

## **The Grant Contract Ceremony for the Expansion of Care Bear Early Childhood Development Centre Project under the Grant Assistance for Grassroots and Human Security Projects**

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014, HE Mr. Yasuo Takase, Ambassador of Japan in Jamaica, attended the Grant Contract Signing Ceremony of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects for the “Expansion of Care Bear Early Childhood Development Centre Project” at the Care Bear Early Childhood Development Centre in Kingston. He signed the Grant Contract with Mrs. Cynthia Roche-Porter, Principal of the Care Bear Early Childhood Development Centre.

The Centre currently has only six classrooms for almost 200 children. In the most populated classroom, 45 students share a small space. This Project aims to provide an appropriate educational environment for the children by constructing an additional school building which includes 3 classrooms, 1 office, 1 kitchen and 2 bathrooms.

At the Signing Ceremony, approximately 350 people, including the Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister and the Honourable Rev. Ronald Thwaites, Minister of Education, were present. Prime Minister Simpson Miller and other guests and participants expressed their appreciation to the support by the Government of Japan and said that they would put the extended school building to good use. Ambassador Takase showed his pleasure of assisting the Centre, noting that education is a key to the success for the development of the country. Ambassador Takase also expressed his wish to further promote friendship between Japan and Jamaica through this project on the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Japan-Jamaica Diplomatic Relations this year.



(left) Ambassador hands over a check



(right) Ambassador, Prime Minister and Minister of Education with a student