

## **The Grant Contract Ceremony for the Improvement of Fire Trucks of Emergency Response in Port Royal under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects**

On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, H.E. Mr. Masanori Nakano, Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, attended the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony of “Improvement of Fire Trucks of Emergency Response in Port Royal” at Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI). The project is funded by the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects by the Government of Japan.

One of the CMI's essential skills training programmes is firefighting and emergency response. On the other hand, there is no ambulance at CMI and a non-functional fire truck is being utilized for the training sessions. Furthermore, there is no fire truck assigned to a fire station in the central area of Port Royal.

Under this project, the CMI will receive three (3) second hand fire trucks and one (1) second hand ambulance from The Society for Promotion of Japanese Diplomacy (SPJD), a civil society in Japan. One (1) fire truck and one (1) ambulance will be stationed at CMI, and one (1) fire truck will be assigned to the Fire Station which is 5 Miles West of the CMI, and one (1) fire truck will be stationed at Donald Quarrie High School which is 4.5 Miles East of the CMI. The improvement to emergency response services within and around the Port Royal community as well as better training for the students are expected.

At the Signing Ceremony, approximately 40 people, including Dr. Fritz Pinnock, Executive Director of CMI, Mrs. Lorraine Dobson, Counsellor of East Kingston and Port Royal, members of Ministry of Transport and Mining, members of CMI, members of Jamaica Fire Brigade and a member of JICA were present. Dr. Pinnock, other guests and participants expressed their appreciation for the grant funding support provided by the Government of Japan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), in its quest to provide an improved emergency service. Dr. Pinnock also promised to take good care of the vehicles and utilize them as best as they can to save lives for people in Port Royal.

Ambassador Nakano expressed his pleasure in assisting the region, noting that everyone should be protected and empowered to achieve inclusive growth and sustainable development under the concept of human security, which is one of the main focal points of Japan's Official Development Assistance. Ambassador Nakano also observed a boat which was donated by the Japanese Government in the past and he was pleased that the boat appeared to have been well maintained by the CMI.



(left) Signing the contract by Ambassador and Executive Director Mr. Pinnock



(right) Handing over the cheque



Ambassador and JICA Representative observe the boat donated by the Government of Japan with Executive Director Pinnock