

Summary Report

Forum on Advancing Article 6 Implementation through Business Engagement and JCM Project Matchmaking in the Philippines

1. Executive Summary

The *Forum on Advancing Article 6 Implementation through Business Engagement and JCM Project Matchmaking in the Philippines* was convened to advance the operationalization of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement through concrete public–private collaboration under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM). Co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines, the forum brought together government agencies, private companies, and international partners to align policy readiness with an emerging pipeline of JCM-relevant projects.

The forum confirmed that the Philippines is steadily strengthening its national framework for carbon markets and Article 6 cooperation, with the JCM positioned as a practical and trusted mechanism to mobilize finance and technology while ensuring environmental integrity. From the private sector perspective, the event demonstrated strong interest in translating policy signals into implementable projects, particularly in agriculture (Alternate Wetting and Drying in rice), forest (REDD+ and afforestation/reforestation), energy transition, renewable energy, and waste management. Overall, the forum served as a bridge between policy design and project formation, reinforcing the importance of continued government–business dialogue and structured follow-up to convert project concepts into registered JCM activities delivering measurable mitigation outcomes and sustainable development co-benefits.

Key Messages

- The JCM is reaffirmed as a core vehicle for implementing Article 6.2 cooperation between Japan and the Philippines.
- The Philippines' updated NDC and carbon market preparations provide a clear policy signal for private sector engagement.
- AWD in rice cultivation stands out as a flagship Article 6 opportunity with strong mitigation and development co-benefits.
- Business matching and consultations highlighted a growing, diversified JCM project pipeline requiring coordinated next steps.

2. Event Overview

Title: Forum on Advancing Article 6 Implementation through Business Engagement and JCM Project Matchmaking in the Philippines

Date: Wednesday, 21 January 2026

Venue: Dusit Thani Manila, Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines (with online participation)

Co-organizers:

- Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ)
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippines

With the cooperation of: The Embassy of Japan in the Philippines, OECC, A6IP Center (IGES), JCMA, JICA Philippines, JETRO Manila, and PCCI.

Approximately 170 participants attended in person, with additional participants joining online, representing national and local government agencies, Japanese and Philippine companies, international organizations, and financial institutions.

3. Policy Context: Article 6 and JCM in the Philippines

The morning session combined policy-oriented presentations by the Governments of the Philippines and Japan, as well as international partners and sectoral agencies, to clarify the Philippines' readiness for Article 6.2 cooperation and to identify priority areas for JCM project formation.

Morning Session Presentations (Policy and Readiness)

- **Opening Remarks** — *Hon. Minister OHNO Shou*, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines

Presentation: Opening Remarks

Minister Ohno opened the forum by marking the 70th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and the Philippines, underscoring the depth and longevity of bilateral cooperation. He emphasized that both countries are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, making international cooperation indispensable for achieving their respective Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. In this context, he positioned the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) as a practical and trusted framework that translates international climate commitments into measurable, reportable, and verifiable mitigation outcomes.

Minister Ohno highlighted recent progress under the Japan–Philippines JCM, including outcomes of the Joint Committee meeting such as the adoption of guidelines for REDD-plus and Afforestation/Reforestation, and Project Idea Notes. He noted the growing interest in agriculture-related mitigation, particularly Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), and encouraged participants to leverage the forum not only as a networking opportunity but as a platform to advance concrete, implementable project pipelines aligned with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.



- **Opening Remarks** — *Dr. Elenida “Elen” Basug*, Officer-in-Charge / Director, Climate Change Service, DENR

Presentation: Opening Remarks

Dr. Basug welcomed participants on behalf of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and framed the forum as a critical milestone in the Philippines’ transition from policy design to large-scale implementation of its climate commitments. She reaffirmed the government’s commitment to pursuing low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways, emphasizing that Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is viewed as a key instrument for mobilizing international finance, advanced technologies, and capacity building. She described the JCM as a practical and trusted cooperation mechanism that ensures environmental integrity through robust MRV systems and safeguards against double counting, while simultaneously delivering sustainable development co-benefits such as energy security, job creation, and community resilience. Addressing the private sector directly, she encouraged companies to view the forum as the starting point for long-term partnerships with the Philippine government in priority mitigation sectors.



