
SPECIAL ISSUE 2020

Japan Chron●icles

Mindanao



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About Us

The first Japanese Consulate in Davao was established in the year 1920. The Japanese Consulate was set up to look after the welfare of the Japanese settlers in Davao whose population grew to 20,000 in 1941. It was during this time that Davao came to be known as "Little Tokyo".

After the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Japan were normalized in 1956, Japan has contributed to the growth of Philippines and Mindanao through various development projects and people-to-people exchanges. In 1974, the Consular Office of Japan in Davao was reopened.

On January 1, 2019, the Consular office was transformed to a full-fledged Consulate General of Japan in Davao. The upgraded status is a concrete proof of the commitment of Japan by putting a premium on its relationship with Davao City, Mindanao and, the Philippines, as a whole.



Japanese Consulate in Davao, 1920
Photo courtesy of IMIN – The Philippine-Japan
Historical Museum in Calinan, Davao City



Consulate General of Japan in Davao, 2020



MIWA Yoshiaki
Consul General of Japan in Davao

The Consulate General of Japan in Davao is pleased to present you with the first “Japan Chronicles Mindanao” magazine which we are publishing to promote Japan in the field of culture, food, tourism as well as to give updates on Mindanao-Japan relations.

As the COVID-19 pandemic beset us, we will also feature the current situation in Japan and the response of the Japanese government in this challenging times.

The current pandemic has brought about unfortunate impacts to almost all aspects of life not only in the Philippines but all over the world. But with the encouraging breakthroughs in COVID-19 vaccine, I am confident that the prospect remains bright for the coming months. Rest assured that the Government of Japan, as a strategic partner, will continue to assist the Philippines in its fight against COVID-19 and cooperate with the LGUs in Mindanao in restarting its economy which has been put on hold by the pandemic.

We hope you will enjoy and find the articles in this magazine informative as we look forward to our continued collaboration in furthering our two nations’ friendly relations in the years to come.

Stay safe, stay healthy and MABUHAY kayong lahat!

Linking Japan to Mindanao

Cagayan de Oro City

(5) Courtesy meeting with Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno at City Hall.



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Davao City

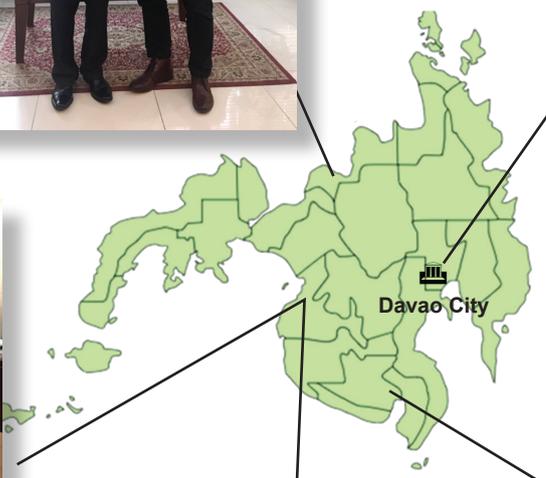
(1) Courtesy meeting with Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio.



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Cotabato City

(3) Courtesy call on Cotabato City Mayor Atty. Frances Cynthia J. Guiani-Sayadi.
(4) Courtesy meeting with Parliament Speaker, Hon. Atty. Ali Pangalian M. Balindong of Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA).



Davao City



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2

General Santos City

(2) Attending the opening ceremony of the 1st Japan Film Week at Mindanao State University, General Santos City and meeting with Dr. Anshari P. Ali, Chancellor (fourth from right).

Mindanao Youth Baseball Camp 2020

The Government of Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has been supporting peace and development in Mindanao, and considers sports as a powerful tool in promoting the ideals of peace and enhancing human security.

On January 11, Consul General MIWA Yoshiaki attended the Mindanao Youth Baseball Camp 2020 held at the Davao City National High School.

Co-organized by JICA with Japan's professional baseball team Yomiuri Giants, the Department of Education, Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku and Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School, the baseball camp was attended by some 300 elementary and high school students and coaches from Davao City.

