

March 13, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for Japan's Fisheries Development Assistance to Antigua and Barbuda

The signing ceremony for Japan's grant development assistance to Antigua and Barbuda, amounting to two hundred million Japanese Yen (¥200,000,000), or approximately one point eight million US dollars (US\$1,800,000), took place on March 11, 2019 at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Barbuda Affairs, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. The grant will be used to procure fisheries-related equipment, such as fish aggregating devices, a hydraulic boat lift, pick-up trucks, and a waste water treatment aerator system to improve the operational efficiency and hygienic environment of the fisheries industry, which is of high economic and social importance to the country.

Mr. Yoshinori Yakabe, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, and the Honourable Dean Jonas, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes.

Also in attendance were Mr. Colin O'Keiffe, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Ms. Cheryl Edwards, Acting Director of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, and Ms. Annell Nicholas, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs.

In his speech, Mr. Yakabe indicated that the grant assistance would assist the Government of Antigua and Barbuda "in achieving its policy objectives in food security and nutrition." He also noted that the date of the signing ceremony, March 11, 2019, marked the 8th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, stating that, "the Government of Japan is contributing to global disaster preparedness by sharing the lessons learned, and through our ongoing commitment to cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction." He further noted that the Government of Japan's commitment to assisting the Government of Antigua and Barbuda in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction is evidenced through the Grant Assistance for Disaster Risk Reduction, which was signed in March, 2018.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, all with a view to advancing sustainable development through continued cooperation.

END

For further information, please contact:
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Mr. Yakabe with The Honourable Dean Jonas (right) and Mr. Colin O'Keiffe (left)



Mr. Yakabe and The Honourable Dean Jonas signing the Exchange of Notes