

March 14, 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for Japan's Fisheries Development Assistance to Saint Lucia

The signing ceremony for Japan's grant development assistance to Saint Lucia, amounting to two hundred million Japanese Yen (¥200,000,000), or approximately one point eight million US dollars (US\$1,800,000), took place on March 13, 2019 at the Department of External Affairs, Castries, Saint Lucia. The grant will be used to procure fisheries-related equipment, such as fish aggregating devices, storage coolers, a biogas digester and energy convertor, and life jackets, to improve the operational efficiency and hygienic environment of the fisheries industry, which is of high economic and social importance to the country.

Mr. Yoshinori Yakabe, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Japan, and the Honourable Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Economic Growth, Job Creation and External Affairs of Saint Lucia, were in attendance to sign the Exchange of Notes.

Also in attendance were the Honourable Ezechiel Joseph, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, Her Excellency Elma Gene Isaac, Permanent Secretary, Department of External Affairs, Mr. Barrymore Felicien, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives, and Mr. Claudius Emmanuel, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Department of Economic Development.

In his speech, Mr. Yakabe indicated that the grant assistance would assist the Government of Saint Lucia in "achieving its policy objectives in food security and nutrition." He also noted that the Government of Japan would further contribute to Saint Lucia's Fisheries Sector through the upcoming project entitled "The Project for Strengthening Sustainable Use and Management of Coastal Fisheries Resource in the CARICOM Countries", which will be coordinated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and benefit six OECS countries, including Saint Lucia. He further noted that March 11, 2019, marked the 8th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and stated that, "the Government of Japan is contributing to global disaster preparedness by sharing the lessons learned and through our ongoing commitment to cooperation in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction."

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and people of Saint Lucia, all with a view to advancing sustainable development through continued cooperation.

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Mr. Yakabe delivers his speech



Mr. Yakabe and The Honourable Allen Chastanet sign the Exchange of Notes