



TO: News Editors

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### **Japanese Grant Facilitates Water Supply Improvement**

The National Water Commission(NWC) through its partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) continues to make significant strides in the development and improvement of water supply facilities. Over the last 2 ½ years, the Commission has benefited from a grant to undertake the Technical Cooperation Project, the goal of which is to develop a cost effective and efficient maintenance system within the National Water Commission in order to enhance the reliability of its water supply to its customers.

Along with training of employees, the other critical areas of Technical Cooperation Project included Water Supply Management/NRW, Water Quality Control and Assurance, Water Treatment Plant Operation & Maintenance.

“The pilot project under the Programme was carried out at four of the NWC’s major water treatment facilities – The Hope, Spanish Town, The Great River, and the Logwood Water Treatment Plants with equipment donated by JICA”, said Mr. Vernon Barrett, Vice President, Strategic Planning while giving an overview of the Project.

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“Some of the equipment provided to effectively assist in testing and monitoring included motor vehicles, Power Quality Analyzers, Conductivity/pH/Water Temp Meters, Valve Locaters, Pressure Loggers, Vibration Meters Infrared Thermometers and Tachometers”, he continued.

Following an initial assessment, the improved operational efficiency and gains at all the water treatment plants and associated facilities was achieved without impacting on the level of service to customers. Among the benefits achieved were reduction in water losses i.e. tank overflows etc., savings in electricity consumption/reduction in energy consumption and efficient use of reagents for water treatment.

Mr. Colin Roach, Non-Revenue Manager (Eastern) who is very impressed with the results said, “The National Water Commission has experienced energy reduction at all the Plants under the pilot – some by as much as 10%, which will definitely translate into an overall reduction in the electricity bill”.

The Project, currently in its 30<sup>th</sup> month of implementation is undergoing a final review and evaluation by JICA to assess the overall impact, effectiveness, sustainability, efficiency and relevance of the activities to the NWC.

For the positive outcomes already attained, the National Water Commission thanks the Japanese for their generosity and support and commits to continuously improving its operations across the country.

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