

August 9, 2017

PRESS RELEASE

Visit by Japanese Ambassador to Saint Lucia:
Signing Ceremony for Japan's Development Assistance to Saint Lucia and ODA
Seminar

The signing ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled the "Project for Reconstruction of Bridges in the Cul-De-Sac Basin," as well as a seminar on Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) jointly hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), both took place at 9:30 a.m. on August 9, 2017, at the Prime Minister's Office in Castries, Saint Lucia.

The Government of Saint Lucia received a grant of approximately thirteen million, nine hundred thousand US dollars (US\$13,900,000) from the Government of Japan in order to facilitate the renovation of bridges over the Cul-De-Sac River along the East Coast Road. These renovations are intended to improve traffic safety and transportation efficiency, and to dramatically reduce disaster risks in the Cul-De-Sac Basin. The grant is also aimed at contributing to the improvement of the capacity of Saint Lucia to adapt to climate change.

The ODA seminar was aimed at enhancing the understanding of Japanese assistance among relevant officials in Saint Lucia and paving the way to future cooperation through presentations on Japan's policy for assistance in Saint Lucia, the various forms of Japan's assistance available in Saint Lucia and the application process of all JICA schemes.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan, the Honourable Allan Chastanet, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation, External Affairs and Public Service of Saint Lucia, Mr. Hajime Takeuchi, Director General, Latin America and the Caribbean Department of JICA Headquarters, Ms. Junko Nakamura, Project Formulation Advisor, JICA St. Lucia, and numerous officials from various Ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives was represented by the Honourable Minister Ezechiel Joseph, Mr. John Calixte, Permanent Secretary, Mr. Augustus cadet, Deputy Permanent secretary and Mrs. Sarita Williams-Peter, Chief Fisheries Officer. From the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Energy and Labour, the Honourable Minister Stephenson King, Mr. Ivor Daniel, Permanent Secretary, Mr. Barrymore Felicien, Deputy Permanent secretary and Mr. Albert Jn. Baptiste, Chief Engineer were in attendance. Also in attendance from the Ministry of Economic Development, Housing, Urban Renewal, Transport and Civil Aviation- Department of Economic Planning were Ms. Janet Barnard, deputy Permanent Secretary and Ms. Kerry Joseph, Deputy Chief Economist. Also present were invited guests and media representatives.

In his speech, Ambassador Okada stated that the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation, including natural disaster preparedness, have been the recent focus of Japanese grant aid assistance in the Caribbean region, and emphasized the importance of bolstering Saint Lucia's resilience against climate change. Prime Minister Allen Chastanet concurred,

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expressing his gratitude to the Government of Japan, and stressing the necessity of procuring assistance for SIDS in combating the effects of climate change from more developed countries.

The Government of Japan is committed to advancing the sustainable development of Saint Lucia through continued cooperation.

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The Exchange of Notes between Prime Minister Allan Chastanet (L) and Ambassador Okada (R)



Participants at the ODA Seminar

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