The Yomiuri Giants is one of the oldest professional baseball teams based in Tokyo and have won numerous Japan series championships. The baseball camp in Davao City is the first time the team has conducted such an event in Mindanao.

With the baseball camp's theme of "For a resilient future through sports and disaster awareness", JICA and the Davao City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office also conducted an earthquake awareness seminar to teach the participants about earthquake preparedness and response.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Philippine-Japan Historical Museum



On January 23rd, Ambassador HANEDA Koji and Consul General MIWA Yoshiaki attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the re-opening of the newly renovated and enhanced IMIN (移民) The Philippine-Japan Historical Museum. The effort was supported through the Grant Assistance for Cultural Grassroots Projects (GGP) of the Japanese government.

The museum in Calinan, Davao City opened in 1994 through the efforts of Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai, Inc. (PNJK). Its exhibits allow visitors to learn about the historical relationship between Japan and Davao, which started during the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the city in the 1900s. The GGP grant supported the renovation of the exhibit space and materials, as well as the installation of digital devices to further enrich the learning experience for visitors.

National Day Reception

The Consulate General of Japan in Davao hosted the National Day Reception to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on February 18 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City.

The reception was attended by more than 300 guests, including Councilor Antoinette Principe-Castrodes, who represented Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio, members of the Davao City Council, police and military officials, local business leaders, academics, and civic organizations.

The National Day reception was the first to be held under Japan's new Reiwa era and also the first to be hosted after the consular office was upgraded to a full-fledged Consulate General of Japan in Davao last year.

Consul General MIWA Yoshiaki expressed his gratitude to the local government and the people of Mindanao for their cooperation and support to the activities of the Consulate General during its first year. He was also grateful for the success of the 100th year anniversary celebration of the Davao Japanese community last year where many people participated in the business conference and booth exhibits as well as enjoyed the Japanese cultural shows, food market and film festival.

The Consul General also emphasized Japan's strong support to the development of the whole of Mindanao.

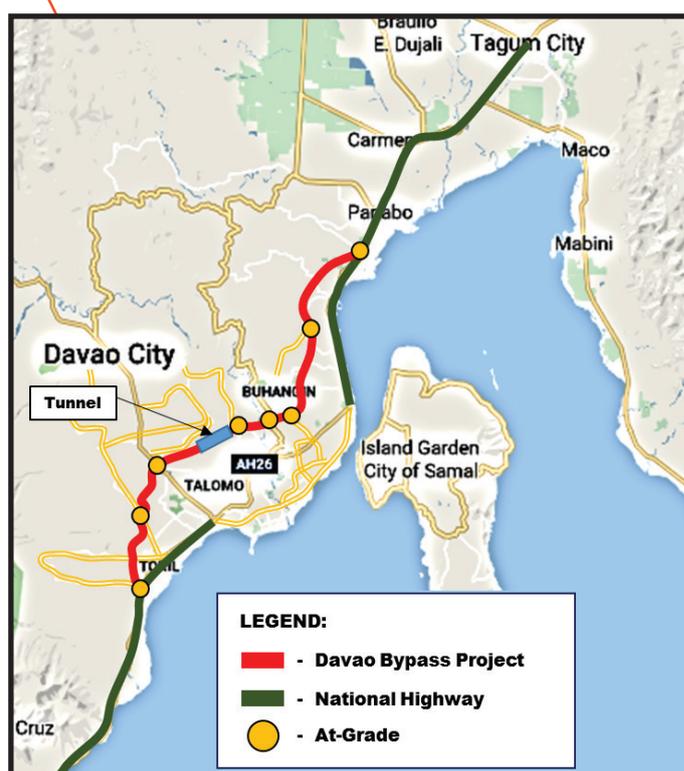


Davao City Bypass Construction Project

On October 29, the contract for the Davao City Bypass Construction Project was signed between the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Joint Venture of Shimizu Corporation, Ulticon Builders Inc., and Takenaka Civil Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd.,

The signing signaled the start of the implementation of the Contract Package I-1 for the first 10.7 kilometers of the planned 45.5 kilometers of bypass road which would include the construction of the first-ever long distance mountain tunnel in the Philippines with an approximate length of 2.3 kilometers right at the heart of Davao City in Mindanao.

