

**Visit by Japanese Ambassador to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:**

**Exchange of Notes for Japan's Development Assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

The signing ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled "Economic and Social Development Programme (Provision of Japanese Disaster Reduction Equipment)" took place at 8:30 am on July 18, 2016 in the Conference Room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The grant is provided in order to support the promotion of economic and social development of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by utilising disaster reduction related products of Japanese enterprises. The grant is intended to contribute to the improvement of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' capacity to adapt to climate change and is valued at two hundred million Japanese Yen (¥200,000,000), or approximately one million, nine hundred thousand US dollars (US\$1,900,000).

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the Honourable Sir Louis Straker, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes. Also in attendance were Mr. Nathaniel Williams, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce, Mrs. Sandy Peters-Phillips, Director of Foreign Policy and Research, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce and Mr. Howie Prince, Director of the National Emergency Management Office.

In his speech, Ambassador Okada noted the various examples of cooperation between Japan and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, from Non-Project Grant Aid to Fisheries Grant Aid and even cultural cooperation in the form of English teachers from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in Japan. He also expressed his belief that this grant will considerably enhance disaster preparedness in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

This grant aid is just one instance of Japanese assistance aimed at tackling climate change. Through the Actions for Cool Earth 2.0 (ACE 2.0) initiative, the Government of Japan has pledged support of approximately twelve billion US dollars (US\$12,000,000,000) to developing countries in 2020 to help them reduce harmful emissions and develop their various infrastructures to withstand the effects of climate change by using Japanese technologies and expertise gained through Japan's similar experiences.

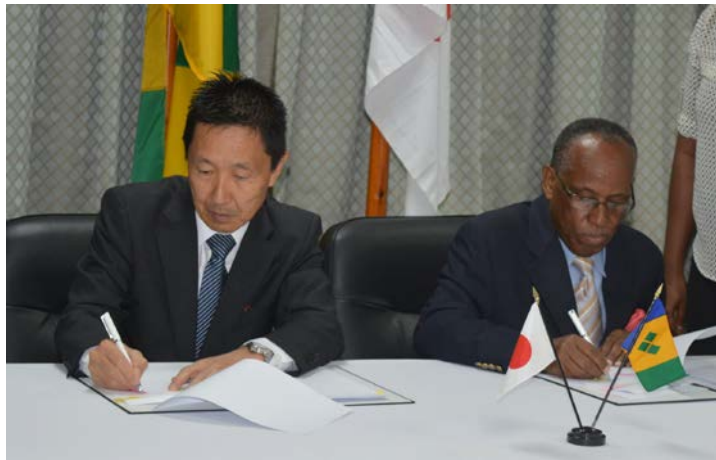
The Government of Japan is committed to advancing regional development through continued cooperation, and anticipates that the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to greatly benefit from Japan's development assistance.

**END**

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**Ambassador Okada delivers his speech**



**The signing of the Exchange of Notes (at left, Ambassador Okada; at right, the Hon. Sir Louis Straker)**



**The Official Exchange of Notes**

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