

**Japanese Ambassador Nakano Hosts Reception
in Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary
of Japan Overseas Cooperation of Volunteers (JOCVs)
Programme in Jamaica**

On the evening of Friday, July 21, 2017, Ambassador Masanori Nakano hosted a reception as part of the commemorative activities to mark the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Agreement for the Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to Jamaica. Earlier that day at Jamaica House, The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica, received 25 Volunteers and JICA Staff led by Ambassador Nakano for a courtesy call.

Over the years, four hundred and twelve volunteers have been assigned to Jamaica to work and live in local communities islandwide. Together with their counterparts and community folks, they are working towards the economic and social development locally. Their main areas of activity include education, disaster prevention, environmental protection, community development, agriculture as well as other critical areas.

In attendance were JICA (Japan International Cooperation Association) officials , JICA Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (both present and past) as well as Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Former Ambassadors of Jamaica to Japan, Their Excellencies, Mr. Paul Robotham and Ms. Claudia Barnes, MOFA Jamaica Officials, members of the Diplomatic Corps, and other notable officials from the respective Government of Jamaica Agencies.



(left) Ambassador Nakano convey greetings



(right) Mr. Kazuhisa Arai, Senior Deputy Director General, Secretariat of JOCV gives his remarks



(left) Sen. the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica brings greetings



(right) (from left) Mr. Arai, Ambassador Nakano, Sen. the Hon. Johnson Smith, Ambassador Gilbert Roberts and Mr. Kenji Tobita pictured in the front row while in the background are some JICA Volunteers



Ambassador Nakano presents Certificate of Commendation to Mr. Shin Nishida (former volunteer who ended his tenure in January 2008) for his sterling contribution to the advancement of Sport of Gymnastics Programme through his own school "Nishida's Gymnastics"



A section of the Audience participating in the "Radio Calisthenics Exercise" led by Mr. Keiichiro Hirano, a JICA Volunteer specializing in Physical Education



Ambassador Nakano and Sen. the Hon. Johnson Smith



Honoured Guests in attendance



JICA Volunteer launching rockets made of plastic bottles at the closing of the reception