

Japan equips Grenada's Fire Department

Japan continues to demonstrate its commitment towards deepening its relations with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) through technical and other assistance as needed.

"Our doors are always open and we would like to broaden and deepen cooperation in every field in which the Caribbean States and international entities would like to do," stated Mr Daisuke Nakano, Director of Mexico, Central America and Caribbean division, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.

He made this comment on Friday October 20 during a meeting with the Caribbean participants of the 2017 APIC/FPCJ Pacific-Caribbean Journalists' Programme. The discussion centred on Japan's relations with the Caribbean, namely the countries represented in the programme – Barbados, Jamaica and Grenada and the assistance given over the years. Journalist from *The Grenadian Voice* was among representatives at the meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan.

In reiterating Japan's commitment to continue assisting

countries, Mr Nakano said, "We would like to talk with governments and international entities [and we want them] to talk to our embassies in each country as well to specify what is their priority or need." He added that Japan is willing to assist; but countries must specify and communicate their areas of need.

Japan's most recent donation to Grenada was a fully air conditioned dual purpose tank truck, fire equipment and appliances, worth US\$87,000. The items are 10 fire hoses, 14 backpacks, 2 switch branches, 6 fire coats, 7 helmets, 7 pairs fire boots



Donated tank truck at the Fire Station on The Carenage, St George's

and 3 adaptors,

The donation was made to the Fire Department of the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) during a ceremony held at the Central Police Station, The Carenage, Saint George's, on Friday November 24. It was made through

Japan's grant assistance grassroots humanitarian project to strengthen Grenada's emergency response capability in an effective manner.

Japanese Counselor, Yoshinori Yakabe in his remarks said, over the years Grenada and Japan have been cooperating on a number of projects in areas such as fisheries, environmental management and disaster risk reduction.

"My government is

pleased to provide support to these and other areas and work alongside not only with the State sectors but also within civil society and community based organisations in Grenada," he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police, Franklyn Redhead noted that after years of negotiations and discussions for support within the RGPF, he is pleased with the today's result. He welcomed the donation assuring that it will go a long way in

supporting the proficiency and efficiency of the Fire Department.

Assistant Superintendent at the Fire Department, Glenroy Corian said that the tank, which has a capacity of 4,000 gallons, can support other trucks as well as conduct delivery.

The Superintendent said the department is looking for phase two of this project as the department is in need of more equipment.



CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are invited from interested and suitably qualified nationals of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States, Associate Members of the Caribbean Community, CARIFORUM and PANCAP Member States to fill the following position with assigned duty station in Guyana:

- (i) Senior Project Officer, 10th European Development Fund, PANCAP

Full details of the position may be obtained by accessing the following web sites - www.caricom.org; www.oecs.org and www.caribbeanjobsonline.com

Applications in English Language with full curriculum vitae details, including nationality, work experience, educational qualifications and/or expertise, language proficiency, coordinates (including email addresses) of three referees (at least two of whom must be familiar with the applicant's work), and other relevant information, should be addressed to the Human Resource Management, Caribbean Community Secretariat, Turkeyen, Greater Georgetown, Guyana and sent by email to applnhrm@caricom.org.

The deadline for the submission of applications is 17 December 2017.

Government promises relief measures if fiscal space allows

If returned to office following the general elections constitutionally due by March next year, the current government has promised a package of relief measures for nationals.

In his presentation of the 2018 budget on Monday November 27, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dr the Right Hon Keith Mitchell announced measures that could come into effect within six months if the fiscal space would allow.

The Prime Minister promised a 5% reduction in the rate of Personal Income Tax and a

five percent drop in Cooperate Income Tax by June next year.

He also promised an increase in public assistance to the elderly. "Reducing the rate of personal income tax in different categories by five percent. Reducing cooperate income tax from 30 percent to 25 to encourage businesses to keep investing and keep moving," the Finance Minister announced.

"Repaving the Grand Anse main road, and other roads at the heart of the business and productive activities to help us to keep moving. We need to look at increasing

the public assistance for the elderly and at the first stage to move from \$200 to \$300 per individual in an attempt to improve the livelihood and dignity of our senior citizens," Dr. Mitchell announced to loud applause from the packed audience at the Grenada Trade Centre.

The measures are part of Government's commitment to ensure that all share in the benefits of the Homegrown Structural Adjustment Programme, which has lifted Grenada's economy from negative to positive growth.