

State Minister Sonoura visits Saint Lucia

On 25 July, His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited Saint Lucia and met the Honourable Sarah Flood-Beaubrun, Minister responsible for External Affairs in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and Public Service and the Honourable Bradley Felix, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Commerce, Industry, Investment, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs. The State Minister also met with Mr. Horace Walters, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) Commissioner of Saint Lucia. This is the first ministerial-level visit from Japan since the Honourable Allen Michael Chastanet, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, took office with the current administration.

In the meeting with Minister Flood-Beaubrun, State Minister Sonoura spoke of cooperation with Saint Lucia in various areas, including development cooperation in disaster reduction and environment, the issue of United Nations Security Council reform, and issues related to whaling. In response, Minister Flood-Beaubrun expressed her appreciation for Japan's cooperation in assisting Saint Lucia in addressing its vulnerabilities and strengthening its fishery sector, and signaled her intention to continue cooperation in the international for a with Japan as a friendly nation.

State Minister Sonoura, in his meeting with Commissioner Walters, discussed cooperation in the field of fisheries including the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and called for the further collaboration on issues such as climate change. Commissioner Walters expressed his appreciation for Japan's continued support to the fishery industry in Saint Lucia and his intention to deepen the collaboration with Japan at the IWC.



Mr. Walters, IWC Commissioner (left) and
State Minister Sonoura (right)



State Minister Sonoura (left) and
Minister Flood-Beaubrun (right)