

14 February 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for School Renovation Project in Saint Vincent

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for the Renovation of St. Mary’s Roman Catholic School” was held on Wednesday 13 February 2019 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Edinboro, Kingstown, Saint Vincent.

St. Mary’s Roman Catholic School will receive a grant of US\$32,047 from the Government of Japan which will allow for crucial renovations to be carried out on one of the school’s buildings. The project aims to enhance the safety of the school’s physical structure and improve the learning environment for more than 600 current students and countless future students.

His Excellency Tatsuo Hirayama, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Japan, represented his Government for the signing of grant documents at the GGP ceremony. Ambassador Hirayama expressed the honour he felt to participate in his first GGP ceremony since beginning his tenure and remarked that education is a priority area for any country to bring up the next generations and the grant should be considered an investment in the future. He also noted the importance of cooperation between the two countries, highlighting their common challenges such as climate change, peace and stability, as well as their shared values of democracy, freedom and the rule of law. Ms. Eula Johnny, Principal of St. Mary’s RC School, signed the grant documents alongside the Ambassador and thanked the Embassy for its collaboration and support throughout the process.

Brief remarks were also delivered by His Lordship Bishop Gerard County, Bishop of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Mrs. Yvette Antoine, Senior Education Officer in the Ministry of Education, National Reconciliation, Ecclesiastical Affairs and Information. Also in attendance were Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce; Mr. Ezra Ledger, who acted as emcee for the ceremony; and students and teachers of the school.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the People of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 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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L-R: Ms. Eula Johnny, Principal of St. Mary's RC School; His Lordship Bishop Gerard County, Bishop of Saint Vincent & the Grenadines; His Excellency Tatsuo Hirayama, Ambassador of Japan, and wife Mrs. Sachiko Hirayama



Ambassador Hiramaya is greeted by Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Commerce, before the start of proceedings



Ambassador Hiramaya delivers remarks on behalf of the Japanese Government



A handshake is exchanged after the signing of the grant documents



Bishop Gerard County, Principal Eula Johnny and Ambassador Hiramaya with students of St. Mary's RC School

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