- **Message of Cooperating Organization** — *Mr. IDE Soichiro*, Senior Representative, JICA Philippines

Presentation: Message of Cooperating Organization

Mr. Ide expressed JICA’s strong support for advancing Article 6 implementation through closer public–private collaboration, particularly in countries such as the Philippines that face acute climate vulnerabilities. He emphasized JICA’s role in bridging policy frameworks and on-the-ground action, noting that successful mitigation and adaptation efforts must be embedded within broader development priorities.

He outlined JICA’s global agenda, identifying green transformation, renewable energy, sustainable forestry, circular economy, and water resource management as key areas of cooperation. Mr. Ide stressed that Japanese private sector innovation plays a catalytic role in operationalizing these priorities and expressed hope that the forum would foster concrete partnerships translating policy intent into bankable projects.



- **Philippines Policy for Climate Action and Introduction of JCM** — *Mr. Rolando “Jay” Abad Jr.*, Senior Environmental Management Specialist, Climate Change Service, DENR

Presentation: Philippines Policy for Climate Action and Introduction of JCM

Mr. Abad provided a comprehensive overview of the Philippines’ climate



policy landscape, situating the forum within the context of the country's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and its whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to climate action. He outlined quantified mitigation measures across key sectors including energy, waste, agriculture, transport, industry, and forestry, explaining how these form the foundation for international cooperation under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

He introduced ongoing work on the national carbon policy framework and carbon registry blueprint, highlighting their role in signaling market readiness and ensuring transparency and integrity. Mr. Abad also updated participants on progress in Article 6.2 cooperation discussions with partner countries and summarized the current status of the JCM in the Philippines, including approved methodologies, registered projects, and recent Joint Committee decisions aligned with the latest Article 6 guidance.

- **Japan's Climate Change Policy and Latest Development in JCM —**

Mr. OKANO Taishi, Senior Planning Officer for the JCM, MOEJ

Presentation: Japan's Climate Change Policy and Latest Development in JCM

Mr. Okano presented Japan's climate policy direction and explained the role of the JCM as an Article 6-aligned cooperation mechanism designed to accelerate the deployment of advanced low-carbon technologies in partner countries. He highlighted Japan's ambition to achieve significant cumulative emission reductions and removals through the JCM by 2030 and beyond, positioning the mechanism as a central pillar of Japan's international mitigation strategy.

He outlined recent institutional and policy developments, including the establishment of the JCM Implementation Agency as a one-stop focal point and the forthcoming launch of Japan's GX-ETS. Mr. Okano emphasized that the GX-ETS is expected to generate new demand for high-integrity JCM credits and introduced available financial and capacity-building support programs from Japanese ministries aimed at facilitating project development.



- **ADB's Japan Fund for JCM Scheme – The Program and its Development**

— Ms. Kat Baylon, Climate Change Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Presentation: ADB's Japan Fund for JCM Scheme – The Program and its Development

Ms. Baylon introduced the Japan Fund for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JFJCM) as a single-donor trust fund administered by ADB to support the deployment of advanced low-carbon technologies in ADB-financed projects.

She explained how the fund provides grant co-financing to projects that generate carbon credits, a portion of which is allocated to the Government of Japan under the JCM framework.

She highlighted the growing portfolio of JFJCM-supported projects across developing member



countries and shared examples relevant to the Philippines, illustrating how the fund can accelerate project implementation, reduce investment risk, and support the generation of high-quality mitigation outcomes aligned with Article 6.

- **Positioning of Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) within the Philippines' NDC and Agricultural Mitigation Framework** — *Ms. Perla G. Baltazar*, Planning Officer IV, Department of Agriculture (DA)

Presentation: Positioning of Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) within the Philippines' NDC and Agricultural Mitigation Framework

Ms. Baltazar explained the central role of agriculture within the Philippines' mitigation strategy and identified rice cultivation as a major source of agricultural emissions. She described how Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) is positioned as a key mitigation measure within the updated NDC, offering not only methane emission reductions but also adaptation co-benefits such as water savings and improved productivity. She emphasized that large-scale deployment of AWD remains conditional on the availability of means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer, irrigation infrastructure investments, and farmer extension services. Ms. Baltazar also highlighted the importance of robust MRV systems to operationalize AWD as an Article 6 mitigation activity capable of attracting international investment.



