

Report on Participation in Philippines Field Study Summer School

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My main motivations for choosing this program are as follows:

1. I have been living in Japan for more than 10 years now, and have worked for five years during this time in the Private sector (ICT Industry) in Japan. But eventually in the near future, I plan to return to my home country of Mongolia. When that day comes, I want to be able to work in industries not necessarily related to ICT, but other industries where I can contribute to the development of my country. The operations of a country's Development agency are very foreign to me. I wanted to hear first-hand from people in this area, of how their projects are conducted, chosen, financed, prioritized etc., In this regard, the presentations by professionals from ADB, JICA, and NEDA about their operations was very insightful and interesting to me.
2. Another reason is that, I wanted to know more about projects that are connected with the Transport issues in Metro Manila. The capital of my country, Ulaanbaatar, is also facing some similar issues that Manila is facing. Such as, heavy traffic jams, the city becoming too congested, poor development/planning of public transportation etc. I wanted to understand how the Philippines as a country are trying to tackle these issues.

Some main takeaways from the content of the program are as follows:

I understood that, JICA is a one-stop shop of Japan's ODA to developing countries. The main functionalities are, Loan & equity and finance, Grant, Technical Assistance, Development Studies, Volunteers, and Private Sector Partnership etc. JICA and ADB are one of the top donors to the Philippines. Priority areas of assistance are, Sustainable Economic Growth, Overcoming of vulnerability and stabilization of basic human life.

One of the main areas of target is the Transport sector in the Metro Manila area and its surrounding areas. The main challenges Metro Manila area is facing are, Rapid population growth, Traffic congestion, and Weak transport Infrastructure.

I also imagine main areas of target for JICA and ADB in Mongolia would be very similar to that of in the Philippines. We are also facing some of the same problems, maybe in a smaller scale, such as traffic congestion, weak transport infrastructure, population influx into the capital etc. In addition, the air pollution in Ulaanbaatar is also becoming one of the worst in the world. I also understand that JICA is involved in the new International airport project in Ulaanbaatar, which is scheduled to open later this year. Like this, JICA and ADB is very much active in my country. Eventually when I go back to my country to work, I might get involved in development projects that are related to JICA, because of my background in Japan and International project management, and also my professional experience in the ICT field. Therefore, this part of the program was very insightful, and helpful for my future endeavors.