

**TURNOVER CEREMONY FOR
“THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOMS FOR
DATU AYUNAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN COTABATO CITY”
31 AUGUST 2022**

Message from the Consul-General of Japan in Davao

Mapia Mapita (Good morning)!

It is a great pleasure and honor to be here today to witness the turnover ceremony of “The Project for the Construction of Classrooms for Datu Ayunan Elementary School in Cotabato City”. After all the delays caused by the pandemic, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and congratulations to everyone who made this project possible, and commend all teachers and students who persevered through the most challenging and uncertain time. I am delighted to see smiling faces of children back at school again.

The Embassy of Japan funded this project in 2018 under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects, or GGP. Founded on the philosophy of human security for all, GGP has been supporting development projects that directly address community concerns. The project is also part of our effort to support the peace and development in Mindanao under the program called the Japan-Bangsamoro Initiatives for Reconstruction and Development, or J-BIRD.

We believe that education is one of the best ways to support the

achievement of sustainable peace and development. Schools should be the safe haven for children, a place where they can learn and grow without worrying about their safety and right to education. However, at the Datu Ayunan Elementary School, the students and teachers had been using dilapidated classrooms with cracks on the walls and floors, and water leaking from damaged roofs during the rainy season. Having learnt of the situation, we were concerned, and recognized the glaring need for change. For this reason, we selected the project and provided USD 67,984, or approximately PHP 3.6 million, for the construction of a one-storey, three-classroom building.

Now that the project has been successfully completed, and face-to-face learning is resuming this school year, we hope that students are excited to learn side by side with their classmates and teachers can better assist the students in developing their skills and potentials. We trust that you will treasure the new classrooms and maintain them with utmost care to benefit future generations.

Last but not least, we hope this project will be another testimony to the longstanding friendship and cooperation between Japan and the Philippines towards a bright future. Please rest assured that the Embassy of Japan and the Consulate-General of Japan in Davao will continue to remain deeply committed to supporting peace and development in Mindanao and the rest of the Philippines.

Shukran! (Thank you!)