

## COMPLETION REPORT

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**Project Title: “Investigating the critical role of Japan’s Development Assistance Organizations in Accelerating State-Led Public Transit Transformation in the Philippines”**

In developing countries in Asia, development aid organizations (DAOs) – which are examples of transnational intermediaries – have been instrumental in catalyzing the diffusion of transportation infrastructures. The project aims to understand the significant role of these development organizations that are related to Japan, such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The study examines the role of development aid organizations (DAOs) as “transnational intermediaries” in a State-led transport transition. As transnational intermediaries, DAOs enable access to international procurement systems and the formation of transnational linkages, facilitating the flow of resources. The intermediary function of DAOs is important for the implementation of large-scale transport infrastructure projects in a State-led transport transition. Citing the case of railway development in the Philippines, the study shows how the dramatic expansion of railways seen in a short period of time in this mega-city has been greatly facilitated by DAOs, highlighting their critical role in resource intermediation, public procurement and enhancement of absorptive capacity of a constrained government agency. Apart from the aforementioned aim of the project, this study also has achieved two outputs. First, it has proposed a conceptualization of the mechanism of international transfer of infrastructure (as opposed to knowledge, technology, or policy transfer) through the intermediation of development aid organizations (DAOs). Second, it has also examined the flow of finance from financial institutions to transport projects using a dataset consisting of 9 transport projects included in the Philippines’ Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Two publications in Scopus-indexed journals have come out of this study.

A research visit has also been done for one month at the University of Tokyo on 14 January 2023 - 12 February 2023, with Prof. Hironori Kato as the host professor. This has enabled the conceptualization of a new research project on railway development in collaboration with the University of Tokyo.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)  None
Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) <b>Sunio, V.</b> Kato, H., Gaspay, S., Pontawe, J., and Napalang, S (2023). International transfer of railway infrastructure through the intermediation of aid agencies. <i>Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives</i> , 18. <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S259019822300012X">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S259019822300012X</a> Sumitomo Foundation has been acknowledged in the paper: “This study is supported by Sumitomo Foundation (Grant #208501) and the DOST-Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) Engineering Research and Development for Technology (ERDT) Program.”  <b>Sunio, V.,</b> & Mendejar, J. (2022). Financing low-carbon transport transition in the Philippines: Mapping financing sources, gaps and directionality of innovation. <i>Transportation Research Interdisciplinary Perspectives</i> , 14, 100590: <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590198222000525">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590198222000525</a> Here Sumitomo has been acknowledged: “Dr. Sunio acknowledges the financial support by Sumitomo Foundation (Grant #208501). The foundation does not have any involvement in the conduct of the study.”
Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)  None