

# Country Development Cooperation Policy for Jamaica

April 2022

## 1. Objectives of Development Cooperation with the Country (Region)

### (1) Objectives of Development Cooperation with CARICOM

The Caribbean region, where Jamaica and other member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are located, includes many island states that are frequently affected by natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods and that promote the sustainable use of marine biological resources, which are characteristics shared with Japan. Countries in the region face vulnerabilities to climate change and natural disasters, and their small population and economic scale mean that their economies are based on industries such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism that are susceptible to external factors. CARICOM member states share common values with Japan, such as democracy and the rule of law, and have shown understanding of and support for Japan's positions in international fora. Given that CARICOM member states often take common positions while placing importance on regional cooperation, sharing Japan's experience and knowledge on climate change and natural disasters and providing support to address challenges common to the region are meaningful for further strengthening relations with CARICOM member states and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### (2) Objectives of Development Cooperation with Jamaica

Jamaica is an island nation located at a strategic point in the English-speaking Caribbean region and possesses one of the world's leading natural harbors, and it is among the larger CARICOM countries in terms of both population and GDP. In recent years, improvements in macroeconomic conditions had been observed, including reductions in unemployment and public debt due to sound economic management, but the country has been strongly affected by the spread of COVID-19 and it is expected that several years will be required to return to previous levels. The country's economy is mainly based on exports of primary products (mining products such as bauxite and alumina and agricultural products such as coffee, bananas, and sugar), tourism, and remittances from overseas residents, and its economic base is vulnerable to external factors. In addition to structural challenges such as trade imbalances, the country also faces social challenges including income disparities and public security.

The country has formulated the national development plan "Vision 2030 Jamaica," which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and is working toward its

realization, while in recent years also focusing on responses to COVID-19 while aiming to achieve economic development and significant job creation through the promotion of foreign investment.

In light of these circumstances, Japan's support for Jamaica's initiatives toward economic and social development is meaningful not only for further strengthening bilateral relations but also for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **2. Basic Policy of Japan's ODA (Overall Goal): Overcoming Vulnerability**

The Development Cooperation Charter states that even for countries with a certain level of per capita income, such as Small Island Developing States, necessary cooperation will be provided in accordance with each country's development needs and capacity to bear the burden. For CARICOM member states, in accordance with the first pillar, "Cooperation toward sustainable development including overcoming vulnerabilities unique to Small Island Developing States," of the Japan-CARICOM Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the Fourth Japan-CARICOM Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in November 2014, cooperation utilizing Japan's technology and expertise will be implemented. Such cooperation is expected to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Jamaica.

## **3. Priority Areas (Medium-Term Objectives)**

### **(1) Building a Resilient Society**

Jamaica, which is also a Small Island Developing State, is vulnerable to natural disasters such as hurricanes and floods, and overcoming vulnerabilities to natural disasters including climate change measures is therefore an important challenge. For this reason, support will be provided for the promotion of both adaptation and mitigation measures as well as for sustainable urban development. In addition, income disparities, unemployment and poverty, and the existence of areas with high crime rates have become urgent challenges that hinder long-term sustainable and stable economic growth. Therefore, support will be provided for Jamaica's initiatives toward reducing disparities and realizing an inclusive society in areas such as regional development, education and vocational training for the poor and socially vulnerable, and health and sanitation, while at the same time implementing support for the development of infrastructure necessary for providing social services in order to improve people's livelihoods and quality of life. Furthermore, support will be provided for initiatives related to waste management including marine plastic waste, and cooperation in the health and medical sector will also be provided as necessary in light of needs related to responses to infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

## **(2) Sustainable Economic Development**

In order to achieve sustainable economic growth, support including human resource development will be provided for industrial development including agriculture and fisheries, as well as for strengthening connectivity and developing infrastructure in areas such as transportation, electricity and energy, water supply, and telecommunications.

## **4. Points to Note**

In the CARICOM region, it should be noted that the promotion of digitalization and the utilization of ICT are common regional challenges through initiatives such as the development of a Single ICT Space and the formulation of the CARICOM Digital Agenda 2025. Since initiatives centered on regional organizations such as CARICOM are being promoted in the Caribbean region, regional cooperation will be advanced while keeping in mind the possibility of coordination with regional institutions in the comprehensive economic and social development of the CARICOM region. In Jamaica, Japanese companies have entered not only primary industries but also sectors such as electricity and IT services, and therefore attention should be paid to support involving public-private collaboration that could lead to the overseas expansion of Japanese companies.

Annex: Rolling Plan