support the smooth and successful transition of the peace process. It aims to build capacities of future leaders of the Bangsamoro region while developing livelihood skills in conflict-affected communities and promoting local industries.

One of the fruits of the CCDP was the formulation of the Bangsamoro Development Plan 2, which laid out a roadmap for the economic development of the Bangsamoro.

**Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation (HARVEST)**

HARVEST improves access to finance for small and medium enterprises, agricultural cooperatives and agriculture-related businesses in the Bangsamoro and other conflict-affected areas. This two-step loan through the Land Bank of the Philippines enables creditors to borrow money at a more concessional interest rate. HARVEST will help create more jobs, improve living standards, and contribute to the peace-building efforts in the region.

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**CHAIRMAN AL-HAJJ MURAD Ebrahim**

*MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF)*

“We really appreciated very much the assistance of Japan in pushing forward the peace process. It gives a strong momentum in order that the peace process will move forward. The development programs being implemented by JICA and the Government of Japan give motivation to people to support the peace process. So this is very important in achieving what the peace process have reached up to now.”
Recognizing the importance of human resource development for sustainable development, Japan has been providing various training programs including scholarships from the very start of Japan’s development cooperation toward the Philippines. In fact, it was 1954, when Japan first provided training programs to Filipinos as part of its assistance.

Japan also provides assistance at the grassroots level through the dispatch of volunteers and support of small-scale projects all over the Philippines in order to directly connect with the people and provide what they truly need.
Since 1954, over 40,000 Filipinos completed Japan’s human resource development programs such as the Knowledge Co-Creation Programs.

These training programs not only helped Filipino participants to acquire various skills, but also helped forge the friendship and mutual trust between Japan and the Philippines.

Japan also provides various scholarship opportunities to the people of the Philippines. Over 1,400 Filipinos went to Japan to study as government scholars through a variety of scholarship schemes, including JDS and other Japanese government scholarships (https://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000193.html)

**Grant Aid for Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS)**

The JDS is a long-term scholarship program for Philippine government officials to obtain master and doctorate degrees from top Japanese universities and help develop capacities of Philippine government officials. Annually, more than 20 young Filipino government officials are selected. This grant aid enables them to gain more expertise in their respective fields, paving their way to leadership roles contributing to the future development of the Philippines. Since 2003, 340 JDS fellows from the Philippines have benefitted from this scholarship.

**ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net)**

Japan also provides study and research opportunities to engineering students and scholars from ASEAN member countries, including the Philippines through AUN/SEED-Net. AUN/SEED-Net was established to promote human resource development in engineering for sustainable socio-economic development of the ASEAN region. (http://seed-net.org/) This project provides scholarships, joint research programs, and networking opportunities among ASEAN and Japanese universities. Currently, the University of the Philippines-Diliman, De La Salle University, and Mindanao State University—Illigan Institute of Technology participate in the program.
Since 1966, more than 1,600 young volunteer experts were dispatched to the Philippines under the JICA Volunteer Program. Going out of their comfort zones to live with local Filipinos, and armed with various skills in areas of agriculture, health, education, among others, these volunteers provide critical technical assistance in the grassroots level. Many valuable friendships were formed in rural communities all over the Philippines. The JOCV was conferred the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2016.

**Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP)**

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) is one of the Japanese ODA schemes, which support small-scale projects directly benefiting the grassroots level as well as contributing to the socio-economic growth of developing countries. In the Philippines, GGP was launched in 1989 and, to date, 534 grassroots projects have been implemented by non-government organizations (NGOs), local government units (LGUs), and other non-profit organizations. ([https://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000032.html](https://www.ph.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000032.html))

“**The Project for the Construction of Training Center for the Mangyans in Mindoro**”

GGP funded the training center in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, aimed at empowering the indigenous people especially the women by providing them opportunities to be involved in development activities.
From the People of Japan