

PRESS RELEASE

Completion Ceremony for School Renovation Project in Saint Lucia

A Completion Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) entitled, "The Project for Improving Health Environment at Piaye Combined School" was held on Friday 26th November, 2021 at Piaye Combined School. The School received a grant totaling US\$62,189 from the Government of Japan for the renovation of existing washroom facilities, the construction of a new washroom and the construction of a multipurpose facility.

Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama attended the ceremony together with the Honourable Bradley Felix, Parliamentary Representative for Choiseul/Saltibus, Cirus Cepal, Acting Chief Education Officer, Kay-Clark Nicholas, Education Officer – District VII, Jeanneve Charlery-Etienne, Principal, Piaye Combined School, Hiroyasu Tonokawa, Chief Representative of the JICA Saint Lucia Office.

Ambassador Hirayama expressed his pleasure to be able to attend the completion ceremony of the project, which he signed in January, 2020, and praised the efforts of all those involved in the project for ensuring it was completed on schedule despite the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He referred to the contribution of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV), Mr. Tamura, who was assigned to work for the school. Although the education sector was greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Ambassador stressed the importance of face-to-face classes and the critical need for safe hygiene practices. He hoped that these improved facilities will be effectively to that end.

In his remarks, Honorable Felix said that not only this school, but the Choiseul area and St. Lucia itself, has received significant support from Japan, including the construction of the Cul-de-Sac Bridge and support for fisheries facilities. He emphasized that Japan and St. Lucia have an extremely good relationship and commended the various efforts that have been made.

Principal Charlery-Etienne along with officials from the Ministry of Education explained that before the project was implemented, more than half of the students and parents did not want to use the school washrooms, indicating an uncomfortable environment that was not conducive to learning. As such, there was a great need to improve the sanitary environment for the students and teachers at the school.

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



Remarks by Ambassador Hirayama



Remarks by School Principal Mrs. Etienne



Remarks by Honorable Bradley Felix,
Parliamentary Representative for Choiseul/Saltibus



Cutting the ribbon



Visit to the new facility (new washbasin)



Memorial plate

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