

February 23, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

**Handing over Ceremony for the newly constructed storm drainage was held at Laborie-Augier Community in Saint Lucia**

The handing over ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for Constructing the Main Drainage in Laborie-Augier Community” was held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2017 at Laborie. The Laborie Development Foundation received a grant of US\$ 88,327 from the Government of Japan and constructed storm drainage in the middle of the Laborie-Augier, in order to prevent future flooding which was frequently experienced by the community after heavy rains and hurricanes.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan, the Honourable Alva Baptiste, District Representative for Laborie-Augier Constituency, along with Mr. Simon Daniel, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy, Ms. Laurencia Parsad, representative of Laborie-Augier Constituency Council, Mr. Augustine Dominique, President of Laborie Development Foundation and other invited guests, community members and media representatives.

In his speech, Mr. Daniel commented that he has heard that the residents along the path of the drainage are already realizing significant relief from uncontrolled surface runoff and flood waters during heavy rains. He praised the project as a good example of community projects which can improve the quality of life of people. The Honourable Alva Baptiste, the Former Minister of External Affairs, also expressed his appreciation for the continued cooperation between the two countries and the positive impact of the project on the community. Ambassador Okada welcomed the initiative to curb the impact of climate change, which has been realized through this project and expressed continued commitment to support Saint Lucia in formulating strategies to overcome its vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the people of Saint Lucia, all with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries.

**END**

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His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan and Ms. Laencia Parsad, representative of Laborie-Augier Constituency Council shake hands in front of the signboard posted next to the completed drainage



His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada gives remarks at the ceremony



Mr. Simon Daniel, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Department of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy addresses the audience at the ceremony



His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada and the Hon. Alva Baptiste, M.P. for Laborie-Augier Constituency with the attendees at the ceremony

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