

## **JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN JAMAICA NEWSLETTER**

Annual Report FY2019

March, 2020



*His Excellency YAMAZAKI Hiromasa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Jamaica, left, second row, graciously hosted members of the Executive Board of the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica, who were accompanied by representatives of the JICA Jamaica Office, at a dinner on Thursday, January 20, 2020 at the Ambassador's residence in St. Andrew.*



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*JAAJ's President Lenroy James, second right, with colleagues from JICA Alumni Associations in the Central America and Caribbean Region at the FECCEBEJA XII Regional Conference in El Salvador, held from February 27 to March 1, 2020 as he represented the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica.*

## 1. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fellow Alumni,

Greetings from the Secretariat of the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica! During the 21<sup>st</sup> year of operations of the JAAJ, the Executive Board and members of the Association undertook a wide range of activities. These included involvement in programs, projects as well as cultural activities. On behalf of the Executive Board members, I now express appreciation to all our members for your participation and support given to all our activities.

During FY2019 the following activities were undertaken by the JAAJ members:

- One (1) Annual General Meeting
- Four (4) Executive Board Meetings
- Participation in Institute of Jamaica's Summer Program for students
- Environmental Projects for 2019 - International Coastal Clean-Up Day and National Tree Planting Day
- Technology Transfer Seminar
- Jamaica/Japan Culture Festival
- Dinner Reception hosted by the Japanese Ambassador
- Participation in Japan Day
- Sending a delegate to FECCEBEJA Conference in El Salvador

As we welcome recently returned participants from JICA's KCCP training in Japan during FY2019, we urge you to join with us as we undertake even more activities during FY2020. The schedule of activities will be discussed at the upcoming Annual General Meeting, to which you are specially invited to attend during March, 2020.

It is our goal to increase the membership of the JAAJ and to renew holding of the Chapter Meetings for the Western, Southern and Eastern Chapters of Jamaica as we work together to strengthen the Association. We look forward to hearing from all our members and your suggestions to revive the Chapters, which currently are not as active as we strive to implement projects within our communities.

With every good wish for another successful year of activities.

**Mr. Lenroy James, President**  
**JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica**  
**FY2019**

The JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica, JAAJ, is one of over one hundred Associations worldwide and is comprised of former participants of JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Training Program in Japan. The JAAJ was established in March 1998, with the support of the Embassy of Japan in Jamaica and JICA Jamaica Office.

On March 9, 2019 the JAAJ held its 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting (herein after referred to as AGM) at the Knutsford Court Hotel in New Kingston. An Executive Board was elected, chaired by Mr. Lenroy James, President. The JAAJ is one of the most vibrant JICA Alumni Associations in our CARICOM region. At the AGM the members also discussed the activities to be implemented during FY2019.

During its 21<sup>st</sup> year, activities undertaken by the members of the JAAJ with support from JICA's Follow-Up Cooperation, included:

- An Annual General Meeting
- A Summer Program including Japanese Culture for students at the Institute of Jamaica
- A Technology Transfer Seminar
- Environmental Projects - International Coastal Clean Up Day activities at the Palisadoes Coastline in Kingston and Tree Planting at schools in Kingston
- Culture Festival - celebrating Japanese and Jamaican Culture
- Reception at the Japanese Ambassador's Residence
- Participation in Japan Day Event
- FECCEBEJA Regional Conference in El Salvador



*President Lenroy James, right with Vice-President Dahlia Hodelin, at centre and Treasurer Dilton Pike left after being elected to serve on the Executive Board for FY2019.*



*President Lenroy James presented a cheque to a representative of "Men Who Care" as a donation to their worthy cause from funds raised at the Basil Dawkins Charity Play.*



### 3. MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN JAAJ's ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON MARCH 9, 2019



*Mr. TOBITA Kenji, then Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica, third left and Mr. Dmitry Robertson, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, second left, joined in the official photo of the newly elected Executive Board Members of the JICA Alumni Association of Jamaica Limited on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 at the Knutsford Court Hotel.*



*JAAJ's Member, Ms. Jackie Bennett, expressed her opinion on the operations of the JAAJ for FY2018 at the AGM and suggested ways to strengthen the membership of the Association.*



*JAAJ members diligently perused the Minutes of the last AGM and held fruitful discussions on the way forward to getting more members involved in the main activities of the Association.*



#### 4. JAAJ MEMBERS PAID A COURTESY CALL ON THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA

A few members of the Executive Board of the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica, JAAJ, paid a Courtesy call on His Excellency YAMAZAKI Hiromasa at the Embassy of Japan in Kingston on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Mr. Lenroy James, President, Mrs. Marilyn McKoy, Vice-President, Mr. Dilton Pike, Treasurer, and Mr. Adrian Stewart, Secretary were accompanied by Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica and Ms. Lorna Wallace, Senior Program Officer.

