

March 10, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

**Japanese Government Funds Project for Extension of a Skill Training Center for Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center in Antigua and Barbuda**

The signing ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for Extension of a Skill Training Center for Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center” took place at 10:00 a.m. on March 6, 2015, at Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center (GARDC), Nature Park, Mercers Creek, Antigua and Barbuda. The Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center received a grant of up to US\$100,525 from the Government of Japan for the extension of their Skills Development Center which seek to enhance the existing training and development activities offered while also providing increased opportunities for vulnerable youth in Antigua and Barbuda.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Takafumi Ura, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan and Mrs. Roberta Williams, Executive Director, Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center. The Honourable Melford Nicholas, Minister of Information, Broadcasting, Telecommunications, Science and Technology, and His Excellency Anthony Liverpool, Ambassador of Antigua & Barbuda to Japan and Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attended the ceremony along with invited guests and media representatives.

In his speech, Mr. Ura highlighted that “through the compliance and execution of the project initiatives, the programme will have a wider effect through the community and by extension the society. This expansion will allow for overall improvement of the current facilities which can yield better output services provided to these vulnerable students.”

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

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