Once the project is completed, the bypass road will mitigate congestions in Davao City with the travel time between Barangay Sirawan in Toril District Davao City and Barangay J.P. Laurel in Panabo City reduced from the current 1 hour and 44 minutes via Pan-Philippine Highway Diversion Road into just 49 minutes via Davao City bypass. The P13.230-billion project is funded under the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA).





Hatsumōde

The first three days of January in Japan is called “San ga Nichi” and is regarded as a special holiday giving many Japanese the opportunity to observe their many customs and traditions.

Hatsumōde is one of these many customs, and is included in one of the many “first of the year” rituals. This particular tradition celebrates the first shrine or temple visit of the year to wish and pray for good fortune in the year ahead.

The earliest origins of Hatsumōde can be traced back to the Heian period (794–1185) practice of Toshigomori, in which the head of a household would seclude himself in prayer at a shrine from the evening of the year’s last day to the morning of the first day of the New Year.

All shrines or temples are decorated festively and along the pathway to the temple, food stands and Japanese festival games are usually set up. Popular shrines like in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and Kamakura attract over a million visitors at this time.

A common custom during Hatsumōde is to buy Omikuji. The Omikuji tells you how you will do in various areas in your life, such as business and love, for the year. If your Omikuji predicts bad luck, you can tie it onto a tree on the shrine grounds, in the hope that its prediction will not come true. Often a good-luck charm called Omamori comes with the Omikuji when you buy it. It is believed that Omamori will bring you good luck and fortune.

During the Hatsumōde, many Japanese wear full kimono, including men, while visiting their shrine or temple.



Okonomiyaki



Amazake

Japanese Drink: Amazake

Amazake is a traditional Japanese drink made of fermented rice. In Japanese, it is written with the characters for “sweet” (甘) and “sake” (酒). It has a creamy, thick consistency with a sweet flavor, served either chilled or warm/hot.

Although street vendors during the Edo period (1603-1868) would sell it as a kind of energy drink for people suffering from heat fatigue in the summertime, nowadays, Amazake is best known as a warm drink served in the winter. It is commonly served to people making their first shrine or temple visit of the New Year, known as Hatsumoude and on Hinamatsuri (Girls’ Day) festivities in early March. Being made from rice means that Amazake is naturally gluten-free, non-dairy, and vegan. It is found at grocery stores, health-food stores, liquor stores, convenience stores and vending machines.

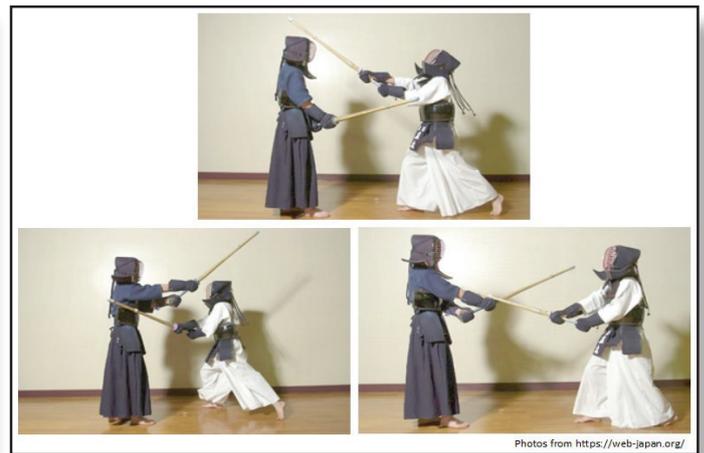
There are two types of Amazake. Kome-koji Amazake which is made from steamed rice combined with rice malt. It is non-alcoholic and naturally a slightly sweet drink which can children can drink. The other type is called Sake-kasu Amazake which is made from sake lees that are not sweet with a little bit of alcohol.

Japanese Food: Okonomiyaki

Okonomiyaki is a flavorful pancake made with vegetables, meat, seafood, and other ingredients, cooked on a griddle with flour-based batter and served with special sauce. The name is derived from the word Okonomi, meaning “how you like” or “what you like”, and Yaki meaning “cooked”, roughly translating to “anything you like, cooked together”.