- **AWD for Climate Mitigation in the Philippines: Potential, Co-benefits, and Policy Direction** — *Engr. Reyne UGAY & Ms. Elaine SANTOS*, National Irrigation Administration (NIA)

Presentation: AWD for Climate Mitigation in the Philippines: Potential, Co-benefits, and Policy Direction

Engr. Ugay and Ms. Santos presented the National Irrigation Administration's operational perspective on AWD implementation, noting that while NIA manages a significant share of the country's irrigated rice areas, not all systems are technically suitable for carbon crediting. They emphasized the importance of maintaining institutional control over irrigation systems and adopting a pilot-based approach to establish technical feasibility and stakeholder acceptance.

They outlined NIA's procedures for engaging with private proponents, including Memoranda of Understanding for pilot activities, data submission and validation requirements, and coordination with regional offices and irrigators' associations. The presentation underscored that careful sequencing and governance are essential to scaling AWD initiatives responsibly.



- **Introduction of REDD+ and Afforestation/Reforestation Rules and Guidelines in the Philippines** — *Ms. ONO Ayumi*, Assistant Director, Forestry Agency of Japan (online)

Presentation: Introduction of REDD+ and Afforestation/Reforestation Rules and Guidelines in the Philippines

Ms. Ono introduced the newly adopted JCM rules and guidelines (R&G) for REDD+ and afforestation/reforestation (A/R), noting that they are

designed to be alignment with the latest Article 6 decisions. She explained key design features specific to forest projects, including long-term project period including observation period at least 10 years, buffer approach to address reversal risk, and safeguard requirements to consider environmental and social impacts.

She also noted that the Philippines is the first JCM partner country to adopt the Article 6 aligned R&G for REDD+ and A/R.



- **JCM Applicable Criteria** — *Dr. MIZUNO Yuji*, Secretary General, JCM Implementation Agency (JCMA)

Presentation: JCM Applicable Criteria

Dr. Mizuno provided a detailed explanation of the application criteria applied on the Japanese side for JCM projects, emphasizing the requirement to demonstrate the “need for incentive” to justify the use of public support. He highlighted the importance of submitting Project Idea Notes (PINs) at an early stage—prior to construction for most project types—to establish additionality.

He also outlined practical screening considerations for project developers, including clarification of Japanese financial contributions and alignment with partner country priorities, and stressed that meeting Japanese criteria is a prerequisite before proceeding to formal approval by the Philippine authorities.



Selected Q&A Highlights (Policy Session)

- **AWD Monitoring Approaches:** A question was raised regarding whether AWD mitigation would rely on Tier 1 or Tier 2 methodologies. The Department of Agriculture clarified that Tier 1 approaches with nationally developed emission factors are currently applied for AWD, while Tier 2 methodologies are being pursued for livestock emissions.
- **GX-ETS and Credit Pricing:** Participants asked about expected price ranges under Japan’s GX-ETS. MOEJ explained that while JCM credits themselves do not have price limits, GX-ETS compliance credits are expected to operate within an indicative floor and ceiling range.
- **DENR Oversight of JCM Projects:** Questions were raised regarding which DENR unit oversees

JCM project monitoring. DENR clarified that the Climate Change Service serves as the secretariat and that validation site visits are part of standard procedures.

- **Early-stage Project Endorsement:** Participants sought clarification on pathways for early-stage projects. DENR explained that submission of a Project Idea Note (PIN) initiates review, with a “no objection” decision enabling project development to proceed.

4. Key Sectoral Opportunities Highlighted

4.1 Agriculture – Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) in rice cultivation was highlighted as a flagship mitigation opportunity under Article 6, explicitly embedded in the Philippines’ agricultural NDC. Government agencies emphasized that AWD offers multiple co-benefits, including methane emission reductions, water savings, and potential yield improvements.

Scaling up AWD, however, will require coordinated investments in irrigation infrastructure, farmer capacity building, and robust MRV systems. The forum showcased emerging digital and satellite-based MRV solutions that could enable large-scale, high-integrity AWD projects under the JCM.

4.2 Forestry – REDD+ and Afforestation/Reforestation

The adoption of JCM rules and guidelines for REDD+ and afforestation/reforestation positions the Philippines as a frontrunner in Article 6-aligned forestry cooperation. The guidelines require long-term monitoring, safeguards, and risk management to address non-permanence and environmental and social integrity, creating a clearer pathway for private sector participation in forest-based JCM projects.

