

May 21, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid for Provision of Japanese Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) Products

The signing ceremony for Japan's Non-Project Grant Aid for Provision of SMEs Products took place on May 21, 2015, at Rodney Bay in Saint Lucia during a bilateral meeting held in conjunction with the 18th Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) Meeting. The Grant is provided in order to support the promotion of the economic and social development of Saint Lucia, and is valued at two hundred and fifty million Yen (¥250,000,000), approximately two million US Dollars (US\$2,000,000).

The grant will be utilised for procurement of unique, efficient and user-friendly technologies of Japan SMEs. The products available under the Grant are intended to meet the development goals of Saint Lucia in several sectors, such as the environment, health and agriculture, to respond to economic and social needs and other critical issues that affect Small Island Developing States. During the 4th Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference in 2014, the Government of Japan pledged "cooperation towards sustainable development including overcoming vulnerabilities particular to Small Island Developing States," and the provision of this Grant is one realization of this continued cooperation.

His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka, Ambassador of Japan to Saint Lucia, and the Honourable Alva Baptiste, Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation, were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes.

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.

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