

February 26, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Official Opening Ceremony of the Bagatelle Alternate Water Harvesting and Storage Project

The official opening ceremony for the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) project entitled "Bagatelle Alternate Water Harvesting and Storage Project" took place in Bagatelle, Commonwealth of Dominica, on February 20, 2019.

The project, which is valued at approximately twenty-three thousand, eight hundred and twenty-nine US Dollars (US\$23,829), has supported the rehabilitation of the local water system through two new water intakes at identified springs, connected to a distribution line for residents' collection, along with the installation of three 1,000 gallon water storage tanks. These enhancements will allow for the provision of water in times of crisis to more than 380 residents of the Bagatelle, Point Carib, Fond St. Jean, and Fabre villages.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Toshihide Kanaya, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan. The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica was represented by the Honourable Joseph Isaac, Minister for Environment, Climate Resilience, Disaster Management and Urban Renewal, the Honorable Kenneth Darroux, Parliamentary Representative for the Petite Savanne Constituency, Mr. Steve Joseph, Assistant Local Government Commissioner, Mrs. Angelina Martin, Chairperson of the Bagatelle Village Council, Mr. Bernard Ettinoffe, Manager, DOWASCO, along with other official representatives. Representatives for the UNDP included Mr. Ian King, Recovery Advisor and Head of UNDP Project Office, Commonwealth of Dominica.

In his remarks, Mr. Kanaya stated that "the Government of Japan hopes that through this Project, it can make a significant contribution to the water security of the Commonwealth of Dominica. Currently, small island developing states in the Caribbean region, such as the Commonwealth of Dominica, are vulnerable to natural disasters and the other hazardous effects of climate change, including droughts, which emphasizes the need for this type of Project."

Through the J-CCCP, which is implemented by the UNDP with funding from the Government of Japan, Japan aims to assist Caribbean countries in developing and implementing climate change policies, to promote the transfer of adaptation and mitigation technologies through various pilot projects in selected countries, and to build a regional platform for information sharing. The work under the J-CCCP is in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

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The Government of Japan will continue to support disaster prevention, the environment, energy, waste management and fisheries fields, in order to deepen friendly relations and mutual understanding with the countries of the Caribbean and to overcome vulnerabilities peculiar to CARICOM nations.

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Mr. Toshihide Kanaya celebrates access to the water from an indigenous source along with UNDP, Ministry and Community Officials. Photo Courtesy of the UNDP.