

April 18, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

On April 18, 2024, His Excellency, MATSUBARA Yutaka, hosted a gathering of regional disaster management experts and coordinators at his official residence as part of the Embassy's year-long series of events to commemorate the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2024. The event was held on the margins of the 15th Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

Ambassador Matsubara was joined on the occasion by Ms. Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director of CDEMA, Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig, Deputy Executive Director, CDEMA, the Heads of Disaster Management Coordination Agencies of seventeen (17) Participating States, Mr. MATSUMURA Naoki, Technical Expert, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), as well as other officials representing CDEMA and JICA.

In his remarks, Ambassador Matsubara underscored Japan's multifaceted disaster management cooperation in the CARICOM region in past years and referred to the recently formalized project titled "Advancement of the Regional Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Programme for Enhanced Disaster Management in CDEMA Participating States", which is funded by a grant from the Government of Japan.

For her part, Ms. Elizabeth Riley noted the history of cooperation between Japan and CDEMA, and likewise acknowledged the recent signing of the Multi-Hazard Early Warning Programme. Ms. Riley also proposed avenues for future cooperation with Japan for the benefit of the Caribbean.

Presentations were delivered by Mr. AKIYAMA Shintaro, Director of Central America and Caribbean Division, JICA, and Mr. MATSUMURA Naoki, incoming Disaster Risk Reduction Expert to CDEMA, JICA, which emphasized the continued fruitful relationship with the Caribbean region to enhance technical capacities, especially in the area of disaster risk reduction.

The event also included reflections by Lt. Col. Kester Craig, Deputy Executive Director, CDEMA, and Mr. Navindra Persad, Regional Coordinator, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (Trinidad and Tobago) on their experiences as participants in JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP).

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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Ambassador Matsubara addresses guests



Ms. Elizabeth Riley delivers remarks



Video presentation by Mr. AKIYAMA Shintaro



Presentation by Mr. MATSUMURA Naoki



Lt. Col. Kester Craig shares his perspectives



Mr. Navindra Persad offers his reflections



Ambassador Matsubara and Mrs. MATSUBARA Masako pose with guests