

HIS EXCELLENCY YOSHIMASA TEZUKA JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SPEAKS AT THE CARIBBEAN TRAINING COURSE IN THE PREPARATION OF NOMINATION DOSSIERS FOR WORLD HERITAGE

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Ambassador Yoshimasa Tezuka addresses participants at the Official Opening Ceremony of the Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers (24 March 2013, Jolly Beach Hotel & Spa, Antigua)

“I look forward to future collaborations between Japan and the Caribbean countries and the further strengthening of our relations”- those were the closing words from His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka, Japanese Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, as he addressed participants at the Official Opening Ceremony of the Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers, in St. Mary’s, Antigua & Barbuda. The five day training course was designed within the framework of the Japanese Funds-in-Trust project "Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)". The purpose of the course was to strengthen professional capacities in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in preparing nomination dossiers and to increase the number and quality of nominations of cultural and natural heritage sites, with a focus on *sites of memory* in the Caribbean.

In his address to participants, Ambassador Tezuka spoke about Japan’s passion for the conservation of world heritage sites. This passion he contends led to the creation of the Japanese Funds-in- Trust project. He mentioned that the fund was established by the Government of Japan in 2000. In highlighting relations between the Caribbean and Japan, Ambassador Tezuka

expressed Japan’s continued desire to maintain its “**kizuna**”, which is, the strong bond of friendship Japan shares with the Caribbean region. In attendance were **the Honourable Dr. Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; the Honourable Winston Williams, Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda; Ms Alissandra Cummins, Chairperson of UNESCO Executive Board and the Barbados National Commission for UNESCO; Dr. Reginald Murphy, Secretary- General, Antigua and Barbuda National Commission for UNESCO; Ms. Himalchuli Gurung, Culture Programme Specialist, UNESCO Kingston Cluster Office for the Caribbean** as well as **Representatives from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**. The workshop was a collaboration of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris, the UNESCO Offices in Kingston and Havana and the Antigua and Barbuda National Commission for UNESCO.



His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka, Japanese Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, with the Honourable Dr. Winston Baldwin Spencer, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda; the Honourable Winston Williams, Acting Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Gender Affairs and some of the participants of the Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers.

Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago