The Philippines and Japan: Strategic partners for mutual growth in 2013

With 7,107 islands of cultural and ecological diversity, the archipelago republic of the Philippines was named after the Spanish conquistador Miguel Lopez de Legazpi in 1565. Located in Southeast Asia, the country is a distinctive link between Asian nations in that it is still a predominantly Christian nation — the only one in the region. More than 144 million of Spanish descent, the U.S. took over and ruled a country leaving the English language and much of its pop culture still ingrained in modern Filipino society. The Philippines has always been a combination of studies rather than a unified whole, significant for its strong Eastern and Western influences. Today, it is a mosaic of languages, religions and cultures. With its population of nearly 104 million and an average age of 25, it is also one of the youngest and most dynamic populations in the world.

Much-needed help is vital for Philippine development, and Japan is key to global stability. Japan has its own set of interests, and it is known to be very welcoming in the Philippines. At the center of this partnership is the country’s vital need for assistance in the areas of education, agriculture, trade and tourism. In 2011, the Philippines was one of the countries most affected by Typhoon Haiyan, which caused more than 13,000 deaths and displacements of millions. Despite these challenges, the Philippines has demonstrated remarkable resilience and strength in the face of adversity.

As the environment becomes more attractive for many foreign entities, Japan remains the biggest investor in the Philippines. In 2013, along with China and Indonesia, the country is in the top three markets for Japanese investors. The government has taken steps to improve its investment environment and to attract more foreign direct investment, reflecting its commitment to the country’s ongoing development.

The Japan Times

Sumitomo Metal Mining builds success on Filipino values

Takahiro Fujita, president of SMME

SMME, together with partner Rio Tinto Nikko Mining Corp., runs a school sponsored by a company to provide free education to children of employees and locals.

SMME has a long record of sustainable development in the Philippines. One of the country’s leading mining companies, SMME was founded in 1945 by Sumitomo Metal Mining and is based in the Philippines. The company has a commitment to responsible mining practices and has been a leader in the industry for more than 70 years. The company has more than 350 employees at its headquarters in Pangangan, a town in the province of Albay.

A message from the President of the Philippines

Isabelo de los Santos, the president of the Philippines, visited Japan last month to strengthen bilateral ties and explore new opportunities for cooperation in various sectors, including tourism, agriculture, education, and fisheries. The visit was aimed at fostering closer economic relations and expanding trade and investment opportunities. The Philippines is one of the fastest-growing economies in the region and has been recently recognized for its robust growth and stability. The country has a relatively young population and a strong workforce, which make it an attractive destination for foreign investors. The visit also highlighted the importance of disaster risk reduction and preparedness, which is crucial given the country’s susceptibility to natural disasters. The Philippines has made significant progress in implementing policies and strategies to address climate change and natural disasters, and the visit was an opportunity to underscore the commitment to sustainability and resilience in the face of global challenges.
The Underground. More fun in the Philippines

For more information, visit the Philippine Department of Tourism website: http://www.visitthephilippines.com
The Philippines

Strategic partners for mutual growth in 2013

The Japanese are our No. 1 investors in PIZZA zones. I'm very happy to have them here. They are very good corporate citizens.

— MASA SATOH

President and CEO, PIZZA HUT

PHINMA shows integrity makes better business sense

PHINMA is a winning combination of education and professional solutions designed to help the company achieve its goals of maximizing profits and providing world-class services. PHINMA fosters a culture of excellence, integrity, and innovation, which is reflected in the consistent growth of its student enrollment and positive feedback from stakeholders. The organization's commitment to quality education and professional development is evident in its continuous expansion and the introduction of new programs and services. PHINMA's reputation as a reputable institution is further enhanced by the involvement of its alumni in significant business and community initiatives.

PHINMA is a living proof that integrity is not just a slogan but a way of life. We believe that by maintaining high ethical standards, we can build trust and credibility with our stakeholders, including students, parents, and the community. Our commitment to excellence and integrity enables us to attract top-notch faculty and staff, who also share our values and contribute to the overall success of the institution.

In today's fast-paced world, where integrity may seem like an outdated concept, PHINMA stands out as a beacon of hope and inspiration. We are proud to be part of this organization and look forward to continuing our contribution to the education and professional development sector.

PHINMA continues to seek investment opportunities in electricity generation and supply, in line with the company's vision of delivering reliable power throughout the country.

We now have a government whose fight against corruption is real. We have gained a lot of ground and enjoy the trust and confidence of the people.

— RAMON DEL ROSARIO JR

President and CEO, PHINMA
GT Capital forges ahead

After a highly successful initial public offering (IPO) in April 2012 that sold out six times over subscribed, GT Capital has more Than expected success in an increasingly competitive environment. The company looks ready to fulfill its solid standing in the global investment community.

GT Capital Holdings (GT Capital) was established in early 2012, as an affiliate of Metrobank Group, which was founded in 1967. The partnership between Dr. George S.K. Ty, Metrobank Group Chairman, and Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, Toyota Motor Corporation President and CEO, contribute vast experience and technical knowledge to every job.

GT Capital aims to be a universal bank that serves financial needs in various sectors. In time, it has become a leading bank in the Philippines, with a diversified portfolio of businesses, including banking, property development, automotive manufacturing, and distribution, and life insurance.

GT Capital is a major Philippine conglomerate with market-leading interests in banking, power generation, property development, automotive manufacturing, and distribution, and life insurance.

Today, the bank has grown to be one of the largest Philippine banks in terms of assets, with a public free float of GTCAP from its listing date and strongly-performing earnings. It has a banking license by the Monetary Board of the Philippines, which has been in operation since 1996.

