

## **The Grant Contract Signing Ceremony for the Project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment for St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital**

On Wednesday November 15, 2017, The Grant Contract worth Sixty Seven Thousand, Five Hundred and Sixty Six US Dollars (67,566.00 USD) or aprox. 8.2 million Jamaican Dollars was signed by H.E. Hiromasa Yamazaki, Ambassador of Japan and Mr. Leo Garel, CEO of the St. Ann's Bay Hospital at the Ministry of Health Headquarters in New Kingston. The Grant will support the procurement of an Ultrasound Machine.

At the ceremony, Dr. Tufton expressed great appreciation to the government and people of Japan, on behalf of the Government of Jamaica for its tremendous assistance not just relating to this current Medical Cooperation Project for the Health Sector, but for tangible assistance and funding support given over the past decades towards the Agriculture sector and specifically that of Jamaica's Coffee Industry through which Japan and Jamaica have had fruitful partnerships over the years.

In recognizing the significant needs of the St. Ann's Bay Hospital, Dr. Tanya Hamilton-Johnson highlighted that over the past 10 years, the St. Ann's Bay Hospital has had a very good track record of low mortality rates among unborn children and mothers. She expressed hope that with the provision of the Ultrasound Machine, the hospital will be better able to improve its services to patients in Obstetrics.

Ambassador Yamazaki highlighted that undoubtedly, health and healthcare is the key foundation for people to lead a peaceful and stable lives. As such going forward, the Embassy of Japan and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) would like to objectively continue the Government of Japan's pursuit in providing worthwhile contributions for Jamaica critical sectors (including health, education, agriculture and so on) especially through the Embassy's non-refundable Grant Assistance Programme, JICA's Training Programmes as well as Technical Cooperation Programmes which will contribute positively towards the long-term sustainable development and socio-economic livelihoods of the people of Jamaica.

Other notable attendees were: Mrs. Sancia Bennett Templer, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Mr. Pixley Irons – the President of St. Ann Chamber of Commerce, as well as other officials and representatives from the Governments of Japan and Jamaica, including the Ministry of Health, St. Ann's Bay Hospital, St. Ann's Bay Chamber of Commerce, North East Regional Health Authority and as well as community representatives from St. Ann's Bay.



(left) Handing Over of cheque

(right) Mrs. Templer – Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health, Dr. Honourable Tufton – Minister of Health, Ambassador Yamazaki, Mr. Garel – CEO of St. Ann’s Bay Regional Hospital, from the left, respectively.



(left) Signing of the Grant Contract witnessed by the Minister Tufton

(right) Speech from Ambassador Yamazaki