

April 29, 2022

Ambassador Irwin LaRocque Receives National Decoration from Japan



"Photo courtesy of CARICOM"

On April 29, the Government of Japan announced its decision to confer a Japanese National Decoration, “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star”, upon His Excellency Irwin Joseph LaRocque, Ambassador and former Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), for his outstanding contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Caribbean States.

Established in 1875, the Orders of the Rising Sun was Japan’s first national decoration awarded by the Government of Japan. It features rays of sunlight radiating from the rising sun with an attachment that is fashioned in the shape of a paulownia flower and leaf. The Order of the Rising Sun is conferred on foreign Japanese nationals for their significant contributions to advancing relations between Japan and its partners.

Ambassador LaRocque, also served as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Commonwealth of Dominica, and Assistant Secretary-General of the CARICOM before his appointment as Secretary General of CARICOM. During his 10 years (2011-21) as Secretary General, Ambassador LaRocque contributed to establishing profound bilateral relations between Japan and CARICOM States by supporting and facilitating the Japan-CARICOM Summit and Foreign Ministers' Meetings, as well as the annual Japan-CARICOM working-level consultations.