

**TURNOVER CEREMONY FOR
“THE PROJECT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF CLASSROOMS FOR
BAYANGA NORTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
MATANOG”
31 AUGUST 2022**

Message from the Consul-General of Japan in Davao

Mapia Magabi! (Good Afternoon!)

It is a great pleasure and honor to be here today for the turnover ceremony of “The Project for the Construction of Classrooms for Bayanga Norte Elementary School in the Municipality of Matanog.” This ceremony has been much awaited indeed, 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 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. A classroom should be a safe learning space for children. However, back in 2017, there were three pressing concerns to teachers and students at Bayanga Norte Elementary School. First, the students were using makeshift and dilapidated classrooms. Second, the school did not have additional space to accommodate the increase in enrollment. Third, some students were required to walk 2 to 4 hours a day to go to school. Having learnt of the situation, we recognized the glaring need for change, and decided to provide USD 169,645, or approximately PHP 8.9 million, for the construction of a one-storey three-classroom building and a one-storey four-classroom building at the new location.

Now that the project has been successfully completed, and face-to-face learning is resuming this school year, we hope that the new school buildings will be able to provide a safe learning space for a greater number of students, and that many of them no longer need to spend long hours commuting every day.

Teachers and students, we sincerely hope you will fully avail the opportunity to grow your potential in the new learning environment. We place our confidence and trust in all of you, that you will treasure these classrooms and maintain them with the utmost care for the benefit of 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.

Shukuran! (Thank you very much!)