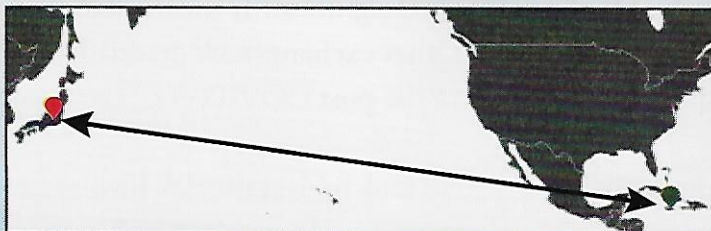
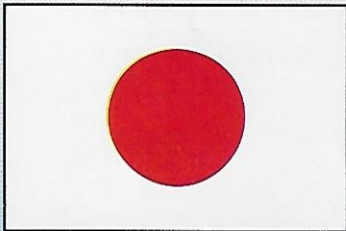


# REFLECTIONS JAPAN-JAMAICA RELATIONS 1964-2022



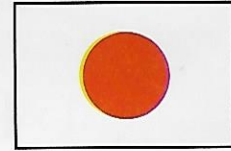
Reggae Marathon



The Embassy of Japan in Jamaica  
February 2022

*Greetings from*

**AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA,  
MASAYA FUJIWARA**



Japan and Jamaica established diplomatic relations in 1964 with the Embassy of Japan in Jamaica established in 1995. In 2022 when Jamaica celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence, I am honored to publish the first brochure about our relationship called the J-J Partnership.

Japan and Jamaica are partners that share common values such as democracy and the rule of law. There have been several visits of political figures between the two nations: Prime Minister Shinzo

Abe in 2015, Prime Minister Andrew Holness in 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Kamina Johnson Smith in 2016, and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi in 2021.

Since Japan launched an initiative to support small island developing states, like Jamaica, to overcome vulnerability through sustainable development in 2014, Japan and Jamaica have been cooperating in areas such as disaster prevention and environmental protection. Our economic relationship has developed through Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee and more recently investment to the energy sector. As Jamaica is pursuing 'Vision 2030 Jamaica,' there is great potential to develop further techniques in areas like green economy and digital transformation.

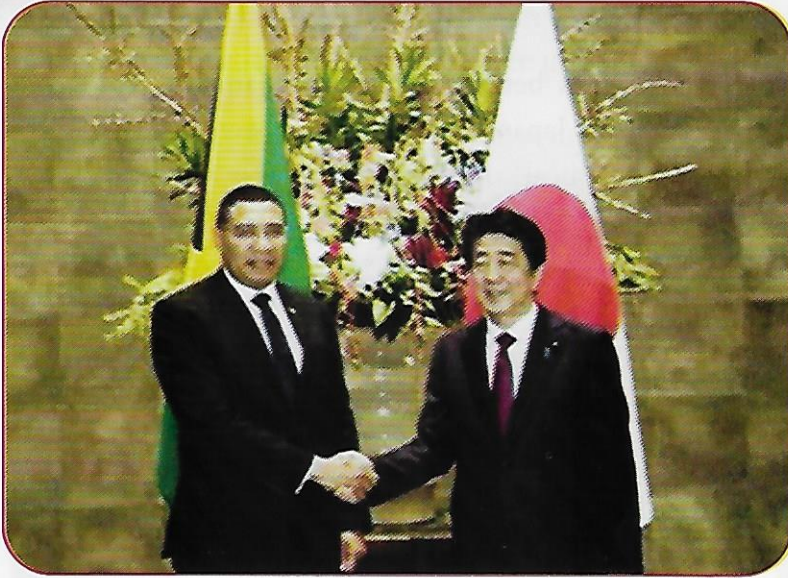
Music and sports are essential elements in the J-J Partnership. Many Japanese young people are visiting Jamaica and are interacting through reggae music. The great performances of Jamaican athletes in the Tokyo 2020 Games marked another milestone to further expand interchanges between our two peoples.

Although the pandemic has caused upheavals and hardship around the world, the friendship between Japan and Jamaica has strengthened significantly during this time. Many new projects were implemented in the medical field. Other exchanges are gradually being resumed. We have started to talk about future cooperation in the post COVID era.

I hope that this brochure will enable you to look back at the rich history of cooperation between our two countries and to think of our future relationship which will no doubt continue to develop widely and strongly.



