

## Signing Ceremony for the construction of the Caribbean Emergency Operation Centre



Left : H.E. Mr. MIYASAKA Yusuke, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to  
Barbados

Right : Mr. Daniel Longhurst, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Country Director, WFP Caribbean  
Multi-Country Office

On February 18 (same day local time), in Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados, H.E. Mr. MIYASAKA Yusuke, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Barbados, and Mr. Daniel Longhurst, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Country Director, WFP Caribbean Multi-Country Office signed and exchanged notes for “(the Construction of

the Caribbean Emergency Operations Centre)” (project up to 313 million yen).

The Honourable Gregory Nicholls, Minister of Home Affairs and Information, and Elizabeth Riley, Executive Director of Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), also attended the ceremony and, in their respective remarks, expressed their sincere appreciation for Japan’s generous contribution to the project.

1. In the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including Barbados, natural disasters occur with increasing frequency. Most recently, Hurricane “Melissa” in late October 2025 caused severe damage in countries such as Jamaica and Haiti. However, these small island developing states face acute constraints in fiscal space and warehousing capacity, resulting in limited stockpiles of emergency supplies. The establishment of large-scale storage facilities and the development of professional logistics personnel therefore became urgent priorities in order to ensure the swift and reliable delivery of essential relief items. Against this backdrop, in May 2025 the Government of Barbados, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), established a regional logistics hub for the Caribbean. In responding to Hurricane “Melissa,” emergency supplies were dispatched from this hub to Jamaica. Nevertheless, from the standpoint of strengthening the hub’s operational management and enhancing the efficiency of emergency assistance, the construction of a dedicated Emergency Operations Center has been recognized as necessary.
2. This cooperation entails the construction, at Grantley Adams International Airport, of a Caribbean Emergency Operations Center that will function as an operational command facility in times of disaster and, during normal periods, serve as a training center for disaster response professionals. Through this initiative, the disaster response capacities of CARICOM member states, including Barbados, will be further enhanced, thereby contributing to overcoming the structural vulnerabilities faced by these countries.

It is expected that this cooperation will further strengthen the friendly relations between Japan and the CARICOM member states, including Barbados.

