

19 February, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

**Japanese Government Funds Extension of a Skill Training Center for Gilbert
Agricultural & Rural Development Center
Antigua and Barbuda**

The completion ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project entitled “The Project for Extension of a Skill Training Center for Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center” took place at 2:00pm on February 17, 2016 at Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARDC), Nature Park, Mercers Creek. The Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center received a Grant of up to US\$100,525 from the Government of Japan for the extension of their multipurpose Skills Development Center which will extend support to the activities of the Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Takafumi Ura, Development Cooperation Officer, Embassy of Japan and Mrs. Roberta Williams, Executive Director, GARD Center. Also in attendance were, Mr. Anthony Liverpool, Non Resident Ambassador to Japan, Director General of Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Jacqueline Richardson, Education Officer-Business, Ministry of Education Science & Technology along with invited guests and media.

In his speech, Mr. Ura highlighted that with this grant assistance, the Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center will now offer a more effective service to the community through the expansion of the training facility, allowing for greater youth participation at the center, while also providing increased opportunities for vulnerable youth in Antigua and Barbuda.

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

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