4.3 Energy Transition, Renewables, and Waste

Business presentations and discussions highlighted growing interest in a diverse range of mitigation opportunities, including early coal plant retirement and renewable energy replacement, rooftop solar PV, island-based wind power systems, and waste-to-energy solutions. These sectors were identified as promising areas for JCM project development, subject to alignment with national policies and regulatory frameworks.

5. Business Engagement and Project Pipeline

The afternoon session featured business pitches by Japanese and Philippine companies, followed by business matching and consultation sessions. The presentations showcased concrete, JCM-relevant project concepts across agriculture (AWD and digital MRV), forestry (ARR), energy transition, renewable energy, and waste management.

5.1 Business Pitch Presentations (Project Concepts)

- **Sagri Co., Ltd.** — *“Satellite-Powered Water Management and Methane Reduction in the Philippines”*
Mr. ISHITSUBO Hiroya (CFO)
Presented a satellite- and AI-based solution to monitor paddy water levels daily without physical

sensors, enabling scalable AWD implementation. Highlighted collaboration with PhilRice and NIA and expressed intent to apply the approach to JCM credit development in the Philippines.

- **Arcada Inc.** — *“Support the Creation of Nature-Based Carbon Credit Using Satellite Data”*
Mr. KURIHARA Masayuki (Senior Officer)
Introduced a satellite- and AI-driven digital MRV platform for nature-based projects, including AWD and ARR, emphasizing audit-ready data, transparency for investors, and scalability.
- **Osaka Gas Co., Ltd.** — *“Establishment of Paddy Field JCM Consortium and Interim Analysis Report”*
Mr. TANAKA Hiroki (Senior General Manager)
Presented the Paddy Field JCM Consortium and interim analysis results from AWD activities in the Philippines, highlighting observed yield improvements and the potential to scale AWD as a climate and livelihood solution.
- **Marubeni Corporation** — *“ARR project in Negros Occidental through the planting of native species”*
Ms. NOBUSAWA Mami (Forest Resources Business Dept.)
Introduced a large-scale ARR project using native species, explaining the project scheme, long-term sequestration profile, and co-benefits including local employment and biodiversity restoration.
- **Mitsubishi Corporation** — *“A Transition Credit Project for Early Coal Plant Retirement and Renewable Energy Replacement”*
Mr. OKANO Tetsuhiko (Manager)
Presented a transition credit concept for early retirement of a coal-fired power plant combined with renewable energy replacement and storage, outlining project structure and key implementation challenges.
- **JFE Engineering Corporation** — *“JCM Waste-to-Energy: Comprehensive Climate Action for Philippine Communities”*
Mr. TAKAHASHI Gen (Deputy General Manager)
Presented waste-to-energy project concepts based on operational experience, emphasizing methane mitigation from open dumping and co-benefits related to waste management and resilience.
- **Kanepackage Philippine Inc.** — *“Solar PV Rooftop System”*
Mr. Jernick BRIZA (Assistant Supervisor)
Shared a rooftop solar PV case study at manufacturing facilities, highlighting development timeline, operational savings, and emission reduction outcomes.
- **Komaihaltec Inc.** — *“Turning the Wind into Sustainable Energy: The Romblon Island Project”*

Ms. Katerina ZALITKO (Lead Business Development Specialist)

Presented an island-based wind power project integrating wind turbines with existing diesel generation, highlighting technology adapted to typhoon-prone conditions.



Selected Q&A Highlights (Business Session)

- **Transition Credits and Market Demand:** Participants questioned the bankability of transition credits for early coal retirement projects. Mitsubishi Corporation noted challenges in securing early offtakers and emphasized the importance of government support and methodological clarity.
- **Waste-to-Energy Partnerships:** Questions were raised on requirements for WtE projects. JFE Engineering emphasized the need for long-term waste supply guarantees from local governments and supportive regulatory frameworks.
- **Island Energy Systems:** Participants discussed applicability of island-based renewable solutions. Komaihaltec highlighted coordination with local electric cooperatives and the importance of reliable hybrid system design.



5.2 Business Matching and Consultations

Following the pitch session, business matching and consultation sessions were conducted with the Governments of Japan and the Philippines, international partners, and participating companies. The consultations enabled more detailed exchanges on project concepts, regulatory and authorization pathways, and practical next steps toward JCM project development and registration.



6. Key Takeaways and Way Forward

The forum underscored the importance of sustained public–private dialogue to translate policy readiness into implementable projects under Article 6 and the JCM. For governments, continued clarity on authorization processes, coordination among agencies, and transparent governance will be critical. For the private sector, early engagement with relevant authorities, robust MRV design, and alignment with national priorities were identified as key success factors.

