



# JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN JAMAICA

## NEWSLETTER

Vol 1. No. XXV March 2023

*Building  
Partnerships*

*Strengthening  
Connections*



**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



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## JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica (JAAJ)

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 the office of JICA Jamaica. Each year a number of events are executed engaging the membership and this year seven projects and activities were completed.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow Alumni:

It was such an honour to serve as the President of the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica for the FY2022. I have had a very long association with JAAJ, held a few positions but remained active for more than ten years.

One of the important tasks that the Executive was engaged in over the year was to significantly increase the number of active members while seeking meaningful ways to embrace the varied needs of the group. I once again urge all our active members to engage other ex-participants who have not been involved in becoming active alumni and share in the exciting activities and opportunities the Association has to offer. There are a variety of ways in which each alumni member can give back and contribute to the success of the Association. In large or small ways, your contributions are important and valuable.

Wherever you are, and whatever stage of life you are, there is something here for you. One of the focus areas of the upcoming year is to utilize the technology to bring the overseas connection together in an effort to strengthen the bonds between the alumni family and expand the outreach activities of the Association.

We celebrate our achievements over FY2022. We were able to execute all the calendar activities and facilitated one fundraising activity. Part proceeds of the fundraiser was donated towards programme development of the selected agency. The membership of the Association is cognizant of the need for support from agencies in communities across Jamaica. Fundraising to support such programmes will remain a priority of the JAAJ in the new year.

A special thanks I extend to the FY2022 executive team for the level of commitment displayed in getting the job done. You each utilized your talents, skills, passion and social networks to strengthen the work and fulfill the mandate of the JAAJ.

*Marilyn McKay*

# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the JAAJ was held at the Hotel Four Seasons on March 18, 2023. Special guests included Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica Mr. Orrette Muir, President of JETAA and Project Formulation Advisor of JICA Jamaica Office, Mr. Hiroyuki Okazaki.

The meeting was facilitated using the hybrid format, engaging alumni members online and at the site at Hotel Four Seasons located at 18 Ruthven Road, Kingston 10. The Moderator of the meeting was Mr. Lenroy James, Past President of JAAJ. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of FY2022 was read by the Secretary Ms. Kerri-Ann Palmer and the report of the FY2022 was presented by Mrs. Marilyn McKoy, President. Ms. Lorna Wallace, Honorary Alumni, directed the election of officers to serve for FY2023. The results were:

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Mrs. Marilyn McKoy
<b>VICE PRESIDENT, EASTERN</b>	Ms. Rachael Reid
<b>VICE PRESIDENT, CENTRAL</b>	Ms. Pricilla Chambers
<b>VICE PRESIDENT, WESTERN</b>	Mr. Dilton Pike
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Ms. Kerri-Ann Palmer
<b>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b>	Ms. Sheena Suckoo
<b>TREASURER</b>	Ms. Stephney Duhaney
<b>ASSISTANT TREASURER</b>	Ms. Jean Pennington
<b>PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER</b>	Mr. Rennique Thomas
<b>ASSISTANT PRO</b>	Mr. Ian Channer
<b>CULTURAL COORDINATOR</b>	Ms. Tamickia Anderson
<b>SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR</b>	Ms. Terry-Ann Clahar
<b>BOARD MEMBER 1</b>	Mr. Garfield Murray
<b>BOARD MEMBER 2</b>	Ms. Joni Jackson
<b>AUDITOR</b>	Mr. James Grant

# COURTESY CALLS

On Wednesday September 14, 2022, a contingent of the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica (JAAJ), represented by Mrs. Marilyn McKoy- President, Ms. Rachael Reid- Vice President, Mr. Ian Channer-Assistant PRO and Mr. Garfield Murray-Board member made a courtesy call to His Excellency, Masaya Fujiwara, Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica. He was accompanied by Ms. Noriko Oshima, First Secretary and Director of Economic Cooperation. President Marilyn McKoy introduced the team and spoke of the calendar activities to be executed by the JAAJ during the FY2022 and the commitment of the JAAJ in promoting the friendship and understanding between both Jamaica and Japan.



The JICA Alumni Association Jamaica (JAAJ), represented by Mrs. Marilyn McKoy- President, Ms. Rachael Reid- Vice President, and Ms. Kerri-Ann Palmer- Secretary, made a courtesy call on the newly appointed Resident Representative, Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki who was also joined by other members of the JICA Jamaica team including Mr. Hiroyuki Okazaki. The alumni team and Mr. Kawasaki exchanged experiences of time spent in the other's country. The President, Mrs. Marilyn McKoy, articulated the plans of the Association for the 2022 Financial Year and Mr. Kawasaki shared on the impact that his office intends to make and gave assurances of JICA's support of the Alumni and its objectives.



*Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki presented Mrs. Marilyn McKoy with a gift while Ms. Kerri-Ann Palmer, Secretary, presented Mr. Kawasaki with a token on behalf of the JAAJ team in attendance*

# SPECIAL PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES

The following seven (7) activities were undertaken during FY2022:

- National Tree Planting
- International Ocean Clean-up Day
- Technology Transfer Seminar
- FECCEBEJA
- Japan Day
- Fundraising Event
- JAAJ/JETTA Joint Project

## NATIONAL TREE PLANTING DAY

Each year during the first week of October, the Forestry Department hosts its Annual National Tree Planting Day. The objective of this initiative is to support national development in the area of climate change and reforestation in order to increase forest cover and establish high value urban greenspaces for all Jamaicans. As in previous years, the JAAJ provided continued support to local communities, especially the school community.

The tree planting activity was held at the Red Hills Primary School on October 11, 2022. Ms. Noriko Oshima, First Secretary & Director of Economic Cooperation, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica and staff, Mr. Paul Messam, Principal, teachers, parents and students along with Alumni members joined in planting over twenty hardwood trees on the school compound.

In a brief opening ceremony, Mr. Paul Messam, Principal, extended welcome to the guests and expressed appreciation to the JAAJ for choosing the Red Hills Primary to participate in this activity and for the donation received. Ms. Oshima expressed the willingness of the Embassy to participate in the event, as education is one of the focus areas of the Embassy.

The JAAJ, through the partnership established with the Forestry Department was able to execute this activity with the donated plants received. It is anticipated that the JAAJ will conduct follow-up visits to the school in order to check on the growth of the trees.





# INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN UP DAY

Participation in International Coastal Cleanup Day has for several years been an annual calendar event for the Japan International Cooperation Agency Alumni Association in Jamaica (JAAJ). The main objective has been to assist in removing solid waste from our waterways, to change behaviours and to raise awareness about the effects of pollution of our coastlines.



For the 2022 staging of the event which took place on September 17, 2022, the JAAJ collaborated with the Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme Alumni Association (JETAA) who registered as a group to volunteer with the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET), the local organizer for the annual event. The JET is a non-profit, non-governmental membership organization formed in 1991 by a group of citizens concerned for the state of Jamaica's natural environment.

Four (4) members of the JAAJ, as well as members from the JICA Jamaica Office which included the Resident Representative, Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki and two (2) foreign nationals joined JETAA in the Jamaica Environment Trust's flagship cleanup exercise at the Palisadoes Go Kart Track. The cleanup exercise lasted for approximately three (3) hours. At the end of the cleanup exercise, several bags containing plastic bottles and other solid waste were collected. It was a very successful exercise.

# TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SEMINAR

The Technology Transfer Seminar was held on Friday February 24, 2023, at the Medallion Hall Hotel, 53 Hope Road, Kingston 6. Eighteen (18) participants were in attendance. Special guests were Ms. Noriko Oshima, First Secretary and Director of Economic Cooperation, Embassy of Japan, Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Resident Representative, JICA Jamaica and Mr. Donovan Leon and Mrs. Sherona King, Directors in the Strategic Workforce Planning and Improvement Branch, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

The event was moderated by Mr. Lenroy James, Past President of the JAAJ. Welcome was extended by Mrs. Marilyn McKoy, President, who expressed appreciation to the Embassy of Japan, JICA Jamaica Office and the Ministries of Government for their continued support to the JAAJ. She also expressed appreciation to the Alumni who remained committed to the work of the Association and its contribution to communities across Jamaica.

Ms. Noriko Oshima, in her greetings stated that the transfer of knowledge and technology between countries has contributed to the promotion of friendship and partnerships between both Jamaica and Japan. She spoke of her interaction with many counterparts and indicated that the Jamaica Japan relationship continues to progress with the engagement of the JAAJ.

Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica, referenced the role of past participants of JICA training programme strengthening the Jamaica Japan relationship. He spoke of the resilience of the participants who accessed training in Japan during the COVID-19 restrictions, who despite the tough times were able to achieve their goals. He commended the President on the utilization of the long-term training (Scholarship) programme participants at the seminar. He also alluded to the participants connection with Japanese resources through the Universities, private sector, nonprofit agencies and JICA holds new possibilities in strengthening not only the human resources of Jamaica but the Jamaica Japan relationship.

Mr. Donovan Leon in his remarks, spoke of the need to collectively manage the talents and skills within the organization. He spoke of the need to strengthen the visibility of the JAAJ through the development of a talent network in an effort to bring national awareness of the availability of the skills that reside in the Association. This data, he emphasized would assist with specifically identifying all the skills garnered through bilateral agreements/programmes over any given period.

