

August 5, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

ARTA, JCCIPI Forge Partnership to Strengthen Ease of Doing Business and Boost Investor Confidence

MANILA, Philippines, 5 August 2026 – In a move to further strengthen the Philippines' business environment and reinforce investor confidence, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc. (JCCIPI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Wednesday at the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines.



Representatives of the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc. (JCCIPI) formally sign the Memorandum of Understanding at the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines on 5 August 2026

The partnership formalizes closer collaboration between the government and the Japanese business community in advancing regulatory reforms, improving government service delivery, and supporting the effective implementation of Republic Act No. 11032, or the *Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding, JCCIPI and its nearly 700 member companies and affiliated organizations nationwide will serve as ARTA Champions, working alongside the Authority to identify regulatory bottlenecks, report red tape and fixing activities, participate in policy consultations, and promote awareness of ease of doing business initiatives within the Japanese business community. In turn, ARTA will provide capacity-building programs, facilitate the endorsement and resolution of complaints involving violations of RA No. 11032, and seek JCCIPI's recommendations in improving government regulations, systems, and procedures.

The agreement was signed by **Mr. Shigeru Shimoda**, President of JCCIPI, and **Secretary Ernesto V. Perez**, Director General of the Anti-Red Tape Authority. Witnessing the signing were **H.E. Kazuya Endo**, Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines; **Mr. Kazuhiro Nomura**, Vice President of JCCIPI; **Undersecretary Juabilly P. Racho**, Deputy Director General for Regional Field Operations; and **Undersecretary Lea-Grace B. Salcedo**, Deputy Director General for Operations.

In his remarks, JCCIPI President Shigeru Shimoda emphasized that regulatory efficiency remains a key factor in attracting investments and enabling businesses to grow. He reaffirmed JCCIPI's commitment to working closely with the Philippine Government to create a more transparent, efficient, and globally competitive business environment and expressed confidence that the strengthened partnership with ARTA would lead to meaningful reforms and tangible benefits for both Japanese investors and the Philippine economy.

Secretary Ernesto V. Perez underscored ARTA's commitment to simplifying government processes and highlighted the importance of sustained engagement with the private sector in shaping practical and responsive regulatory reforms.

Representing the Government of Japan, Ambassador Kazuya Endo welcomed the strengthened collaboration between ARTA and JCCIPI, noting that initiatives that enhance regulatory efficiency contribute to a stronger investment climate and further deepen the longstanding economic partnership between Japan and the Philippines.



[L-R] Undersecretary Lea-Grace B. Salcedo, Undersecretary Juabilly P. Racho, ARTA Secretary Ernesto V. Perez, JCCIPI President Shigeru Shimoda, H.E. Ambassador Kazuya Endo, and JCCIPI Vice President Kazuhiro Nomura formally sign the Memorandum of Understanding between ARTA and JCCIPI at the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines on 5 August 2026.

Japan remains one of the Philippines' largest sources of foreign direct investment, trade, and development cooperation. The signing of the MOU reflects the shared commitment of ARTA and JCCIPI to foster a more predictable, transparent, and efficient regulatory environment that supports

business growth, encourages greater investment, and enhances the Philippines' competitiveness as an investment destination.

As one of the country's largest foreign business organizations, JCCIPI continues to work closely with the Philippine Government and its stakeholders in advocating policies that promote sustainable economic growth, facilitate trade and investment, and strengthen the enduring economic partnership between Japan and the Philippines.

About JCCIPI

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc. (JCCIPI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization representing nearly 700 Japanese companies and affiliated organizations operating in the Philippines. Through policy advocacy, business support services, and engagement with both the Philippine and Japanese governments, JCCIPI promotes increased Japanese investment and contributes to the continued growth of the Philippine economy.

Mr. Hisatoshi Yada

Secretary General

Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines, Inc.