

December 1, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

Signing Ceremony for Japan's Development Assistance to Grenada **(Procurement of equipment to remove Sargassum seaweed)**

The Signing Ceremony for the Exchange of Notes for Japanese Grant Aid provided to Grenada under the “Economic and Social Development Programme” was held virtually on December 2. The Grant Aid is valued at two hundred million Japanese Yen (¥200,000,000), and will finance the procurement of equipment to remove sargassum seaweed landings. This assistance will support Grenada's vital fisheries and tourism sector and marine environment by protecting the health and aesthetics of its affected coasts.

The Exchange of Notes was signed by the Honourable Oliver Joseph, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs of Grenada, and His Excellency Tatsuo Hirayama, Ambassador of Japan to Grenada, who participated from Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively. Also in attendance at the event were Mrs. Roxie McLeish Hutchinson, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs, Mr. Michael Stephen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts, Fisheries and Co-operatives, Ms. Desiree Stephen, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Climate Resilience and the Environment.

In his remarks, Ambassador Hirayama reiterated that this grant aid is one of Japan's efforts to extend assistance to Grenada, as well other Eastern Caribbean countries. He reiterated that the Government of Japan is determined to relieve the great distress of the fishery and tourism industries as they grapple with this frustrating seaweed problem. While noting that the two countries share many universal values including the sustainable use of living marine resources, Ambassador Hirayama emphasized that the Government of Japan is committed to cooperating with Eastern Caribbean countries and expressed his hope that the assistance will be used effectively and efficiently to achieve its objective.

Minister Joseph expressed that the grant aid comes at an extremely critical time, as Grenada experiences a decline in tourism activity. He expected that the assistance will help to keep Grenada's environment and beaches clean as well as safe, and will also contribute to increased production in the fishery sector, a key economic sector which has contributed greatly to Grenada's Gross Domestic Product. Minister Joseph then thanked the Government and people of Japan for their kind assistance.

The Government of Japan will continue to offer its support in the areas of disaster prevention, environment, energy, waste management and fisheries in order to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding with Caribbean countries, and to overcome the vulnerabilities inherent to small island countries.

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Minister Joseph delivers remarks



Ambassador Hirayama delivers remarks



Minister Joseph and Ambassador Hirayama sign the Exchange of Notes



Minister Joseph and Ambassador Hirayama display the signed agreements