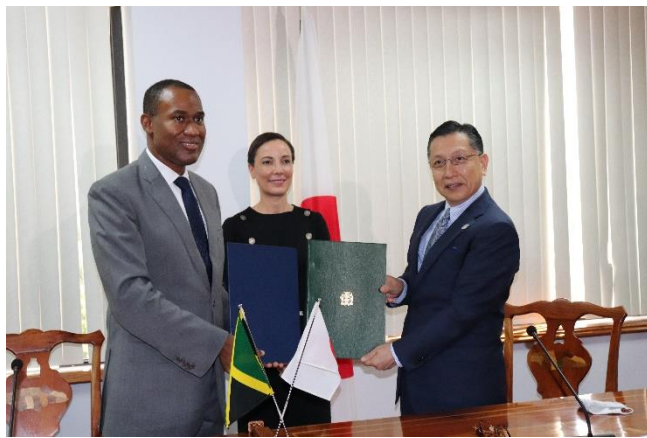


JAPAN PROVIDES OVER J\$260 MILLION GRANT TO STRENGTHEN JAMAICA'S HEALTH SECTOR AMIDST COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC



Ambassador Yamazaki giving his remarks



Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke (left), Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (centre) and Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, His Excellency Hiromasa Yamazaki (right), display signed Exchange of Notes formalising the Government of Japan's provision of J\$262 Million to the Government of Jamaica to combat COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic.

On Tuesday, June 16, 2020 a live-streamed ceremony for the signing of the Exchange of Notes (Agreement) between Ambassador Hiromasa Yamazaki and Dr. Nigel Clarke, the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Public Service, took place at the Finance Ministry. Senator, the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie Jamaica's Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health and Wellness witnessed the inking of the Bilateral Agreement for Non-Project Grant Aid in the amount of 200 Million Japanese yen or 260 million Jamaican Dollars. The Grant from the people and Government of Japan is intended to effectively complement the ongoing efforts of the Government of Jamaica to improve its health sector's services islandwide.

Ambassador Yamazaki expressed his profound honour to witness the actual signing of the Bilateral Agreement following the conclusion of significant dialogue between both Governments which sought to identify how best the Government of Japan could provide assistance to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 novel

Coronavirus pandemic and simultaneously strengthen Jamaica's health system services islandwide to combat this infectious disease. He reiterated that the universal goal of the Government of Japan is to enable all the people in the world to enjoy greater opportunities offered by a safe and secure environment. Within this context the Government of Japan stands in unison with the international community at large, to work assiduously to contain the virus spread, which is not only threatening human lives but also social and economic livelihoods across geographical borders.

Items under consideration for procurement include; X-Ray protection screens, X-Ray protection aprons, Bedside X-Ray machines, Portable ultrasound scanners, Bedside monitors, and Defibrillators.

Dr. Clarke expressed gratitude to the Government of Japan for provision of the Grant which he said will strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Health and Wellness Jamaica to treat and manage the COVID-19 caseload across the island.

Senator Johnson Smith stated that the Government of Jamaica is pleased to work with a longstanding international development partner and global leader such as Japan that recognizes the value of ensuring human security and making long-term investment that is aimed at solidifying the social and economic livelihoods of all people.