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PRESS RELEASE

Japan Officially Hands Over Tractors to Mayaro/Rio Claro and the Sangre Grande Regional Corporations Under Sargassum Management Project

On Tuesday, 16 June 2026, His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan to Trinidad and Tobago, attended the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's internal handover ceremony for equipment procured under the project, "*Improving National Sargassum Management Capabilities in the Caribbean,*" held at the Mayaro Civic Centre in Mayaro.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Umezawa, the Honourable Khadijah Ameen, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government; Senator the Honourable Ravi Ratiram, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Honourable Nicholas Morris and the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Member of Parliament for Mayaro, formally handed over tractor keys to the Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation and the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation. The tractors were part of the equipment acquired through the project to strengthen national and regional capacity to manage the impacts of sargassum influxes.

The project is funded by the Official Development Assistance of Government of Japan with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at a grant valued at US\$12.3 million.

Japan has promoted diplomacy that brings harmony and cooperation, through respecting the diversity of every nation and providing tailor-made assistance to our partners. This project is a typical form of economic cooperation of such diplomacy.

This initiative reflects the Government of Japan's continued commitment to supporting Trinidad and Tobago in addressing their environmental and developmental challenges in key areas such as such as disaster risk reduction and environmental protection.

Japan remains dedicated to strengthening resilience and sustainable development with countries across the Caribbean region.



His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan delivering his special address to the attendees.



The Honourable Khadijah Ameen, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government delivers the feature address.



Senator the Honourable Ravi Ratiram, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries delivers his remarks.



The Honourable Wilfred Nicholas Morris, Minister in the Office of Prime Minister gives his remarks.



Mrs. Sharifa Ali-Abdullah, Assistant Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, addresses attendees at the handover ceremony



Officials participate in the ceremonial handover of tractor keys to the Mayaro/Rio Claro and Sangre Grande Regional Corporations

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