

October 28, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

**Ceremony for the Handover of Sargassum Removal Equipment Procured under
Japan's Grant Aid**

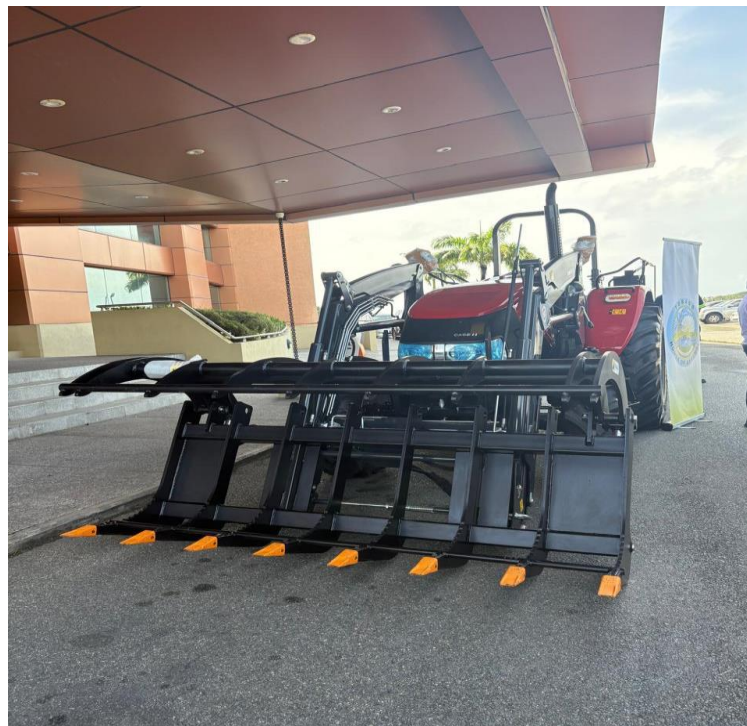
On Tuesday October 21, 2025, His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan, attended a handover ceremony for the project “Improving National Sargassum Management Capabilities in the Caribbean” at Shaw Park Complex, Scarborough, Tobago. Ambassador Umezawa officially handed over the keys to a tractor, which was one of the items procured under the grant aid project. This initiative is funded by the Government of Japan at a value of US\$ 12.3 million, with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the implementing agency.

In attendance at the event were the Honourable Farley Augustine, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly; Mr. Ugo Blanco, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme in Trinidad and Tobago; Mr. Allan Stewart, Director, Tobago Emergency Management Agency, and Dr. Rahanna Juman, Deputy Director – Research, and Chair of the National Project Steering Committee and National Sargassum Task Force.

This project demonstrates the Government of Japan's commitment to supporting small island states in areas such as disaster prevention, environment, energy, waste management and fisheries development in order to overcome the vulnerabilities inherent to these countries, as well as to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding with its Caribbean partners.



Ambassador Umezawa hands the keys to the sargassum removal tractor to the Honourable Farley Augustine



Sargassum removal tractor

For further information, please contact:

Economic Cooperation Section

Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: (868)-628-5991/3 Ext. 247

Email: ecocoop@po.mofa.go.jp