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JICA

**Assisting In
Philippine
Development**

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New Website of the JICA Philippine Office

<http://www.jica.org.ph/>

THE JICA Philippine Office has set up its own Internet web site as part of its new policy aimed at expanding its information dissemination about its projects and activities in its Philippine operations that cover various fields in assisting the Filipinos in their nation building. The contents of the site shall be updated with the latest developments on activities on projects, both new and existing, JICA experts, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers JOCV's, and participants of training in Japan.

You can also browse through our web pages to get more infor-

mation on the various schemes of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects and application procedures to seek our assistance through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of the Philippines. You can also get information on JICA projects in the Philippines that range from project-type technical cooperation, which has its long history, to support to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's).

Just type <http://www.jica.org.ph/> on your browser to find out more on how JICA may be of assistance to you and your community.

“Here they come, there they go” Appointments of the JICA Philippine Office

MR. TOSHIYUKI Kuroyanagi, deputy resident representative in charge of Project Management Section of the JICA Philippine Office, was appointed director of the Public Affairs Division, General Affairs Department of JICA Headquarters in Tokyo. Mr. Masatoshi Takahashi, chief of the Project Management Section of the JICA Philippine Office, was appointed to the Administration Division of the Head Office's Domestic Partnership & Training Department.

Mr. Kuroyanagi is now overseeing JICA's public affairs operations worldwide, including the Philippines, which remains to be one of his major focuses of interest. He was in charge of JICA's projects throughout the Philippines as a deputy resident representative from November 1997, through April 2000.

New assignments for Mr. Takahashi include a new feature of JICA's operations to prepare for the setup of Human Resources Development. His division also undertakes training programs in Japan for counterparts' coordination with Japanese LGU's, and for the Youth Friendship Program, to which about 100 Filipinos will be invited. Mr. Takahashi was the chief of the Project Management Section from April 1997, through February 2000, supporting Mr. Kuroyanagi.

Replacing Mr. Kuroyanagi as a deputy resident representative is Mr. Motofumi Kahara, for whom this is his second tour of duty in the Philippines, following his first assignment from July 1992, through September 1997, as an assistant resident representative. Also replacing Mr. Takahashi as chief of the Project Management Section is Mr. Shigeki Fukuda.

Mr. Kohara was in charge of management of JICA projects

in Mining, Trade and Industry and Environment fields during his first term of assignment. Brownouts were the talk of the day when he first stepped into the Philippines in 1992. Now back in this country after six years, Mr. Kohara says he wants to revisit rural and farming communities to see how things have changed.

Regarding JICA projects, Mr. Kohara says that in addition to traditional methods of assistance of project-type technical assistance, counterpart training, dispatch of experts and development study, JICA has undertaken a new approach of Development welfare projects in coordination with local NGOs. This should make JICA more accessible to the needs of the Philippines' development, he says.

Philippine Study was Mr. Fukuda's university major. The reason for his choice was the People's Power Revolution, which ousted the Marcos dictatorship in 1996 and established the administration of President Cory Aquino. The impression of the Philippines, then, was that of confusion, Mr. Fukuda says. In 1993, when he made a short tour of the country, the impression was that of chaos and tolerance, he comments.

Prior to his assignment in the Philippine Office, Mr. Fukuda was appointed to the Grant Aid Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dealing with technical assistance to English-speaking African countries. Therefore, he says, the assignment in the Philippines is like an "old friend revisited." He is in charge of Education, Regional Development and Training.

JICA helps DENR Revive Ailing Mining Industry



AS RECENTLY as 1989, the Philippines was one of the most productive mineral producing countries in Southeast Asia, ranking no. 10 in the production of copper, no. 8 in the production of gold and no. 6 in the production of chromite.

However, the mining industry has suffered a tremendous setback due to a host of problems that have beleaguered its productivity. Narrowed down to a sluggish world market, the depreciation of the Philippine Peso, public outrage on environmental mining disasters, and government chokeholds on foreign investment, the problems have gone from bad to worse.

