

Excellencies, esteemed organizers of this first ever Presidential Filipinnovation Awards, distinguished guests, and most especially, our pioneering awardees—magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat. Isang karangalan na makasama ko kayo ngayong hapon.

I am deeply honored to address this landmark inauguration of the Presidential Filipinnovation Awards. On behalf of the Government of Japan, I extend my congratulations to the Philippines for creating a platform that recognizes the nation's brightest minds and innovations.

To the awardees, you represent the dynamic potential of the Philippines. Your projects that address daily challenges, be it technological, economic, or social, stand as testaments to the enduring Filipino spirit. You all have demonstrated a remarkable ability: the ability to see challenges not as obstacles, but as powerful catalysts for creative change. You have proven that a nation's greatest asset is the ingenuity of its people.

This combination of ingenuity and optimism resonates deeply with us in Japan. Last week, Japanese new Prime Minister TAKAICHI emphasized at the APEC Leaders' Meeting that, amid growing uncertainty in the global economy, innovation through trade, investment, and public-private partnership is essential for the Asia-Pacific region to remain an engine of growth. This week, our Government's Headquarter further identified 17 sectors such as AI, semi-conductor, shipbuilding, fusion energy and quantum, to make strategic public-private investments. Here in the Philippines, innovative Japanese companies are dedicated to addressing multifaceted social challenges. These include Spectee, a company offering an AI-powered real-time crisis management service, which is supported by the JICA Biz program. Another example is Green Carbon, a company focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions from rice paddies and generating JCM, Joint Crediting Mechanism credits.

We firmly believe that innovation is the most powerful engine for

realizing solutions in these ever-changing times. It is through disruptive technologies, creative policy solutions, and locally tailored initiatives that we can truly achieve inclusive and environmentally sound economic growth.

We also believe that the Philippines has many advantages in promoting innovations including rapid growth of domestic demand; leapfrog through rich digital native young population; abundant social issues that can serve as business seeds.

As like-minded countries, Japan and the Philippines share fundamental principles and strategic interests. The Philippines is not only a key partner in advancing economic cooperation, but also an attractive business partner for Japanese companies. Under the leadership of President Marcos, our business ties are growing ever stronger. Japan remains a dedicated partner in the Philippines' socioeconomic development. We also hope to enhance the resilience of supply chains for strategic materials.

With this first Presidential Filipinno-
novation Awards, I believe the

Philippines has signaled to the world that it is a hub for dynamic innovation. We remain eager to witness the continued impact of today's awardees and the lives they can improve.

Together, let us continue to work shoulder-to-shoulder to harness the power of human innovation; the power to build a shared future that is prosperous, resilient, and sustainable for our two countries.

Once again, congratulations to all the Presidential Filipinno-
novation winners. Kayong lahat ay simbolo ng husay ng bawat Pilipino.
(You are all a symbol of ingenuity of every Filipino)

Thank you very much. Maraming salamat po at Mabuhay ang ating pagkakaibigan.