## Ambassador Okada participated in the 18<sup>th</sup> Japan-CARICOM consultation

His Excellency Mitsuhiko Okada, Ambassador and Plenipotentiary Representative of Japan to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), participated in the 18th Japan-CARICOM consultation which held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana. The consultation was co-chaired by Mr. Yasushi Takase, Director-General, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and attended by representatives of 12 CARICOM member states and the CARICOM Secretariat.

Ambassador Okada, in his opening remarks, pointed out significant developments in the relationship between Japan and the CARICOM member states since the last consultation in 2014 and expressed his appreciation for the support from CARICOM member states to Japan in international fora. In her address, Mrs. Peters-Phillips spoke about the framework of cooperation between Japan and CARICOM outlined in the three pillars: cooperation towards sustainable development; the deepening and expanding bonds founded on exchanges and friendship; and cooperation in addressing challenges confronting the international community.

During the consultation, Mr. Takase reviewed the cooperation between Japan and CARICOM, while CARICOM member states expressed their expectations on future cooperation from Japan on various issues, including economy, energy, health, human resources, and disaster risk reduction.



From the left Ambassador Okada, Mr. Takase, co-chair and Ms. Peters-Phillips, PS of St. Vincent.



Delegates of Japan and CARICOM at the consultation.