

**JTTRI International Seminar on
"Railway and Area Development in Manila"
Mr. Hikasa's speech**

Thank you for kind introduction and invitation to this wonderful seminar, Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am Yasaburo Hikasa, from Railway Bureau, MLIT.

First of all, as one of supporters, I am pleased to say that, with attendance of from DOT H.E. Secretary Tugade, Mr. Magno, General Manager of PNR, Undersecretary Batan, Undersecretary Lontoc from PRI, from Japan, Ambassador Mr. Haneda and many other VIPs, today JTTRI hosts this international seminar on Railway and Area Development "here" in Manila. I would like to thank you, a big audience for wonderful atmosphere.

The Republic of Philippines, its population increases to over 100 million and has enjoyed remarkable growth at the annual rate of 6% GDP. Especially here, Manila has 10 million population and is one of the biggest cities in Asia.

I have not been in Manila since 1999. 20 years have passed, yesterday I moved around with my colleagues, and took a ride of LRT and MRT. I am so surprised to see skyscrapers standing like a wall, historical views of old towns, energetic atmosphere. It is not changed; Philippines People is always energetic. I fully recognize the recent rapid development in Manila. But I often see road congestion everywhere. Well. More mass transport system is necessary to accommodate these traffic. What is that? Of course, Railway.

Japan, since 1990s, has been providing continuous support to the urban railway development in Manila Metropolitan area. We acknowledge famous slogan which President Duterte promotes // "build, build, build". Under his strong leadership, of course along with Secretary Tugade, you are fostering infrastructure development energetically. Especially most of planned projects are related to railway. I am very happy with that.

I could pick up some projects, but today I may discard it. Many projects related to construction or equipment related. Not only that, Personnel related projects are there. MRT line3 rehabilitation project and establishment of Philippine railway institute, those are related to human resource development. That is a really

wonderful thing to do. Japan and Philippine are cooperating each other and carry out those projects vigorously. Japan will definitely do utmost support to contribute to further development of the Philippines, through “Quality infrastructure”

If we take a look at the future of urban development, “sustainability” is the keyword. As the United Nations pursue “Sustainable Development Goals”, it is an urgent need to secure sustainability. For further urban development, what can we, to can you do?

I raise 3 [S]. The first S - A shift to public transport, roads cannot accommodate city with 10 million people. Clean, and comfortable public transport is needed. And, of course, the 2nd S – is Seamless transport network. A enhance Connectivity between railway lines and other mode of transport. If you could use IT technology, it would be wonderful. The 3rd one, maybe it is today’s topic seminar, Stations centered development. It should be noted that city development should be planned and well coordinated with railway plan from the beginning stage.

Those 3 S will realize Sustainable city development based on public transport. And it should also be noted that once infrastructures are build, the problem is how to sustain. Public sector role is quite important. Especially in terms of allocation of risk between private and public sector. Both should work together for success. The balance between private and public sector is really important.

In this regard, I am looking forward to today seminar discussion. Here are so many experts from Japan and Philippines. Of course, Prof. Dr. Morichi from GRIPS, Undersecretary Batan and other experts in this area will join.

I believe that today is the very good opportunity for both Philippines and Japan to discuss and think deeply to take further steps for development of Manila metropolitan area. I would like to conclude my speech by hoping that today’s discussion will be fruitful and cooperation between both countries will be further strengthen.

Thank you very much.