

**The JAPAN/UNICEF health cooperation:  
walkthrough event at the Cold Room donated by Japan to Jamaica**

On October 24, 2024, Ambassador ATSUMI joined Jamaica's Minister of Health & Wellness, The Honourable Dr. Christopher Tufton, UNICEF Officials led by Mrs. Anne-Claire Dufay, the Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Mr. Everton Anderson, CEO National Health Fund, for a Walkthrough event at the National Health Fund Warehouse Jamaica to view (and officially commission) the Cold Room which is the last aspect of implementation regarding Cold Chain Development in Jamaica under the Japan-UNICEF Collaboration.

This Cold Room is a part of Japan's Emergency Grant Aid in 2021, through UNICEF, of 11.1 Million US dollars in total for six(6) Latin American and Caribbean Countries to purchase Cold Chain Equipment, such as cold-storage facilities, in order to enhance vaccination coverage in each country. Under this Grant Aid, 1.2 Million USD was allocated to Jamaica and 120 Vaccine Refrigerators, 585 Vaccine carriers, 375 Cold Boxes, 281 Remote Temperature Monitoring Devices and 2 Land Cruisers

with refrigeration capacity were provided to Jamaica for its COVID-19 counter-measures. Moreover, Jamaica's 300 refrigeration technicians and Cold Chain Equipment handlers have been trained.

As a result of this project, Jamaica now has Cold Chain Equipment that meets WHO Effective Vaccine Management Standards as well as improved capacity for island-wide rapid deployment and rapid access to vaccines, not only for COVID-19 but also such as measles.

During the event, Ambassador Atsumi said that one of the top priorities of Japan's economic cooperation with Jamaica is to enhance universal healthcare, in particular, tackling infectious diseases. Minister Tufton said that the protection of vaccines and medicines by the Cold Room is critical, pointing that in the post-COVID period Jamaica has to be more prepared, more resilient.

