JAPAN’S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

PROACTIVE SUPPORT FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH
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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 in a broad range of areas including infrastructure, energy, maritime security, disaster management, agriculture, health, education, and peace and development in Mindanao. Japan accounts for 57% of the cumulative ODA commitments the Philippines received from 1966-2017, reaching a total sum of over USD 28 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 “Country Development Cooperation Policy for the Republic of the Philippines” outlines Japan’s development cooperation toward the Philippines with three pillars at its core:

- Strengthening a Foundation for Sustainable Economic Growth
- Ensuring Human Security for Inclusive Growth
- Peace and Development in Mindanao

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.
Special Terms for Economic Partnership (STEP)

Japan is providing assistance to build a 30km subway in Metro Manila, the North South Commuter Railway that stretches 150km from Clark, Pampanga, to Calamba, Laguna, and the new Bohol Panglao International Airport, as well as to provide 44m class and 94m class patrol vessels to the Philippine Coast Guard, among many others. Most of the large-scale projects funded by Japan are on the basis of the Special Terms for Economic Partnership or STEP loan.

Under this financing scheme, loans are extended with 0.1 percent interest for non-consulting services, and 0.01 percent interest for consulting services with a grace period of 12 years and 40 years repayment period.

This scheme presents a window of opportunities for collaboration between Japanese and Filipino companies because the larger proportion of financing usually goes to mostly Filipino companies, while only at least 30 percent of the total contract price shall be used to goods and services provided by Japanese companies. With the state-of-the-art technologies of participating Japanese companies, this scheme serves as an avenue for knowledge and technology transfer, which is deemed essential to the long-term success of Philippine economic development. It will also be instrumental in the creation of quality jobs for Filipinos.
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
- QUIRING BRIDGE
- MANILA NORTH ROAD
- SUYO-CERVANTES ROAD
- NAGULIAN ROAD
- ROSARIO-JUGO-BAUGAO ROAD
- TARLAC-PANGASINAN-LA UNION EXPRESSWAY (TPEX)
- CENTRAL LUZON LINK EXPRESSWAY (CLLEX)
- SUBIC-CLARK-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY (SCTEX)
- PROJECT FOR COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR METRO MANILA
- ROAD UPGRADING AND PRESERVATION PROJECT
- LIPA-ALAMINOS ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (REG IV-A: BATANGAS-LAGUNA)
- MINDORO WEST COAST ROAD
- CATICLAN ROAD
- SOUTHERN TAGALOG ACCESS ROAD (STAR TOLLWAY)
- SAN JUANICO BRIDGE
- SOUTH SAMAR COASTAL ROAD
- AGAS-AGAS BRIDGE
- BORHOL CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD
- 2ND MAGSAYSAY BRIDGE
- PROSPERIDAD-LUANGA ROAD
- BUTHAN CITY BYPASS ROAD
- COMPOSTELA-NEW DAVAO ROAD
- DAVAO CITY BYPASS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

BRIDGE PROJECTS
- PHILIPPINE-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY
- BAGUIO-ARITAO ROAD
- BONGABON-BALER ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (REG III: NUEVA ECUSA-AURORA)
- METRO MANILA PRIORITY BRIDGES SEISMIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (GUADALUPE & LAMBINGAN BRIDGES)
- CATANDUANES CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (REG V)
- PHILIPPINE-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY
- METRO MANILA INTERCHANGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PH III-IV & VI (EDSA-AVALA AVENUE/EDSA-CUEZON AVENUE/CS-BONI SERRANO INTERCHANGES)
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.
Airport/Seaport/Energy Projects with Japan’s Assistance

NOTABLE ONGOING AND COMPLETED

AIRPORT PROJECTS
NATIONWIDE
- NORTHERN (LAGUNA)
  • AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES MODERNIZATION PROJECT I, II, III
  • DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS MODERNIZATION PROJECT I, II
  • FLEET PORTS PROGRAM
  • MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
  • FISHING PORTS PROJECT (JULIET, LUCENA, ILOILO, ZAMBOANGA)
  • PHILIPPINES-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY FERRY SERVICE PROJECT (SOUTH, SACRAMENTO, LEYTE, SOKA)

PORT PROJECTS
NATIONWIDE
- SUBIC PORT
- SUBIC SHIP REPAIR YARD

MABULAN PORT
- METRO MANILA DEPRESSED AREA ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
- MABULAN GEOTHERMAL PLANT
- BATANGAS PORT
- CALACAO I & II COAL-FIRED THERMAL POWER PLANT
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
- LUZON GRID TRANSMISSION (SAN JOSÉ)

