

# Jamaica Independence Day

## Lasting and friendly partnership

C.P. Ricardo Allicock  
AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA

On this, the 54th Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica, it is my great honor and delight to extend my warmest 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.

Over the past year, I have had the high privilege of witnessing the distinct enhancement of relations, which have always been warm and friendly, between Jamaica and Japan in clear and tangible ways. Foremost among these demonstrations of increased support was the official visit that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made to Jamaica in Sep-



tember 2015. This was a historical moment as it was the first time, since Jamaica and Japan established diplomatic relations in 1964, that a Japanese prime minister visited Jamaica. During the visit, the prime ministers of both countries recommitted themselves to the exploration, with a sense of renewed dynamism, of ways in which to strengthen the relationship between Jamaica and Japan. Furthermore, agreements were signed for the promotion of culture with support being lent by the Japanese government for the improvement of facilities at the Institute of Jamaica, and for the promotion of educational cooperation between the University of the West Indies and Sophia University.

As well, initiatives were taken in March by Westmoreland Parish in Jamaica and Tottori Prefecture to establish the first sister-region cooperative agreement between any Japanese prefecture and a region of any Caribbean nation. Additionally,



**Jamaican Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness**

in July an agreement was signed between the principals of the Shitamachi Bobsleigh Project and the Jamaica Bobsleigh Team to furnish the team with world-class Japanese sleds for use in the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. It is, indeed, an exciting time for Jamaica-Japan relations.

However, even as we look ahead at the new areas of coop-

eration that have been formalized, we remain grateful for the long-existing partnerships that have solidified the ties between our two countries. Japan, for instance, still imports and consumes the majority of the yearly production of Jamaica's world-renowned Blue Mountain coffee and Marubeni remains a steadfast part owner of Jamaica's primary power company — Jamaica Public Service. In these ways — and so many others such as support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers — Japan helps to power Jamaica's economy and development and we are deeply appreciative of those examples of unwavering friendship. We also welcome the opportunities provided to Jamaicans, through the Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme, to impart our English



**The Jamaican bobsleigh team** EMBASSY OF JAMAICA

language skills to young Japanese students while sharing our vast and rich culture in spoken and written word, music, sports and cuisine.

In March, Jamaica's government changed hands within our well-established and highly stable two-party parliamentary system. Japan can be assured that it remains business as usual between our countries. In this regard, we continue to forge ahead, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, the Most Honorable Andrew Holness, in building on our synergies and

strengths and look forward to new and encouraging ways in which we can collaborate for stronger friendship and broader opportunities for mutual satisfaction. As Jamaica celebrates its 54th Anniversary of Independence, I take this moment to thank the people of Japan for the sincere friendship, love and support they have demonstrated to the people of Jamaica over the more than half a century since we became politically self-determinant. May God continue to bless Japan and Jamaica while guiding our heartfelt relations.

## Further promotion of island's rich coffee

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 54th Independence Anniversary.

In March, a new cabinet headed by the Prime Minister, the Most Honorable Andrew



Michael Holness, was formed. Since then, the Jamaican government has been actively pursuing economic growth.

With this background, AJJIC members had the opportunity to meet the Minister of Tourism, the Honorable Edmund Bartlett, and listen to his views on how to promote Jamaican tourism. His intention to attract more tourists from Japan through the promotion of Jamaica Blue Mountain coffee is more than welcome to us, who are committed to further enhance the presence of this world-renowned coffee in the Japanese market. I sincerely hope more and more Japanese people will enjoy this coffee and visit where it is produced.

I wish all Jamaican citizens living around the world a happy Independence Day.

### A relationship built on trust

Takeo Hiranuma  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN/JAMAICA PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

I wholeheartedly congratulate all Jamaicans on their 54th Anniversary of Independence Day on Aug. 6. I would like to extend my gratitude and respect to all representatives for their efforts in establishing bilateral trust and friendly relations for many years.

Last September, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe paid a visit to Jamaica. It is great pleasure to know that exchanges between the two countries have become even deeper.

Our impression of Jamaica is that it is a beautiful and friendly island country, situated far from Japan. From Jamaica emerges outstanding music such as reggae and prominent athletes who are famous throughout world, including Usain Bolt.

Additionally, Jamaica, a tropical island that has never experienced snow, gives excitement and courage to the world through their continuous challenges in the bobsleigh event at the Winter Olympic Games. We are delighted to know that the Jamaican bobsleigh team has adopted a Japanese sled for the 2018 Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games.

Lastly, I sincerely wish for the continued advancement of friendly mutual relations, prosperous coexistence and the strengthening the bilateral bond that has formed with love and respect.



### Congratulations to the Government and People of Jamaica on the 54th 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>

### Congratulations to the Government and People of Jamaica on the 54th Anniversary of Their Independence

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

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## Marubeni

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