## STRONG POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP BASED ON COMMON VALUES BETWEEN JAPAN AND JAMAICA



*Prime Minister Andrew Holness's visit to Japan (December 2019) Signing Convention with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for the Elimination of Double Taxation and E/N for Grant Assistance for Patrol and Rescue Vessels.*



*Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Visit to Jamaica (October 2015). Enhancing the Partnership between Japan and Jamaica (J-J Partnership).*



*Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Kamina Johnson Smith attending WAW (World Assembly for Women) meeting in Japan (2016) welcomed by Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.*



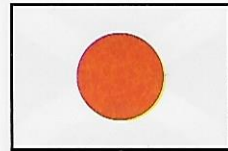
*Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi's visit to Jamaica (July 2021) discussed Covid 19 countermeasures and cooperation in post Covid era such as in green and digital economy.*

### The Three Pillars of Japan's CARICOM Policies

1. Cooperation towards sustainable development, including overcoming the vulnerabilities particular to small island states.
2. Deepening and expanding fraternal bonds of cooperation and friendship.
3. Cooperation in addressing challenges of the international community.

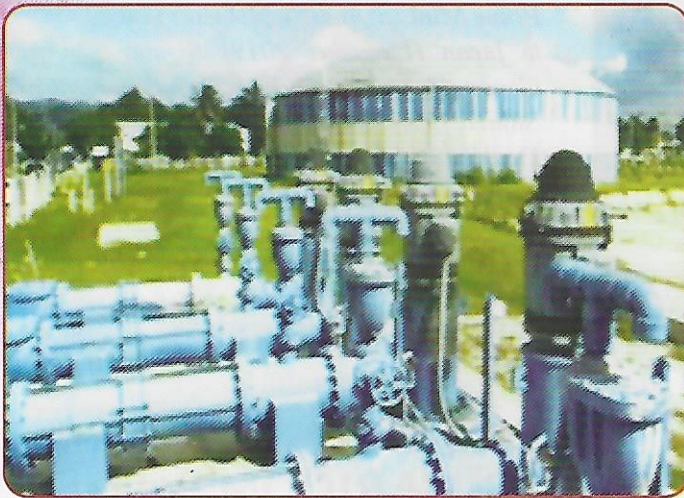


*Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting (July 2014)*



# ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS A DRIVING FORCE FOR THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Jamaica in 1964, Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan to Jamaica has been provided in various forms like soft loans, grant aid and technical cooperation.



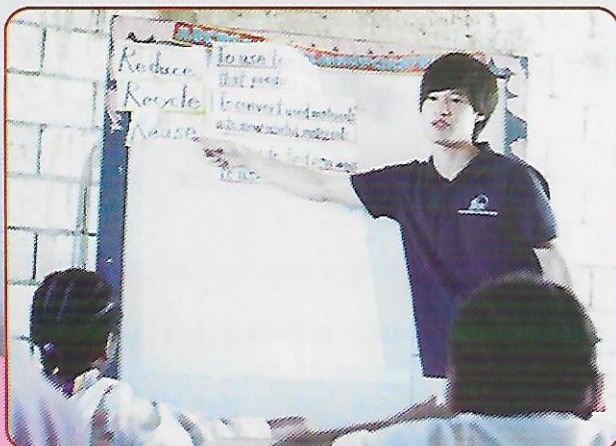
*The Kingston Metropolitan Area Water Supply Project (Loan, Agreement: July 1996, Budget: 6,644MilJPY)*



*Japanese Grant funding in the amount of \$1,220,000 USD was allotted to UNICEF for purchasing cold chain equipment such as Cold-storage facilities for supporting the equitable access and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across Jamaica.*

## Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

Since the first dispatch of JOCV to Jamaica in 1989, some 462 JICA volunteers have worked with their Jamaican counterparts and community residents for the socio-economic development of Jamaica.



*Environmental Education*



*JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP) alumni in action - Beach clean up.*



## ECONOMIC RELATIONS IS STRONG THROUGH TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Around 20 Japanese companies are active in Jamaica in sectors such as automobile, electric power, coffee industry, IT and food.



*Blue Mountain Coffee Development Project  
(Loan, Agreement: April 1984, Budget: 5,941MilJPY)*



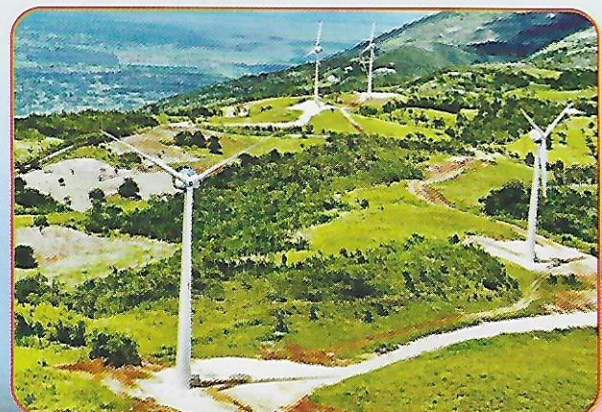
*Craighton Estate owned and operated by UCC  
Ueshima Coffee*

Since the first largest shipment of Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee arrived in Japan from Kingston in 1967, Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee has been a symbol for good Japan-Jamaica partnership. Currently, about 70% of Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee is exported from Jamaica to Japan.

