

11 March 2021

PRESS RELEASE

Signing ceremony for procurement of medical equipment in Nevis

The Signing Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled “The Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment in Nevis” was held at 10:00am on Thursday 11 March 2021. The Signing Ceremony was held online with the parties participating from Port of Spain and Charlestown in Nevis.

Alexandra Hospital will receive a grant of US \$65,774 for the procurement of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) machine, which will improve the capacity of Nevis to respond to the threat of COVID-19 spread.

The Grant Contract was signed by Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama on behalf of the Government of Japan as Donor, and Mr. Gary Pemberton, Hospital Administrator, on behalf of the Recipient. Also in attendance were the Honourable Mark Brantley, Premier of Nevis, Senior Minister of Health in the Nevis Island Administration (NIA) and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis; the Honourable Hazel Brandy-Williams, Junior Minister of Health and Gender Affairs, NIA; Ms. Shelisa Martin Clarke, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Gender Affairs, NIA; Mr. Nobuaki Hanawa, First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan; and other stakeholders.

Ambassador Hirayama delivered remarks at the ceremony, first acknowledging the passing of exactly ten years since 11 March 2011, the date of the unforgettable Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami. He noted the significance of that date as one on which Japan and the world learned the importance of being mutually supportive in order to overcome dreadful natural disasters. Referring to the effects of COVID-19, the Ambassador stressed that the Government of Japan, as a responsible partner, remained committed to fighting the pandemic and supporting others in need of assistance. He commended Saint Kitts and Nevis for successfully containing COVID-19 spread and said he felt convinced that the procurement of the PCR machine would complement the Government’s efforts. The Ambassador expressed the hope that he would soon be able to witness the effective and efficient use of the machine.

Remarks were also delivered by Premier Mark Brantley and Minister Hazel Brandy-Williams, both of whom expressed profound gratitude to the Government of Japan for its steady partnership over the years. The Premier acknowledged the multiple areas in which Japan had supported Saint Kitts and Nevis, noting that this was consistent with the bonds of friendship between the countries. He remarked on the importance of being one another’s keeper during the pandemic, stating that if some are unsafe, then all are unsafe. As such, he welcomed the timely and impactful support from the Government of Japan. Permanent Secretary Martin Clarke, who gave an overview of the project, assured that the machine was an investment that would be useful beyond COVID-19, by also allowing for local testing for other viral illnesses.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and the People of Saint Kitts 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:
Economy 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 Hiramaya delivers remarks



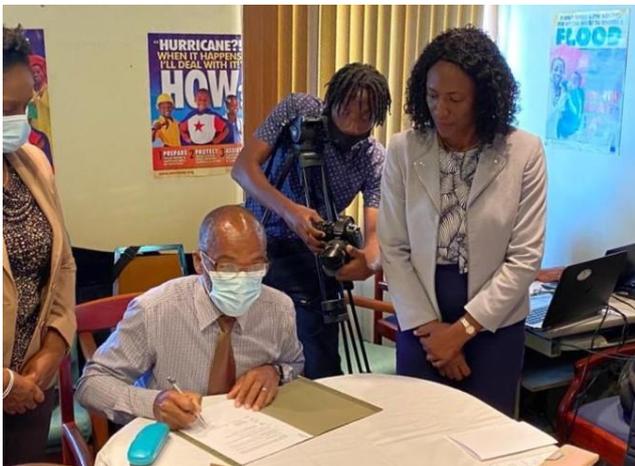
Honourable Mark Brantley delivers remarks



Honourable Hazel Brandy-Williams delivers remarks



The Grant Contract is signed by Ambassador Hiramaya



The Grant Contract is signed by Mr. Gary Pemberton, as Permanent Secretary Shelisa Martin Clarke (at right) observes



Ambassador Hiramaya extends a handshake virtually after the signing

END

For further information, please contact:
Economy 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