His Excellency YAMAZAKI Hiromasa warmly welcomed the JAAJ Executive Members, who apprised him of the activities which were to be undertaken by its members during FY2019.



*Second row standing: His Excellency YAMAZAKI Hiromasa, Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, second right; Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica, left; Mrs. Marilyn McKoy, Vice-President of the JAAJ, second left and Ms. Lorna Wallace, Senior Program Officer, right. Seated front row are: Mr. Lenroy James, President of the JAAJ, Mr. Dilton Pike, Treasurer, centre and Mr. Adrian Stewart Assistant Secretary, right.*

#### 5. JAAJ's EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS MET WITH JICA's RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE



*Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, third left, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica received a Courtesy Call by a few Members of JAAJ's Executive Board at JICA Jamaica's New Kingston Office, Courtleigh Corporate Centre during June, 2019.*



*JICA's Resident Representative, Mr TAKANO Takeshi, and then Project Formulation Advisor, Ms. NIKI Aoba, listened attentively to the activities outlined to be undertaken by JAAJ's President Lenroy James, other Executive Members and the three Chapters of the JAAJ during FY2019.*



## 6. WELCOME FUNCTION FOR RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AND COORDINATORS



*The JAAJ Members hosted a function to welcome Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, Resident Representative, second right, and Mr. ITSUBO Toyoaki, incoming Volunteer Programme Coordinator, left front row, and to bid farewell to Mr. SATAKE Yasushi, outgoing Volunteer Programme Coordinator, centre, second row who has successfully completed his second tour of duty in Jamaica.*



*JICA's Resident Representative Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, right, outgoing Coordinator, Mr. SATAKE Yasushi, centre and incoming Coordinator, Mr. ITSUBO Toyoaki, left, enjoyed the warm reception hosted by JICA Alumni Executive Members at JICA's New Kingston Office before Mr. SATAKE'S return to Japan.*



*Mrs. Sharille Watson-Pink, Past President of the JAAJ and Information Technology and Website/E-Commerce Manager at the Jamaica Tourist Board presented souvenirs of Jamaica to outgoing Coordinator, Mr. SATAKE Yasushi who completed his second assignment tenure in Jamaica.*



## 7. SUMMER PROGRAM AT THE INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA

The Institute of Jamaica in collaboration with the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica, JAAJ, and the JICA Volunteers organized and implemented the Summer Program at the East Street Junior Centre on July 9, 10 and 11, 2019.



*Ms. KOBAYASHI Azusa, JICA Volunteer, delivering a lecture on Japanese History in the Lecture Theatre at the Institute of Jamaica during the Summer Program for students at the Junior Centre.*

Several students at the Institute of Jamaica were exposed to Japanese history and culture. They learnt about the History of the Ninja and the Shuriken Throw (Ninja blades) from JICA Volunteer, Ms. KOBAYASHI Azusa.



*Students are enthralled by Japanese traditional combat technique of the Shuriken Throw (Ninja blades) to which they were exposed by Ms. KOBAYASHI Azusa, JICA Volunteer.*



*Students at the Junior Centre were also involved in Craft Activity with Ms. YAMAZOE Kazue.*



*Ms. YAMAZOE Kazue, and Mrs. TAKEYAMA of JICA, beautifully dressed in traditional Yukatas, speak to students of the Junior Centre in the Computer Room about various Japanese art forms such as Ikebana and also craft activity. Equipment in this Computer Lab was donated by the Government of Japan through a Cultural Grant to the Institute of Jamaica.*



*Mr. KANEHAMA Akira, JICA Volunteer, held a session on Japanese Dance and gave a demonstration on the Bon Dance so that students could appreciate this art form at the Junior Centre, Institute of Jamaica during July, 2019.*



## 8. ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS - NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY



*JAAJ members and Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme Alumni Association (JET AA) members interacted with some students of Dunoon Technical High School, before commencing the National Tree Planting Day's activities at the school in East Kingston. Students received tips on how to protect the environment.*

*JAAJ members worked closely with JET AA on National Tree Planting Day to implement this Environmental Project with students of Dunoon Technical High School as they planted over 80 trees for the project.*



The International Coastal Clean-Up Day Project was implemented in September, 2019 at the Palisadoes Go Kart Track Coastline on the Southern border of the Kingston Harbour, with the JICA Volunteers, Jamaica Environment Trust,

Japan Exchange Teacher Programme (JET), the JAAJ members and members of JICA Jamaica Office and numerous governmental, corporate and civil society groups. On that day the spirit of volunteerism was certainly alive and well.



*Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, JICA's Resident Representative, joined President Lenroy James and JICA Volunteers as they travelled together to the Project Site at Palisadoes Coastline to participate in International Coastal Clean-Up Day activities.*



*The JICA Team led by Mr. TAKANO Takeshi prepare for work on JAAJ/JICA's joint project at the Palisadoes Coastline.*



*JAAJ Members and JICA Volunteers at the Project Site as they completed their day's activities on International Coastal Clean-Up Day.*



## 9. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SEMINAR



*Ms. Shorna-Kay Richards, Director, Bilateral Relations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, brought greetings at the Opening Ceremony of the Technology Transfer Seminar held at the Courtleigh Hotel on the 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.*

A Technology Transfer Seminar was held at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston on the 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. The Seminar was organized and implemented by the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica, JAAJ. The Master of Ceremonies was Mr. Lenroy James, President of the JAAJ.

In attendance were Ms. Shorna-Kay Richards, Director, Bilateral Relations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Ms. Pauline Morrison, Director, Bilateral Unit, External Cooperation Management Division, The Planning Institute of Jamaica; Mrs. Donnette Carter, Senior Director, Scholarships & Assistance Unit and members of the Strategic Human Resource Management Division, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service; Representatives of all Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as other stakeholders and members of the JAAJ.

Representatives of the Japan International Cooperation Agency included Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, Resident Representative, Mr. BUTSUEN Kunihiro, Project Formulation Advisor and Ms. OCHIAI Sachiko, Volunteer Programme Coordinator as well as JICA Volunteers and the National Staff.

Greetings and remarks were brought by representatives of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies and former participants presented their Action Plans and Progress Reports at the Seminar.

Presentations were made by: Mr. Uton Tobin, Standard Engineer Specialist of the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd.; Mr. Jumaane Robinson, Urban Planner at St. Thomas Municipal Corporation; Mr. Dwight Lewis, Head of Section, HEART Trust/NTA, National Tools Engineering; Mrs. Yvette Gray Pinnock and Ms. Donasha Biggs of the National Solid Waste Management Authority; Mr. Edson Carr, Project Manager of NSWMA; Mr. Andrew Samuels of Ministry of Education.



*Participants of JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programme in Japan as well as officers of Ministries, Departments and Agencies, JICA Jamaica Officials, listened intently to the Action Plans presented by their colleagues who returned from Japan during FY2019.*

## 10. JAMAICA/JAPAN CULTURE FESTIVAL



*Students of the Japan Club at the University of the West Indies performed the Bon Dance at the Culture Festival held at the Girl Guides Association Headquarters on Waterloo Road in Kingston.*

On November 16, 2019, the JAAJ in collaboration with JICA Jamaica Office and the Embassy of Japan, hosted the Jamaica/Japan Culture Day at the Girl Guides Association's Headquarters on Waterloo Road in Kingston. The venue was filled with booth displays, showcasing Jamaican Culture and Japanese Culture including art forms such as origami and calligraphy.

The programme of events commenced with JAAJ's President Mr. Lenroy James, delivering a short welcome to all in attendance. On the evening's agenda were greetings from the Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica, His Excellency YAMAZAKI Hiromasa, JICA Jamaica's Resident Representative, Mr. TAKANO Takeshi, and Mr. Vivian Crawford, Executive Director of the Institute of Jamaica.

Cultural Items were performed by the Westmoreland/Tottori Partnership Group, which showed a video loop of the partnership's achievements and goals of the Parish of Westmoreland, Jamaica and the Tottori Prefecture in Japan. Students from the Institute of Jamaica's Junior Centre performed a dance, entitled "Erupt", which was choreographed by Miss Je'Andra Davis-

Marcellin. The dance was followed by students from the University of the West Indies' Japanese Club performing a Japanese dance. The activities then continued with Institute of Jamaica's Drum Corps - Afro Caribe - with rhythmic sounds arranged by Mr. Milton Bonner. JICA's Volunteer, Ms. NAGAMURA Natsumi, delivered a cultural item. The audience of approximately one hundred and twenty (120) persons was asked to learn Japanese Bon Dance, which was very entertaining and well received. The program ended by Mrs. Dahlia Dwyer - Hodelin, Vice-President of the JAAJ, moving the Vote of Thanks.

The JAAJ takes this opportunity to thank the JICA Jamaica office, JICA Volunteer Programme Coordinators and Volunteers, the Embassy of Japan in Jamaica, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, along with all the participants and guests, who made the event a success. The JAAJ will be committed to highlight the importance of continuing to build the cultural linkages between Jamaica and Japan. The JAAJ reaffirms its dedication to working closely with our Japanese friends and partners to achieve these mutually beneficial goals.