POWER PLANT BARGE PROJECTS
- BACOLOD-SILAY AIRPORT
- LEYTE-BOHOL INTERCONNECTION PROJECT

ELECTRICITY PROJECTS
NATIONWIDE
- RURAL POWER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
- ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT PROJECT FOR POWER PLANTS
- IMPROVEMENT IN POWER GRID PROJECT
- MULTIPLE LOCATIONS
- EXTRA-HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT STAGE I, II
  (REGIONS III, IV, V)
- SUBSTATION EXPANSION PROJECT (LOCOS NORTE, CAVITE, PANGASINAN, BENGUET, TARLAC, BATAN, BULACAN)
- PHILIPPINES-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP HIGHWAY FERRY SERVICE PROJECT (SOUTH, SACRAMENTO, LEYTE, SOKA)
- ITALANAO CONTAINER TERMINAL
- DAVAO WASTE-TO-ENERGY

IMPROVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR POWER DISTRIBUTION IN THE SAMSAMORO
- CAGAYAN VALLEY ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
- CAGAYAN VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
AIRPORTS, SEAPORTS, AND ENERGY

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.
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.
Disaster Management Projects with Japan’s Assistance

NOTABLE ONGOING AND COMPLETED

1. **NATIONWIDE**
   - **METEOROLOGICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**
   - **DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM FOR DAM OPERATIONS PROJECT**
   - **DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM FOR DAM OPERATIONS PROJECT**
   - **DIAGNOSTIC SYSTEM FOR DAM OPERATIONS PROJECT**

2. **AGNO RIVER BASIN**
   - **AGNO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE PROJECT**
   - **AGNO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT PH II & PH III**
   - **AGNO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT PH II & PH III**

3. **CAGAYAN RIVER BASIN**
   - **CAGAYAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **CAGAYAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **CAGAYAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

4. **PAMPANGA RIVER BASIN**
   - **PAMPANGA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **PAMPANGA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **PAMPANGA RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

5. **LAGUNA RIVER BASIN**
   - **LAGUNA RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE PROJECT**
   - **LAGUNA RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE PROJECT**
   - **LAGUNA RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL AND DRAINAGE PROJECT**

6. **BALANGAY RIVER BASIN**
   - **BALANGAY RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **BALANGAY RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **BALANGAY RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

7. **CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER BASIN**
   - **CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

8. **AGUS RIVER BASIN**
   - **AGUS RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **AGUS RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **AGUS RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

9. **MINDANAO RIVER BASIN**
   - **MINDANAO RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **MINDANAO RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
   - **MINDANAO RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

10. **BUHAYAN RIVER BASIN**
    - **BUHAYAN RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
    - **BUHAYAN RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**
    - **BUHAYAN RIVER BASIN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT**

PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF METEOROLOGICAL RADAR SYSTEM (PAGASA)

IMPROVEMENT OF EARTHQUAKE AND VOLCANO MONITORING SYSTEM (PHIVOLCS)
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 EDUCATION PROJECTS**

- CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF SECONDARY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GYMNASIUMS
- PROVISION OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
- NON-PROJECT GRANT AID FOR PERSONAL COMPUTERS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS (PCP)
- GRANT AID FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SCHOLARSHIP (HRDS)
- PROJECT FOR SUPPORTING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL (SHS) PROGRAM IN TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS (TORS), LAGUNA, EBRO, SISAN CITY, MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AFAIRI, SIARGAO, DAVAO DEL NORTE, BATANES
- THIRD ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROJECT (TPP) IN SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDP)
- SIFASG BENUE, ANTIOCH, IGUMARAL, AUYAN DEL SUR, SURIBAO DEL SUR, RONILIMUN, MAASIKE, NEGROS ORIENTAL, BIRAN, S. LETTE, LETTE, ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY, N. COTABATO, AURORA, ALOMPOT, APPAYA, N. PROVINCE, BATANES, AURORA, E. SUMBA, LARGO

**AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES PROJECTS**

- GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR THE FOOD SECURITY PROJECT FOR UNEMPLOYED FARMERS (UFAP)
- AGRARIAN REFORM INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (ARIP) PHASE I & II
- EXPANDED SEED PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECT I & II
- AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROJECT
- FORESTRY SECTOR PROJECT
- AGRARIAN REFORM INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT PROJECT
- FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
- IMPROVEMENT OF THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS PROJECT
- IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS SUPPORT PROJECT
- NON-PROJECT GRANT AID FOR FERTILIZERS

