

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HANDS OVER AMBULANCES

TO HEART INSTITUTE OF THE CARIBBEAN

At the commissioning ceremony for the two Ambulances held at the Head Quarters of the Heart Institute of the Caribbean on Tuesday March 20, 2018 Professor Ernest Madu, HIC Foundation Chairman expressed appreciation for the generous support from the people and Government of Japan under the leadership of both Ambassador Yamazaki and former Ambassador Nakano and other Embassy staff. He noted that the 2017 Toyota Land Cruiser Ambulances were equipped with portable electrocardiogram machines, defibrillators, and ventilators linked to an emergency tele-medical platform manned by a network of cardiologists and other medical practitioners. Professor Madu noted that public and private sector partnerships are critical and announced a few other initiatives that the HIC would partner with the Ministry of Health in order to help more Jamaicans to have accessible, affordable and universal health care.

Health Minister, Dr. The Honourable Christopher Tufton expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for giving valuable funding support both in the public and private sector domain within Jamaica. He noted that the Government of Jamaica appreciates any efforts to build and support excellent medical facility and as such it will always lend its support to public and private sector partnership and that the way forward is to develop centers of excellence to build on the network of health care systems. In so doing, forming a link between special care and infrastructure is a formula that must be pursued said Minister Tufton.

Our commitment to assist in the continuous improvement efforts among the vast array of Jamaica's health sector needs remain a core priority for the people and government of Japan noted Ambassador Yamazaki. He further expressed hope that the two new ambulances that the HIC is adding to its fleet will effectively serve the needs of all Jamaicans across the island. Over the past years, Japan has consistently provided emergency response vehicles, funding support as well as medical equipment to improve Jamaica's health sector through entities such as the St. John National Council, Westmoreland Municipal Corporation, Annotto Bay Hospital, and the Bustamante Hospital for Children. Additionally, two new grant contracts for St. Ann's Bay Hospital and Spanish Town Hospital have been signed since Ambassador Yamazaki's tour of duty began in October 2017.

Also in attendance were Her Excellency, Janet Oliga, Nigerian High Commissioner, Dr. Edwin Tulloch-Reid, Dr. Milton Hardy, Dr. John Hall, Sr. Clarence McGaugh, Dr. Amza Ali, and other notable attendees and other notable officials from HIC and Ministry of Health.



Ambassador handed over the keys to Professor Madu, Chairman of HIC Foundation



Display of two ambulances handedover by Embassy of Japan to HIC Foundation



Ambassador, Minister Tuffton and Professor Madu viewing the inside features and equipment in the ambulance



Ambulance outfitted with medical equipment to treat the cardiovascular patients



Ambassador Yamazaki's remarks



Remarks from Minister Tuffton