

PRESS RELEASE

**Completion ceremony for Multi-purpose Centre in Berbice, Guyana**

The Completion Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for the Construction of Skills Training Resource Centre” was held at 10:00 am on Thursday 31 October 2019 at the project site, located in Corentyne, Bernice, Guyana.

The project was recently completed by St. Francis Community Developers (SFCD), which was one of three Guyanese organizations that received GGP funding from the Government of Japan, following a grant-signing ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in February 2018. SFCD received a grant of US \$90,797 for construction of the Skills Training Resource Centre, which is expected to serve as a dedicated, undisturbed space for practical and vocational training for at-risk youth. The training and services available will allow target groups to make themselves more marketable and increase their capacity to provide a living for themselves and their families.

The Honourable Valerie Adams-Yearwood, Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for Rural Affairs, attended the ceremony and delivered remarks on behalf of the Government of Guyana. She thanked the Government of Japan for its support and highlighted that the agro-processing sector in Guyana is one of the most significant sectors for both supporting the Guyanese economy and job creations. Minister Adams-Yearwood also expressed her belief that the center would be used effectively to advance growth in the agro-processing sector. Mr. Toshihide Kanaya, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan, expressed his appreciation for the hard work put into the completion of the project’s construction, and further stated that he believed that the facility would be used effectively, as well as become another example of the existing friendship between the two countries. Also in attendance at the ceremony were Mr. Kent Vincent, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Food for the Poor Guyana, and other project stakeholders.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the People of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.



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Mr. Toshihide Kanaya, Second Secretary and Mr. Alex. F. Foster CEO of St. Francis Community Developer



Honourable Valerie Adams-Yearwood, Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture with responsibility for Rural Affairs, and Mr. Kanaya at the skills training facility



Mr. Kanaya tries local product at the mini exhibition.



The ceremony was held at the Japanese Hall which was also built by the GGP in 2012.



The newly built Skills Training facility



The ceremonial cutting of the ribbon by Ms. Adams-Yearwood and Mr. Kanaya

END



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