

March 1, 2018

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for Japan's Development Assistance to the Commonwealth of Dominica

The signing ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled "Economic and Social Development Programme" took place at 11:00 a.m. on March 1, 2018 at the Financial Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs of the Commonwealth of Dominica. This aid is provided in order to support the promotion of the economic and social development of the Commonwealth of Dominica 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 generators, water pumps, sleeping cots, a response vehicle, and telecommunications equipment, which will help to enhance the command and logistical capability of the Commonwealth of Dominica's National Disaster Management System. The equipment will assist the government and people of Dominica in recovering from the damages inflicted by Hurricane Maria and enhance their preparedness against future extreme weather events.

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan to the Commonwealth of Dominica, and Senator the Honourable Francine Baron, Minister for Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs of the Commonwealth of Dominica, were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes.

Also in attendance were the Honourable Rayburn Blackmore, Minister for Justice, Immigration and National Security, His Excellency Hubert Charles, Ambassador and Advisor to Minister for Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs, Mrs. Sylvanie Burton, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs, Mrs. Rosamund Edwards, Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance, and Mr. Gerard Cools-Lartigue, Honorary Consul General of Japan in Dominica.

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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.

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 the Commonwealth of Dominica twice over two years, firstly after Tropical Storm Erika, and then after Hurricane Maria.

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

END



From left: The Hon. Rayburn Blackmoore, Senator the Hon. Francine Baron, and Ambassador Okada



After signing Exchange of Notes