

Country Assistance Policy for the Commonwealth of Dominica

April, 2014

1. Relevance of Assistance

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

The Commonwealth of Dominica 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 socio-economic 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 the Commonwealth of Dominica

The Commonwealth of Dominica and Japan share similar values, such as democracy and rule of law, and are closely cooperating with each other in the international arena. The Commonwealth of Dominica 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 condition and economic scale.

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.

The main industries of the Commonwealth of Dominica are agriculture, which centers upon exporting bananas, and tourism. However, the banana industry has been negatively affected by the EU's decision to discontinue special privileges, i.e. low import duties, which were previously accorded to the Commonwealth of Dominica.

The Commonwealth of Dominica strives to promote fisheries and tourism, especially eco-tourism, taking advantages of its beautiful nature but the scale of both industries are not large enough to be alternatives to the banana industry.

Japan's assistance for the economic and social development of the Commonwealth of Dominica 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 their 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 the Commonwealth of Dominica, which has suffered recurrent natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods.

The Government of Japan continues to assist the country in the field of environment and disaster risk management, taking its bio-diversity into

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".

consideration.

Solid waste management is an important matter for small island nations in which tourism is a robust industry. The Government of Japan supports improvement in solid waste management and the promotion of “three Rs (3R)” (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle).

(2) Fisheries

According to “Growth and Social Protection Strategy 2012-2014 ” formulated by the Commonwealth of Dominica, fisheries takes on an important role in food security, brings about socio-economic stability through job creation, which is conducive to poverty reduction, and is considered as an important industry that makes even greater contribution to its GDP in the future.

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) In the light of the dependence of the Commonwealth of Dominica on imported fossil fuel as a main energy source for power generation, there is a need to develop renewable energies and to promote energy efficiency.

(2) Although social infrastructures are relatively well-developed in the Commonwealth of Dominica, there is a need to complement the support with which the Government provides vulnerable people.

Annex: Rolling Plan