

**PRESIDENT FERDINAND ROMUALDEZ MARCOS JR.'s  
STATEMENT DURING THE JOINT PRESS OCCASION**

Tokyo, Japan  
February 09, 2023  
2023-02-09

Thank you very much, Your Excellency Prime Minister Kishida Fumio.

The honorable members of the Japanese and Philippine delegations; members of the press corps; ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

The Prime Minister and I have just had a deeply engaging bilateral meeting covering the full range of Philippine-Japan bilateral relations. And after our meeting, I can confidently say that our strategic partnership is stronger than ever as we navigate together the rough waters buffeting our region.

The future of our relationship remains full of promise as we continue to deepen and expand our engagements across a wide range of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Today, Prime Minister Kishida and I witnessed the forging of agreements that further cemented our commitment to our strategic partnership. And I would like to highlight them one by one.

The signing of Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communication Technology demonstrates our two countries' plans to cooperate in the new global and digital economy thus providing added connectivity in every facet of our relationship.

The signing of Memorandum of Cooperation on Agricultural Cooperation is aligned with my priority to harness the agricultural sector and to ensure food security; and together with our partners such as Japan, we look forward to the success of this program.

The signing of the Diplomatic Notes and Loan Agreements on the North-South Commuter Railway Project and Extension highlights the value that we place in connectivity and improving transportation services. It is also a testament to Japan's contribution in uplifting the daily lives of ordinary Filipinos by sharing Japanese technology and expertise in infrastructure and connectivity.

The signing of the Terms of Reference on the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief underscores our joint efforts to value human lives above all and to ensure that we remain resilient and responsive amidst natural and man-made disasters.

Finally, the Prime Minister and I have agreed to cooperate even more closely in areas of economic cooperation, security and defense cooperation, maritime security and safety, healthcare mechanisms, environmental commitments and people-to-people exchanges. Furthermore, there are cultural cooperation, regional peace initiatives, and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, amongst others.

This afternoon, the First Lady and I also had the distinct honor of having an audience with Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress of Japan. We had a memorable conversation and I deeply appreciate the Imperial Audience accorded to me and the First Lady. I have extended an invitation to Their Majesties to visit the Philippines at the most convenient time.

Tomorrow, I will be meeting with more Japanese companies and business leaders for the business portion of this visit, to highlight the economic performance of the Philippine economy and to showcase the business and investment-friendly policies and programs of this administration.

I wish once again to thank Prime Minister Kishida for his kind invitation to visit one of the Philippines' closest neighbors and closest friends.

We hope to welcome Prime Minister Kishida to the Philippines for a return visit in the very near future.

Thank you very much. Maraming Salamat po. Domo arigato gozaimasu.

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