

March 6, 2018

**PRESS RELEASE**

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

The signing ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled "Economic and Social Development Programme" took place at 2:00 p.m. on March 6, 2018 at the Office of the Prime Minister, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. This aid is provided in order to support the promotion of the economic and social development of Antigua and Barbuda and is valued at two hundred and twenty million Japanese Yen (¥220,000,000), or approximately two million US dollars (US\$2,000,000).

The grant will be used to purchase equipment, such as compactor trucks, a wheel loader, a road maintenance truck, and ground penetrating radars, which will help to enhance the command and logistical capability of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's Disaster Risk Reduction Development Programme. The equipment will assist the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda in recovering from the damages inflicted by Hurricane Irma and enhance their preparedness against future extreme weather events.

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan to Antigua and Barbuda, and the Honourable Henry Charles Fernandez, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes.

Also in attendance were the Honourable Samantha Marshall, Minister of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development, and Mr. Philmore Mullin, Director of National Office of Disaster Services (NODS).

In his speech, Ambassador Okada spoke about Actions for Cool Earth (ACE) 2.0, which was announced by Japan at COP21 in December 2015. He stated that under ACE 2.0, Japan will provide one trillion and three hundred billion Japanese Yen (¥1,300,000,000,000), the equivalent of approximately twelve billion US Dollars (US\$12,000,000,000), in climate finance to developing nations in 2020, covering renewable energy production, resilient infrastructure, and a variety of other mitigation efforts. He said that the "Economic and Social Development Programme" is part of Japan's global efforts to support developing countries in responding to climate change.

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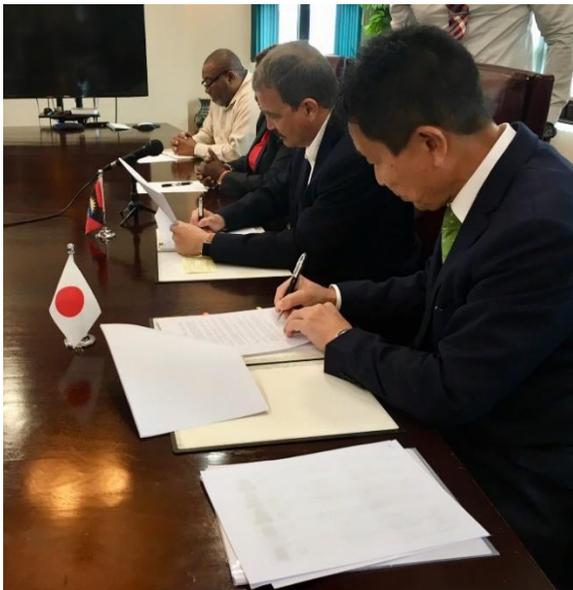
Ambassador Okada further stated that as a nation with many small islands itself, Japan has been active in climate change issues and it recognizes the vulnerability of small island nations in the Caribbean, noting that Japan delivered emergency supplies to Antigua and Barbuda after Hurricane Irma in 2017.

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.

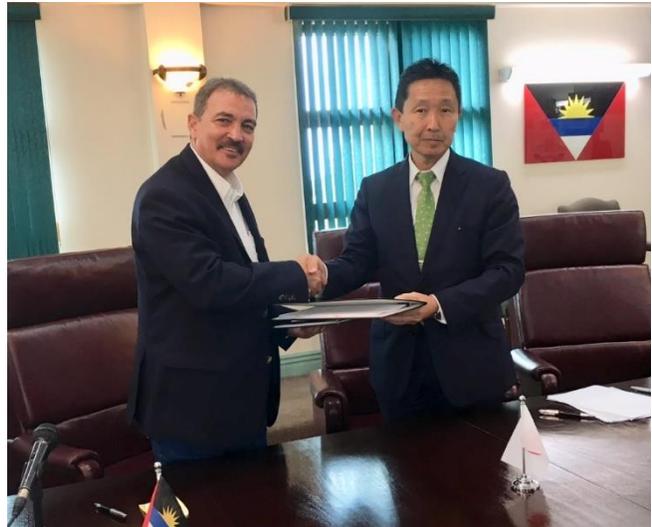
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**Ambassador Okada delivering his speech: from left to right (right side of table): Mr. Philmore Mullin, the Hon. Samantha Marshall, the Hon. H. Charles Fernandez, and Ambassador Okada**



**Signing Exchange of Notes**



**After signing Exchange of Notes**