

June 17, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

Handover Ceremony for the Project for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment for Trinidad and Tobago

The handover ceremony for medical equipment procured under the Project for Enhancing the Healthcare System through the Provision of Medical Equipment took place on June 17, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

This multi-country project, which is valued at US\$ 4.6 million in total, is being implemented under the management of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

As part of the said project the Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago has benefitted from the procurement of 100 electrical suction pumps, 30 intensive care hospital beds, 28 ICU patient monitors, 25 infusion pumps (syringe), 22 ultrasound portable scanning systems, 15 hospital stretchers, 15 infusion pumps (volumetric), and 10 ventilator systems.

The delegation representing the Government of Japan was led by His Excellency UESUGI Kentaro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was joined for the occasion by His Excellency MATSUBARA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Trinidad and Tobago. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago was represented by Senator the Honorable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. Other distinguished attendees included Mr. Dennis Zulu, Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Alejandro Rossi, Director of the UNOPS Multi-Country Office for Costa Rica, Panama and the English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean as well as officials of the Ministries of Health and Foreign and CARICOM Affairs.

Minister Browne described the ceremony as marking a key moment in the fraternal and excellent relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and Japan, which has been characterized by a series of critical initiatives across a wide spectrum of cooperation over the past 58 years. The Honourable Minister thanked the Government and people of Japan for its contribution, which will support Trinidad and Tobago with attaining universal health coverage and other health related aspects related to the Sustainable Development Goals. Minister Browne also noted the significance of multilateralism in addressing global issues, and extended his appreciation to UNOPS for its integral role in ensuring the success of the project.

Vice-Minister Uesugi conveyed his pleasure with the successful implementation of the project, which responded to the critical medical needs as identified by the Ministry of Health. Vice-Minister Uesugi then noted the upcoming 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Japan in 2024, and proposed that the year 2024 be celebrated as the “Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year”. Vice-Minister Uesugi also took the

opportunity to congratulate the Ministry of Health and UNOPS for their dedicated efforts to successfully carry out the project.

For his part, Mr. Rossi likewise expressed his pleasure with UNOPS' comprehensive management of the project, and noted his organization's honour to carry out said project alongside the Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago toward an effective response to the pandemic and the strengthening of the national health system.

The Government of Japan will continue to offer its support in areas such as disaster prevention, environment, energy, waste management and fisheries in order to overcome the vulnerabilities inherent to small island countries as well as to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding with Caribbean countries.

For further information, please contact:
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His Excellency Vice-Minister UESUGI Kantaro delivers his remarks



Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne delivers his remarks



Mr. Alejandro Rossi delivers his remarks



Vice-Minister UESUGI hands medical equipment over to Minister Browne



From left: Mr. Asif Ali, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health,
Mr. Alejandro Rossi, Director of the UNOPS Multi-Country Office for Costa Rica, Panama
and the English & Dutch Speaking Caribbean
Dr Maryam Abdool-Richards Principal Medical Officer-Institutions,
Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs,
His Excellency UESUGI Kentaro, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs,
His Excellency MATSUBARA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan to Trinidad and Tobago,
Mr. Dennis Zulu, Acting United Nations Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago,
Dr. Roshan Parasram, Chief Medical Officer