

September 4, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

**Signing Ceremony for the Project for Improvement of Fishery Equipment and Machinery
in Saint Lucia**

The signing ceremony for the Project for Improvement of Fishery Equipment and Machinery in Saint Lucia took place at 11:00 a.m. on September 4, 2014, at the Conference Room in the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development of Saint Lucia. The grant is provided in order to improve fishery product distribution and fisheries management, and is valued at approximately five million, six hundred thousand US Dollars (US\$5,600,000).

The grant will be utilized for upgrading and replacing equipment and machinery and accompanying facilities that were previously installed by Japan's grant aid, and also for installing new equipment and machinery based on fisheries management needs in Saint Lucia.

Mr. Masatoshi Sato, Counsellor and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan, and The Honourable Moses Jn. Baptiste, Minister for Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development of Saint Lucia, were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes.

In his speech, Mr. Sato spoke about the recent bilateral meeting held between His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and The Honourable Dr. Kenny Davis Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia, on July 28th, 2014, in which they discussed cooperation in fisheries and disaster risk reduction. He also stated that the bilateral meeting and the recently held CARICOM-Japan Summit 2014 reflects the Government of Japan's commitment to advancing relations as global partners and further promoting cooperation to the benefit of both countries.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the people of Saint Lucia, all with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries, especially in the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2014.

END

Attached are pictures of the ceremony which may be resized and distributed.

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