

## **His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka Hosts President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**



On June 26, 2013, H.E. Yoshimasa Tezuka, Japanese Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and his wife Mrs. Chizuru Tezuka, held a reception in honour of the first visit of Mr. Tadateru Konoé, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and President of the Japanese Red Cross Society to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean at their official residence. Major General Kenrick Maharaj, Chief of Defense Staff, His Excellency Sir Edwin Carrington, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary (CARICOM), Ms. Delia Chatoor, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, were among the distinguished guests who attended the reception. Mr. Konoé was in the country for talks with the local IFRC and Red Cross representatives as well as representatives from ODPM and the Association of Caribbean States.



Ambassador Tezuka extended a warm welcome to the visiting president and applauded the efforts being made by Mr. Konoé in advancing the work, and elevation of the profile, of the IFRC all over the world. He spoke highly of the integral role the IFRC plays in providing humanitarian assistance to persons across the globe and mentioned his keen interest in the work of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as he once served as a Director of the Humanitarian Assistance and Emergency Relief Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan.

Ambassador Tezuka also noted that “no country, regardless of its wealth or its location, is immune from the disastrous effects of nature.” He spoke about Japan’s unprecedented earthquake and tsunami and mentioned that the Red Cross societies all over the world, including the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, mobilised to provide assistance to Japan. Ambassador Tezuka further noted that the actions of the IFRC and the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society, as well as the generous contributions made by Trinidad and Tobago nationals, to assist the people of Japan demonstrated that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the both nations were not limited to Government to Government interactions. He expressed his desire for the continued growth of the friendly relations between Japan and the Caribbean region at both the people-to-people and the Governmental level.

