

**JTTRI International Seminar on
"Railway and Area Development in Manila"
Chairman Shukuri's speech**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I am Masafumi Shukuri, the Chairman of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute (JTTRI).

We are truly grateful that so many of you, both Filipinos and Japanese people living in the Philippines, were able to attend this international seminar "Railway and Area Development" today.

First of all, we would like to thank to His Excellency Mr. Arthur P. Tugade, Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation, Mr. Junn B. Magno, General Manager of the Philippine National Railways, Mr. Koji Haneda, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Philippines, and Mr. Yasaburo Hikasa, Assistant Vice-Minister, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan for their attendance.

Further, we are also very grateful for the considerable support and cooperation provided by the Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation, the Philippine National Railways, the Philippine Railways Institute, the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines, and others in holding this seminar today.

The Philippines is one of the major ASEAN countries, and its economy is continuing to grow robustly. Its history of exchanges with Japan extend back to the 16th century. The personal and economic ties between our two countries are now very deep.

In 2018, the number of people who traveled from the Philippines to Japan was half a million and the number of people who traveled from Japan to the Philippines was 630 thousand so that the number was 1.13 million in total. In this way, in recent years, the interaction between people of these two countries has become more and more intensive.

On the other hand, in the transportation fields in the Philippines, recently in recent years, the New Bohol Airport went into service the year before last. Various important railways projects, such as construction of the Metro Manila Subway which will be the first subway in the Philippines, the North-South Commuter Railway, the LRT Line 1 and 2 extensions, MRT 3 rehabilitation, as well as the preparation of the Philippine Railways Institute for the purpose of personnel education and training are under way. In these projects, by the Minister Tugade's strong initiative, we can see the results of much close and constructive cooperation and collaboration between these two countries.

Based on the fruitful collaborative relationship between our two countries, today's seminar is being held with the theme "Railway and Area Development", which is a very important policy issue. As you know, Transit Oriented Development or T.O.D. is an extremely important theme to pursue in increasing the social and economic benefits of the development of railways, and to make it possible to create the value capture for railway projects.

In the first half of this seminar, Professor Shigeru Morichi, Director of the Policy Research Center at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, formerly President for Research at our institute, and currently the Advisor for Research at our institute, will give the keynote speech, and subsequently, Mr. Muto, who is a senior research fellow at our institute, will report the results of our institute's "Study Group on Railway and Area Development" chaired by Professor Dr. Morichi.

During the panel discussion in the latter part of this seminar, Mr. Timothy John R. Batan, Undersecretary for Railways at the Republic of the Philippines Department of Transportation, Dr. Primitivo C. Cal, Professor at the University of the Philippines, and Professor Dr. Morichi will appear as panelists, and Dr. Naohiko Hibino, Associate Professor at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, will act as a moderator to discuss challenges and future prospects in the development of railways and their area development along the railway lines in the Philippines.

We, as the organizers, strongly hope that today's seminar will be useful for the participants and help achieve harmony between the expansion of railways and development of their area development along the railway lines in the Philippines in the future.

Finally, to end my opening remarks, I would like to add that the activities of the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute are performed with the special support of the Nippon Foundation.

Thank you very much.