

2017 JET Programme Farewell Reception

Ambassador Nakano and Mrs. Nakano hosted a Farewell Reception in honour of the 2017 selected Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Participants at their official residence on Friday, July 7, 2017. A total of twenty eight Jamaicans were selected to serve as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) in Japan for the 2017-2018 academic year. Ten of the participants left the island in April of this year and the remaining eighteen are scheduled to depart on July 22, 2017.

All Speakers delivered encouraging messages and solid words of advice to the departing ALTs. They were Mr. Dean-Roy Bernard, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth and Information and Mrs. Florence Blackwood, Senior Director, Sports Development and Monitoring, Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports President of the Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JJETAA), Ms. Sheena Jarrett.

In his speech to the current JETs, Ambassador Nakano encouraged them to experience the dynamics of Japanese culture and in return share their rich heritage with Japanese people. In light of the evening's celebrations, JET Participants were treated to Japanese style cuisine. They all had an opportunity to mingle to form bonds as well as interact with former JETs who were also in attendance. As such they gained many insights to prepare them for their new sojourn to live and work in Japan as ALTs.

The JET Programme was first introduced to Jamaica in 2000 and has strengthened the diplomatic relations between the two countries. There are currently 115 Jamaicans on the Exchange Programme. After this new batch of JETs departs for Japan, a total of 343 will have been to Japan on the Programme since its inception.



(left) Group photo (from left) Mr. Dean-Roy Bernard, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, Ms. Shorna-Kay Richards, Acting Director, Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Mrs. Nakano, wife of Japanese Ambassador and

Ambassador Nakano with the new JET participants
(right) New JETs greeting Ambassador Nakano and Mrs. Nakano



(left) Mr. Dean-Roy Bernard (left) and Mrs. Florence Blackwood (right) candidly exchange words with Ambassador Nakano and Mrs. Nakano

(Right) Welcome Remarks by Ambassador Nakano



(left) Mr. Terrike Brown, Public Relations Officer, JJETAA fulfilling his duties as Master of Ceremonies at the Reception



(right) Remarks by Ms. Sheena Jarrett, President, JJETAA



(left) Two JET representatives delivering a speech in English and Japanese



(right) Remarks by Mr. Dean-Roy Bernard, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth and Information



(left) Remarks by Mrs. Florence Blackwood, Senior Director, Sports Development and Monitoring, Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sports



(right) Ms. Shorna-Kay Richards, Acting Director, Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade giving a toast



(left) (from left) Ms. Sheena Jarrett, Mr. Dean-Roy Bernard and Mrs. Florence Blackwood build rapport with Ambassador Nakano



(right) Invited guests enjoying a dinner