

**Remarks of Ambassador ENDO Kazuya at the Handover
Ceremony of the Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems under
the Official Security Assistance (OSA) 2023**

11 February 2026

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat!

It is a great honor to join you today for the handover ceremony of the five (5) Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems provided under Japan's Official Security Assistance, or OSA, framework.

This occasion marks not only the transfer of critical equipment from Japan to the Philippines, but also a meaningful milestone in the steadily deepening partnership between our two countries.

The OSA framework reflects Japan's resolute commitment to working closely with like-minded partners to maintain peace and security across the Indo-Pacific.

At a time when the security environment is becoming increasingly complex and difficult, strategic challenges in the region serve as a clear reminder that peace and stability cannot be taken for granted. It must be actively and collectively sustained.

As maritime democracies positioned along vital sea lanes, Japan and the Philippines are natural partners. Japan places the utmost value on its collaboration with the Philippines, a strategic partner that shares our vision for realizing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

Against this backdrop, I am pleased that the Coastal Surveillance Radar Systems provided under Japan's Official Security Assistance (OSA) for fiscal year 2023 successfully arrived in the Philippines.

Today's handover ceremony marks the culmination of our close coordination and cooperation. Once operational by the Philippine Navy, they are expected to significantly enhance the country's maritime domain awareness (MDA) by improving the ability to monitor activities in the surrounding waters. Such awareness is indispensable for safeguarding maritime security, protecting lawful activities at sea, and responding effectively to potential risks.

The South China Sea is a vital sea lane for many countries through which a large portion of our trade and energy supplies pass. Safety, openness, and stability of these waters are therefore of direct importance to our own security and prosperity.

Enhancing the Philippines' maritime domain capabilities is not only an investment in Philippine security, but also a meaningful contribution to

regional and global stability.

Since the launch of Official Security Assistance (OSA) in 2023, the Philippines has been the only country to receive OSA for three consecutive years, underscoring the high level of trust and strategic significance Japan places on our partnership. In the current fiscal year, it was decided to construct boathouses and slipways for RHIBs (Rigid-hulled inflatable boat) for the Philippine Navy, marking the first infrastructure project under OSA. In this regard, we hope to see more projects under OSA in the years to come.

Ladies and gentlemen, today's handover is a symbol of trust, shared responsibility, and our joint commitment to a future.

I am happy to note that our security cooperation is steadily deepening in other fields as well, thanks to the leadership of President Marcos Jr. and the leadership and stewardship of Secretary Teodoro Jr. Even since the start of my service in the Philippines, we had formally concluded and implemented the Reciprocal Access Agreement, negotiated and concluded the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement, and conducted numerous Maritime Cooperative Activities. I expect enhanced and strengthened participation of the Japan Self-Defense Forces in the coming Balikatan exercise.

Japan will continue to work closely with the Philippines to advance

the realization of a Free and Open Indo Pacific, where peace is sustained through cooperation and prosperity is shared by all.

Let us take this opportunity to reaffirm our partnership and look ahead with confidence to even deeper security cooperation in the years ahead.

Ipagpatuloy natin ang matatag na samahan ng Japan at Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat po!