

February 14, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Handing-Over Ceremony for Japan's Development Assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The handing-over ceremony for Japan's Grant Aid for Provision of Industrial Products, which was signed in September 2014 and valued at approximately one million US Dollars (US\$1,000,000), and the Grant Aid under the Economic and Social Development Programme, which was signed in July 2016 and valued at approximately one million, nine hundred thousand US dollars (US\$1,900,000), took place on February 13, 2019, at the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Both grants are intended to positively contribute to the economic and social development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by enhancing the command and logistical capability of NEMO through the procurement of disaster preparedness and mitigation equipment, such as safety loader trucks, emergency response vehicles, road maintenance vehicles, and emergency beds and tents.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Tatsuo Hirayama, Ambassador of Japan to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senator the Honourable Luke Browne, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Senator the Honourable Julian Francis, Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government and Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce. Also in attendance were Ms. Michelle Forbes, Director of the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO), and Mr. Kem Bartholomew, CEO, Building, Roads and General Services Authority (BRAGSA).

In his speech, Ambassador Hirayama stated that while "the Force of Nature goes beyond our imagination, we must be prepared at a community and national level; and once a disaster comes, we need to expeditiously start relief operations. In this regard, the equipment procured through this grant aid makes it possible for NEMO to be better prepared for such cases." He also spoke about the long-standing friendly relationship between Japan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which was reinforced during the official visit of Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, to Japan last August, when he met with Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan.

On behalf of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, remarks were provided by various officials, including Senator the Honourable Luke Browne and Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, during which they expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for its continuous support.

The Government of Japan is committed to advancing the sustainable development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines through continued cooperation.

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Ambassador Hirayama delivers his remarks



Incubation Bed



Road Maintenance Equipment



Safety Loader Truck



Ambassador Hirayama and Senator the Honourable Luke Browne test an Asphalt Roller Truck



Ambassador Hirayama and Ms. Michelle Forbes in front of an emergency tent