

PRESS RELEASE

Handing-Over Ceremony for Garbage Collection Truck Project in Saint Lucia

A Handing-Over Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Project (GGP) entitled, “The Project for Reusing Secondhand Garbage Collection Trucks in Castries,” was held on Thursday 25th November, 2021. The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Transport, Physical Development and Urban Renewal. The Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA) received a grant totaling US\$80,041 from the Government of Japan for the procurement of three refurbished garbage collection trucks assisted by the Society for Promotion of Japanese diplomacy.

Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama attended the ceremony together with the Honourable Shawn A. Edward Minister of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Mrs. Anita Montoute, Chairperson, Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority, Mr. Laurianus Lesfloris General Manager (Ag.), Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority, Mr. Hiroyasu Tonokawa, Chief Representative, JICA Saint Lucia Office.

Ambassador Hirayama stated that he was honored to attend the handover ceremony of this project, for which he signed the agreement in January, 2020. He stressed the importance of waste management in island countries, and expressed his hope that the three garbage trucks would make a great positive impact, while also raising awareness regarding solid waste collection and recycling. Ambassador Hirayama then announced that Japan would send a waste management expert and volunteer to SLSWMA. He also referred to the 20th anniversary since the first dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to St. Lucia, and noted that up to the present date 250 volunteers have worked with the local community, with their activities serving to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

Honorable Minister Edwards underscored the importance of waste management for national development, and stressed that the two countries have maintained long term friendly relations. He also referred to the importance of Japan’s assistance in the areas of fisheries and technical cooperation from JICA. Minister Edwards expressed his sincere gratitude to Japan for providing the vehicles for solid waste collection, which can be used in several areas, and added that they will contribute to the livelihood of the people. Mrs. Anita Montoute, Chairperson of the SLSWMA, sincerely thanked for the donation that will ensure improvement in waste collection capacity. She assured that the vehicles will be utilized according to the objective for a long period of time.

The Government of Japan contribute to cooperate with Saint Lucia, with a view towards strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding.



Remarks by Ambassador Hirayama



Remarks by Minister Edwards



Handover of the keys of the vehicle



Vehicles provided by the project



Left to right: Mr. Hiroyasu Tonokawa, Chief Representative, JICA Saint Lucia Office, Mr. Laurianus Lesfloris General Manager (Ag.), SLSWMA, Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama, Honourable Shawn A. Edward Minister of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Mrs. Anita Montoute, Chairperson, SLSWMA, Ms. Marie Dalsan Operations & Landfill Manager, SLSWMA

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