

## **The Handing Over Ceremony of Crooked River Skills Training Centre under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Programme**

On August 11, 2017, Ambassador Masanori Nakano attended the Handing Over Ceremony regarding “the Project for the Construction of Crooked River Skills Training Centre” valued at \$100,803 US Dollars under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects. The grant funding was used for renovation and re-construction of the facility of Crooked River Skills Training Centre.

The reconstructed facility now has the capability to offer a wider range of programme offerings to include beekeeping, barbering, cosmetology, as well as food and beverage services, resulting in creating more job opportunities for youth and empowerment of women living in the community.

Approximately 70 persons including Mr. Donovan Stanberry, the Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries on behalf of Minister Hon. Samuda, attended the ceremony.

Mr. Stanberry and other notable speakers in attendance expressed their appreciation for the support from the Government of Japan. They also alluded to the fact that the project has the potential to make a significant impact on the socio-economic development of especially the youth and women who now have better access to skills training and job opportunities to be provided by this educational and skills training facility.

Ambassador Nakano expressed his pleasure that the project had been completed in partnership with EU and HEART Trust/NTA, and he also highlighted that the provision of a modern vocational skills training institute in Northern Clarendon is one of the most valuable investment for Jamaicans to become self-reliant and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

Ambassador Nakano further expressed his determination to strengthen relations between Japan and Jamaica and that the Government of Japan would continue supporting projects which lead to economic growth in Jamaica.



(Left) Together with the students, Mr. Horace Dalley, Member of Parliament, Northern Clarendon and Mr. Stefano Cilli, Attache/Programme Manager, Rural Development and Environment Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and the Cayman Island

(Right) Mr. Wayne Battiste, Manager of Community Training Interventions of HEART Trust/NTA, Mrs. Elizabeth Terry, Senior Director (Acting) Workforce Development & Employment of HEART Trust/NTA, Mr. Dalley, Mr. Cilli, Ambassador Nakano, Ms. Jennifer Walker, Executive Director (Acting) of HEART Trust NTA, from the left, respectively



(Left) Mr. Donovan Stanberry, the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries delivering speech

(Right) Mrs. Olive Gardner Bygrave, Region 6 Education Officer delivering speech on behalf of the Hon. Ruel Reid, the Minister of Education, Youth and Information



(left) Speech from Mr. Dalley



(right) Ambassador Nakano delivering his remarks



(left) Barbering trainees participating in a mock demonstration with Ambassador Nakano



(right) Crooked River All Age School students performing a traditional Maypole dance