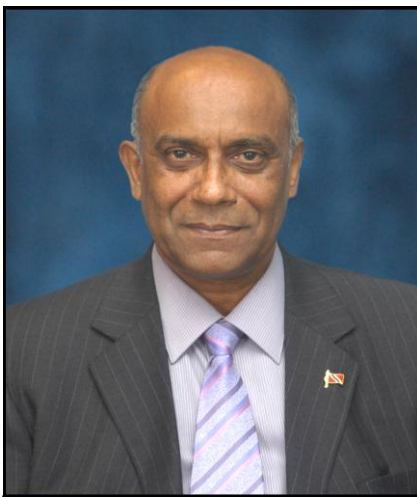




MEDIA RELEASE

**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ATTENDS THE
SECOND CARICOM-JAPAN MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONFERENCE
TOKYO, JAPAN,
31ST AUGUST, 2010 TO 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2010**

PORT OF SPAIN: 27TH AUGUST, 2010



Dr. The Honourable
Surujrattan Rambachan
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Dr. the Honourable Surujrattan Rambachan, Minister of Foreign Affairs will attend the Second CARICOM-Japan Ministerial Level Conference to be held in Tokyo, Japan during the period 31st August, 2010 to 4th September, 2010.

The Second CARICOM-Japan Ministerial Level Conference will take place within the context of the CARICOM-Japan Consultative process through which there have been annual Consultations at the level of Officials held alternately in Japan and in the CARICOM Region. To date fourteen Consultations have been held.

Trinidad and Tobago was represented at the First CARICOM-Japan Ministerial Level Conference held in 2000 where the document “A New Framework for Japan-CARICOM Cooperation for Twenty-First Century” was adopted. This document has been the fundamental foundation for the ongoing CARICOM-Japan relations. The Framework outlined a new thrust for cooperation between CARICOM Member States and the Government of Japan under the broad thematic areas of *A Partnership for Stability and Development and the Promotion of Mutual Understanding through Dialogue and Exchanges between CARICOM and Japan*. Under the New Framework, the Government of Japan provided technical assistance for projects funded under the Japan-CARICOM Friendship and Cooperation Fund (JCFCF) where among the projects covered are environmental protection, energy and community development.

2/...



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

- 2 -

The Government of Japan in recognition of the changes in the regional and global environments since the inaugural Ministerial level Conference in 2000, has suggested a collective approach for the revision of the framework to enhance CARICOM-Japan cooperation.

Issues on the provisional agenda of the conference include, Future Direction of Japan-CARICOM Cooperation; Environment and Climate Change; Economic Crisis and assistance for Reconstruction of Haiti.

Minister Rambachan will also use the opportunity to hold bilateral discussions with his Japanese counterpart as well as meet with investors to pursue investment and trade prospects. Additionally he will hold talks with officials from Japanese Chambers of Commerce to discuss the promotion of trade missions.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs