

Jamaica Independence Day Special

Strong partnership endures for over 60 years

SHORNA-KAY RICHARDS
AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA



Sixty years ago, Jamaica attained one of the most singular achievements that any nation can boast — its independence. Today, Jamaicans proudly celebrate our diamond jubilee under the theme of

“Reigniting a Nation for Greatness.”

Jamaica at 60 reflects the determination of our ancestors who turned their aspirations into action. They envisioned a nation whose full potential could be unleashed through talent and tenacity. Successive generations have lived up to this vision, evidenced by Jamaica’s democratic stability and our recognition as a constructive member of the international

community, a cultural mecca and a sporting powerhouse.

Our relationship with Japan has spanned areas such as agriculture, energy, human resource development and health, including Japan’s COVID-19 assistance. The government and people of Jamaica are grateful for Japan’s wide-ranging contributions. Our countries continue to enjoy high-level interactions, such as the visit of former Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi to Jamaica in 2021. The visit paved the way for Japan’s exploration of smart city and special economic zone development in Jamaica.

Bilateral trade relations have remained strong despite the pandemic. Thanks to the Association of Japanese Importers of Jamaican Coffee, 70% of our premium Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee is still exported to the Japanese market. The motor trade remained steady, while efforts have increased to expand the cotton trade

through public-private partnerships. Marubeni has used its stake in the Jamaica Public Service Co. to lend support to our targets for renewable energy.

We maintained active engagements this year on all issues on the bilateral agenda and at the regional level through Japan’s relationship with the Caribbean community. Recognizing the need to expand relations, our countries are now exploring opportunities for triangular cooperation focusing on tourism resilience, disaster risk management and security.

Jamaica will also participate in the 2022 editions of Tourism Expo Japan and the Specialty Coffee Association of Japan World Specialty Coffee Conference and Exhibition. We welcome these industry engagements as we reposition the tourism and coffee sectors for growth.

We are also working to deepen people-to-people exchanges, including through Jamaica’s continued participation in the

Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme. We also welcome plans to establish a Jamaica-Japan Friendship Association later this month.

Jamaica at 60 is a nation ready to deliver an inclusive, resilient and green future for its people. We are grateful that Japan will be part of this journey, as together we continue to promote and contribute to international peace, security and sustainable development.



The Port of Kingston is the No. 1 trans-shipment hub in the English-speaking Caribbean. JAMPRO

Shared values strengthen long-standing relations

KUNIKO INOGUCHI
SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
JAPAN-CARICOM PARLIAMENTARY
FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE



On behalf of the Japan-CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 60th anniversary of Jamaica’s independence on Aug. 6.

Japan and Jamaica are both maritime nations and important partners with shared

fundamental values such as freedom, democracy and rule of law. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1964, both countries have continuously maintained good relations and have been cooperating in the international arena.

The field of disarmament is one of these examples. Jamaica was chair of the sixth United Nations Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons, an event for which I served as the inaugural chairperson while ambassador of disarmament affairs in Geneva from 2002 to 2004.

People-to-people exchanges have also been a very important aspect of strengthening ties between our countries. In addition to Jamaica’s athletes performing outstandingly in last year’s Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games,

a wonderful episode in which a Japanese volunteer helped a Jamaican Olympian win gold became widely known through social networking services. All these interactions have helped us enhance good and friendly relations between Japan and Jamaica.

Japan and Jamaica will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2024. The Japan-CARICOM Parliamentary Friendship League will take this opportunity to contribute to the further development of the Japan-Jamaica partnership.

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

Congratulations to the Government and People of Jamaica on the 60th 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 to the Government and People of Jamaica on the 60th Independence Anniversary

Marubeni

<https://www.marubeni.com>