

## **Japan signs J\$9.4 million Grant contract with Spanish Town Hospital to provide medical equipment**

With its location in the fastest growing parish in Jamaica coupled with the demand for health care services which is on par with this growth, the outstanding donation by the Government of Japan is seen as a pledge to further strengthening the Government of Jamaica's efforts to improve health care delivery at the Spanish Town Hospital, noted Mrs. Beverley Needham, Parish Manager for St. Catherine Health Services.

The Hospital deals with a heavy patient load of over 30,000 persons in the Accident and Emergency department annually and therefore, plans are underway to upgrade this Hospital from a Type B facility to a Type A. As such, the South East Regional Health Authority has strategically implemented improvement projects at the hospital which includes; refurbishing the main operating theatre, establishing an Isolation Ward as well as the future installation of a new elevator. Mrs. Needham further underscored that The Government of Japan has contributed significantly to the advancement of health care delivery in Jamaica over the years and this latest contribution will help to further enhance diagnostic service delivery at this health institution.

Minister Tufton expressed appreciation to the Government and people of Japan for the contributions made to Jamaica. He further stated that Japan's interest in Jamaica and the area of public health is benefitting greatly. Two months ago, noted Minister Tufton, St. Ann's Bay Hospital benefitted under the Government of Japan's Grant funding which will also support the procurement of medical equipment. Additionally, since 2013 to present, a number of projects have materialized such as: the Low Vision Resource Centre at Jamaica Society for the Blind, Bustamante Children's Hospital, Jamaica Aids Support for Life, St. Elizabeth Parish Council as well as the Heart Foundation of the Caribbean. These projects have been extremely beneficial to Jamaica as they seem to have maximum impact on many persons both in the rural and urban areas noted the Minister. Jamaica embraces partnership for public health sector improvement especially through bilateral partners such as Japan. He noted that the intention of Jamaica is to move forward to pursue mutually beneficial partnerships in healthcare ultimately benefitting the people being served.

Ambassador Yamazaki said expanding the Japan Jamaica partnership is top priority and as such the Government of Japan's commitment to Jamaica's health needs continues to be a core priority for the Government of Japan. In this regard it will seek to work further with the Government of Jamaica as well as each Hospital like Spanish Town, St. Ann's Bay as well as others to come on stream that should also benefit from the GGP Grant funding. Under the project for the Improvement of Medical Equipment for Spanish Town Hospital, approximately 9.4 Million Jamaican Dollars will be used to procure essential medical

ultrasound equipment to ensure the quality medical service for all valuable Jamaican citizens in and around Spanish Town. Together a stronger bridge is being developed with Jamaica in the Government of Japan's quest to support the development endeavours of this progressive country in the critical areas of education, energy, disaster risk management, climate change and health noted Ambassador Yamazaki.



(left) Signing of the Grant Contract

(right) Handing over of the symbolic cheque, Mr. Francis, Ms. Beverley Needham, Parish Manager of St. Catherine Health Service, Minister Tufton, Ambassador Yamazaki, from the left respectively.



(left) Remarks from Ms. Needham

(right) Address from Ambassador Yamazaki