While the dish is widely available throughout Japan today and can vary depending upon which region it is made. However, there are two significantly different types of Okonomiyaki. First, the Kansai or Osaka style, in which the ingredients are all mixed into a batter and then grilled. Second, the Hiroshima style, in which a small crepe-like pancake is grilled and then other ingredients are layered on top. The Hiroshima style uses much more cabbage than the Osaka style.

The grilled pancake is served piping hot with condiments such as Okonomiyaki sauce --a slightly sweet and dark Worcestershire-flavored sauce--along with creamy Japanese mayonnaise, shaved bonito flakes (Katsuobushi), and powdered green seaweed (Aonori).



Kendo

Kendo, is the modern version of the Kenjutsu (swordsmanship), the sword fighting practiced in Japan by the samurai. It is believed that through learning kendo, one is able to gain an understanding of the “principles of the sword” just like a samurai.

Despite being considered modern, Kendo is deep in tradition that places great importance on discipline, dedication to training, human courtesy and honor. In a kendo competition, the contest begins and ends with the exchanging of formal bows which is a sign of respect to the competitor, instructors and fellow Kendoka or Kenshi (Kendo practitioners).

The purpose of this martial way is to cultivate the mind, body and to develop a vigorous spirit and to achieve this, one must undergo years of thorough mental and physical training. Today, Kendo is very popular in schools in Japan as a sport that provides such training and it has also spread to many other nations across the world including the Philippines. In Davao, Kendo practitioners formed the Davao Kendo Club in 2014 to help spread the principles and concept of Kendo.

Online Ikebana Demonstration

Among the many traditional arts in Japan, perhaps the most famed and actively practiced today is Ikebana, the art of flower arrangement. Dating back as early as the Heian period (794-1185) in Japan, Ikebana was developed in Muromachi era (1336-1573) when the arrangements became an art in people’s home and public places.

