

**Abeya Tsugaru Shamisen Concerts and Workshop held in Jamaica
in celebration of Japan-Jamaica 50th Anniversary of
Diplomatic Relations and Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year**

Abeya Tsugaru Shamisen (Japanese lute) concerts and workshop were held in Jamaica in celebration of Japan-Jamaica 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations and Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year. The special concert was held in the ballroom at the King's House under the Distinguished Patronage of Their Excellencies, the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, the Governor-General and the Most Honourable Lady Allen on Thursday, October 2, 2014. The Alpha Boys School collaborated with the Embassy of Japan to host a music workshop on Friday, October 3 at the Alpha Boys School. The public concert was held at the Courtleigh Auditorium on Saturday, October 4, 2014.

Since there is hardly an opportunity to experience authentic Japanese traditional music in Jamaica, all the events were well received by the Jamaican audience. The audience very much enjoyed their performance including the interactive sessions such as Japanese dance lesson, cheering, and being a judge for the Shamisen Battle. In the public concert on Saturday, October 4, 2014, the audience was especially excited when the joint performance with the "Jolly Boys"- Jamaica's Mento Music Band was conducted. The packed auditorium was also very delighted when Abeya belted out two Bob Marley's songs - "One Love" and "No Woman No Cry." The events were featured by the Gleaner, Observer, TVJ and PBS (Gleaner "Japanese close jubilee celebrations" on October 7, 2014 <<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20141007/ent/ent1.html>>; Observer "Japan brings rich culture to Jamaica" on October 05, 2014 <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Japan-brings-rich-culture-to-Jamaica_17682941>; Observer "Culture display shows close ties between Jamaica and Japan — Hylton" on October 7, 2014 <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/Culture-display-shows-close-ties-between-Jamaica-and-Japan---Hylton_17702063>).



(left) Abeya playing at the King's House (October 2)

(right) H.E. Governor General, Ambassador Takase and Madam with Abeya group (October 2)



(left) Performance at TVJ (October 3)

(right) Students experiencing Soran Dance (October 3)



(left) Packed Courtleigh Auditorium (October 4)

(right) Honorable Mr. Hylton- Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Lady Rheima Hall, and Ambassador Takase and Madam (from the left) (October 4)



(left) Joint Performance with “the Jolly Boys”(October 4)



(right) Soran Dance Lesson that Ambassdor also tried (October 4)