

PRESS RELEASE

**Signing ceremony for Disaster Management project in Saint Christopher and Nevis**

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for the Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for Improving Disaster Resilience in Nevis” was held at 9:00 am on Tuesday 17 December 2019 at the Emergency Operations Centre of the Nevis Disaster Management Department (NDMD) in Long Point on the island of Nevis.

The NDMD will receive a grant of US \$161,309 for activities aimed at ensuring that communities are better prepared for emergency situations, including the installation of hurricane shutters and water storage tanks at two emergency shelters and the construction of a bridge and access road in the Stoney Grove community. This is expected to contribute to improved disaster resilience on the island and adds to the work of “The Project for Improving Disaster Resilience and Emergency Shelter Management in Nevis Island”, which was also completed under GGP in 2017.

Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama represented the Government of Japan and signed the grant contract as donor, and Mr. Brian Dyer, Director of NDMD signed as the representative of the recipient, while the Honorable Mark Brantley, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation, and Premier of Nevis, signed as witness. Ambassador Hirayama noted that the issue of climate change and natural disasters is a common challenge for both Japan and St. Christopher and Nevis as island countries and, therefore, he stressed on the great importance of this project as a part of joint collaborative efforts between the countries to deal with disasters. He added that the strongest weapon against these disasters is a strong sense of human bond, mutual assistance and cooperation. Minister Brantley, in turn, acknowledged the ongoing demonstration of friendship and support from the Government of Japan, as displayed by the assistance lent to St. Christopher and Nevis through the GGP and other disaster management grant assistance during the course of 2019. He thanked the Ambassador for this commitment and reiterated his hope to continue strengthening the relationship between the two countries. Mr. Dyer also thanked the Embassy for its generosity and continued collaboration.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were: the Honorable Alexis Jeffers, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing, Cooperatives and Fisheries, Natural Resources and Disaster Management; and Dr. Ernie Stapleton, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communications, Works, Public Utilities, Posts, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Environment.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the People of Saint Christopher and Nevis, with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries.

*For further information, please contact:*  
Economic Affairs and Development Cooperation Section  
Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago  
Tel: (868)-628-5991/3 Ext. 219/234  
E-mail: ecocoop@po.mofa.go.jp





Ambassador Hirayama delivers remarks



Hon. Mark Brantley, Premier of Nevis and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of St. Christopher and Nevis, extends words of appreciation to the Ambassador



Ambassador Hirayama and Mr. Brian Dyer, Director of NDMD, sign the grant contract



Minister Brantley signs as witness



A handshake is exchanged after the signing of grant documents



L-R: Mr. Brian Dyer; Ambassador Hirayama; Minister Brantley; and Hon Alexis Jeffers, Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing, Cooperatives and Fisheries, Natural Resources and Disaster Management

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