

# PRESS RELEASE

September 19, 2025



## **37 JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE (JCF) OFFICERS COMPLETE ON-THE JOB “KOBAN SYSTEM” COMMUNITY POLICING TRAINING IN JAMAICA UNDER JAPAN SUPPORTED TRILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FOR JAMAICA WITH BRAZIL TO STRENGTHEN JAMAICA’S NATIONAL SECURITY & SAFETY**

Japan and Brazil have had a longstanding experience of cooperation in community policing, which is exemplified in the Sao Paulo community policy system that was built Twenty (20) years ago on the traditional Japanese community policing “KOBAN system”. From June 8, 2023 to September 19, 2025, the Embassy of Japan and the Embassy of Brazil in Jamaica through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Kingston and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) worked collaboratively with the Government of Jamaica to deliver a Technical Cooperation Project entitled “Capacity Building on the Community Police – KOBAN System” which was proposed by the Ministry of National Security of Jamaica, based on the list of priorities presented by the Jamaican Government.

Community Policing builds trust and strengthens security by prioritizing open communication and direct collaboration between police and communities and as such the project provided capacity building support to bolster the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF’s) community policing capacity through the provision of a vital platform for knowledge exchange, strengthened partnerships and the development of innovative strategies to eradicate the plague of crime and violence. It is a “tangible result of international cooperation in practice and a living testament to the enduring friendship and cooperation between our nations” noted Ambassador Alison Stone Rooffe, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security and Peace.

According to the JCF’s Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Merrick Watson, the JCF’s “37 participants from across the island have immersed themselves in understanding the nuances of the Brazil-KOBAN style of Community Policing and the five(5) days of community policing training activities was not merely theoretical, but was designed to empower the JCF participants to understand, customize and implement strategies according to the local contexts”. At the September 19 official closing ceremony held at the National Police College of Jamaica, Twickenham Park, Spanish Town, St. Catherine ACP Watson said

the “37 graduates are now equipped with an expanded perspective and new tools and are the vanguards, tasked with the role of transferring the knowledge back to the divisions and integrating the enhanced community policing strategies into daily operations”. Appreciation was expressed to Major Legia of the Military Police, Sao Paulo, who, under the Command of Colonel Helio, and other team-members expertly provided the fundamental and foundational training.

There is no doubt that this KOBAN-style community policing initiative is a shining example of the dynamic partnerships Jamaica shares with Japan and Brazil noted Ambassador Sharon Miller, the Chief Technical Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica who also underscored that the visit of His Excellency Mauro Viera, Brazil’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, to Jamaica in January 2025, reaffirmed Brazil’s dedication to deepening partnership at all levels. Additionally, Japan’s recent contribution of 27 pick-up trucks to the JCF in December 2024, and five (5) Marine Security Vessels to the Jamaica Defense Force (JDF) and the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) in April 2025 has significantly strengthened Jamaica’s operational capacity on land and sea and those donations are testament to Japan’s commitment to bolstering Jamaica’s security architecture.

Ambassador Antonio Ricarte, Charge’ d’Affaires a.i. of Brazil in Jamaica noted that the “KOBAN System” provides a model of community policing that prioritizes trust, prevention and proximity and promotes a model of policing with the people, rather than ‘simply’ for the people. In this regard, Brazil is proud to have joined Japan in supporting Jamaica in this effort – not only through the sharing of technical expertise, but through the building of human relationships and institutional bridges. “Over the past two years, we have seen outstanding commitment from all involved in general, from strategic planning and technical missions to intensive training programmes and high-level policy dialogue”.

Japan’s Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency, Yasuhiro ATSUMI congratulated the Commissioner of Police, Dr. Kevin Blake and the entire JCF team on the significant reductions of crimes in Jamaica this year, especially murders which have been reduced by more than 42% compared to last year. As a leading voice in this tri-lateral cooperation, Ambassador ATSUMI said “Japan shares the same aspirations with Jamaica and Brazil for the attainment of peace, stability, peaceful resolutions of conflicts and practices that lead to consensus-based decision making. In that regard, Japan is pleased to have supported Jamaica’s community policing transformation through this cooperation which will positively impact the national security landscape in Jamaica. Given the fact that Japan supports Jamaica’s community policing transformation, going forward, the Government of Japan will continue to identify concrete ways to advance our collaboration in the years ahead as Jamaica continues to build a more resilient society and economy.

**END**

**/kjc**

# PRESS RELEASE

September 19, 2025



## **37 JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE (JCF) OFFICERS COMPLETE ON-THE JOB “KOBAN SYSTEM” COMMUNITY POLICING TRAINING IN JAMAICA UNDER JAPAN SUPPORTED TRILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FOR JAMAICA WITH BRAZIL TO STRENGTHEN JAMAICA’S NATIONAL SECURITY & SAFETY**



### ***Approval and Announcement of TTC Project***

**Photo Source – Embassy of Japan in Jamaica – June 8, 2023**

**From right.**

**The Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, MP, Minister of State, National Security**

**H.E. Yasuhiro ATSUMI, Ambassador of Japan in Jamaica**

**H.E. Elza Moreira Marcelino de Castro, Ambassador of Brazil to Jamaica**

**Mr. Hiroyuki OKAZAKI, Project Formulation Advisor, Japan International  
Cooperation Agency (JICA)**



***Closing out Ceremony of TTC Project***

**Photo Source – Embassy of Japan in Jamaica – September 19, 2025**

**From right.**

**H.E. Yasuhiro ATSUMI, Ambassador of Japan in Jamaica**

**Ambassador Alison Stone Roope – Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security and Peace**



***Completion of 5-day Training Course and Closing out Ceremony of TTC Project***

***Group photo 37 Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) Officers***

**Photo Source – Embassy of Japan in Jamaica – September 19, 2025**

**Front Row from right.**

**Ambassador Sharon Miller, Chief Technical Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade**

**Ambassador Antonio Ricarte, Charge' d'Affaires a.i. of Brazil in Jamaica**

**H.E. Yasuhiro ATSUMI, Japan's Ambassador to Jamaica**

**Assistant Commissioner of Police, Mr. Merrick Watson in charge of the National Police College of Jamaica**

**Ambassador Alison Stone Rooft, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security and Peace**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Row from right.**

**Police Officers from Sao Paulo Brazil, Interpreter and Police Officers from the Jamaica Constabulary Force**