

April 29, 2024

## **Saint Lucian National Mr. Horace Walters Receives National Decoration from Japan**



On April 29, the Government of Japan announced its decision to confer a Japanese National Decoration, “The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon”, upon Mr. Horace Walters, International Whaling Commission (IWC) Commissioner for Saint Lucia, for his exceptional contribution to promoting the sustainable use of marine living resources in international fora and promoting friendship between Japan and Saint Lucia.

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 fashioned in the shape of a paulownia flower and leaf. The Order of the Rising Sun is conferred on foreign nationals for their significant contributions to advancing relations between Japan and its partners.

Mr. Walters is the former Chief Fisheries Officer of Saint Lucia and former Coordinator of the Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Organization. In 2017, Mr. Walters met with His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan during the ministerial visit to Saint Lucia, where they discussed strengthening fisheries cooperation, climate change and deepening relations between Japan and Saint Lucia.