

25 Nov 2021

Road Bureau Planning Division

## Cooperation on Construction and O&M (Operation and Maintenance) of Road Tunnels and Related Facilities between Japan and the Philippines

～Strengthening Cooperation in the Tunnel sector as the Groundbreaking of Davao Tunnel～

On November 24, Tetsuo Saito, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan (MLIT), signed up the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with Roger G. Mercado, Acting Secretary of Public Works and Highways of the Republic of the Philippines (DPWH).

We confirmed we will further strengthen cooperation in the tunnel sector by sharing technologies for Japanese expressway O&M and holding business workshops.

### < Cooperation Profile >

- (1) Date and time: 24 November 2021
- (2) Signers: Tetsuo Saito, Minister of MLIT  
Roger G. Mercado, Acting Secretary of DPWH
- (3) Witness: Mikio Yoshioka, Vice-Minister for Engineering Affairs of MLIT  
Emil K. Sadain, Undersecretary for UPMO Operations of DPWH  
Yasushi Yamamoto, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission of Embassy of Japan in the Philippines  
Leah Victoria C. Rodriguez, Minister and Consul,  
Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Tokyo
- (4) Outline of the MOC
  - Cooperation from the Japanese side  
Promotion of technical cooperation in tunnels, especially in the field of O&M, and sharing of management skills in case of disaster.
  - Cooperation from the Philippines side  
Support for business activities of Japanese expressway companies and organization of workshops
  - Addressed by both countries  
Strengthen bilateral cooperation in the sector of tunnel O&M, study and prepare a plan for holding workshops.



Minister Saito signed up the MOC



Acting Secretary Mercado signed up the MOC

## Reference Materials

### <Background to the MOC and Future Initiatives>

The Davao City Bypass Construction Project is a bypass road project (including a 2.3km tunnel) that connects the southern end of Davao City with the city center. This is the first full-scale road tunnel (“Davao tunnel”) in the Philippines, and the project (Special Terms for Economic Partnership project) was expected to utilize Japanese technologies. It was awarded to Shimizu Corporation, Takenaka Civil Engineering & Construction, and a Philippine company JV in April, 2020.

On November 19, Acting Secretary Mercado visited the groundbreaking of the tunnel. Taking advantage of this opportunity, both Ministers decided to sign the MOC to deepen cooperation in the Davao-Dalton and other tunnel projects, especially in the sector of O&M.

In addition to deepening the existing cooperation between Japan and the Philippines in the field of tunnels, the MOC confirms their cooperation in organizing workshops with the participation of Japanese expressways companies and Philippine construction companies beginning next year.

Specifically, for the workshop, we will prepare a concrete plan in both countries by March next year and will prepare to hold it based on the pandemic situation of the COVID-19 at that time.

### <Project Profiles>

