

**REMARKS BY
AMBASSADOR KAZUHIDE ISHIKAWA**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**CEREMONIAL TURNOVER OF APARRI AND GUIUAN RADAR STATIONS FOR THE
PROJECT FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE METEOROLOGICAL RADAR SYSTEM**

3 February 2017

PAGASA-WFFC, Quezon City

**SECRETARY FORTUNATO DE LA PEÑA
CONGRESSMAN Ben Evardone
GOVERNOR MANUEL MAMBA
ADMINISTRATOR VICENTE MALANO,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Good morning / Magandang umaga po.

It is a great honor for me to be with you all today to celebrate the turnover of the Aparri and Guiuan Radars. As previous speakers explained, these Radars were completed in 2013, but Guiuan Radar was damaged by Typhoon Yolanda soon after. Today, we would like to celebrate the completion of the Project for the Improvement of the Meteorological Radar System in the Philippines.

Speaking about our bilateral relations, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries last year. The historic State Visit of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan to the Philippines in January kicked off the year.

The visit was followed by various interchanges of people at the highest level, including President Duterte's official visit to Japan last October.

And it is still a fresh memory for us that Japanese Prime Minister Abe was most enthusiastically welcomed by the Filipinos both in Manila and Davao just 3 weeks ago.

At the summit meeting, Prime Minister Abe clearly stated that Japan would continue to assist the Philippines in its endeavor to develop the society, in a wide range of fields such as infrastructure improvement, human resource development, poverty reduction and others using Japanese technology and knowledge.

Disaster risk reduction is one of the most important areas of cooperation as both Japan and the Philippines are disaster-prone countries. It is with this spirit that Japan decided to assist the Philippines by enhancing the capability of PAGASA to effectively minimize and prevent damages that tropical cyclones and other severe weather phenomena may cause.

We believe that the experience acquired through this project will promote public awareness and stimulate further disaster mitigation investment in the country.

I would like to conclude my remarks by expressing my sincere hope that this project will further strengthen the cooperative ties and friendship that Japan and the Philippines have built through the years.

Thank you very much for your attention.