

16 January 2020

PRESS RELEASE

**Signing ceremony for School Renovation project in Saint Lucia**

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for Improving Health Environment at Piaye Combined School” was held at 2:30 pm on Thursday 16 January 2020 at the Piaye Combined School in Choiseul.

The Piaye Combined School will receive a grant of US \$62,189 for the renovation of an existing toilet, the construction of a new toilet and the construction of a multipurpose facility. It is expected that these additions will contribute to a more sanitary and overall improved learning environment for the more than 100 students and 10 teachers of the school.

Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama represented the Government of Japan and signed the grant contract as Donor and Ms. Jeanneve Charlery-Etienne, Principal, signed as the representative of the Recipient. Also in attendance at the ceremony were: the Honourable Bradley Felix, Parliamentary Representative for Choiseul/Saltibus and Minister of Commerce, Industry, Enterprise Development and Consumer Affairs; Mr. Tsutomu Kobayashi, Chief Representative of the JICA Saint Lucia Office; Mr. Naoya Tamura, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer; and other distinguished guests.

Ambassador Hirayama delivered remarks and stated that, against the backdrop of global demographic changes, it is important to improve the educational environment, even despite the challenges faced in the provision of universal education. He expressed the hope that the placement of a Japanese volunteer at the school could help to promote greater mutual understanding between Japan and Saint Lucia. In his remarks, Minister Felix acknowledged Japan as an outstanding partner in cooperation who gives equal importance to small projects in local communities such as Choiseul. The Minister also made reference to a visit he had made to Japan last November, during which he had met with Japanese officials to discuss the issue of sedimentary sand at fishing ports, noting that he was left impressed by the earnest response of the Japanese.

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.

*For further information, please contact:*  
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Ambassador Hirayama delivers remarks



The Minister Bradley Felix thanks the Government of Japan



Mrs. Kay Clarke-Nicholas, District Education Officer for District Seven, addresses attendees



Handshake between signatories after the signing of the Grant Contract



Students in attendance at the ceremony



Closing remarks by a student of the school

END

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