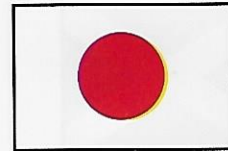


*Marubeni Corporation, a Japanese Trading Company participated in 2007 and currently owns a 40% share of JPS. The utility owns, operates and maintains 13 power stations (4 thermal, 8 hydro and 1 wind, totaling 341MW), 52 substations and 17,000km transmission and distribution lines. They supply electricity to 670,000 customers.*

*Green economy, and digital transformation are new areas of cooperation to be developed in the future through public-private partnerships further strengthening the "J-J partnership".*



# ACTIVE INTERACTION IN VARIOUS FIELDS SUCH AS CULTURE, EDUCATION, SPORTS IS A FOUNDATION OF STRONG PARTNERSHIP



## Jamaica and Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

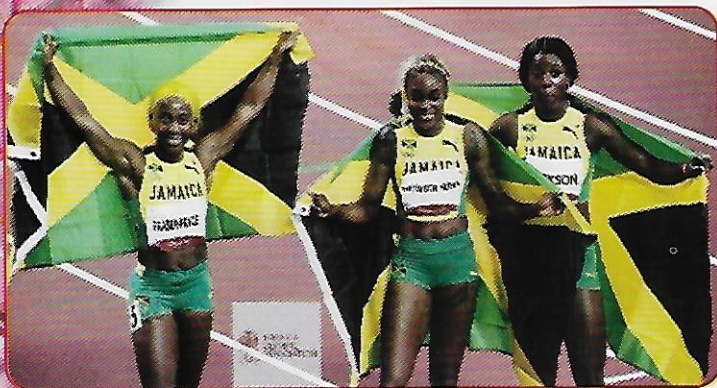
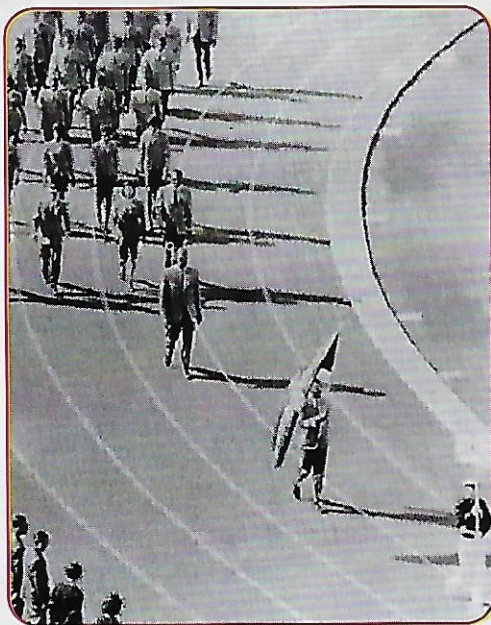


Photo provided by: Jamaica Olympic Association

At the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympics held in 2021, Jamaican athletes obtained 9 medals in total. There were historic achievements such as in the 100 meter sprint where athletes Elaine Thompson Herah, Shelly-Ann Fraser Pryce and Shericka Jackson won the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. Additionally, Hansle Parchment who won the gold medal in the 110 meter hurdle.



Jamaican team at Opening Ceremony of Tokyo 1964 Olympic



Photo provided by: Jamaica Olympic Association

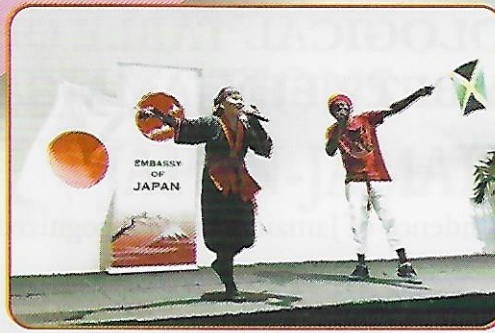
### Opening Ceremony at Tokyo 2020 Games

The Tokyo 1964 Olympic Games, were the first Olympic Games Jamaica participated in after its independence.

