

**Remarks of Minister YOKOTA Naobumi at the Handover Ceremony  
of 13 generators to the Philippine Coast Guard**

6 March 2026 | PCG Headquarters

Magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat.

It is a distinct honor to be here for the handover ceremony of thirteen (13) generators with trailers, provided under the Official Development Assistance (ODA), of the Government of Japan.

This handover is a concrete demonstration of the strong and enduring partnership between Japan and the Philippines, aimed at ensuring the sustainable enhancement of the maritime law enforcement capabilities.

Japan has long been the Philippines' largest contributor of the ODA, guided by the belief that lasting peace is achieved through the steady upbuilding of capacity, resilience, and cooperation. This commitment lies at the heart of Japan's vision for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific.

As both Japan and the Philippines are maritime democracies, our security, economic vitality, and way of life are inseparable from the seas that surround us.

That is why I am very pleased that the thirteen (13) generators have successfully arrived and are now ready for operational use. These units will provide a stable power supply to PCG patrol vessels while in port, ensuring the proper maintenance and management of onboard systems. More importantly, they will reduce the maintenance burden on Coast Guard personnel, allowing them to focus their expertise and energy on their core mission of protecting lives, safeguarding maritime law, and ensuring safety at sea.

By enhancing operational readiness and fleet availability, this assistance directly strengthens the Philippines Coast Guard's ability to respond swiftly and decisively whenever duty calls. As the mission of the PCG never ceases, Japan sincerely hopes that these generators will reliably sustain your

continuous presence at sea.

This cooperation is further bolstered by our expanding cooperation through exchanges and training initiatives between the Japan Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard. By combining equipment, technical expertise, and continuous training, we advance a forward-looking approach to capacity-building.

This year holds particular significance as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of Japan–Philippines friendship. Together, these milestones underscore our shared responsibility to uphold a rules-based maritime order and to deepen our partnership for the peace, stability, and prosperity of future generations.

Japan will continue to work hand-in-hand with the Philippines to strengthen maritime capability and enhance maritime domain awareness through cooperation and mutual trust.

Let us reaffirm today the enduring strength of our partnership and our shared determination to safeguard the seas.

Patuloy nating patibayin ang pagkakaibigan ng Japan at Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat po!