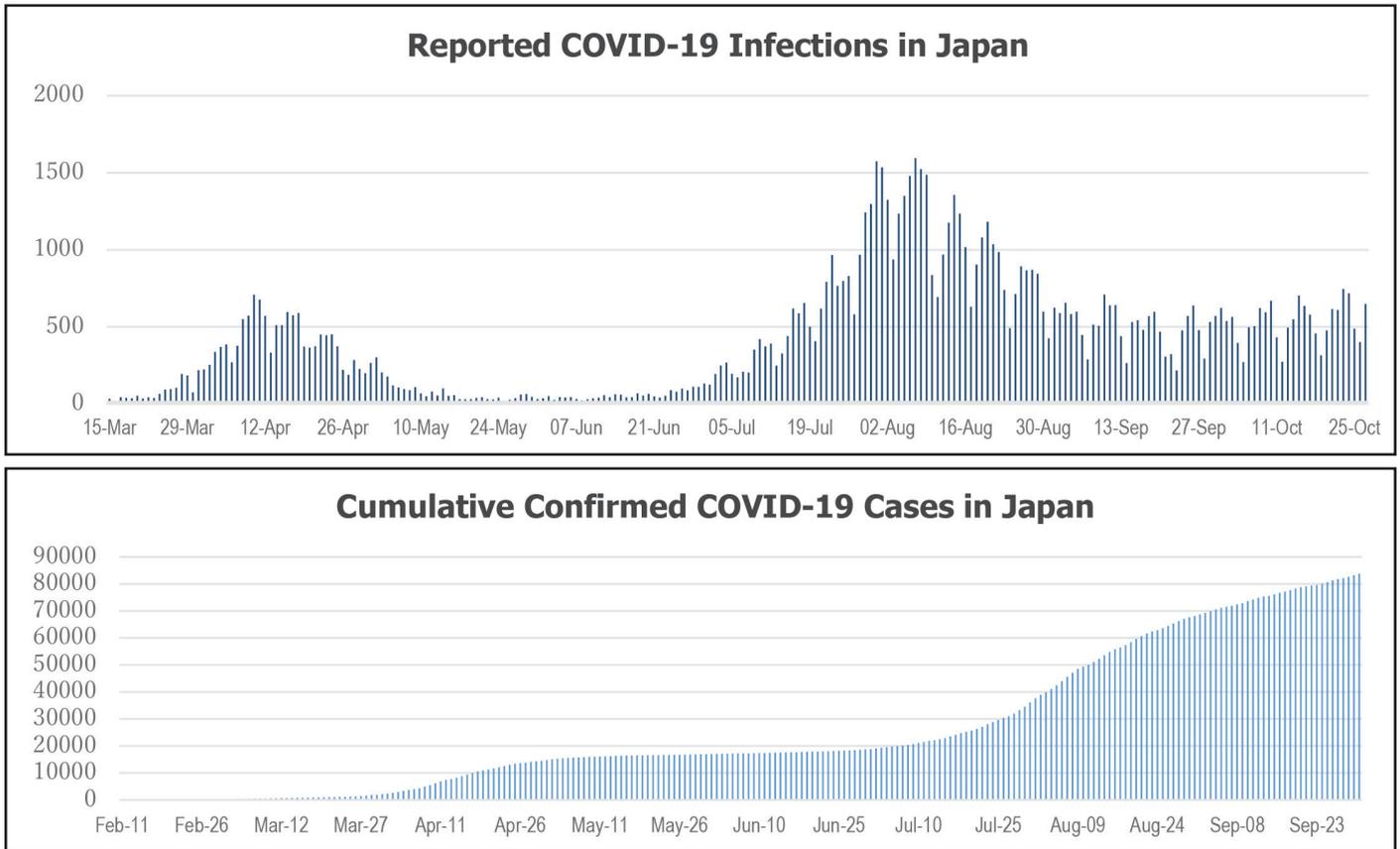
Over the centuries of its evolution, this art of beautifully arranging cut stems, leaves, and flowers in vases and other containers has developed into many different styles of arrangement but the aim remains the same, that is, to bring out the inner qualities of flowers and other live materials within certain rules of construction, and express the emotion as well as the passion of the Ikebana artist.

On December 5, the Consulate General of Japan in Davao together with the Ikebana International Davao Chapter 133 and the Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku (MKD) organized an online Ikebana demonstration with Ms. Maria Margarita “Margot” C. Perez, Director of Sogetsu Ikebana Manila, as the demonstration teacher. Ms. Margot demonstrated eight captivating flower arrangements using the contemporary approach of the Sogetsu school of Ikebana art. The demonstration was viewed by Ikebana enthusiasts from all over Mindanao as well as interested teachers and students of MKD and the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School.



Online Ikebana Demonstration Live photo:
Ms. Margot C. Perez, Director of Sogetsu Ikebana Manila

Dendrobium Orchids, Green lace leaves and Ceramic vases. This arrangement was made for a round dining table. It highlights the beauty of the water, giving a cooling effect on a hot day. It also made use of 2 different colored vases to emphasize the yellow-orange color of the dendrobium orchids. (Photo courtesy of Ms. Margot C. Perez)



Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

After the first recorded COVID-19 case in Japan on January, the number of cases reached 10,281 mark on April representing the peak of the pandemics first wave in Japan. After the lifting of the State of Emergency on May 25, the 683 active cases in June was the lowest mark between the first and the second wave of COVID-19. In July, the number of confirmed cases in Japan crossed the 20,000 mark signaling the start of Japan's COVID-19 second wave. (Graph Data is sourced from the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.)

Factors why Japan has low COVID-19 cases and deaths: Avoid the 3 C's

Many people outside of Japan were surprised that even though more than 25% of Japan's population is over the age of 65 and at a higher risk of getting seriously ill with COVID-19, the statistical data show that most people did not get sick.

Some experts believe that one of the probable reasons could be the clear messaging given by the Japanese government to its citizens. The government was clear in encouraging people to change their way of thinking and adapt to the new lifestyle, which is to observe coughing etiquette, proper handwashing and avoiding the three C's.

