

► Resilient, Inclusive & Sustainable Supply Chains in the Philippines

PROJECT OBJECTIVES & BACKGROUND

Funded by the Government of Japan, the Resilient, Inclusive & Sustainable Supply Chains (RISSC) Project aims to support supply chain resilience & sustainability by addressing human & labour rights risks & expanding decent work, to build forward better from recent global disruptions. The project focuses in three sectors in three Asian countries: automotive in Thailand, electronics in Indonesia, & aquaculture in the Philippines.



RISSC PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES



► AT A GLANCE

Donor: Government of Japan, through the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare

Budget: US\$ 4 million (US\$ 1.3 million for the Philippines)

Duration: 1 September 2022 - 31 March 2026

► PROJECT PARTNERS

Government: DOLE, DA-BFAR, DTI, BOI, other bureaus & attached agencies, & LGUs

Employers: ECOP, PHILEXPORT & aquaculture, industry/business organizations

Workers: TUCP, SENTRO, FFW, Ang Pamalakaya, ALLWIES & other sectoral workers' organizations

PROJECT APPROACHES

Module 1:
Supply Chain
Research & Analysis
to better understand
decent work gaps &
opportunities

Module 2:
Industry Tools &
Advice
to close decent work
gaps & drive
responsible business

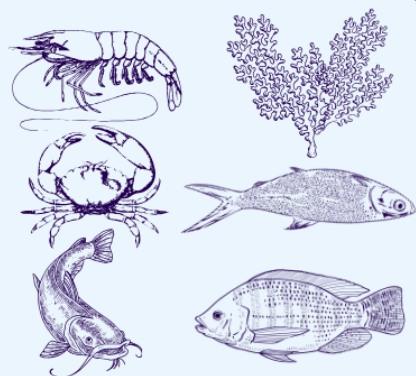
Module 3:
Policy Advice
for strengthening the
enabling policy
environment for
BHR|RBC

Module 4:
Helping the
Industry Meet
National
Commitments
(on BHR|RBC)

AQUACULTURE SECTOR IN THE PHILIPPINES

- **12th largest** global aquaculture producer (2025)
(4th largest producer of farmed seaweed, 5th largest producer of finfish)
- **US\$ 3.9 Billion** production value
- **US\$ 1 Billion** worth of exports per year

KEY MARKETS



- **1.7 %** estimated contribution to GDP
- **260,000** employed in aquaculture of the 1.7 million estimated employment in fisheries
- **55%** of the total fisheries production consist of aquaculture products
- The sector is a major source of domestic food supply with high potential export segment
- **Limited data** but with evidences on decent work deficits

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PROJECT RESULTS: KEY MILESTONES (May 2023 - Feb 2026)

1

Flagship research spotlights decent work & RBC in aquaculture

2

Awareness & Capacity building for aquaculture stakeholders

3

New Industry Tripartite Council & Strategic Plan for aquaculture (Region XII) developed

4

Industry improvement initiatives launched inc. joint compliance/inspection visits

5

Industry supply chain engagement & advocacy (Japan - Philippines)

1

Flagship research spotlights decent work & RBC in aquaculture



A **pioneering ILO study** published in 2025 that sheds new light on decent work and responsible business in aquaculture, with stakeholder validated recommendations which are already under implementation

2

Awareness & Capacity building for aquaculture stakeholders

RISSC Project interventions in 2023 -2024 have already **enhanced knowledge and capacity for responsible business conduct (RBC)** in aquaculture, while also **developing tools and platforms** that are already driving improvements across the industry



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3

New Industry Tripartite Council & Strategic Plan for aquaculture (Region XII) developed



The RISSC Project brokered in 2024 the **formation of the Philippines' first Industry Tripartite Council (ITC) for aquaculture in Region XII** and helped **develop a ten-year Strategic Plan of Action**, which is fostering tripartite collaboration and provides a blueprint for joint actions to improve labour laws compliance, reduce informality and boost skills, productivity and competitiveness in the sector.

4

Industry improvement initiatives launched
inc. joint compliance/inspection visits



100 workers hired in May 2025 by aquaculture farms **for a new skills training-employment programme**, with guaranteed minimum wages and social protection. **58 gained TESDA certification** for enhanced employability, **24 were hired as regular employees** after they helped double production

5 aquaculture farms received financial assistance from DOLE in 2025 to support goals of enterprises to scale up shrimp production for local markets and potential export



New DA/BFAR - DOLE **joint compliance visits in aquaculture** in nearly 40 farms/enterprises in Region 12 by Aug 2025 for coordinated inspections, provision of technical assistance & streamlined access to contributory social protection



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5

Industry supply
chain engagement
& advocacy
(Japan - Philippines)



Outreach and engagement with the Japanese seafood industry in 2024 has opened new opportunities for collaboration with aquaculture stakeholders in the Philippines



Held the first ever **National Industry Dialogue in October 2025** & brought together nearly 150 constituents and stakeholders aimed to build consensus & joint action to drive decent work & reposition the Philippines as future hub for responsible & sustainable aquaculture



Development of the Labor Market Profile of the aquaculture sector in Region 12 underway as part of the Aquaculture ITC's goals to improve labour market information under its strategic plan of action

Capacity building and advisory initiatives for 25 aquaculture enterprises & 500 stakeholders on improving labour laws compliance, occupational safety & health (OSH) & responsible business conduct in aquaculture supply chains



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