

November 11, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

Japanese Government Funds Project for Development of Agriculture Education through Aquaponics in Antigua & Barbuda

The signing ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) entitled “Project for Development of Agriculture Education through Aquaponics” took place at 11:00 a.m. on November 09, 2016 at the Conference Room of the Prime Minister’s Office, St John's, Antigua. St. Mary’s Secondary School received a grant of up to US\$83,070 from the Government of Japan for the establishment of an aquaponics system which will include three vegetable grow beds, six fish tanks and other necessary equipment and facilities.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, and The Honorable Michael Browne, Minister of Education, Science & Technology. Also in attendance were Ambassador Lionel Hurst, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Hon. Samantha Marshall, Minister of Social Transformation & Human Resource Development, and Dr. Patricia Banfield, Deputy Director of Education, Science & Technology, along with invited guests and media representatives.

Mr. Masatoshi Sato, during his speech, highlighted that the Embassy of Japan fully endorses this initiative that encourages the use of smart agriculture to overcome deteriorating environmental conditions; particularly for Antigua and Barbuda, which has been facing the challenges of rainwater shortage and climate change, and their negative impact on the fisheries and agriculture livelihood of many citizens across the country. He also expressed the hope that this new initiative will support, and go hand in hand with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda’s plan to enhance agriculture education, aquaculture and food production in the country.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the people of Antigua & Barbuda, all 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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The Honorable Michael Browne, Minister of Education, Science & Technology, Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan and Mr. Casey Phillips, Principal, St. Mary's Secondary School.



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Students of the St. Mary's Secondary School, Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Casey Phillips, Principal, St. Mary's Secondary School and Ms. Latoya Swift Wallace, Agriculture Science Teacher, St. Mary's Secondary School.



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The Honorable Michael Browne, Minister of Education, Science & Technology, Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan.



Signing of grant contract being executed by Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Minister Counsellor & Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Casey Phillips, Principal, St. Mary's Secondary School.



Master of Ceremonies: Mrs. Ezra Knowles, Project Consultant, Ministry of Education, Science & Technology.



Snapshot of invited guests at the signing ceremony.

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