The three C's to be strictly avoided are: (1) closed spaces with insufficient ventilation, (2) crowded places with many people nearby and (3) close-contact settings such as face-to-face conversations.

People must not assume that large rooms are safe and small rooms to be dangerous since the key is the degree of ventilation. The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes the relationship between the spread of diseases and lack of ventilation. Thus, ventilators must be turned on and windows must be partially opened whether in the home, office or in the car.

Similar to social-distancing, the Japanese people were also advised to avoid going to crowded places and always keep in mind to create spaces between them and other people. Conversations and speaking in a close-contact settings should also be avoided. Close-contact conversations could spread the virus through droplets. WHO reported that five minute conversations releases the same amount of droplets as one cough (approximately 3,000 droplets), thus, it is best to keep a safe distance and wear a mask when engaging in a conversation.

10 tips for reducing contact by 80%

Under the state of emergency, anyone is at risk of becoming infected or infecting others. Take a look at your everyday life again to protect yourself and people around you from the novel coronavirus.

<p>1 Family reunion via video chat without visiting hometown</p>	<p>2 Go to supermarkets alone or in small groups at less crowded times</p>	<p>3 Enjoy jogging in small group in less crowded parks at less crowded times</p>
<p>4 Do non-urgent shopping online</p>	<p>5 Enjoy drinking with friends online</p>	<p>6 Use remote medical services <small>*regular health checkup should be rescheduled</small></p>
<p>7 Use videos at home for workouts, yoga, etc.</p>	<p>8 Use takeout or delivery for food</p>	<p>9 Work from home <small>*The medical, infrastructure and distribution sectors are exception</small></p>
<p>10 Wear a mask when talking</p>	<p>Avoid the Three Cs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closed spaces with poor ventilation 2. Crowded places with many people 3. Close-contact settings involving close-range conversations 	

Washing hands, coughing etiquette, airing and health monitoring are also important

Source: Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare

Timeline of COVID-19 in Japan

January 16 to October 1



Mask-wearing culture in Japan

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, people around the world began to debate the effectiveness of mask-wearing in protecting oneself against the virus. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) initially flipped back and forth on its advice regarding mask-wearing during the pandemic.

In some countries, the mask has even become a symbol for human rights violation, with people citing constitutional privileges and using unconfirmed health risks such as lack of oxygen intake as reasons for not wearing masks.

But for some Asian countries like Japan where wearing masks while in public has been a practice long before the pandemic, it is simply a matter of courtesy and consideration. Japanese wear face masks to stop spreading their germs on others when they are suffering from colds and flu. It also makes sense to cover your mouth and nose when these are considered the primary routes of infection. During early spring when a large amount of allergy-causing cedar pollens are in the air, many people wear masks to avoid from suffering from hay fever. Masks are also used for practical reasons like on cold days they can keep your face warm and for some women it is a good face cover when they do not have any makeup on.

Japan's custom of wearing masks first developed as a reaction to the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. The custom was further spurred on by the H1N1 influenza epidemic of 2009 but its scale has increased massively over the past several years. In 2018, Japan produced and imported a total of over 5.5 billion face masks.



Japan grants support loan to the Philippines

On June 8, 2020, Former Ambassador Haneda Koji signed and exchanged notes with Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin, Jr. for Japan's grant aid to assist the Philippines in its COVID-19 response. Japan granted 2 billion yen as support to the Department of Health (DOH) which includes the provision of highly advanced medical equipment such as CT scanners, X-ray machines, MRI systems, and hemodialysis machines to be installed in principal hospitals and medical institutions. The setting up of laboratory surveillance sites across the country seeks to enhance the health sector's capacity to address COVID-19 and other possible re-emerging diseases in the future.

On top of this, a 50 billion yen COVID-19 Crisis Response Emergency Support Loan was formalized on the July 1, 2020. This loan will provide budgetary support to help curb the spread of COVID-19. The loan will be co-financed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through its COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) program.

This highly concessional loan, which the Philippines was the very first recipient, was designed by the Japanese government to address the global health crisis. As the Philippines continues its fight against COVID-19, this assistance from Japan is seen to boost the Philippine medical system, help lessen the impact of disruptions in economic activities, stimulate the Philippine economy to a faster recovery, and improve capacity building for COVID-19 and other re-emerging diseases measures.



