

Jamaica Independence Day Special

Celebrating a multidimensional partnership

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AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA



On Aug. 6, Jamaica proudly celebrates the 62nd anniversary of its independence under the theme “Jamaica 62: One Love to the World.” With seven letters, two words and a single message

of unity, peace, solidarity and justice, “One Love” captures the essence of our nation. Indeed, it was unity, peace, solidarity and justice that guided our ancestors as Jamaica charted its path to self-reliance. These values have also served to forge the lasting bonds of trust, friendship and cooperation that we maintain with partners like Japan.

Jamaica is honored to celebrate the 60th anniversary (*kanreki*) of diplomatic relations with Japan this year together with the second Japan-CARICOM (Caribbean Community) Friendship Year. Framed by these two milestones in our long-standing partnership, this year’s activities under the Jamaica-Japan partnership significantly advanced the political, economic, technical cooperation and cultural agendas between our countries.

The first quarter saw official visits to Japan by Foreign Minister Kamina Johnson Smith and by CARICOM Secretary-General Carla Barnett at the invitation of Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa. The visits enabled our leaders to deepen dialogue at the ministerial and parliamentary levels on several priority areas, including climate change adaptation, disaster risk management (DRM), human resource development, maintaining a free international order as well as the women, peace and security agendas.

The ministerial visit in February expanded the scope of Jamaica and Japan’s cooperation with the latter’s support for the development of Jamaica’s “blue economy.” On that occasion, Johnson Smith and Kamikawa

signed and exchanged notes on Japan’s grant aid for the provision of a marine and fisheries research vessel to Jamaica.

More recently, the historic first visit of a Japan International Cooperation Agency president in late July allowed for the signing of a memorandum of cooperation to expand collaboration in DRM, climate change, security and economic development, among other areas, through bilateral, regional and triangular initiatives.

In 2024, we also continued to pursue closer economic ties with Japan thanks to

the participation of four Jamaican companies in Foodex Japan in March, demonstrating our renewed commitment to broadening our bilateral trade and investment ties. Cultural and people-to-people connections also colored the anniversary celebrations with the release of the “Bob Marley: One Love” biopic in Japan in May, which helped us showcase Jamaica’s popular music and culture across Japan in collaboration with the diaspora and local partners.

The celebration of our *kanreki* — symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings — pro-

vides an excellent opportunity to enhance our multidimensional partnership. We welcome the new policy focus of Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Kamikawa toward Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024, which can create an enabling environment for increased dialogue and cooperation.

Jamaica looks forward to the eighth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial Meeting in December and to Japan’s hosting of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka as avenues to build on the encouraging momentum of our ongoing exchanges.



Jamaican Foreign Minister H.E. Kamina Johnson Smith exchanges notes with her Japanese counterpart H.E. Yoko Kamikawa for Japan’s provision of a fisheries and marine research vessel to Jamaica on Feb. 7.

FOREIGN MINISTRY

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 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 People of Jamaica on the Anniversary of Their Independence

Kondo Spinning Co., Ltd.
spins Sea Island cotton
from Jamaica.



<https://www.kondobo.co.jp>



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

Marubeni

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