Participants agreed that follow-up actions—through bilateral consultations, project-specific discussions, and continued platforms for engagement—will be essential to convert the momentum generated at the forum into a pipeline of registered JCM projects delivering measurable mitigation outcomes and sustainable development benefits in the Philippines.

Agenda

Time	Program	Speakers and Presenters
9:30-	Participant registration	
10:00-10:20	Pambansang Awit ng Pilipinas at ng Hapon	All
	Opening remarks	Hon. Minister. OHNO Shou, Minister, Embassy of Japan in the Philippines
	Opening remarks	Dir. Elenida "Elen" Basug, Officer-in-Charge, Director of Climate Change Service, DENR
	Message of Cooperating Organization	Mr. IDE Soichiro, Senior Representative, JICA Philippines
	Photo Session	
10:20-10:40	Philippines Policy for Climate Action and introduction of JCM	Mr. Rolando "Jay" Abad Jr., Senior Environmental Management Specialist, Climate Change Service, DENR
10:40-11:00	Japan's Climate Change Policy and latest development in JCM	Mr. OKANO Taishi, Senior Planning Officer for the JCM, Office for the JCM and Int'l Carbon Market, Global Environment Bureau, MOEJ
11:00-11:10	ADB's Japan Fund for JCM scheme- the program and its development	Ms. Kat Baylon Climate Change Officer, Climate Change, Resilience, and Environment Cluster, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank- ADB
11:10-11:25	Coffee Break	

11:25-11:40	Positioning of Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) within the Philippines' NDC and Agricultural Mitigation Framework	Ms. Perla G. Baltazar Planning Officer IV, Climate Resilient Agriculture Office, Department of Agriculture (DA)
11:40- 12:00	AWD for Climate Mitigation in the Philippines: Potential, Co-benefits, and Policy Direction	Engr. Reyne UGAY Officer-in-Charge, Deputy Administrator for Engineering and Operations, Ms.Elaine SANTOS Chief Research Analyst, and Ms. Charisse MOSQUEDA Supervising Engineer A National Irrigation Administration (NIA)
12:00-12:10	Introduction of REDD+ and Afforestation/Reforestation Rules and Guidelines in the Philippines	Ms. Ayumi ONO Assistant Director, International Forestry Cooperation Office, Forestry Agency, Japan (Online)
12:10-12:35	Q&A from the floor	
12:35-13:35	Networking Lunch	
13:35-13:50	JCM applicable criteria	Dr. MIZUNO Yuji Secretary General, JCMA
13:50-15:20 (10mints for each presentation)	Business Presentations: JCM-Relevant Project Concepts	Moderator: Masae Sumikoshi, Manager, OECC
	Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) in Agriculture including technology used for MRV	
	Satellite-Powered Water Management and Methane Reduction in the Philippines	Hiroya Ishitsubo CFO, Sagri Co., Ltd
	Support The Creation of Nature-Based Carbon Credit Using Satellite Data	Masayuki Kurihara Senior Officer, Archeda Inc.

	Establishment of Paddy Field JCM Consortium and Interim Analysis Report	Hiroki Tanaka Senior General Manager, Osaka Gas
Afforestation		
	ARR project in Negros Occidental through the planting of native species	Mami Nobusawa Forest Resources Business Dept., Marubeni Corporation
Coal Early Retirement		
	A Transition Credit Project for Early Coal Plant Retirement and Renewable Energy Replacement	Tetsuhiko Okano Manager, Mitsubishi Corporation
Waste-to-energy and landfill gas capture/ improvement		
	JCM Waste-to-Energy: Comprehensive Climate Action for Philippine Communities	Gen Takahashi Deputy General manager, JFE Engineering Corporation
Solar Power Generation		
	Solar PV Rooftop System	Jernick Briza Asst. Supervisor, Kanepackage Philippine Inc.
Wind Power Generation		
	Turning the Wind into Sustainable Energy: The Romblon Island Project	Katerina Zalitko Lead Business Development Specialist, Komaihaltec Inc.
15:20-15:30	Key Takeaways and Session Summary	MOEJ/DENR
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break	
15:45-17:45	Business Matching and Individual Meetings Consultation desks available for - Government of Japan - Government of the Philippines - Asian Development Bank	

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