Embassy of Japan in the Philippines

Philippines receives additional support from JICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) provided additional support to the Philippines' COVID-19 response through the provision of laboratory equipment and supplies for the Research Institute of Tropical Medicine and San Lazaro Hospital on July 22. The initiative aims to help boost the testing capacity and testing quality of the laboratory, provided aid to augment health care sectors, and donated health and hygiene essentials to those in RCFs.

On Sept. 15, JICA signed a loan agreement with the Philippine Government to provide a Japanese ODA loan of up to 50 billion yen for Post Disaster Stand-by Loan Phase 2 (PDSL 2). This stand-by loan aims to ensure contingent funds to respond to the immediate financial demands of a post-disaster recovery phase, together with supporting policies related to disaster risk reduction and management as well as strengthening preparedness for public health emergencies. On October 27, JICA made a disbursement of 10 billion yen to the Philippine Government under PDSL 2. The release of its first tranche was prompted by the extension of the State of National Calamity.

Avigan testing trials

On April 28, 2020, Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi announced that 38 countries, including the Philippines, will be provided with the anti-viral drug Avigan (Favipiravir) by the Japanese government for free. Avigan, the brand name of Favipiravir, is a Japanese-made anti-viral drug manufactured by a subsidiary of Japanese firm Fujifilm Holdings Corporation and is used to treat influenza in flu outbreak. Although its effectiveness against the novel coronavirus has yet to be established, Japan has formed close cooperation with several countries, including the Philippines, to expand clinical research on Avigan as treatment for this infectious disease.

On August 6, 2020, the Government of Japan delivered Avigan tablets for 100 patients to the Department of Health (DOH) as part of its emergency grant aid to countries severely affected by COVID-19. Japan hopes that this ongoing cooperation with the Philippines would further contribute to the advancement of clinical research to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Welcome Respite

A typical day for me was a laundry list of what to accomplish: read, write, teach, meet, check, consult, travel, monitor, follow-up, ad infinitum. It was anything but boring. I barely had time to warm my office chair before another concern, either scheduled or unforeseen, snatches me away. This active lifestyle made me a mere transient in my own home. As much as I hate how this routine disturbs my focus, I have to admit that I like how this lifestyle fed my existential need for accomplishment.

Then the pandemic happened. The first major casualty was my scheduled conference presentations in the US. But COVID-19 didn't just prevent travel abroad as the lockdown prevented me from even stepping outside of my front yard. Now the vagabond has become a recluse, stuck in a domestic desert island. But, deep down my gut, I welcomed it with a huge sigh of relief. Finally, a respite! This break is what I have been waiting for! I now have time to read more books without much interruption; go back to pencil sketching; tend to my chickens; and as a plantito regrow my garden. Reconnecting with nature and my neglected hobbies have sustained me amidst the demands to cope with the new normal. This whole unique experience blessed me with a new sense of accomplishment or, better yet, fulfillment.



By: Mr. John Harvey Gamas
Ateneo de Davao University
Davao City

MSU-GSC Strengthen its Partnerships Initiatives with Japan amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis



By: Dr. Anderson V. Villa
Mindanao State University – Gen. Santos City

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has indeed crippled much of the day-to-day operations of universities and colleges here in the Philippines and across the globe. Despite the national community quarantine measures and localized lockdowns, the Mindanao State University-General Santos

City (MSU-GSC) turned such external threats into promising opportunities by adopting flexible learning modalities as it opened this academic year.

Among those profound engagements under the new normal situation was with The Japan Foundation, Manila. In fact, the successful virtual launching and opening program on August 4, 2020 of its webinar project entitled, "Toward an Anthology of Japanese Presence in Mindanao, Philippines: A Writing Workshop among Japan and Southeast Asian Scholars," was attended by former JF Director Mr. Hiroaki Uesugi and Consul General Yoshiaki Miwa who gave their respective messages of support and encouragement via Zoom.

