

Philippines to operate its first research and development facility for agri machinery in Nueva Ecija

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Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. led the inauguration of the 2,000-square meter facility located at PhilMech in the Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija.

"This multi-million US-dollar state-of-the-art facility can revolutionize the way we see agricultural machinery production today. With modern fabrication equipment and top engineering design and simulation software, what more can we not do, what more efficient machines can we not produce?" Laurel remarked.

The AMDPC is valued at PhP370.545 million, of which \$5.78 million or PhP289 million is funded by KOICA. The Philippine government shared PhP81.545 million for the project.

The project is also supported by the Korea Institute for Development Strategy (KDS) and the Korea Agricultural Machinery Industry Cooperative (KAMICO).

According to official statement, the construction of said facility is essential to accelerate country's mechanization by enhancing PhilMech's capability to design, develop, and manufacture agricultural machinery and prototypes. It also seeks to provide farmers with affordable, locally-manufactured machinery, utilizing modern technology to boost production and income. The facility will use cutting-edge prototyping equipment to showcase and disseminate innovative technology that have achieved commercial viability and user acceptance.

In his key message, Secretary Laurel stressed that the modern facility serves as an avenue for local manufacturers, agricultural engineers, and researchers from various research and development institutions and state colleges and universities to launch their ideas and translate their creative minds to problem-oriented and highly relevant agricultural machines, technology and equipment.

Laurel also expressed gratitude to the Republic of Korea, through KOICA, for its generosity in sharing knowledge, skills, and resources to the Philippines. He added. "I can imagine this center as the realization of ideas and a birthing place of solutions to improve the way we farm or fish today through the machines that can be improved and produced in this facility. Thank you for building with us a bridge that will help our country move towards the modernization and mechanization of the agriculture sector. We will always value our partnership".

The AMDPC is also expected to enhance the institutional networking between the Korean government and DA research agencies.