
Haiti National Day Special

Strengthening ties across a variety of areas

WATSON R. DENIS

CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF HAITI



Cooperation between states knows no geographical distance; this instrument allows them to strengthen their diplomatic relations, to commune in sacrosanct values and to share

goods, services and wealth.

This axiom, beyond questions of geopolitics, is illustrated by Japan's active cooperation with the member states of CARICOM (the Caribbean Community), of which the Republic of Haiti is a full member.

As part of the 30th anniversary of the Japan-CARICOM friendship, the eighth ministerial conference between Japan and the CARICOM states was held in Tokyo from Dec. 12 to 15. At this event, several issues of

common interest were discussed, and a joint statement was adopted in which both of our foreign ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion of important values, like the defense of human rights, peace and economic prosperity.

Cooperation was one the main topics. Both parties agreed to cooperate in fields such as health, energy and the environment as well as agro-industry management and disaster-risk reduction.

With regard to Haiti in particular, Japan's cooperation is becoming more functional after the devastating earthquake of Jan. 12, 2010, which claimed the lives of more than 250,000 people. Since then, Japan-Haiti cooperation has been gaining momentum across a wide variety of sectors.

For its part, Haiti intends to make its presence more visible in the Land of the Rising Sun. In addition to the diplomatic work of its embassy in Tokyo, for the rapprochement between the two states and to increase understanding between our

peoples, Haiti will participate in the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. This is an ideal opportunity to showcase this moving country at its best, to present its history that invented 221 years ago a new world of political emancipation in the Americas, to highlight the rhythms of its music, the spirit of its folklore and culture, its beautiful handicrafts and its succulent gastronomy.

Indeed, at this expo, Haiti intends to illustrate its contribution to the world to date as well as share, for today and tomorrow, its vision for a harmonious world.

Haiti and Japan, after more than 70 years of diplomatic relations, continue and will continue to strengthen, through cooperation, their ties at different levels, despite the differences in socioeconomic development and geographical distance.

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