Japanese-Filipino synergy transforms property development landscape

The Grand Midori Makati, the all-suite business hotel of Federal Land, Inc., and ORIX Corp. of Japan, is now open for business. The hotel is the result of a collaboration between Federal Land, Inc. and ORIX Corp. of Japan, who have been working together for several years. The partnership has resulted in the construction of two luxury hotels in Makati, the Philippines: the Grand Midori Makati and Grand Hyatt Manila.

Federal Land, a seasoned 41-year-old developer in the Philippines, is responsible for a number of highly acclaimed vertical and townhouse projects across the country.

For more information, please visit www.worldpayreports.com
No better place than the new Philippines

As a member of CT Capital Holdings — Federal Land has opened the group's growth through impressive expansion of its development projects.

Now entering its 40th anniversary in 2013, Federal Land is poised for another major move in its balance sheet expansion. The Grand Hyatt Hotel and the Grand Hyatt Residences, set to open in 2013, are in the planning stage.

The first six-star hotel to be located in the Philippines, the Grand Hyatt Hotel will offer 200 luxury rooms, to be the latest addition to the country's fast-broadening hotel scene.

"The Philippines is ripe for investment, says Paul Land, Land's general manager. "Our new customer is in demand, the timing is perfect now. And there's no better place than the new Philippines.""}

"There's so much for Japanese investors and businesses to find here in the Philippines. Having worked with Japanese companies, I can say that our culture complements each other."
The Philippines

Fifth anniversary of Philippines-Japan trade pact sees a country finally reaching for its potential

As the Philippines bounces on the fastest growing markets in Asia and in the world—Japan continues to be its strongest trade partner. Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) this year, both countries’ governments are looking into further cooperation and development.

With this milestone, the Philippines embarks on a new phase in its relationship with Japan. The JPEPA was signed in 1963, and since then, the two countries have enjoyed a steady increase in trade and investment. Japan has been a key partner in the Philippines’ economic development, providing significant financial aid and support for infrastructure projects.

While the Philippines has made significant progress, it still faces challenges. Poverty rates are high, and the country’s infrastructure remains underdeveloped compared to its neighbors. However, the country has shown resilience and is making efforts to address these issues.

The Philippines has also seen growth in its tourism industry, with the country hosting a larger number of Japanese tourists each year. This has led to increased investments in hospitality and tourism-related sectors.

In addition to trade and investments, Japan has also been instrumental in the development of the Philippines through various aid programs and projects. Japan’s assistance has been instrumental in improving the country’s education and health sectors.

The Philippines and Japan have a long history of cooperation, dating back centuries. The two countries share a strong cultural and economic link, which has been strengthened through various agreements and partnerships.

As the Philippines and Japan continue to work together, there is hope for continued growth and development. With the JPEPA in place, both countries are poised to build on their existing relationship and explore new opportunities for cooperation.

The MINDANAO PEACE TALKS are a successful development, especially for Japanese businesses that want to move into Mindanao—long called the “land of promise.”

As we commemorate the fifth anniversary of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) in 2013, please give us your personal insight regarding this event and how it has impacted your work on the Mindanao Peace Process. What are your highlights and challenges?

Statement by the Philippines Ambassador to Japan in 2013, the Hon. Manuel M. Lopez, on the need to promote peace and development in Mindanao.

The Philippines and Japan share a long and strong history of cooperation, and the JPEPA has been a cornerstone of their relationship. With the fifth anniversary of the JPEPA, both countries are ready to build on their existing partnership and explore new opportunities for cooperation. The Philippines has made significant progress in recent years, and there is hope for continued growth and development.

The Philippines is a strategic partner for Japan, and the two countries have enjoyed a steady increase in trade and investment. Japan has been a key partner in the Philippines’ economic development, providing significant financial aid and support for infrastructure projects. The Philippines has also seen growth in its tourism industry, with the country hosting a larger number of Japanese tourists each year.

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RCBC and Resona: A partnership for mutual growth

Known for its alliances across the region, the Yuchengco Group of Companies (YGC) has continuously created opportunities for its corporate members to further strengthen their foreign relations, especially with the Japanese.

A one of the core businesses of YGC, RCBC (Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation) has built a strong foundation through its global aspirations, engaging in several partnerships across various companies such as Honda Motors Philippines, Inc. (HMP) and Daikin Industries, Ltd.

Capitalize on the continuous growth of local entrepreneurial ventures in the Philippines, RCBC has formalized its latest collaboration by forming the Yuchengco Group’s largest banking group in Japan, Resona Bank, to provide more efficient banking services to its Japanese customers.

Such a partnership is viewed as a wise strategy for both parties, as it brings the RCBC’s footprint and services to Resona customers while the RCBC harnesses its own sophisticated technology in the Japanese market. Resona Bank, meanwhile, enables its clients to tap RCBC’s banking facilities—especially in trade finance—while Resona provides Resona’s trading partners and sources of foreign direct investment. With the potential to be one of the major players in the transition of ASEAN into the global market, the Philippines and Japan are developing their own unique business approaches, investing in sustainable development initiatives that will strengthen the Filipino nation and its economy based on rich natural resources and culture.

RCBC has gone beyond its role as one of the Philippines’ most successful business conglomerates, with continuous growth in industries ranging from banking and finance, insurance and investment, construction and real estate, to pharmaceutical, education and information technology. As an example of a competitive field, the company under YGC also applies a sense of good citizenship among its employees by hiring fair job providers, responsible taxpayers and locally educated corporate citizens. For this reason, the group counts among its vital interests corporate social responsibility arms, the AF Foundation.

From its humble beginnings to a solid foundation of values, the Yuchengco Group reaches for the future on a solid foundation of values.
Asking for directions. More fun in the Philippines

For more information, visit the Philippine Department of Tourism website: http://www.premium-philippines.com/