

PRESS RELEASE**Signing ceremony for procurement of wheelchair-accessible vehicle in Saint Lucia**

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for the Improvement of Wheelchair-Accessible Vehicle in Saint Lucia” was held at 11:00am on Wednesday 10 March 2021. The Signing Ceremony was held online with the parties participating from Port of Spain and the Saint Lucia Red Cross Headquarters in Castries, Saint Lucia.

The Saint Lucia Red Cross Society will receive a grant of US \$35,090 for the procurement of a refurbished wheelchair-accessible vehicle from the Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy, which will help improve transportation for wheelchair-bound persons in Saint Lucia. This Project marks the second time that the Embassy has collaborated with Saint Lucia Red Cross Society through GGP, following a GGP grant contract previously signed in 2015 for the procurement of an ambulance.

The Grant Contract was signed by Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama on behalf of the Government of Japan as Donor, and Ms. Terencia Gaillard, Director General of the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society, on behalf of the Recipient. Also in attendance were Mr. Hubert Pierre, President of the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society; Mr. Tsutomu Kobayashi, Chief Representative of the Saint Lucia Office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA); and Mr. Katsuya Sato, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan.

Ambassador Hirayama referred to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, remarking that the pandemic does not choose a person, country or region and could, unfortunately, make vulnerable persons and countries even more vulnerable. He noted, therefore, that the Government of Japan is making efforts to fight against the pandemic and that the Embassy continued to work in the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Saint Lucia office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), to extend financial and technical cooperation both regionally and bilaterally. The Ambassador also paid tribute to the Red Cross Society for its global role and community-level activities. He praised the Society’s discipline and expressed the hope that such discipline could help ensure the efficient and effective use of the vehicle procured through the project.

The Saint Lucia Red Cross expressed its gratitude to the Government of Japan through its President Mr. Hubert Pierre, who delivered remarks, as well as its Director General and grant signatory Ms. Terencia Gaillard. Mr. Pierre highlighted the Society’s continued partnership with the Embassy of Japan, who he named as a reliable and dependable partner. He said that the new vehicle would not belong the Red Cross, but to the people of Saint Lucia and it would help the Society continue its mandate of helping to eliminate human suffering. Ms. Gaillard vowed that the Red Cross would continue working hard to ensure the proper maintenance of the vehicle.

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 Hiramaya delivers remarks



Mr. Pierre (at right) thanks the Government of Japan



The Grant Contact is signed by Ambassador Hiramaya



The Grant Contact is signed by Ms. Gaillard



Virtual greeting after the signing of the contract.

Left to right: Ms. Terencia Gaillard; Mr. Hubert Pierre (seated); Mr. Katsuya Sato; and Ambassador Tatsuo Hiramaya

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