

**Japan's Development Cooperation (Provision of Japanese Disaster Reduction Equipment)
to Barbados**

The signing ceremony for Japan's development cooperation (provision of Japanese disaster reduction equipment) took place at 10:45am on March 8, 2016, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Barbados. The grant is provided in order to support Barbados' economic and social development by utilising disaster reduction related products of Japanese enterprises, and is aimed at contributing to the improvement of the capacity of Barbados to adapt to climate change. The grant is valued at one hundred million Japanese Yen (¥100,000,000), or approximately eight hundred and seventy thousand US Dollars (US\$870,000).

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan to Barbados, and Senator the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes for the grant. Also in attendance were Ms. Yumiko Honda, Deputy Director of the Caribbean Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan, and Mr. Nobuhiro Matsuoka, Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan in Barbados.

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada noted in his speech that despite the fact that Barbados has graduated from ODA-eligible countries and has one of the highest Gross National Incomes in the region, this grant has been made available to Barbados as a realisation of the Japanese support to CARICOM countries promised by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the first Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting that took place in July 2014. In her address, Senator the Honourable Maxine McClean stated that "Barbados has the potential to be severely impacted by meteorological, geological and biological hazards," and thanked the Government of Japan for their support in disaster risk reduction. She also took the opportunity to congratulate the Government of Japan on the opening of a new Japanese Embassy in Barbados as at January 1, 2016.

The Government of Japan is committed to advancing regional development through continued cooperation, and anticipates great benefits of continuous development cooperation for the Government and people of Barbados.

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