

**Visit by His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan  
to the Commonwealth of Dominica  
Formal commission of Mr. Gerard Cools-Lartigue  
as the Honorary Consul-General of Japan in the Commonwealth of Dominica**

His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Commonwealth of Dominica, visited Dominica during the period of June 26 – 28, 2016. During his visit, Ambassador Okada formally presented the Letters of Commission to Mr. Gerard Cools-Lartigue, who has been commissioned by Foreign Minister Kishida as the Honorary Consul-General of Japan in the Commonwealth of Dominica as from May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

To mark this occasion, Ambassador and Mrs. Okada hosted a reception at Fort Young Hotel from 18:30 on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The reception was attended by approximately forty guests, including Senator the Honourable Francine Baron, Minister for Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs, Ambassador Steve Ferrol, Secretary to the Cabinet, Office of the Prime Minister, Permanent Secretaries from various government ministries, members of the Diplomatic Corps, the media and other specially invited guests.

Ambassador Okada addressed the gathering to introduce Mr. Cools-Lartigue, followed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and CARICOM Affairs, Senator the Honourable Francine Baron, who remarked that the installation of Mr. Cools-Lartigue as the first Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Dominica has “deep significance” for bilateral relations between the two countries and that since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Dominica and Japan in 1978, the bilateral relations have developed significantly.

Mr. Gerard Cools-Lartigue, after he received his Letters of Commission, stated that he would do his utmost to fulfill his functions successfully.

Additionally, there was a cultural display of calendars showcasing different aspects of Japanese culture.



(From left, Mr. Cools-Lartigue, Senator the Honourable Baron, Mr. and Mrs. Okada)



(Handing Letters of Commission)



(Senator the Honourable Baron, Mr. and Mrs. Okada checking Japanese Calendar display)



(Japanese Calendar display)