

## **The Handing Over Ceremony for Fire Trucks and Water Tank Truck to St. Elizabeth Municipal Corporation under the Grant Assistance for Grassroot and Human Security Projects**

On May 12, 2017, Ambassador Masanori Nakano attended the Handing Over Ceremony regarding “the Project for the Improvement of Fire Trucks of Emergency Response in St. Elizabeth” valued at \$79,276.00 US Dollars under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects. The grant funding was used for reconditioning 3 units of used firefighting trucks and 1 unit of water tank truck and for the freight cost of these units from Japan to Jamaica.

The Ceremony was graced by approximately 50 persons including the Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, the Member of Parliament for North Eastern St. Elizabeth, Mr. Franklyn Witter, the Mayor of Black River, Mr. Sangster and the Acting Commissioner of Jamaica Fire Brigade, Mr. Raymond Spencer.

In his remarks, the Hon. Minister McKenzie applauded the efforts of the Government of Japan to have provided the requisite funding for acquisition of these 4 additional units, subsequent to the immense amount of funds previously donated towards various other organizations such as ODPEM, Jamaica Fire Brigade, The National Solid Waste Management Authority and Westmoreland Municipal Corporation.

Ambassador Nakano expressed hope that Japan’s contribution will make the communities in St. Elizabeth a safe place for people to live with more ease and comfort, knowing that emergency vehicular resources are within easy reach. He also highlighted the contributions of a former JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) volunteer Mr. Shingo Oba, a knowledgeable and experienced firefighter who was assigned to St. Elizabeth Municipal Corporation from March 2014 to March 2016. During his two year assignment, he worked assiduously with the Fire Brigade offices to help bring the project from its incubation stage right to the signing ceremony which was held four days before his departure back home to Japan.

In closing, Ambassador Nakano assured the audience that Japan is willing to work together with everyone to strengthen the Japan – Jamaica partnership in whatever way possible.



(Left) 3 fire trucks and 1 water tank truck were handed over to St. Elizabeth Municipal Corporation

(Right) Ambassador Nakano's remarks



(Left) Speech from Hon. McKenzie, the Minister of Local Government and Community Development

(Right) Ambassador Nakano hands over the key of funded vehicles to Hon. McKenzie



(Left) Ambassador Nakano and Hon. McKenzie tested the engine ignition

(Right) Mr. Spencer, Acting Commissioner of Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) briefs Ambassador Nakano and Hon. McKenzie about funded vehicles