

Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Project
Handing Over Ceremony of Second Compactor Truck to the
Belize City Council

A Handing-Over Ceremony, under the Government of Japan's Grass Roots Human Security Project Program, was held on Thursday January 30th at the Memorial Park in Belize City. This follows a grant contract in the amount of US\$269,747, equivalent to BZ\$534,100, which was signed on November 30th, 2022 for the procurement of two garbage trucks to assist in the sanitization of Belize City. The first truck was handed over on February 13th, 2024 and the second compactor that recently arrived in the country was officially handed over on Thursday to the Belize City Council.

In her welcome remarks, Councilor Kaya Cattouse said that the arrival of the second truck marks an expansion of their capacity to meet the growing demands of Belize City. She said that last year with the first compactor truck, they immediately saw the difference it made, not only in the efficiency of waste collection but also in the morale of the hardworking sanitation teams. They were able to tackle more of the hotspots, effectively reducing illegal garbage disposal and extended pile up of trash along the garbage collection routes. These are tangible benefits that are appreciated very much. None of this would be possible without the support of the Japanese Government and their unwavering belief in the potential of Belize City and the unending efforts of Mayor Wagner to continuously nurture new and exciting cross-border friendships with cities and governments that shares similar values. In ending, Councilor Cattouse expressed appreciation to the Government of Japan for their generosity and promised to maximize these garbage compactor trucks for public good.

Mayor Wagner extended deepest gratitude to the Japanese Government and His Excellency Ambassador Nobuyuki Shirakata for the continued partnership and support. This occasion really demonstrates the enduring relationship between the two nations built on shared values of cooperation, development and environmental stewardship. These compactor trucks along with other heavy duty equipment will enable the council to better serve the needs of the residents. Beyond expanding the fleet, these additions contributes to their long term goal of building capacity within the departments. With modern equipment and enhanced resources, the teams will be better equipped to execute their duties with greater precision, speed and reliability. This translates into a cleaner, healthier city and improved services that directly benefits every resident.

Ambassador Shirakata noted that Japan's consistent investment in Belize's solid waste management is bearing fruit and is enabling the Belize City Council's existing facilities to become more efficiently operational to provide reliable collection of waste disposal services for the population of over 60,000 residents. He further stated that it is anticipated that these two compactor trucks will increase the rate of garbage collection across Belize City's 12 zones from 63% to 100% and hopes that they will be operated efficiently and stay sustainable in order to preserve and protect the city, as well as serve as a physical symbol of the strong bond between Japan and Belize.

Notable attendees included His Worship The Mayor Mr. Bernard Wagner, Deputy Mayor Mr. Allan Pollard, Councilors and other officials of the Belize City Council, as well as the media.



Director of Ceremonies
Ms. Khaisje Brannon



Welcome Remarks by
Councilor with Responsibility for Sanitation,
Ms. Kaya Cattouse



Remarks by His Worship
Mayor Bernard Wagner



Remarks by
Ambassador Nobuyuki Shirakata



Ribbon Cutting with Ambassador Shirakata, Mayor Wagner and Councilors

L-R: Sherwin Garcia, Eluide Miller, Kaya Cattouse, Mayor Wagner, Ambassador, Allan Pollard, Malcolm Nunez & Edmund Kwan



Ambassador Shirakata, Mayor Wagner and Councilors

L-R: Sherwin Garcia, Eluide Miller, Kaya Cattouse, Mayor Wagner, Ambassador, Allan Pollard, Malcolm Nunez & Edmund Kwan



Front of Compactor



Back of Compactor



Right side of Compactor