

October 7, 2025

Press Release

Launch of the Pilot Project Promoting Social Inclusion and Gender Equality in Track and Field for Secondary School Students in Trinidad and Tobago

On Friday October 3, 2025 His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa participated in the launch of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Pilot Project Promoting Social Inclusion and Gender Equality in Track and Field for Secondary School Students in Trinidad and Tobago at the IDB Office in Port of Spain.

The event saw the activation of the pilot project, which aims to support social inclusion by improving access to high-quality sports programs for female students and physically challenged students in Trinidad and Tobago public secondary schools.

In addition to Ambassador Umezawa's greeting, remarks were offered by Ms. Maria Fernanda Prada, Education Senior Specialist, IDB; Mr. Claudelle McKellar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education; and Ms. Shanntol Ince, Paralympian.

The project aligns seamlessly with the philosophical concept of the Japan Special Fund, which emphasizes the principle of "Leave No One Behind". This principle is particularly relevant to the project's objective of providing sports education to socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, including female and physically challenged persons.

Japan, as the first IDB non-regional member, has cultivated a longstanding partnership with Latin America and the Caribbean, having implemented numerous projects over the past half-century. With a 5% shareholding in the IDB, Japan holds the position of the largest shareholder among all non-regional member countries.

This project demonstrates the Government of Japan's commitment to supporting projects and programs which promote social development through improving opportunities for vulnerable groups, as well as to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding with Caribbean countries.



Ms. Maria Fernanda Prada offers opening remarks



Ambassador Umezawa delivers remarks



*Permanent Secretary Mr. Claudelle McKellar addresses
participants*



Special Guest Ms. Shanntol Ince delivers her address

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