

**Message from H.E. Tatsuo Hirayama
Ambassador of Japan
On the Occasion of the 38th Anniversary of Independence of
The Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis
September 19, 2021**

On the day of the 38th Anniversary of the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis, I am pleased to extend my sincere congratulations to the Government and people of St. Kitts and Nevis.

When St. Kitts and Nevis announced its independence on September 19, 1983, Japan immediately recognized the Federation and established diplomatic relations with the Federation in 1985. Since then, we have cherished and enhanced our friendly and cooperative relationship and partnership for more than three decades.

Most importantly, Japan and St. Kitts and Nevis share a number of fundamental values that include, among others:

- upholding the principles of democracy,
- observing human rights,
- aspiring towards international peace and security,
- adhering to the rule of law
- and supporting the sustainable use of various marine resources.

At the same time, our two nations face common challenges. As island nations, natural disasters and climate change top that list of challenges. Also, for the last couple of years, health, as well as the economic and social crisis due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, has been one of the most serious concerns for both of us and for the international community.

Based on our common values, and in order to grapple with our challenges, our two nations have been cooperating extensively, either bilaterally, or in a regional and global arena. Japan has been a proud development partner for St. Kitts and Nevis, assisting in nation- building efforts. On global issues, our countries are working together and collaborating at relevant forums and international organizations. I take this auspicious occasion to reiterate that we will maintain these cooperative ties, and make our utmost efforts to enhance our excellent relations.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt wishes for the continued success of the Government and the increasing prosperity of the people of the beautiful twin island country of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Congratulations once again!

