

PRESS RELEASE

Handing over Ceremony for Emergency Resilience Project in Matelot

The Handing over Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for Maximizing Emergency Resilience in Trinidad” took place at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday 9th November 2017, at the newly renovated Matelot Community Centre. A brief Handing over for a Water Ambulance, which is also part of the project, was conducted at the Office of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation at around 11:00 a.m.

A grant totaling US \$222,046 was received from the Government of Japan for carrying out upgrades to the Matelot R.C. Primary School, the Matelot Community Centre and the Matelot Health Centre, which can now serve as emergency shelters in the event of a natural disaster. Labour for the upgrades was provided by soldiers from the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment First Engineer Battalion. The project also allowed for the procurement of the Water Ambulance, generators, communications equipment and the provision of emergency first aid and disaster response training to Matelot residents. The aim of the project is to decrease the vulnerability and improve the disaster preparedness of the community.

Among the attendees at the ceremony were Mr. Ken Nishii, Second Secretary, Embassy of Japan; Mr. Martin Terry Rondon, Chairman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation; Mrs. Deborah Lewis-Alfred, Chief Executive Officer of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation; Dr. Mark Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of the Cropper Foundation; Captain Olatunji Rudder-Fisher of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force; and Mrs. Michelle Roberts-Francois, President of the Matelot Village Council.

Mr. Nishii highlighted the importance of global cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction, especially amongst island states and at all levels of society, from state and official to grassroots, in order to have a lasting impact on the lives of those who are most vulnerable. Mr. Rondon thanked the Government of Japan for providing long-awaited assistance to his hometown of Matelot, stating that such a project would have been impossible without GGP grant funding.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on disaster mitigation and other projects, with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries.

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For further information, please contact:
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PHOTOS
Handing over Ceremony for Emergency Resilience Project



Mr. Ken Nishii shakes hands with Mr. Martin Terry Rondon, Chairman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation



The media speaking with Mr. Martin Terry Rondon (left) and Dr. Mark Thomas, CEO of the Cropper Foundation (right)



Handing over ceremony in Matelot



Mr. Ken Nishii delivers Feature Address



Mr. Martin Terry Rondon hands keys to Mr. Ken Nishii



Mr. Ken Nishii hands keys to Mrs. Michelle Roberts-Francois, President of the Matelot Village Council



Newly renovated Matelot Community Centre



Generator at newly renovated Community Centre



Matelot Primary School



Generator at Matelot Primary School