

**Visit by Japanese Ambassador to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

**Handing-over Ceremony for Japan's Project for Improvement of Fishery Equipment and Machinery in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

The handing-over ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled "Project for Improvement of Fishery Equipment and Machinery in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" took place at 10:00 am on November 1, 2016 in the Calliaqua Fisheries Centre, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The grant, valued at four million, six hundred thousand US dollars (US\$4,600,000) is provided in order to improve fishery product distribution and fisheries management through the upgrading and replacing of equipment and machinery and accompanying facilities that were previously installed by Japanese grant aid. Also facilitated is the installation of new equipment and machinery based on fisheries management needs.

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were both in attendance to commemorate the event. Also in attendance were the Honourable Saboto Caesar, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Internal Trade, Information and Labour, Mr. Raymond Ryan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Mrs. Jennifer Cruickshank-Howard, Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division, Mr. Tetsuhiro Ike, Resident Representative JICA/JOCV, Saint Lucia Office and Mr. Akira Takahashi, Project Coordinator, Marubeni Protechs Corporation.

In his speech, Ambassador Okada noted that the provision of equipment is just one example of the ongoing fishery sector cooperation between Japan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which includes collaboration on sustainable use of marine resources, technical assistance and technical training.

The Government of Japan is committed to advancing regional development through continued cooperation, and anticipates that the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to greatly benefit from Japan's development assistance.

**END**

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Ambassador Okada delivers his speech in the ceremony.



Mr. Takahashi (Left), Project Coordinator, hands over a key-box to Ms. Cruickshank-Howard (Right), Chief Fisheries Officer.

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