

APIC Environment Seminar

On September 18th and 19th 2017, the Embassy of Japan and the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC), in collaboration with Sophia University (Japan) and the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill campus (Barbados), co-hosted a one day workshop and seminar. Both activities were coordinated by UWI's Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), in partnership with APIC, the Embassy of Japan, UWI Cave Hill campus and Sophia University.

The morning workshop, themed “The Role of Research Partnerships in Promoting Sustainable Development”, began by examining the impact of Sargassum and other eco-threats on tourism-dependent economies in the Caribbean. This was led by Professor Hazel Oxenford (CERMES), Ms. Amanda Charles (Caribbean Tourism Organisation) and Mr. Mark Hill (Biogen Inc.). During the second half, experts discussed the role of partnerships including future opportunities, what partners are looking for and how the benefits might be maximised. This was led by Mrs. Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn (Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management programme), Dr. Patrick McConney (CERMES) and Dr. Iris Monnereau (Food and Agriculture Organisation). Other panellists included Director of CERMES, Dr. Adrian Cashman and Professor Wayne Hunte (UWI – CARICOM Research).

The seminar, which was originally scheduled on the 18th, was conducted the next day due to severe inclement weather, under the theme “Lessons from the Field: Exploring Culturally and Environmentally Relevant Solutions to Increasing Environmental Challenges of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss”. During this session, Professor Anne McDonald of Sophia University shared insights on topics from Japan, focusing on biocultural and climate change related policies for small-scale and artisanal fisheries and agriculture.

Despite the weather intervention, both activities garnered favourable attendance and participation. In addition to creating the opportunity to share information on areas of great importance throughout the Caribbean, the workshop and the seminar especially served to deepen the relationship between Japan and the Caribbean.



①During the workshop 1



③ From left:
Ambassador Shimanouchi,
Professor Anne McDonald,
Dr. Adrian Cashman (Director of
CERMES),
Ambassador Shinada



②During the workshop 2



④ Ambassador Shimanouchi gives a speech during the lunch break



⑤ Ambassador Shinada greets the audience during the lunch break