

New Year's Greetings
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Mr. Masaya Fujiwara
January 2021

I would like to wish you a happy new year. I arrived in Jamaica in August last year and passed the new year for the first time in Jamaica. Last year, our lifestyles were changed by the many influences brought on by COVID-19 which continued to expand. Though we are celebrating the new year under the condition that the spread of COVID-19 has not slowed down throughout the world, I am hoping that this situation will come to an end as soon as possible.

In Jamaica, the general election was held last September, and Honourable Prime Minister Holness was re-elected. Notably, the Double Taxation Treaty between Japan and Jamaica was also entered into force in September 2020. At the same time, we would like to realise the agreements steadily such as the provision of vessels for strengthening maritime security and disaster prevention capabilities, which was agreed between our two countries in December 2019 when Prime Minister Holness visited Japan. Early this year, medical equipment and materials worth around US\$2 million, which was agreed on last June for the support against COVID-19, will arrive in Jamaica.

Last year, Jamaica experienced torrential rain causing much damage such as the flooding, the inundation of roads, and landslides in many communities. Japan, as a similar island country, will continue cooperation with Jamaica in the areas of disaster prevention and environmental protection. In Japan, Prime Minister Suga announced

Japan's policy, "Carbon Neutral", of achieving zero carbon emissions by 2050 and we are going to promote digitization and the green economy. I think there is a big possibility to promote cooperation in this area with Jamaica.

This year, the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held. I hope this historical event will be held safely, deepen the international friendship, and bring us closer through the power of sports. Last December, I visited Westmoreland which is a sister city with Tottori prefecture. Tottori prefecture is the host town of Jamaica for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Through the Tokyo Olympic Games, I expect that the relationship between Japan and Jamaica will further gain momentum and spur widely including the interchange of sports and interchange between local communities.

Though some events have been suspended or postponed because of COVID-19, the 20th anniversary memorial event of JET was held online last November. Activities which had been restricted because of COVID-19 are gradually being revitalised.

The Embassy of Japan will continue to make the effort to assure the health and safety of Japanese residents in Jamaica and give support to Japanese companies in Jamaica. Also, we will make maximum effort to further develop our bilateral relationship in this important year. Therefore, I would like to ask all of you for your support and cooperation, while hoping for your happiness and prosperity throughout this year.

Thank you very much.

January 2021(Reiwa 3).

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Mr. Masaya Fujiwara.