<u>Visit by Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of Embassy of Japan to Antigua and Barbuda:</u>

<u>Handing-over Ceremony for Japan's Project for Improvement of Fishery Equipment</u> and Machinery in Antigua and Barbuda

The handing-over ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled "Project for Improvement of Fishery Equipment and Machinery in Antigua and Barbuda" took place at 12:00 pm on November 8, 2016 in Antigua and Barbuda.

The grant, valued at five million, seven hundred thousand US dollars (US\$5,700,000) is provided in order to improve fishery product distribution and fisheries management through the upgrading and replacing of equipment and machinery and accompanying facilities that were previously installed by Japanese grant aid. Also facilitated is the installation of new equipment and machinery based on fisheries management needs, including a surveillance radar system, a submerged-type fish aggregating device and a multipurpose boat.

Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister-Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan to Antigua and Barbuda and the Honourable Arthur Nibbs, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda were both in attendance to commemorate the event. Also in attendance was Ms. Cheryl Appleton, Chief Fisheries Officer, Fisheries Division.

In his speech, Mr. Sato noted that the provision of equipment is just one example of the ongoing fishery sector cooperation between Japan and Antigua and Barbuda which includes collaboration on sustainable use of living marine resources, technical assistance and technical training.

The Government of Japan is committed to advancing the sustainable growth of Antigua and Barbuda through continued cooperation.

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