

January 25, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Handover Ceremony for equipment procured under the
Project for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment

The handover ceremony for medical equipment procured under the Project for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment took place on January 25, 2022, at the Ministry of Health, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The handover commemorated the transfer of the second batch of equipment donated to Trinidad and Tobago's public healthcare system following the Government of Japan's US \$4.6 million contribution to the UNOPS managed, multi-country project— which also benefits Belize, Guyana and Suriname.

The equipment consisted of 40 infusion pumps, 15 ICU patient monitors, 15 portable Ultrasound Scanning Systems, 15 hospital stretchers and 15 electric Intensive Care Hospital Beds.

Ambassador Hirayama attended the ceremony together with the Honourable Terrence Deyalsingh, Minister of Health of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Erica Wheeler, Representative, WHO/PAHO and Mr. Alejandro Rossi, Director of the UNOPS Multi-Country Office for Costa Rica, Panama and the English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean. In his remarks, Ambassador Hirayama underscored the longstanding friendly and cooperative relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Japan based on shared values, and also reaffirmed the Government of Japan's continued commitment to global cooperation toward tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. Ambassador Hirayama then expressed his appreciation for the hospitality and support which he received during his nearly-completed tenure in the Caribbean, despite the challenges caused by the pandemic.

Minister Deyalsingh expressed his appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for its donation of much needed medical equipment to fight against the pandemic, and promised that the equipment would be used for essential medical care. He praised the longstanding relationship between the two countries over the past 58 years, adding that the relationship will continue to be strengthened based on shared values. Minister Deyalsingh then conveyed his wish that Ambassador Hirayama will leave with wonderful memories of Trinidad and Tobago.

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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Ambassador Hirayama



Minister Deyalsingh



Handover of the medical equipment from Ambassador to Minister



With Mr. Rossi of UNOPS in Costa Rica



Minister Deyalsingh, Ambassador Hirayama and Dr. Wheeler, Representative of WHO/PAHO