

4 February 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for Hydroponics Project in Antigua

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for the Development of Agriculture Education through Hydroponics” was held at 11:00 am on Monday 4 February 2019 at the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology in Saint John’s, Antigua.

With the signing of grant documents, All Saints Secondary School is set to receive a grant totaling US \$70,770 from the Government of Japan for the construction of a hydroponics facility on its premises, thus introducing students to the practice of this climate-smart agricultural technology. This is the second time that the Embassy is collaborating with an Antiguan school on such a project, following “The Project for Development of Agriculture Education through Aquaponics” at St. Mary’s Secondary School in Bolans, which was completed in December 2017.

The Honourable Michael Browne, Minister of Education, Science & Technology, gave remarks at the ceremony and recalled the undertaking given by the Japanese government in 2014, at the first Japan-CARICOM Summit, to provide support to Caribbean countries in their attainment of sustainable development through various forms of cooperation. Minister Browne thanked Japan for staying true to that undertaking. Mr. Yoshinori Yakabe, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Japan, also addressed attendees, expressing his hope that the project would serve to enrich the learning experience of students and teachers and ultimately, improve the lives of all citizens. Counsellor Yakabe also signed the grant contract on behalf of the Japanese Government, along with Mr. George Edwards, Principal of All Saints Secondary School.

Others in attendance at the ceremony were Mrs. Rosa Greenaway, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology; Mr. Clare Browne, Director of Education; as well as other Ministry of Education officials and project stakeholders.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the People of Antigua and Barbuda, with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.

For further information, please contact:
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Counsellor Yoshinori Yakabe and Minister Michael Browne shake hands before the start of proceedings



Principal George Edwards (front row, left side) along with other Education officials, teachers and students of All Saints Secondary School



Counsellor Yoshinori Yakabe delivers remarks on behalf of the Japanese Government



Minister Michael Browne addresses ceremony attendees



A handshake is exchanged after the signing of the grant documents

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