

Speech for JICA Chief Representative SAKAMOTO Takema  
Turnover Ceremony for Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency  
Support

On Oct. 23 (Mon), 2023 at DOH

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- Honorable Department of Health Secretary, Dr. Teodoro Herbosa
- Embassy of Japan Minister, NIHEI Daisuke
- Respected DOH Colleagues, Friends and all participants present here today

*Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.*

おはようございます。(Ohayou Gozaimasu)

It's my pleasure to join you all today for the turnover ceremony for the Programme for Covid-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support. We've all come a long way since the strict lockdowns of 2020. Today, however, we mark another great step or milestone in our cooperation with DOH on promoting health resiliency.

JICA is pleased to turn over 8 refrigerated vans, 17 delivery vans, 17 pickup trucks, 18 wing van trucks, 500 biothermal packaging systems and 140 ice pack freezers, to strengthen the Philippines' cold chain management and logistics, for a more efficient and safer vaccination system. Total amount of these supports is approximately 700 million Japanese yen, equivalent to about 260 million PHP. I hope that these cold chain equipment can be comprehensively utilized in responding to infectious diseases and other emergency situations effectively.

JICA is aiming to ensure that no one will be left behind, when it comes to vaccines and much needed medicines in times of health crisis. COVID-19 taught us the importance of bringing our strengths together in the best interest of everyone.

COVID-19 taught us that “No country is safe until all countries become safe”!!

JICA has already extensively provided Filipino friends with various useful equipment from Japan for the same purpose. For example, the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of cold chain equipment amounting to approximately 200 million Japanese yen was turned over to DOH in November 2022. The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine or RITM and San Lazaro Hospital received a 125 million Japanese yen worth of medical equipment and supplies from JICA. In addition, JICA likewise extended 130 billion Japanese yen budget support related to Covid-19 Crisis Response. Today, I’m very much pleased to add our further support.

As such, in order to respond to the global common challenge of public health care systems, most important is that we all support each other and learn from our shared experiences. Cooperation and coordination are absolutely crucial if we face another health crisis again.

*Magbayanihan Tayo!*

Rest assured, we continue to work with DOH towards an effective and resilient health system that benefits everyone, everywhere. We hope that our cold chain and logistics support will help you reach out, with speed and efficiency, to vulnerable communities even in the remotest areas. In all of these efforts, JICA is with you, as the most trusted and long-standing partner.

*Kasama nyo kami!*

Let's keep working together in support of health security, quality of life, economic boost, and future stability & prosperity of the Philippines and around the world! We can do it!

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

*Maraming salamat po. Mabuhay.*

Good morning to all of you.

ありがとうございました。(Arigatou Gozaimashita)

End.