

Wrap-up Ceremony and Technical Workshop for Kochi Marutaka Project
(August 17, 2023 | 8:00AM at Villar Sipag Complex, Carlos P. Garcia Ave Extension,
Pulang Lupa 1, Las Piñas City)

Draft Keynote Speech for Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema

I am deeply honored to be here with you all, and witness this memorable ceremony for the *Kochi Marutaka* Project, under the JICA's Verification Survey for "*Utilization of Floating Amphibious Excavator for the Construction Works on Disaster Management and Disaster Restoration in the Philippines*".

I would like to make special mention of our partners from DPWH, DENR, MMDA, and the City Government of Las Piñas.

I duly acknowledge your collaboration to *Kochi Marutaka*, JICA and to this project.

For over five decades, the Philippines and Japan have been exceptionally important "*Strategic Partners*", which developed into the historic highest level nowadays.

It is even called as "*friends closer than brothers*".

Consequently, JICA is extremely enthusiastic to expand our various active cooperation in this lovely country.

We are really keen to contribute to the more prosperous future of Filipino friends, and to more robust bonds between two nations as well.

JICA has been extending powerful Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Philippines through wide-ranging supporting schemes such as provision of soft loans, grant assistance and technical cooperation.

For instance, JICA supports the LRT 1 South Extension project to provide faster and comfortable transportation for the residents of Las Piñas, Parañaque and Cavite into the metropolis.

In addition to these conventional ODA support programs, recently, JICA has been putting higher priority on **Public-Private Partnership** promotion.

It is in this context that JICA has been proactively conducting our “**SDGs Business Supporting Survey**”.

This PPP promotion program aims for win-win impacts both for beneficiary countries, such as *the Philippines*, and for Japanese companies’ business deployment.

It can contribute to solve a wide range of development challenges, and to boost further socio-economic growth of our partner countries, like *the Philippines*.

Furthermore, it works up business appetite of Japanese companies in promising overseas markets, like *the Philippines*.

Using this JICA’s cooperation instrument, this time, Kochi Marutaka Corporation decided to introduce its unique dredging technology that can run on land and water through the close collaboration with DPWH, DENR, MMDA and the City Government of Las Piñas.

Today’s activity is a great opportunity to reflect on the hard lessons of past flood disasters and environmental degradation in the Philippines caused by poor waste management.

It would certainly be good for many people to know at the local government level that there’s a promising solution to flood problems and environmental degradation.

Now, we have a floating amphibious excavator that can easily be disassembled and can be carried from land to water.

It can remove debris, silt and waste from narrow rivers effectively to improve the floodwater capacity of such waterways and living environment as well.

Our experts from *Kochi Marutaka* will discuss this further with you today.

The Las Piñas-Zapote River System is one of the most prominent river systems connected to Manila Bay.

It plays an important role in the life sustaining capability of Manila Bay. When it is left uncared for and its waters spoiled, it is Manila Bay that ultimately bears the brunt.

That is why, for JICA's part, we're happy that Las Piñas City agreed to pilot this technology.

True to being an environmental champion, it clearly shows the commitment of the LGU to think long-term and see for themselves the benefits of Japanese technology and expertise.

The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act highlights the role of LGUs in implementing measures on disaster management. Therefore, the collaboration of the Las Piñas city to this project is the salient testament that they are seriously taking real and decisive action to mitigate disasters, save more lives and improve the environment.

For today, I'd like to respect again our partners from DPWH, DENR, MMDA and the City Government of Las Piñas in this context.

Moreover, I appreciate *Kochi Marutaka's* tremendous efforts and dedication in preparing this verification survey, I admire your strong leadership, Manager *Mr. KONISHI*.

This project cannot be possible without everyone's great contributions!

Throughout the implementation stage of this project, I am quite sure that you are now becoming the exemplary model of partnership in the Philippines.

Furthermore, in the future, it is our hope that the good work we started in this esteemed city will serve as a model to be widely spread nationwide.

Let's demonstrate our solidarity and strong partnership,
*Magbayanihan tayo!*¹

¹ Translation: "Let us help each other"

Thank you very much for your kind attention.
Maraming Salamat Po!
Mabuhay, at magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat !
ありがとうございました。