

Jamaica Independence Day Special

Familial 'One Love' vision continues to nurture society

C. P. RICARDO ALLICOCK
AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA



On the occasion of the 56th Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica, I am honored to have been given the opportunity to convey greetings on behalf of 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.

This year, our independence is celebrated under the theme "One Love... One Family," in keeping with the strong sense of community that has nurtured the growth and development of our society. It is this deep and abiding sense of family built on the foundation of love that has guided our interactions at home and abroad, including our international part-

ners and friends such as Japan.

With the intention of strengthening the bonds of all Jamaicans, irrespective of geography, last year, the government of Jamaica, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, carried out the Mapping Jamaica's Diaspora Project, aimed at harnessing the power of the diaspora in concert with Jamaicans at home.

Jamaica continues to enjoy global recognition for its music and culture, and this year, we were delighted to see more Jamaican festivals in Japan, featuring reggae, dancehall and our culinary delights such as jerk chicken and jerk pork. This growing interest in Jamaica further demonstrates the close bonds of friendship shared between both countries.

Our voice on the international scene, through iconic figures like the Honorable Robert Nesta Marley (Bob Marley), OM, whose single "One Love" the BBC designated as the "theme of the millennium," presents a compelling picture of the transcendental nature of our message of love to the world.

The relationship between Jamaica and



Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness

Japan continues to grow in strength with the passage of each year and, in October last year, we were pleased to welcome Ambassador Hiromasa Yamazaki, who, like his predecessors, has continued to build on the strong bilateral relationship that our two countries have enjoyed since the establishment of diplomatic relations 54 years ago.

As a small island developing state and

highly indebted middle-income country, Jamaica's socioeconomic and geographical dynamics have presented unique challenges and opportunities for our nation's careful attention. It is for this reason that we remain grateful for the continued support from our partners and friends like Japan, at the multi-lateral and bilateral levels.

Jamaica stands in solidarity with Japan and would also like to use this opportunity to reaffirm our support to the government and people of Japan, especially in light of the recent series of natural disasters that have negatively impacted several regions in Japan.

As ambassador of Jamaica to Japan, I continue to be humbled by the kind support received from the Japanese community, who have collectively aided in the strengthening of the bonds of friendship and community between our two nations.

Finally, on the 56th anniversary of Jamaica's independence, I sincerely thank The Japan Times for the opportunity to celebrate this most significant national occasion with all its readers.

Friendship and history of trade fueled by iconic coffee

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 56th Anniversary of Independence.

Japan has been the largest importer of the Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee,

which has been welcomed by coffee lovers and exhibited by the Jamaica Coffee Exporters Association at the annual Specialty Coffee Association of Japan World Specialty Coffee Conference and Exhibition.

In order to strengthen the relationship between Jamaica and Japan and further promote Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee, the country's most famous coffee, AJJIC has designated Jan. 9 as Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee Day. On the same day 51 years ago, 1,400 bags of Jamaican coffee were shipped from the Port of Kingston to Japan.

I sincerely hope that more Japanese people will recognize this anniversary, enjoy this coffee and visit where it is produced.

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



This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Kamina Johnson Smith receives a copy of letters of credence from Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica Hiromasa Yamazaki on Oct. 27 in New Kingston. EMBASSY OF JAMAICA

**Congratulations
to the Government and
People of Jamaica
on the 56th Anniversary
of Their Independence**

**Association of Japanese Importers
of Jamaican Coffee**

Ataka Trading Co., Ltd.
Kanematsu Corporation
MC Agri Alliance Ltd.
UCC Ueshima Coffee Co., Ltd.
Wataru & Co., Ltd.
Yutaka Trading Co., Ltd.

<http://www.bluemountain.gr.jp>

**Congratulations
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on the 56th 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 56th Anniversary
of Their Independence**

Marubeni

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