

Visit by Japanese Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda:

Exchange of Notes for Japan's Development Assistance to Antigua and Barbuda

The signing ceremony for Japan's development assistance entitled "Economic and Social Development Programme" which will be used for the provision of a reverse osmosis (desalination) plant in Antigua and Barbuda took place on January 23, 2017 at the Prime Minister's Office in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

The grant is provided in order to support the promotion of economic and social development by increasing the water security of Antigua and Barbuda and is intended to contribute to improving the country's capacity to adapt to climate change. The grant is valued at two hundred million Japanese Yen (¥200,000,000), or approximately one million, seven hundred thousand US dollars (US\$1,700,000).

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan to Antigua and Barbuda, and the Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance and Corporate Governance of Antigua and Barbuda, signed the Exchange of Notes. Also in attendance was The Honourable Arthur Nibbs, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs.

In his speech, Ambassador Okada noted that this grant aid programme is the latest in a series of Japanese assistance projects intended to aid Antigua and Barbuda in mitigating the effects of climate change. Both the Prime Minister and the Minister for Agriculture identified water scarcity as one of the major effects of climate change that has negatively affected the farming sector of Antigua and Barbuda and expressed their gratitude to the Government of Japan for providing the country with an alternate water source.

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

END

For further information, please contact:
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Guests at the signing ceremony (from second left: the Honourable Arthur Nibbs, the Honourable Gaston Browne and Ambassador Okada)



The official Exchange of Notes

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