

PRESS RELEASE

**Signing ceremony for garbage truck project in Saint Lucia**

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for Reusing Secondhand Garbage Collection Trucks in Castries” was held at 10:00 am on Thursday 16 January 2020 at the Ministry of External Affairs in Rodney Bay.

The Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA) will receive a grant of US \$80,041 for the procurement of 3 rehabilitated garbage trucks, which will improve garbage collection in 13 communities within Central Castries and enhance the quality of life for around 10,000 residents. Training will also be provided to ensure proper use of the equipment.

Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama represented the Government of Japan and signed the grant contract as Donor, while Ms. Emlyn Jean, Information and Communication Manager for SLSWMA, signed on behalf of the Recipient. Also at the ceremony were: The Honorable Dr. Gale T.C. Rigobert, Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development; the Honourable Sarah Flood Beaubrun, Minister with responsibility for External Affairs and Parliamentary Representative for Castries Central; Mr. Tsutomu Kobayashi, Chief Representative of the JICA Saint Lucia Office; and other distinguished guests.

In his remarks, Ambassador Hirayama noted that both Japan and Saint Lucia, as island countries, face common challenges such as natural disasters and waste disposal and expressed the hope that this project could improve public awareness on proper waste disposal, help reduce littering and increase recycling.

Minister Rigobert acknowledged Japan’s advancement in the area of recycling, which she had witnessed from her own experiences in Japan. She stated that Saint Lucia, too, had intentions of becoming a recycling-based society and shared her belief that this Project could have a significant impact on the society. The Minister also thanked the People and Government of Japan for its support. Minister Flood Beaubrun thanked Japan for responding quickly to requests for assistance from Saint Lucia. She also recognized Japan as an exemplary donor who is eager to support efforts at the community level.

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

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Ambassador Hirayama delivers remarks



Hon. Dr. Gale T.C. Rigobert, Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, delivers remarks



The Honorable Sara Flood Beaubrun, Minister with responsibility for External Affairs and Member of Parliament for Castries Central, delivers remarks



Handshake between signatories after the signing of the Grant Contract



Ceremony attendees from left to right: Ms. Noriko Katayama, Volunteer Coordinator at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) St. Lucia Office; Ms. Emlyn Jean, Information and Communication Manager for St. Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority; Hon. Dr. Gale T.C. Rigobert, Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development; His Excellency Tatsuo Hirayama, Ambassador of Japan; Hon. Sara Flood Beaubrun, Minister with responsibility for External Affairs and Member of Parliament for Castries Central; Mr. Mitchel Jn Baptiste, Personal Development Coach at SYNERGY; Ms. Nadine Jn Baptiste, Project Manager at SYNERGY; Ms. Irene Gaspard, Acting Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs, International Trade and Civil Aviation; Mr. Tsutomu Kobayashi, Chief Representative of JICA St. Lucia Office.

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