

おはようございます！ *Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat!* Good morning!

I warmly welcome you all to the Opening Ceremony of the Preparatory Japanese Language Training. It is an honor and a pleasure to share a few words with you, our 18th Batch of Nurse and Certified Careworker Candidates.

Today, this Language Training marks the beginning towards a meaningful career in Japan. With such an exciting journey ahead, allow me to first highlight three ideas:

the importance of JPEPA and your role in it;
the demand for nurses and caregivers in Japan; and
the importance of studying the Japanese language.

To this day, this program reflects the enduring friendship between Japan and the Philippines. The people-to-people exchanges born from our Economic Partnership is a testament to this very bond. Like those before you, we hope that you will become living bridges between our two nations.

In Japan, the demand for healthcare workers is increasing, partly due to the rise in life expectancy. With the opportunities this opens, it is a privilege for Japan to welcome Filipino healthcare workers; specialists who are known worldwide for their compassion, competence, and professionalism.

I have no doubt that each of you possesses the skills needed to be excellent nurses and care workers. As future professionals in Japan, however, mastery of the Japanese language will be vital.

With a new language, new doors are sure to open for you in Japan. More than just a way to communicate, Japanese will be your guide to a new culture; your key to building trust with your colleagues and patients.

Over the next six months, I encourage all of you to dedicate yourselves to your studies. The knowledge and skills you gain will lay the groundwork for your success in Japan.

You may encounter challenges, but I trust these will make your achievements even more meaningful. *Mahirap man mag-aral ng bagong*

wika, walang imposible sa pagsisikap. Huwag kayong susuko!

In closing, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who made this training possible—our partners from the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Japan Foundation Manila, Nihongo Center Foundation, and JICWELS. I also extend my deep appreciation to the dedicated lecturers who will guide our candidates throughout this training. Truly, your support is a key pillar to this endeavor.

To all our nurse and careworker candidates, I am rooting for you all. I look forward to hearing your progress, your stories, and above all, to celebrate your accomplishments at the completion ceremony. I wish you all the best of luck! 頑張ってください！

Thank you very much! Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay ang ating pagkakaibigan! 有難うございました。