

Jamaica | Jamaica Independence Day

(Anniversary special)

Friendly ties built on mutual trust

C.P. Ricardo Allicock
AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA



On the auspicious occasion of the 55th Anniversary of Independence of Jamaica, it is my high honor to extend my warmest greetings, on behalf of the Most Honorable Prime Minister Andrew Holness, the government and people of Jamaica, to Their Imperial Majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government and people of Japan.

On Aug. 6, 1962, Jamaica took the final step, in the long walk from emancipation from slavery in 1838 to complete political freedom. Since that historic moment 55 years ago, Jamaica has strived to build a strong and vibrant democratic system of government that actively gives voice, and responds, to the needs and desires of the people. In this sense, independence has proven to be more than a political construct for the people. It guides the outlook and emotions of Jamaicans. Indeed, independence is a way of life for the people of Jamaica.

Consequently, Jamaican democracy is more than the ability to vote in free and fair elections. It is the freedom to express oneself fully and freely through politics,

music, dance, dramatic performance, poetry, literature, art and culinary diversity. Furthermore, independence has laid a foundation of permission for the Jamaican people to fully invest their self-confidence in any field of human endeavor they may choose to pursue.

Independent Jamaica strives for continued growth and success while seeking to share its potential with its friends across the world stage. In this manner, Jamaica celebrates its many years of mutually beneficial partnership with Japan in the areas of commodities trade in coffee and sea island cotton, power generation, multilateral cooperation and support, social development, disaster mitigation, language training, hospitality, cultural, educational, sports and administrative exchanges, as well as a host of supportive programs.

More recently, the official visit of the Japanese prime minister to Jamaica in 2015 generated a new and promising group of partnerships between the University of the West Indies and Sophia University, Westmoreland Parish and Tottori Prefecture and the Jamaica Bobsleigh Federation and the Shitamachi Bobsleigh Project as we prepare for the February 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

As Jamaica celebrates and reflects upon its 55 years of independence, I take this privileged opportunity to thank the government and people of Japan for the genuine and unwavering support that has been demonstrated to the government and people of Jamaica through more than

half a century of our political self-determination. As Jamaica forges ahead, making the best of its talents and plans, it looks forward to building upon the firm foundation of mutual respect and care that the warm and friendly ties between Jamaica and Japan have been founded.

May God bless Japan and Jamaica while strengthening our heartfelt bonds.



Jamaican Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness

Shared history of islands

Takeo Hiranuma
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN/JAMAICA
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



I wholeheartedly congratulate you on the 55th Independence Day of Jamaica.

I would like to extend my gratitude and respect to all representatives for their efforts in establishing bilateral trust

and friendly relations.

In 2001, I visited Jamaica as the minister of economy, trade and industry. It was a short visit, but I nostalgically recall that I received a warm welcome from former Prime Minister, the Most Honorable Per-

cival J. Patterson, and representatives of the finance industry. We were able to conduct fruitful negotiations.

Jamaica and Japan are both island countries. There is a theory that the name of Jamaica was derived from "Xaymaca," meaning "land of wood and water" in Taino. There are similarities between both of our countries, as clean water nurtured by rich mountains and forests, as well as bounty from the sea, have shaped our histories. I feel a real affinity with the character of Jamaicans because they have a feeling of awe and gratitude toward the natural environment as well.

In conclusion, I sincerely wish for the continued advancement of friendly mutual relations, prosperous coexistence and strengthening of the bilateral bonds that have been formed with love and respect.

Congratulations to the Government and People of Jamaica on the 55th Anniversary of Their Independence

Association of Japanese Importers
of Jamaican Coffee

Ataka Trading Co., Ltd.
Kanematsu Corporation
MC FOODS LIMITED
UCC Ueshima Coffee Co., Ltd.
Wataru & Co., Ltd.
Yutaka Trading Co., Ltd.
<http://www.bluemountain.gr.jp>

Coffee attracts global fans

Tatsushi Ueshima
HONORARY CONSUL OF JAMAICA IN KOBE,
CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
JAPANESE IMPORTERS OF JAMAICAN COFFEE



On behalf of the Association of Japanese Importers of Jamaican Coffee (AJJIC) and as Honorary Consul of Jamaica in Kobe, I would like to convey to the government and people of Jamaica our best wishes and sincere congratulations on the occasion of Jamaica's 55th Independence Anniversary.

Jamaican Blue Mountain coffee is very popular around the world, especially in Japan. At the Specialty Coffee Association of Japan World Specialty Coffee Conference and Exhibition, the Jamaica Coffee

Exporters Association (JCEA) has had a booth every year. This year, the JCEA is planning to set up two booths to better promote Jamaican coffee. AJJIC is more than happy to support their efforts and

is committed to further enhance the presence of this world-renowned coffee in the Japanese market.

I sincerely hope more and more Japanese people will enjoy Jamaican coffee and visit the land where it is produced.

I wish all Jamaican citizens living around the world a happy independence day.

Congratulations to the Government and People of Jamaica on the 55th Anniversary of Their Independence

Tatsushi Ueshima

Honorary Consul of Jamaica in Kobe
and
UCC Holdings Co., Ltd.
Chairman

Congratulations to the Government and People of Jamaica on the 55th Anniversary of Their Independence

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