



Strengthening the Resilience of Critical Transport Infrastructures in the Philippines

March 14, 2022 – 2:00 PM – 4:30 PM

RATIONALE

The Philippines is a country that is prone to a lot of natural disasters. In the past decade alone, major disasters and calamities like typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other natural disasters have hit the country. Typhoon frequently visits the Philippines, for it is located along the typhoon belt in the Pacific with an average of 20 typhoons every year. The most recent is Typhoon Odette which landed last December 2021. It inflicted more than 400 casualties and about US\$ 800M worth of damages and was considered the third costliest in Philippine history.

These disasters pose a huge and costly threat to the transportation infrastructure. Many of them have been interrupted and damaged and deemed impassable due to typhoons. Now, the challenge is how to make the transportation infrastructure resilient not only to typhoons but also to other disasters. We need to find new ways to maintain the integrity, functionality, and dynamics of the country's transportation infrastructures, as they are indispensable components of national progress.

Indeed, there is a need to discuss and analyze how the country's transportation infrastructures respond and adapt to the changes in society, technology, environment, and public policy. In this respect, the following questions are seen worth addressing: (1) what are the common threats, issues, and challenges when disasters strike?; (2) what are the experiences and lessons learned from the disasters?; and (3) what is our government doing to prepare, avoid, and mitigate the consequences of the disasters?

As we may all agree, proactive disaster preparedness and response formulation are crucial to the resilience of the existing transportation infrastructures in the Philippines. Hence, learning lessons from the past disasters and calamities, as well as looking at the best practices in disaster preparedness and emergency response planning from other countries is of prime importance.

OBJECTIVES

This webinar aims to:

1. define and identify critical transportation infrastructures;
2. identify the common threats, issues, and challenges to the transportation infrastructure during disasters;
3. share experiences and lessons learned during disasters that are transport-related;
4. be aware of the government policies, strategies, and programs for disasters that are transport-related; and
5. explore new ways to maintain and make the transportation infrastructure resilient.