

REMARKS BY THE AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN,  
MAKOTO KATSURA

– 2011 Philippine Development Forum –

February 26, 2011

- First of all, I would like to welcome the convening of the PDF Plenary Meeting today, for us to discuss how the Philippine Government, the donor community and other stakeholders work together to achieve “Inclusive Growth,” which was also one of the major pillars of the growth strategy discussed at the Yokohama APEC Summit in Japan last year.

- In this context, Japan strongly supports Aquino Administration’s major policy agenda including fight against corruption as well as impartial and strict implementation of all the laws. We are confident that the Aquino Administration will bring about real changes on these agenda.

- Over the decades, Japan has extended its assistance to the Philippines in various areas including the construction of basic infrastructure facilities. Recent pillars of Japan’s ODA policy to the Philippines have been threefold as follows:

- (a) Sustainable economic growth aimed at creating employment opportunities;

- (b) Support for self-reliance of the underprivileged and improvement of their living conditions;

- (c) Peace, Stability and Development in Mindanao

- We support the Aquino Administration’s strong determination to create

conditions conducive to the sustainable growth and competitiveness of private business. We also welcome the efforts to achieve MDGs through poverty reduction and enhancement of education and health conditions. In this regard, we believe that, in addition to direct measures to reach out to the underprivileged, it is also important to achieve these goals through promoting sustainable economic growth by comprehensive measures such as improving infrastructure, increasing employment opportunities.

- On the PPP, Japan has also started deploying its assistance under the “New Growth Strategy” adopted last year, for the improvement of infrastructure overseas under the collaboration of public and private sectors. We sincerely hope to see the success of the PPP in the Philippines and, for that purpose, also hope to see further details regarding the PPP in terms of both the overall design and individual projects. In this regard, Japan intends to extend its technical cooperation, for institution building and human resource development.

- In order to mobilize financial resources in the private sector and to invite more investment to the Philippines, it is essential that business environment be substantially improved. We welcome strong commitment shown by President Aquino in this regard. It is extremely important that these political commitments be translated into concrete measures and that these measures be steadily implemented on the ground. Japan continues to hold dialogues with the Philippine Government towards that purpose.

- Peace and security in Mindanao is essential for its development, and thus for the development of the Philippines as a whole, as Secretary Paderanga

mentioned earlier. We will continue to extend our cooperation through participation in IMT and ICG as well as through J-BIRD, or Japan-Bangsamoro Initiative for Reconstruction and Development.

- Japan is committed to foster strategic partnership for the future with the Philippines. We will spare no efforts in assisting in the Philippines' nation building efforts and continue intensive dialogue with the Philippine Government for that purpose.