



## **ARANGKADA PHILIPPINES FORUM: MOVING TWICE AS FAST**

JANUARY 26, 2012 8:30 AM-2:30 PM  
GRAND BALLROOM, MARRIOTT HOTEL  
WWW.ARANGKADAPHILIPPINES.COM

### **Introduction of Panel 2: Infrastructure**

**By**

**Mr. Nobuya Ichiki**

**President, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen:

We, the JCCIPI or Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, have been working to promote the improvement of the business environment for the many years that our chamber had been active in the Philippines.

Up to now, half of the members of JCCIP are manufacturers. And we know for a fact that there is a big opportunity for the Philippines to attract and invite more Japanese manufacturers. Moreover, this time, not only manufacturers but also firms from service industries such as retailers, food, and restaurants and even companies in the educational sectors, as well BPO industries.

Our basis for this analysis includes:

- Expectation of complete implementation of the ASEAN economic unity in 2015;
- Declining population of Japan;
- The high Japanese Yen and its continuous appreciation;
- The negative impact of the big natural disasters that happened in Japan and Thailand in 2011; and
- Better appreciation of the advantage and characteristics of the Philippines, such as its highly capable human resources and good educational environment, advantage of location and accessibility to Japan and other ASEAN countries ETC.

The above factors create a great opportunity for the Philippines, which should prepare to welcome new investments not only from Japanese companies but also from investors in other countries. In order to do this, it is essential that necessary infrastructure should be in place. This must be prioritized.

We have been expecting PPP projects in the fields of Power, Transportation (in particular: Seaports, Airports, Roads and Rail), Telecommunications, and Water. And while one project (Daang Hari-SLEX project) was put up for tender in 2011, we hope that this will be followed with more projects this 2012.

It has been said that infrastructure provides the backbone of growth in any country. If the Philippines is to realize its potential as "Asia's newest high growth economy," it is important to really "move twice as fast" in implementing infrastructure.

We can never emphasize too much the significance of reliable infrastructure in a country as a key to increase competitiveness and to also improve the present business climate in the Philippines.

In itself, advancing infrastructure projects is at once an opportunity for foreign companies to participate, partner with the government and Philippine companies, and contribute to the development of the nation.

And so, today let us take advantage of this occasion to discuss and find out how we can give this sector a "push" together with our valued panelists here.

May I now invite to the stage the moderator, Maria Ressa, CEO of the new media website Rappler.com and the distinguished members of our panel on Infrastructure.

Thank you very much.