In order to curtail any further deterioration, the Phil-

ippine Government has adopted a series of policies and has enacted laws and regulations geared on the principle of sustainable development. Through the enactment of Republic Act No. 7942, also known as the Philippine Mining Act of 1995, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has been tasked with the responsibility of managing, administering and promoting the sustainable exploration, development, utilization and conservation of the country's mineral lands and resources as well as environment. In spite of this, the government has been unable to meet the demands of strong environmental management capacity due to the

PROJECTS

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lack of facilities and technical skills.

The Japanese Government, through JICA, has agreed to a technical cooperation program upon the request of the Philippine Government. JICA first sent technical teams to study the feasibility of the project from October, 1998 to June, 1999, and the project began the next month, immediately following the compilation of the results of the researches. This indicates seriousness of the Philippine

Government in obtaining the Japanese mine environment management expertise which is one of the world's best. The project will last until June 30, 2002.

The project, dubbed the "Capacity Building for Environmental Management in Mining," provides ways for JICA experts to help improve the ability of DENR's MGB in (1) monitoring (2) analysis of environmental chemicals (3) evaluation of environmental impact assessment (4) evaluation of mine environmental management technologies (5) staff training. The program also entails the provision of laboratory equipment needed for the project.

The project aims to help establish a solid management system in regards to environmental protection vis a vis sustainable development. It will also upgrade and strengthen DENR-MGB functions in monitoring water and soil pollution levels, as well as shore up the ability to evaluate and impose guidelines regarding mine pollution levels. The DENR-MGB staff will also gain the expertise for conducting environmental impact assessment reports in order to accurately gauge pollution



levels and be able to act on the data gathered accordingly using state of the art equipment such as UV-VIS Spectrophotometers, X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometers, Ion Selective Electrodes, Ion Chromatographs, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometers and a Mercury Analyzer, to name a few.

Chief Advisor Dr. Takeshi Usami heads the team of experts dispatched by JICA with Mr. Yasuo Kondo working as the project coordinator. Geochemist Yoshikazu Kojima will be in charge of transferring technologies on mine environmental monitoring, Chemical Analysis expert Mr. Takeo Watabe will be responsible for chemical analysis training, and Mining Engineer Atsushi Aoki will facilitate technology transfer on mine environmental management.

JICA has long been very vocal of its support for environmentally sound development in industry and nation building. As such, it sees the success of this project as having positive repercussions not only in the provincial level, but on a national scale as well.

The project aims to help establish a solid management system in regards to environmental protection vis a vis sustainable development

Japan Helps Filipino Farmers' Cooperatives Develop Business Viability

FILIPINO farmers, for the first time, will have an intensive opportunity, through the cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to learn technical expertise on how their cooperatives can expand and upgrade their income base through developing their own business activities.

JICA, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) of the Philippines and the Provincial Government of Benguet have signed an agreement on "The Project for Improvement of Farmers' Income Through the Strengthening of Agricultural Cooperatives." Under this agreement, JICA will assist Benguet farmers' cooperatives to develop ways to upgrade their business activities underway at present as well as to seize wider business opportunities.

"JICA has been undertaking a lot of agricultural assistance projects in this country, but they are basically aimed at production enhancement. This project is the very first of its kind that JICA has undertaken in the Philippines to assist farmers in expanding their income base through business management and marketing," says Ryoza Hanya, leader of JICA's implementation team, who signed the agreement. Alberto P. Zingapan, acting CDA chairman, and Governor Raul M. Molintas of Benguet Province also signed the agreement.

JICA successfully carried out a similar farmers' cooperative assistance project in Thailand in the 1980s. Gov. Molintas said that there is a lot that he can expect from JICA, which would utilize their experience in Thailand, since this project will help in solving the nagging problem of farm earnings falling into the hands of middlemen instead of farmers themselves. "The project does not antagonize existing middlemen since they are part of the system, but rather focuses on enhancing their (the farmers) income base through expanded business and marketing," Hanya explains.

The project also provides Japanese farmers' experience to develop ways for Filipino farmers to better draw

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agricultural finance credits — a traditional problem of deficiency which has delayed fast growth of agriculture of the Philippines.

