

Jamaica independence day

Innovation, talent and creativity help build nation

C. P. Ricardo Allicock
AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA

It is my very great honor to extend, on behalf of the government and people of Jamaica, warm and convivial greetings to Their Imperial Majesties, Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, the Imperial family, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the government and people of Japan on this, the 53rd anniversary of Jamaica's Independence.

Over the past five decades, Jamaica, which has a population similar in size to Hiroshima Prefecture, has managed to make an impact upon the world that is disproportionate to its diminutive size. Our musical forms of ska, reggae and dancehall, as well as our culinary specialties such as jerk chicken and jerk pork, have



Jamaican Prime Minister the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, ON, MP

been widely embraced by Japanese citizens and people the world over, and are easily identified as uniquely Jamaican cultural signifiers. Similarly so, our athletic talent has brought Jamaica wide acclaim and recognition, particularly at the highest levels of competition. In this regard, Jamaica earned 23 medals, 10 of

which were gold, at the last two Summer Olympic Games. Jamaica has medaled at every Olympiad since Independence in 1962 with the ironic exception of the 1964 Tokyo Games; something we certainly hope to rectify in 2020!

Of course, any success that Jamaica has realized has come by the gargantuan effort of our most valuable resource, our people. It is through their creativity, innovation, talent, intellect, faith, determination and strength that Jamaica has been able to forge ahead, sometimes through great difficulty, in its growth as a nation. Notably, as it has been since the time of colonialism and slavery of centuries past, the women of Jamaica have contributed significantly to the construction and reputation of the nation. Jamaica in-

stituted universal suffrage in 1944, 18 years before Independence and, since then, women have continuously contributed in every field of endeavor, commercial and public, to the nation's leadership and development. In fact, in 2014 the International Labor Organization listed Jamaica (at 59.3 percent) as the country with the highest percentage of women in management positions worldwide. We strongly believe in the value of women's participation in nation building and economic expansion, and are enthusiastic about encouraging our friends and neighbors to pursue similar national strategies as we collectively seek to create a more stable and more productive world.

In this regard, the embassy was privileged to collaborate with Showa Women's Univer-

sity, Tokyo in December in the organization of a Women's Empowerment Symposium featuring the Jamaica's Minister of State of Industry, Investment and Commerce, the Honorable Sharon Ffolkes Abrahams, who exhorted the young women in attendance to strive for significant participation in the social, cultural, academic, political and economic affairs of Japan. People-to-people exchanges such as this have greatly helped to undergird the warm and friendly ties which Jamaica and Japan mutually enjoy.

Perhaps the most enduring example of our ongoing people-to-people collaborations lies in the steadily growing engagement of Jamaican professionals in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. Many Jamaicans have shared their knowledge, skills and friend-



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ship with Japanese students (currently across 35 prefectures) and, through this process, continue to help nurture the mutually beneficial relationship our two nations celebrate. Whether we consider the powerful partnership between producers of Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee and the members of the Association of Japanese Importers of Jamaican Coffee, the tremendous support Jamaica's main electric company receives from Marubeni Corporation, the outstanding assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Jamaica's de-



Strawberry Hill EMBASSY OF JAMAICA

velopment, the significant bilateral visits made by high-level governmental delegations, or the keen attention Japanese artists and aficionados exhibit for Jamaican music and dance, it all heralds the dynamic, burgeoning people-driven relations which so deeply profit both coun-

tries. As Jamaica celebrates its 53rd anniversary of Independence, I take this opportunity to thank the people of Japan for the sincere friendship they have extended to the people of Jamaica over these many years and pray that God will continue to bless our strong, heartfelt relations.

Supporting Jamaican industry

Tatsushi Ueshima
HONORARY CONSUL OF JAMAICA
AT 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 53rd Independence Anniversary.

The close relationship between Jamaica and Japan began with world-renowned Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee. The relationship has



now expanded to include music and sports. Many talented musicians and athletes produced by Jamaica have been attracting the attention of people not only in Japan, but also all over the world. Furthermore, Jamaica has been gaining in political and economic importance in Japan in recent years as a leader of the Caribbean Community.

We are certain that Jamaica will continue to develop under the leadership of its Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller. Taking this opportunity, the AJJIC would like to reiterate our commitment to Jamaica's development by supporting its coffee industry and further strengthening the ties between our two nations.

I wish all Jamaicans a happy Independence Day.

**Congratulations
to the Government and
People of Jamaica
on the 53rd 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>

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

**Congratulations
to the Government and
People of Jamaica
on the 53rd Anniversary
of Their Independence**

Marubeni

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