

**Certificate of Commendation Awarded to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, UWI for their Japanese Language Education Programme**

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, Ambassador Masanori Nakano presented the Certificate of Commendation to the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of the West Indies, Mona, at the Japanese speech contest.

The first Japanese course was introduced as a non-credit course in 1994, which later developed into a credited course. Responding to the increase of students' interest in studying the Japanese language, in 2014, the Japanese course was upgraded to a minor. In addition, the Japanese speech contest was initiated in 2000, in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan. The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has also been supportive of the UWI Japanese Club, in promoting the language in Jamaica. During the 2016-2017 academic year, approximately 150 students studied Japanese.

This award was received by Professor Paulette Ramsay, Head of Department at the end of the speech contest. At the speech contest, eight students presented their speeches on the "important person to me" and the audiences were impressed by their performances.



(Left) (from left) Mrs. Iijima-Kelly, Japanese instructor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, UWI Mona, Prof. Ramsay, Head of Department,

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and Ambassador Nakano.  
(Right) Professor Ramsay and Ambassador Nakano



Audience and presenter at the speech contest



Presenter (1)



Presenter (2)



Awarding to the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner



Ambassador Nakano and Mrs. Nakano posing with Japanese instructors and the contestants