Henceforth, MSU-GSC plans to organize more activities with Japan amidst the pandemic crisis. In fact, we also hope to partake in the upcoming events of the Consulate General of Japan in celebrating its 100th Foundation Anniversary in Davao City. All of these initiatives are part of MSU-GSC's strategic direction to strengthen its internationalization efforts for global cooperation and partnerships.

Aha! Moments

These are revelations of the "can do" spirit and "Yes, I can, too!" frame of mind of folks in my corner of this COVID-19 hit universe- Cagayan de Oro City. These moments, unfolding in staccato rhythm, are so comforting, they warm my heart, steady my emotions, and give me hope to a beautiful new normal.

Aha! So you can sew! Neighbors and friends who never had any experience in sewing, have produced hundreds of face masks, face shields and PPEs before the end of March when such were not yet commercially available but were much needed by our front liners. Aha, that's a lot!

Even the little ones did their share in bringing cheer to the community by making "God bless you!" and "Take care!" cards inserted in the food pack for front liners to lift the spirits of the medical workers. Imagine the impact this activity has on the nurturing of the children who made the cards. Aha! In giving, one receives more in return!

I love the new normal that is beautifully being unfolded each day in my community. It is a new normal where the generosity of spirit and kindness abound. It is a new normal where people are intentional in their relationships conscious of the fact that community is made up of you and I. It is a new normal where folks are open to shift gears, pivot, and embrace new ways all for the common good. Indeed, the new normal promises to be beautiful.

(COVID-19 stories continued on page 11)



By: Ms. Imma Rae "Em-Em" Gatuslao
Oro Trade and Investment Promotions Center - Cagayan de Oro City

COVID-19 stories and experiences *(continued from page 10)*

Sharing Information During the Pandemic

I teach Japanese at Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku (MKD). During the ECQ period, I was working from home. Our President, Dr. Ines P. Mallari, instructed Japanese professors to make contents for the MKD Nihongo Radio which is being broadcasted on 88.3 FM from 9:00 PM every weekday, to inform Japanese and Filipino people about COVID-19 information. At the same time, I also started to make YouTube videos informing about the news related to COVID-19 in the Philippines.

The purpose of my YouTube channel is to inform about COVID-19 related news to Japanese people as fast as possible, then they would know how to prepare and act just the same as other Filipino people. There are many old Japanese people residing in the Philippines, and they are not fluent in English. Since the pandemic started, the quarantine level and regulations has been changing rapidly, sometimes within a day. So, I decided to offer the information to the Japanese people living in the Philippines, as fast as possible, through my YouTube channel.

Not only Japanese people living in the Philippines but also many people from Japan who want to know information about the Philippines have watched my YouTube channel. I would like to continue conveying the goodness of Davao and the Philippines to Japanese people in Japan, also provide useful information to Japanese people living in the Philippines, especially in Davao, through my YouTube channel.



By Mr. MACHIDA Takakazu
Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku –
Davao City

The Consulate General of Japan and the Davao Japanese Community in action



Lt. Gen. Faustino (left) and Consul General Miwa (right).



Repatriation mission with assistance from EastMinCom.

Turnover of donation to EastMinCom in support of its fight against COVID-19

On November 4th, Consul General MIWA Yoshiaki together with some members of the Davao Japanese community and representatives of Japanese benefactors turned-over a donation to the Eastern Mindanao Command at Panacan, Davao City. The donations were received by Lt. Gen Jose Faustino, Jr., Commander of EastMinCom.

At the ceremony, the Davao Japanese community donated 1,500 kilos of rice and 9 sets of foot-operated alcohol dispenser while another 1,000 kilos of rice and 10,000 face masks were donated by the two Japanese benefactors to EastMinCom.

Lt. Gen. Faustino, thanked the Consulate General and the Davao Japanese community for helping Team EastMinCom in meeting the challenges of this moment. He also expressed his gratitude for the donations saying that it will truly inspire the soldiers to work harder for the common good.

In his message, Consul General Miwa said that he looks forward to more collaborations with EastMinCom, particularly, in projects that will further the strong friendship between Japan and the Philippines in the years to come.