With the signing of the agreement, a team of JICA experts, led by team leader Mr. Isamu Akiyama, has already established their work base since early July. These experts are working with The Benguet Farmers' Multi-Purpose Cooperative, The Taba-Ao-Cuba Multi-Purpose Cooperative and The Bad-ayan Buguis Development Multi-Purpose Cooperative, all located in the Benguet Province, to help expand farmers' business activities for better income.

If the pilot project with the Benguet farmers is successful, then, it is hoped that it can be expanded nationwide.

Mr. Hidehiro Morozumi, Electronics Instructor

A MARK of a good teacher is the ability to form a bond with his students, making the teacher-student relationship as conducive to learning as possible. One look at Mr. Hidehiro Morozumi, an Electronics Instructor at the Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology (NEUST), and one can immediately tell, by the way his students are clustered about him during a break in between classes, that there is a strong rapport between him and his students. In fact, due to his youthful demeanor, it's actually hard to tell who the teacher and who the student is.

Yet despite his youthful charm, Mr. Morozumi holds a Masters Degree in Electronics Engineering from the Tokai University in Tokyo, making him a heavyweight in terms of the knowledge that he imparts on his pupils. A former designer of compact disc lenses, he has been teaching Television Servicing for 2 + years here in the country through the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) Program under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a job that he enjoys immensely from the fact that he has extended his stay from the normal two years of service.

"Filipino students are easy to teach. When you explain something to them, they easily understand it," says Mr. Morozumi.

Mr. Morozumi has constructed a very helpful teaching aid called a Color Television Trainer. Composed of a picture tube, functional television circuits and several switches, students learn how to properly diagnose problems on a TV set by simulating all the possible problems just by looking at the screen. Also, he has an integrated circuit demonstration device that teaches students how logic gates work. Asked on how



hard it was to put it all together, he humbly pronounced that it was no big deal, but it would never have been possible without the help of donations from JICA, of which he is grateful to.

His co-teacher, or counterpart, Associate Professor Ricardo Dizon, has nothing but high praises for him. "He even helped us update our school curriculum, which was out of date when he arrived," explains Prof. Dizon. "The knowledge of electronics of the kids has really increased."

EXPERT

Mr. Masatoshi Nakamura

MR. MASATOSHI Nakamura is an entomologist currently assigned to the Department of Health's (DOH) Malaria Control Service as a Malariologist, through the efforts of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Taking up post early last year, it is his expertise that has been aiding government health officials in controlling the deadly disease in the Philippines.

Malaria is caused by a parasite that is transmitted from patient to healthy person through the bite of the infected *Anopheles* mosquitoes. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), morbidity (300-500 million persons a year) and mortality (2-3 million deaths a year) caused by Malaria worldwide has made the disease a major socio-economic burden. In the Philippines, Malaria is no longer considered a major public health problem. However, it still remains endemic particularly in remote and hard to reach rural areas where people are poor and health facilities are barely available. In 1993, 52,759 cases were reported, mostly in the provinces of Palawan, Tawi-tawi, Sulu, and other Mindanao areas.

According Mr. Nakamura, it is his responsibility to monitor and evaluate data, as well as to transfer technical entomological skills to local health officials, in order to properly identify the type of infection, its strain, and how to identify the Malaria carrying mosquitoes.

In what he calls the *Community Based Malaria Control Project*, "We are cooperating with Barangay Health Workers (BHW's) as mobile clinics in Malaria control." Health workers in Malaria infested areas are given BHW kits — a portable bag filled with anti-malarial medicines such as chloroquine, insecticides used to treat mosquito nets for preventing further spread of the disease, and blood sampling kits used to diagnose patients, as well as to identify the species of Malaria involved. The BHW's are also required to gather statistical data in order to track the spread of the infestation. "Each kit can treat 10 Malaria patients!"



"Previously, Malaria control was limited to spraying insecticides in houses. But nowadays, the global trend has changed drastically. We use mosquito nets that are sprayed with insecticide. Last year, we have supplied 180,000 insecticide impregnated mosquito nets under Japanese Grant Aid for child health," he proudly adds.