**WATER PROJECTS**

- NATIONAL RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (NRIRP)
- ILIBO RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
- SIARBARIBA RIVER IRRIGATION SYSTEM
- NGAFOR PROVISION OF JAPANESE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
- OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT OF THE VICTORINO SOTO MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
- SCHOOL IRRIGATION PROJECT (PHASE I & II)
- CAGAYAN DE ORO WATER DISTRICTS FACILITY (REHABILITATION AFTER TYPHON SENDONG)
- ZAMBOANGA FISH PORT
- FISHING PORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

**HEALTH PROJECTS**

- PROJECT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ONE HEALTH PREVENTION AND TREATMENT NETWORK MODEL FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RABBIES IN THE PHILIPPINES (MANILA, BULACAN, PAMPANGA)
- INTRODUCING EVIDENCE-BASED RELAPSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR DRUG DEPENDENCE TREATMENT & REHABILITATION CENTERS IN THE PHILIPPINES (BULACAN, TAGAYTAY)
- MALITBOD MAMBAGA IRRIGATION PROJECT
- GENERAL SANTOS CITY FISH PORT
- FISHING PORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
- DAVAO FISH PORT
- FISHING PORTS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT I & II

**ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (EDP)**

- PARARAQUE SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT
- LUCENA FISH PORT
- CAMALIGAN FISH PORT
- LUCENA FISH PORT
- HELP FOR CATTUBI AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM
- EASTERN VIGAAS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER-OUT PATIENT DEPARTMENT
- PROGRAM FOR REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY FROM TYPHOON YOLANDA
- MEGA CEBU ROAD MAAP 2050 WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT
- SATAMA-CEBU COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT
- SATAMA ACTIVE LEARNING PROMOTION PROJECT
- LOWER AGUSAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (IRRIGATION COMPONENT)
- OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT OF THE DAVAO MEDICAL CENTER
- NGAFOR PROVISION OF JAPANESE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

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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.

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 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.

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.

Given the importance Japan places on the Mindanao peace process, Japan provides intensive 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, by 2018, Japan provided a total of about 13 billion pesos of assistance since 2006 to all over the Bangsamoro region. In 2019, being cognizant that the peace process is at a critical juncture, Japan announced new assistance worth 12 billion pesos toward the Bangsamoro, thus raising the total amount of J-BIRD assistance to 25 billion pesos to date.
Through J-BIRD, Japan provides support for 1) capacity development of current and future Bangsamoro leaders, 2) the eradication of poverty, and 3) community development. These three components are designed to create synergy to effectively contribute to a peaceful and prosperous Mindanao.

**Japan’s New Assistance towards Bangsamoro**

With the establishment of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) in February 2019, Japan is aware that the peace process in Mindanao is at a critical juncture. In order to strongly support the success of the peace process at this critical juncture, Japan announced new assistance worth 25 billion yen (12 billion pesos) in 2019.

**Road Network Development Project in ConflictAffected Areas in Mindanao**

This project constructs 178.4km of roads linking the main cities of Mindanao in Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and Sultan Kudarat. The road network is expected to improve logistics, stimulate economic activity, and strengthen access to the region, thereby contributing to support the foundation of people’s lives, sustainable peace, and economic development of this region.

**Support in Water Supply, Livelihood, and Capacity Building**

Japan reconstructs the TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) center in Marawi and provides equipment to the other two TESDA Centers in Basilan and Maguindanao. Japan also provides well-drilling machines and underground water detecting machines to improve access to safe water supply. In addition, Japan’s technical cooperation supports capacity development of the BTA and livelihood of former MILF soldiers.

**Japan’s Assistance for Marawi Reconstruction**

Japan provides over 11 billion yen (5.5 billion pesos) of assistance for the reconstruction of Marawi in the road, housing, and vocational training sectors.
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.

**Knowledge Co-Creation Program**

Japan provides numerous training opportunities in Japan to Filipinos. Every year, through the Knowledge Co-Creation Program, over 100 Filipinos visit Japan to attend a variety of public policy training courses in a broad range of sectors, such as education, health, transportation, agricultural development, and disaster managements. To this day, over 40,000 Filipinos have attended 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, 543 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)

“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.
The Project for Construction of Barangay Health Station and Procurement of Medical Equipment in Municipality of Coron, Palawan (GGP)

Mindanao Container Terminal
Photo by JICA

Benguet General Hospital
Photo by JICA

Economic and Social Development Programme (32m Class High Speed Boats)
Photo by Philippine Coast Guard

Project for Community Development through Building Shelters and Livelihood Support for Rebuilding Marawi

From the People of Japan