

## **Japan's Emergency Assistance to the Commonwealth of Dominica in Response to the Flood Disaster**

On Tuesday 1 September 2015, the Government of Japan decided to provide emergency relief goods to the Commonwealth of Dominica in response to the request for aid from the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica following the serious damage from flooding and related disasters in the island as a result of the passage of Tropical Storm Erika on August 27, 2015. Through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the following equipment was donated to the Commonwealth of Dominica: 25 generators, 20 water purifiers and 20 water tanks valued at approximately US\$100,000. This equipment will be used in hospitals, schools and police stations.

The handing-over ceremony for the equipment was held on Saturday 5 September, 2015 at 11:40am at the Canefield Airport, Roseau. Ambassador-designate to the Commonwealth of Dominica, Mr. Mitsuhiro Okada, as well as Vice-Director of the JICA Dominican Republic Office, Mr. Tasuku Ishibashi were in attendance to represent the Government of Japan. Present at the ceremony to represent the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica were Mr. Rayburn Blackmore, Minister for Justice, Immigration and National Security, Mr. Ian Pinard, Minister for Public Works and Ports, Mrs. Yvanette Baron-George, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs and Mr. Lucien Blackmore, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Housing, Land and Water Resource Management. After speeches made by Ambassador-designate Mr. Okada and Permanent Secretary Mrs. Baron-George, the handing-over documents were signed by Mrs. Baron-George and Mr. Tasuku Ishibashi.

In his speech, Mr. Okada stated that the Government and people of Japan offer their heartfelt support and encouragement to the Commonwealth of Dominica and hoped that Japan's humanitarian efforts would be of great assistance to the affected communities. The Government of Japan greatly values the strong ties between the two countries and hopes that the bonds of mutual understanding and friendship will grow even stronger in the wake of this tragic event.

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