The Japanese government, through JICA, has also supplied vehicles for transportation, and computers for the construction of a Malaria database. Mr. Nakamura also utilizes a GPS (Global Positioning System) to aide him in constructing the database, as well as to make a map of the spread of infestation, so as to better understand the movement and feeding habits of the *Anopheles* mosquito. "The GPS is also able to store up to 4 megabytes of information on its databank, allowing health workers to input valuable data on demographics and other related information for future reference."

The community based project features a decentralized approach to control Malaria, a technique that has helped control the disease in Japan. Equipping health workers with the proper tools and medicines allows for a much larger area of effect, and a much quicker response time.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

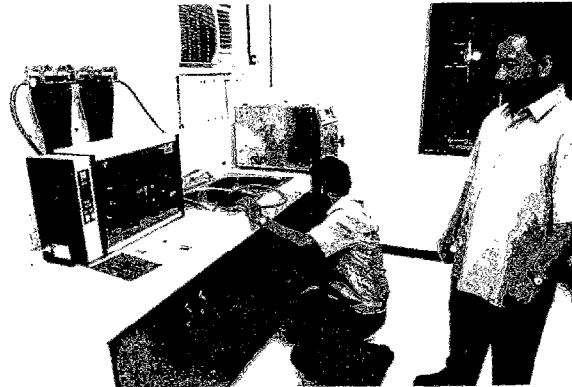
Dr. Roberto S. Umali

DR. ROBERTO S. Umali is a Senior Meat Control Officer of the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) of Region III. He is also the head of the Consumer Information Protection Awareness Division (CIPAD) that is responsible for educating the public on safe and unsafe meat selection.

Through the efforts of JICA, Dr. Umali has undertaken a 10-month Meat Inspection course in the Shizuoka Prefecture last year as a counterpart of Mr. Hidetoshi Kinoshita, an ex-JOCV Senior in the field of Livestock Breeding, and has undergone intensive training in the field, particularly in the area of Microbiological testing of the edibility of meat.

During his training, he has rubbed elbows with his counterparts in Japan and has gained a tremendous amount of knowledge concerning more efficient and more accurate techniques that he now employs in the field. "The scientific and technical skills in Japan are considerably more advanced than what we have here, and it is important that we (in the Philippines) are able to adopt their system so as to be able to compete with global markets," says Dr. Umali.

Although a majority of his work lies in the field, he stresses the fact that laboratory testing is infinitely more timesaving and accurate than just plain observational skills. He admits, however, that although sense data is also important, there are many diseases/infections that can be harmful to humans that cannot be detected by cursory examinations.



As the Department of Agriculture (DA) is now decentralizing the laboratory testing of specimens to its regional offices, his training in Japan could not have come at a better time. "Our laboratory here (San Fernando, Pampanga, NMIC Region III) is almost complete, and I can't wait to start using it," Dr. Umali exclaims.

In the past, laboratory testing was done only in Metro Manila due to the lack of facilities, making it a long and arduous process of transporting the samples to Manila and waiting for the results. Soon, NMIC officials will be able to test samples in their own area. And with the help of JICA, people like Dr. Umali will help the Philippines become competent with the global market.

Dr. Daissan M. Alagon, M.D.



DR. DAISSAN M. Alagon, M.D. is a Municipal Health Officer assigned to the town of Pila, Laguna and a Professor at the University of Santo Tomas where she teaches Environmental Engineering to university students. She holds two degrees, one in Medicine, in which she practices as a rural doctor, and one in Civil Engineering wherein she specializes in Environmental Engineering in respect to Public Health. She is also currently finishing her Masters Degree in Public Health through the Distance Education Program of the University of the Philippines. She was one of the Lingkod Bayan Awardees during 1996 and her clinic has received the Best Family Planning Clinic of Region IV and the Out-

