

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Good morning. おはようございます。

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

It is a great honor and pleasure to join you today at the Japan–Philippine Space Economy Co-Creation Symposium, co-organized by JAXA and PhilSA. Allow me to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to both agencies for bringing us together and for advancing the space industry partnership between Japan and the Philippines.

Today’s symposium builds on our long-standing cooperation in space science, technology, and innovation. The collaboration between Japan and the Philippines has been steadily expanding—from the development and launch of satellite such as Diwata series and Maya series to utilization of earth observation data for various purposes. I remember my first visit to PhilSA Office in May 2024

vividly, when I saw the close working relations between PhilSA, JAXA and Japanese universities, and the models of Diwata and Maya series satellites. I warmly welcome the continued deepening of this partnership.

When President Marcos visited Osaka in June, this year, I had the privilege of attending his meeting with JAXA. I was deeply impressed by President's strong interest and wide knowledge in the space sector and his recognition of how space technologies can address national priorities.

Indeed, earth observation data are already being used across a wide range of fields—infrastructure development, disaster risk reduction, agriculture, maritime security, climate change, environmental protection, and many others, in our cooperative efforts. Information and data gathered from space have become indispensable tools that enhance the resilience and help open new avenues for innovation.

A recent example is the Cebu earthquake in September, when Japan promptly provided emergency relief to the Philippines. At the same time, JAXA conducted emergency observations using the ALOS-2 satellite and supplied satellite imagery through the international cooperation mechanism Sentinel-Asia, together with other space agencies. This clearly demonstrated the vital role of space-based data in disaster response and humanitarian assistance.

More broadly, Japan–Philippines relations are strengthening more than ever, spanning economic cooperation, connectivity, and even national security. Looking ahead, 2026 will be a milestone year: the Philippines will assume the ASEAN Chairship and it will also mark the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between our two countries, in addition to being the 10th Anniversary of the launch of Diwata 1. Guided by this rare and meaningful juncture, the Embassy will work to further connect public- and private-sector initiatives so that our partnership delivers shared and enduring benefits.

As our economic ties continue to deepen, I believe the space sector represents one of the next major frontiers of opportunity, as well as the green and digital transformation, which are also interconnected to the use of outer space. I am confident that JAXA and the Japanese companies participating today will be instrumental in expanding space-related industries in close cooperation with their Philippine partners.

I sincerely hope that today's symposium, along with the upcoming 31st Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF-31) in Cebu, will be productive, forward-looking, and instrumental in paving the way for new achievements.

Maraming Salamat. Mabuhay kayong lahat.

Thank you very much.