## 11. JICA PARTICIPANTS OF KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAMMES FY2019

Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Islands Training  
at JICA Shikoku Centre and Kochi University



Mrs. Dion Hylton-Lewis, Parish Disaster Coordinator, Trelawny Municipal Corporation, Jamaica presented her Action Plan at the Knowledge Co-Creation Programme “Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Islands” held from the 04<sup>th</sup> of November to the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 at Kochi University in Japan.



Mrs. Dion Hylton-Lewis, participant from Jamaica (center) in Aki Country, Kochi Prefecture, at the field observation site at Nahari River where a check dam (in the background of the picture) was constructed under the Emergency Soil Corrosion Control Project.



Mrs. Dion Hylton-Lewis with participant from Micronesia experiencing the reproduced shake of aftershock using the Earthquake Generation System at the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park. The Park is a Disaster Prevention Experience Learning Facility that is used as the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) during and after a disaster.



Mrs. Dion Hylton-Lewis explained her problem tree analysis with her colleagues from Papua New Guinea and the Kingdom of Tonga at the “Reviewing and Deepening of the Problem Analysis Workshop” in Miyako, Okinawa Prefecture.





*In tandem with Japan's Development Cooperation Charter, JICA focuses on Sustainable Development Goals, as its mission is "to achieve Human Security and Quality Growth". Mr. Jumaane Robinson, JICA participant from Jamaica poses by the display booth highlighting SDGs at a JICA International Centre in Japan.*



*Mr. Jumaane Robinson, Director of Planning at the St. Thomas Municipal Corporation, presented his Country Report in Japan as he participated in the "Disaster Risk Reduction of Buildings (against Earthquake, Tsunami and Fire)" in Osaka during FY2019. On his return to Jamaica, Mr. Robinson played a major role at the Technology Transfer Seminar in Kingston, which was organized by the JAAJ on October 30, 2019 at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston.*



*Mr. De Yen Smith, extreme left, JICA's participant from Jamaica, seen during training exercises comprised of drills, fire fighting techniques and disaster prevention activities in Fukuoka Prefecture during September, 2019.*



*Mr. WATANABE Katsuhiro, Counsellor, right, Fire and Disaster Management Agency, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, Japan presented Mr. De Yen Smith of Jamaica Fire Brigade with his Certificate. The training was implemented in Kitakyushu-City, Fukuoka Prefecture.*



## JICA PARTICIPANTS OF KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAMMES FY2019 (cont'd)

Fisheries Training at the Faculty of Fisheries, Hokkaido University and JICA Hokkaido Centre



Mr. Ian K. Jones, Senior Fisheries Officer, National Fisheries Authority, Jamaica presented his Country Report at the Knowledge Co-Creation Programme “Value-Chain Development for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources” held from 18<sup>th</sup> August to 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 2019 in Sapporo, Japan. The Implementing partner was Faculty of Fisheries of Hokkaido University.



Mr. Ian Jones joins in discussions on Fisheries Resource Management with his colleagues from Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Vietnam on his training program in Hokkaido.



Mr. Ian K. Jones, participant from Jamaica in Hokkaido, as he did practical training in “Value-Chain Development for Sustainable Use of Fisheries Resources”, for deep sea fishing in Hokkaido, Japan.

## 12. REPORT OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



*FECCEBEJA dinner with the Japanese Ambassador to El Salvador, His Excellency HIGUCHI Kazuyoshi.*

Delegates at the FECCEBEJA XII, the 12<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of JICA Alumni Associations for Central America and the Caribbean, which was held in San Salvador from February 27 to March 1, 2020, took a serious look at some of the challenges facing the various associations regionally. Chief among the challenges are membership engagement and membership retention. As a body, FECCEBEJA will continue to provide the framework where member associations can share transferrable ideas within the region.

Each member association has a duty to map and be aware of the needs of its membership. Therefore new approaches to membership engagement and retention must be explored immediately. The JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica, JAAJ, as a member of FECCEBEJA agrees with this position, and has recommitted

to lending its support towards the realization of this goal.

Each country faces unique challenges. However, some of those challenges are universal and a single unified approach can have far reaching benefits. It is now immensely clear that targeted small actions on an individual level, when combined as a group act, can have tremendous reach and successes.

Arising from this conference in El Salvador, two member associations have been invited to attend the next Technology Transfer Workshop and deliver presentations that will afford the JAAJ membership opportunities to receive and transfer scalable innovations across borders, with the ultimate goal of building strong associations that will be the basis of a strong FECCEBEJA.



*FECCEBEJA Conference February 27, 2020 to March 01, 2020 in San Salvador, El Salvador.*

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