

TO Asian Common Wealth Association, Japan
Executive Director Mr. Shiro Nukui



STATEMENT OF SENATOR GREGORIO B. HONASAN II

Honored guests, industry leaders, fellow public servants, friends, ladies and gentlemen, a pleasant day to everyone.

I laud the Japanese People and the Japanese Government, especially His Excellency Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for providing continued assistance, more investments in human capital and more trade and employment opportunities to the Philippines.

I am particularly grateful for the further training and hiring of Filipino nurses, caregivers and other Filipino professionals by virtue of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) signed in 2006. I also take special note of the Japanese Government's further commitment to open its doors to Filipino household workers initially in special economic zones in Kanagawa and Osaka prefectures of Japan, following the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit.

Such welcome development will create job opportunities for a significant number of Filipinos and shows the Japanese government's trust and confidence in the knowledge, skill, and competence of Filipinos in building economies. Japan, being known as a highly civilized society, will hopefully be a counterpoint to the abuse and low wages of Filipino domestic workers in certain other places. Comparatively, Japan will have higher standard cost of living and this will be a challenge to the creativity and resourcefulness of Filipinos seeking employment there.

Japan is one of the Philippines' top trading partners and foreign investors and we hope to continue good cooperation with the country and other economies based on fair and just relationships.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. Honasan II". Below the signature, the name "G. HONASAN II" is printed in a smaller, sans-serif font.

Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II (SGD)