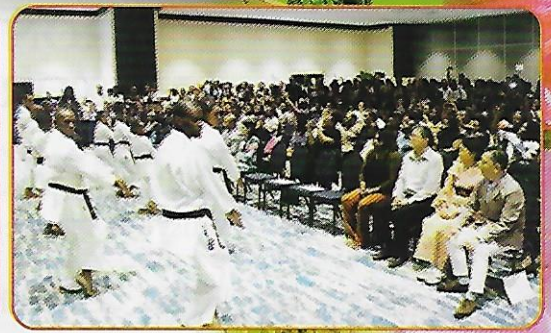
Source: Patterson, Orlando.2019. "Why are Jamaicans the fastest runners in the world." The Confounding island. Kingston: Ian randle publishers

## 1. Cultural Exchanges

Every February since 2013 'Japan Day', a Japanese cultural event, has been held in Kingston with hundreds of Jamaicans attending. Martial arts, flower arrangement, reggae concerts, calligraphy, anime demonstrations and other cultural elements have been demonstrated. Also, Japanese Film Night is popular at the GATFFEST Film Festival which is hosted by the University of the West Indies



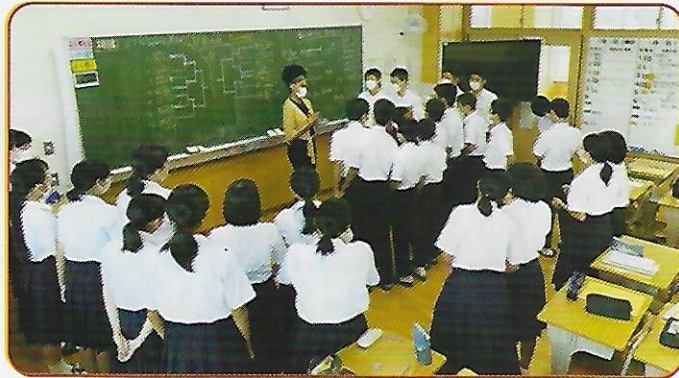
*Reggae Concert*



*Shotokan Karate*

## 2. Education and Language Exchanges

Since 2000, through the JET Programme, almost 400 Jamaicans have been sent to teach English as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) all over Japan, which enhances mutual understanding between our two nations. 2020 marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jamaica's participation in the JET Programme. Japanese language classes are held at The University of the West Indies as well as at the University of Technology, Jamaica.



*Jamaican JET teaches English at local school in Japan.*



*JET batch 35 farewell reception.*

*Photo Source 'Jamaica Observer'*

## 3. Sports Exchanges


Sports exchange is a key factor in maintaining the connection of our solid relationship. Tottori Prefecture and the parish of Westmoreland dispatch marathon runners to both the Tottori Marathon and the Reggae Marathon to deepen our friendship. Westmoreland has shared a sister region relationship with Tottori Prefecture in Japan since 2016.



*Mayor Bertel Moore visits to Tottori Prefecture and signs sister region cooperation agreement with Tottori governor Shinji Hirai in 2016.*



*Hurdle Handing Over Ceremony.*



## CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF HISTORY BETWEEN JAMAICA & JAPAN

- 6<sup>th</sup> August 1962 Independence of Jamaica (Japan recognized it on the same day)
  - March 1964 Establishment of diplomatic relations
  - 1964 Tokyo Olympics. First participation of the Jamaican delegation in the Olympic Games after independence.
  - 1981 Visit of Prime Minister Edward Seaga to Japan
  - 1985 Visit of Prime Minister Edward Seaga to Japan (for Tsukuba EXPO)
  - 1987 First dispatch of JOCV to Jamaica
  - 1991 Visit of Prime Minister Michael Manley to Japan
  - 1992 Establishment of the Embassy of Jamaica in Tokyo
  - 1995 Establishment of the Embassy of Japan in Kingston
  - 1997 Visit of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino to Jamaica
  - 1998 Visit of Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to Japan
  - 2000 Start of the JET Programme in Jamaica
  - 2013 Visit of Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller to Japan
  - 2015 Visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Jamaica
  - 2016 Visit of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister Kamina Johnson Smith to Japan (WAW 2016)
  - 2019 Visit of President of the Senate Thomas Tavares-Finson to Japan to attend the Enthronement Ceremony of Emperor Naruhito
  - Visit of Prime Minister Andrew Holness to Japan
  - 2020 Entry into Force of Convention for the Elimination of Double Taxation
  - 2021 Visit of Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi to Jamaica
  - 2021 Participation of the Jamaican Delegation in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympic games
- 