

January 20 2016

PRESS RELEASE

**Japanese Government Funds Project for Procurement of Medical Equipment in St. Vincent**

The signing ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for Procurement of Medical Equipment in St. Vincent” took place at 11:00 a.m. on January 19, 2016 at the Ministry of Health Conference Room, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment Ministerial Building, Halifax Street, Kingstown, Saint Vincent. The Milton Cato Memorial Hospital receives a grant of up to US\$90,792 from the Government of Japan. This grant assistance will be used for the improvement of the medical equipment at their blood bank, pharmacy, operating theatre and urology unit.

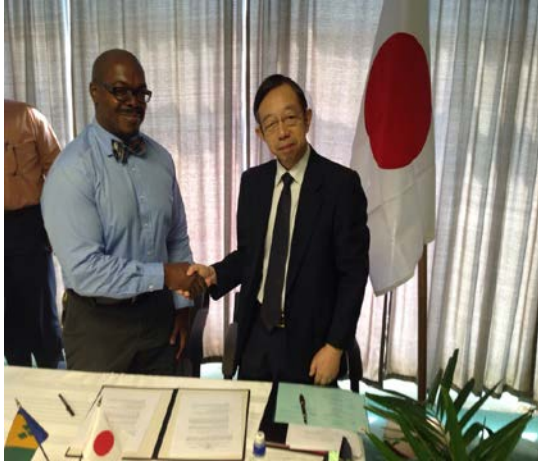
The ceremony was attended by Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, and Dr. Charles Woods, Medical Director, Milton Cato Memorial Hospital. Also in attendance were Senator the Honorable Luke Browne, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, and Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, Director of Foreign Policy and Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Regional Integration, along with invited guests and media representatives.

Mr. Masatoshi Sato, during his speech, highlighted that the medical equipment to be procured through the grant funding will benefit the existing operations and also improve the hospital’s capacity to provide a more efficient medical service in addition to enhancing the delivery of the existing emergency and health care services to patients. He also expressed the hope that all equipment will be maintained properly and managed effectively so as to ensure reliable service to the public.

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

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