

Country Assistance Policy for Saint Christopher and Nevis

April, 2014

1. Relevance of Assistance

(1) Relevance of Assistance to CARICOM (the Caribbean Community¹)

Saint Christopher and Nevis is a member state of CARICOM, which is comprised of a number of Caribbean countries. These countries have commonalities with Japan, such as frequent natural disasters, like hurricanes, earthquakes and tsunamis. Another commonality the CARICOM has with Japan is its focus on promoting the sustainable use of living marine resources.

These CARICOM countries are vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters; they have small populations and economies; and, their economies are based on industries, which are susceptible to external factors, such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism.

To overcome common challenges faced in the Caribbean region, such as natural disasters, it is important for promoting socioeconomic stability and sustainable growth across the region that the CARICOM utilizes the experience and knowledge of Japan in overcoming natural disasters.

(2) Relevance of Assistance to Saint Christopher and Nevis

Saint Christopher and Nevis and Japan share similar values, such as democracy and rule of law, and are closely cooperating with each other in the international arena. Saint Christopher and Nevis is a small volcanic island nation located in the eastern Caribbean Sea and a member of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The OECS is comprised of eastern Caribbean nations which have similar geographical conditions and economic scale.

Although the economy of Saint Christopher and Nevis has traditionally

¹ CARICOM (Caribbean Community) was formed by dissolving CARIFTA (Caribbean Free Trade Association) into a new organization for the purpose of economic integration of the Caribbean countries; coordination of foreign policy; the promotion of cooperation in health-care and education, etc. in 1973. Its Secretariat is located in Georgetown, Guyana. Members are 14 States and 1 overseas territory.

depended on agriculture, especially the sugarcane industry, the Government is focusing on promoting tourism under their policy for diversification of the economy.

Saint Christopher and Nevis has a relatively high Gross Net Income but the land area and the population are the smallest in North and South America; therefore, there is the vulnerability common to small island nations which derives from its dependence on a limited number of industries.

Japan's assistance for the economic and social development of Saint Christopher and Nevis is expected to enhance bilateral relations and can also have positive effects on relationships with the other OECS countries as they can benefit from knowledge sharing.

2. Basic Policy of Assistance : Overcoming Vulnerability (common to all CARICOM member countries)

On the basis of "Partnership for Peace, Development and Prosperity between Japan and the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)²", which was adopted in the 2nd CARICOM foreign ministers' meeting in September 2010, the Government of Japan supports environment-friendly sustainable social development efforts and disaster risk management efforts of CARICOM member countries, thus helping them to overcome the vulnerability to climate change.

3. Priority Areas

(1) Environment and Disaster Risk Management

Mitigation and adaptation measures for natural disasters and measures for climate change are urgent issues for Saint Christopher and Nevis, which has suffered recurrent natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods.

The Government of Japan continues to assist the country in reducing disaster risks and coping with climate change, taking its bio-diversity into consideration.

Solid waste management is an important matter for small island nations in which tourism is the main industry and the Government of Japan provides support in the area of solid waste management, focusing on promotion of the

² This partnership consists of six pillars which indicate the future direction of the Japan-CARICOM relationship i.e. "Overcoming Vulnerability and Promoting Human Security"; "Integration into the Global Economy"; "Environment and Climate Change"; "Assistance for the Reconstruction of Haiti"; "Cooperation in International Fora"; and "Dialogue and Exchange between Japan and the CARICOM".

“three Rs (3R)” (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), and improvement in disposal site management.

(2) Fisheries

The fisheries plays an important role in supplying the nationals with high-quality animal protein, job creation for local communities and so on.

On the other hand, measures taken by the Government for the fisheries is not adequate due to budgetary shortages and/or lack of human resources.

The Government of Japan continues to provide assistance for sustainable development and management of fisheries with a view to promoting sustainable use of marine living resources, which is also a priority for Japan.

4. Points to be considered

(1) There is a need to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuel as a main energy source for power generation, and the Government of Japan is aware of the need to develop renewable energies and to promote energy efficient technology.

(2) Saint Christopher and Nevis has achieved a certain level of economic development; therefore, it is important for the country to maintain and, as necessary, strengthen its systems that are conducive to sustainable economic development while taking into account the possibility to graduate from the DAC List of ODA Recipients in the near future.

Annex: Rolling Plan