

16 September 2022

PRESS RELEASE

**Handover Ceremony for the Project for the Improvement of a Wheelchair Accessible
Vehicle for the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society**

The Handover Ceremony for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) entitled "The Project for the Improvement of a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle for the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society" was held on Friday 16th September 2022, in Castries, Saint Lucia. The Saint Lucia Red Cross Society received a grant totalling US\$35,090 from the Government of Japan to procure a vehicle that would allow them to transport persons with disabilities for medical care and other services such as during a natural disaster.

Counsellor KAMADA Yasuhiko attended the ceremony together with Mr. Hubert Pierre, President, Saint Lucia Red Cross; Mr. Kervin Jn Baptiste, Public Relations Officer, National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD); Ms. Terencia Gaillard, Director General, Saint Lucia Red Cross Society; Ms. Hitomi Urushihata, Project Formulation Advisor, JICA; Ms. Ayodele Hippolyte, Program Officer, JICA; and other stakeholders.

Counsellor Kamada expressed his great pleasure at being able to attend the ceremony in person, together with all the distinguished guests and participants. He acknowledged the excellent, long-standing, cooperative relationship between Saint Lucia and Japan, based on shared universal values including democracy, human rights and the rule of law. Counsellor Kamada applauded the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society's work at the community level and the indispensable support the organisation will now be able to provide to persons with disabilities.

In his remarks, Mr. Pierre thanked the Government of Japan for their support in helping the Red Cross further its mission of alleviating the suffering of the most vulnerable while empowering humanity. Mr. Baptiste also shared his gratitude to Japan, which has been a faithful friend to Saint Lucia, and to the Red Cross for its consistent partnership with the NCPD. He explained that persons with disabilities in Saint Lucia face a lack of accessibility to services and infrastructure daily so the community would greatly cherish this donation.

In her vote of thanks, Ms. Gaillard shared her deep appreciation for the support received from the Government of Japan and was grateful that the project was able to be completed, despite the various challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. She thanked Red Cross' volunteers and staff and shared hopes for a continued friendship with the NCPD.

The Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government and people of Saint Lucia, with a view toward strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries.



Hubert Pierre, President of the Saint Lucia Red Cross Society, delivers remarks.



Kervin Jn Baptiste, Public Relations Officer, National Council of Persons with Disabilities, delivers remarks.



Counsellor Kamada delivers remarks.



Terencia Gaillard, Director General of the Saint Lucia Red Cross, delivers the vote of thanks.

For further information, please contact:
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Ribbon cutting by Counsellor Kamada.



Demonstration of the wheelchair lift.



Counsellor Kamada and Kervin Jn Baptiste.

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