

The Handing Over Ceremony for the Improvement of Facility for the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Industry in Belize

On February 15th, 2016, Mr. Hiromoto Oyama, Counsellor of the Embassy of Japan, attended the Handing Over Ceremony of the “Improvement of Facility for the West Indian Sea Island Cotton Industry in Belize” at ICA Belize in Orange Walk. He handed over two tractors and a planter to Mr. Kensuke Inoue, the Director of ICA Belize.

ICA Belize, the NGO founded by a Japanese in 2003, has been involved in Sea Island Cotton industry over ten years. Though they have been producing one of the highest quality cotton and despite the demand by Japanese companies, they have faced difficulty to increase the production volume due to lack of the requisite heavy duty machinery/equipment. The donated tractors will help increasing the production of Sea Island Cotton and it will play the important role of development in Agriculture Industry in Belize.

At the Signing Ceremony, approximately 30 people were in attendance, including Mr. Monty Sadarangani, Honorary Consul-General of Japan, Mr. Roberto Harrison, Chief Agriculture Officer, members of Ministry of Agriculture, members of Plant Protection and Quarantine Inspection Service and members of ICA Belize. Mr. Harrison, other guests and participants expressed their appreciation for the grant support provided by the Government of Japan and promised to take good care of the tractors and utilize them as best as they could to increase the production of high quality cotton.

Counsellor Oyama expressed his wish for the development of Belize through Japan’ s support for agriculture sector which is a main industry in Belize. Counsellor Oyama also mentioned that His Excellency, Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan attended the first Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting in 2014, during which he stated the determination of the Government of Japan to strengthen relations between Japan and CARICOM nations, and Counsellor Oyama emphasized that this project is part of the initiative.



(left) Mr. Oyama hands over the key to Mr. Inoue



(right) Inspection of the donated equipment with cotton farmers