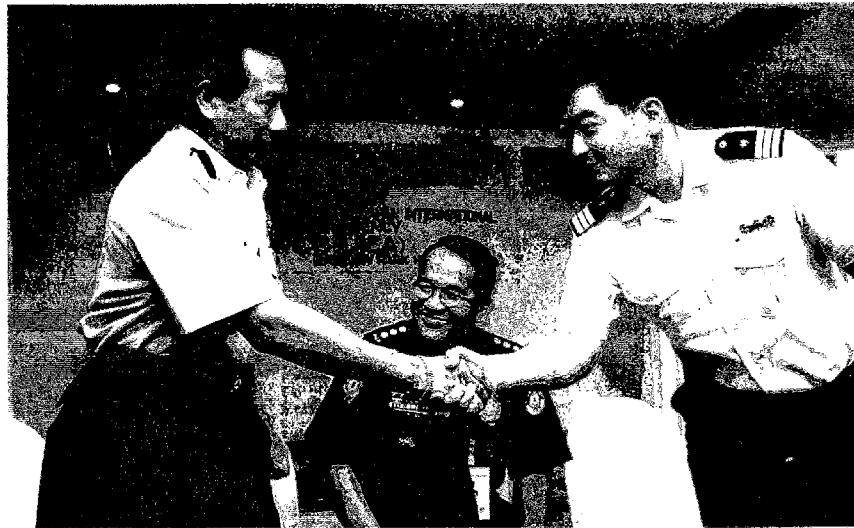
standing Nutrition Health Center, as well as the Manuel L. Quezon Award for the Treatment of Tuberculosis.

JICA has helped her cause in making the world a better place by sending her on a 10 month Environmental Health Management course at the Gunma Prefecture in Japan as a counterpart of Mr. Jun Murayama, a former JOCV involved in Public Health Service. During the stay in Japan, she has learned a lot and has since been applying the new techniques and skills that she has acquired on her hometown, and has also been teaching what she learned to her students.

The thing that piqued her curiosity most was the Jukasu System, a septic tank system that was a self-contained sewerage treatment plant that was small enough to be used for home and small-scale buildings. Her interest in the Jukasu System did not go unnoticed, and before she knew it, she was sent to the Ibaraki Prefecture for one week to undergo training on how it works and how to construct it. She also teaches this to her students in the hopes that it would become accepted despite its hefty price tag.

Dr. Alagon also conducts information dissemination campaigns in her township so that people may become aware of the relationship between the environment and health problems, especially among the poor, so that they may take the necessary steps in preventing infectious diseases caused by poor environmental management.

Dr. Alagon is one of the few people who try to make the world a better place. And JICA is proud to have helped her in reaching that goal.



LCD Tetsuhiro Nagayama, long-term JICA expert for Maritime Drug Control shakes hands with RADM EUCEO E. FAJARDO of the Philippine Coast Guard as PSSUPT REINERIO F. ALBANO of the Philippine National Police looks on during the Maritime Drug Control Seminar held by JICA.

What's JICA

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (**JICA**) is a government agency which is responsible for the technical cooperation aspect of Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) programs. **JICA's** activities include: 1) technical cooperation such as expert dispatch, training in Japan and development study; 2) Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV); 3) survey and administration of grant aid programs.

JICA's Main Activities in the Philippines (as of 31 March 2000)

Technical Training	1017 (Number of Participants trained in FY 1999)
Friendship Program	150 (Number of Participants in FY 1999)
Individual Expert Dispatch	151 (Number of Long-Term Experts)
PTTC*	18 (Number of On-Going Projects)
DSP**	13 (Number of On-Going Projects)
GGAP***	6 (Number of On-going Projects at the stage of implementation)
JOCV	64 (Number of Volunteers)

***PTTC:** *Project-Type Technical Cooperation*

This is an integrative form of technical cooperation which combines three types of assistance, namely: technical training in Japan, dispatch of a group of experts and the provision of equipment.

****DSP:** *Development Study Program*

Under this program, JICA dispatches study teams to provide assistance to formulate basic plans for development, such as master plans for regional development and feasibility studies for specific development projects.

*****GGAP:** *General Grant Aid Program*

This is a form of financial assistance extended to developing countries without obligation of repayment, providing the procurement of facilities, equipment, and services in the field of Basic Human Needs.



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