**Ms. Noriko Oshima**



**Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki**



**Mr. Donovan Leon**





## PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

The three (3) JICA KCCP Scholars who completed their Masters and Doctoral programmes between 2019 -2022 presented on their experiences in Japan, the focus of their research and relevance to Jamaica. The participants were:



**Mr. Rennique Thomas**  
MA (2020-2022)

**Current Role & Agency:**  
Research Officer - CAPRI

**Focus Area:**  
SDGs Global Leader Program.  
Master - International Public  
Policy

**Research:**  
Human Rights in the Latin  
American & Caribbean Region.



**Dr. Kahuina Miller**  
PhD. (2019-2022)

**Current Agency:**  
Caribbean Maritime University

**Focus Area:**  
Applied Marine Environmental  
Studies (Doctoral)

**Research:**  
Panama Canal expansion  
impact on Latin America and  
the Caribbean Region:  
Advent of Mega-Ships



**Ms. Sheena Suckoo,**  
MA (2020-2022)

**Current Agency:**  
Watsonton Primary School,  
Clarendon

**Focus Area:**  
SDGs Global Leader Program.  
Master - Global Education

**Research:**  
Potential of Inquiry-Based  
Learning (IBL) as a pedagogy  
to Improve Critical Thinking  
and Problem-Solving Skills in  
Mathematics Education at the  
Primary School Level in  
Jamaica.

The discourse following the presentations was educational and engaging. Several questions were posed to the presenters who responded accordingly. The presenters were encouraged to share their research with national agencies including the Ministry of Education and Youth and the Port Authority of Jamaica. The members also encouraged the presenters to explore, along with their agencies, possible follow-up cooperations to facilitate activity implementation related to their research.

The Moderator, Mr. Lenroy James in his closing remarks emphasized the need for the scholars to share the research data as widely as possible. Vote of thanks was extended by Vice President, Ms. Rachael Reid.



# FEDERATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS OF JAPAN (FECCEBEJA)

The Federation of Central American and Caribbean Alumni Associations of Japan (FECCEBEJA) hosted its XIII meeting in Honduras. President Marilyn McKoy represented the JAAJ at the event. The meeting was held on February 2- 4, 2023 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and brought together ex-participants of JICA's Training Programme from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Panama. The opening session was facilitated by Ms. Marta Mendoza, President of the Honduran Alumni Association with special guests including His Excellency, Ambassador of Japan in Honduras Mr. Jun Nakahara, and Resident Representative of JICA Honduras Mr. Katsuhiko Shino.



L-R: Presidents of Panama, Jamaica, El Salvador, Japanese Ambassador, Resident Representative of JICA Honduras and Presidents of Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Guatemala



Participants also enjoyed a tour of the towns of Francis charm Morazán, including Villa de San Francisco, Cantarranas, referred to as the “selfie” village which is marked by the extensive murals used to adorn walls and streets and San Juancito, the old city of Honduras, all of which are a part of the JICA Project, “A People One Product”. This project is aimed at revitalizing the local economy and strengthening the capacity of the community. Participants were well received in each municipality by alumni who shared how they have applied the knowledge gained through the training in Japan to contribute to the development of their communities.

Representatives of the different Associations were encouraged to celebrate February 21, each year as the Ex- Japan Scholars’ Day. Associations were also encouraged to jointly publish on FECCEBEJA’s Facebook page, activities carried out by individual Associations and broadcast live conferences. The meeting facilitated the sharing of knowledge, new experiences and innovative ideas executed in their countries and activities used to strengthen their individual associations. The XIV Meeting will be hosted by the Alumni Association of Panama.





The Alumni Associations of each country have been using their platforms to transfer knowledge gained in Japan to contribute to the development of communities and the promotion of activities aimed at strengthening the friendship and understanding between Japan and the individual countries.



Selfie Village - Cantarranas



Coffee processing plant - San Juancito



## JAPAN DAY

Japan Day 2023 was held on Sunday February 26, 2023 at the Pegasus Hotel. Organized by the Embassy of Japan, the event was family friendly and was aimed at promoting the Japanese culture and strengthening the relationship between both Jamaica and Japan. Invitees from different backgrounds were exposed to the culture through songs, dance and films. There were cultural elements related to Ikebana, calligraphy, origami, games for children, Japanese Calendars giveaway, Art & Craft and gymnastics.

The JAAJ shared a booth with the Institute of Jamaica where the work of each organization was highlighted and cultural items from the Institute displayed.



## FUNDRAISING EVENT

The benefit performance of the Basil Dawkins play, No Hope for Hopie was used to raise funds for programme development at the Early Childhood Education and Therapeutic (ECET) Centre operated by the Community Based Rehabilitation Jamaica (CBRJ). The event was held on Friday March 17, 2023, at The Little Little Theatre. A presentation was made during the show's intermission by Vice President, Ms. Pricilla Chambers to Ms. Jacqueline Bennett who collected on behalf of the Management of the ECET Centre.



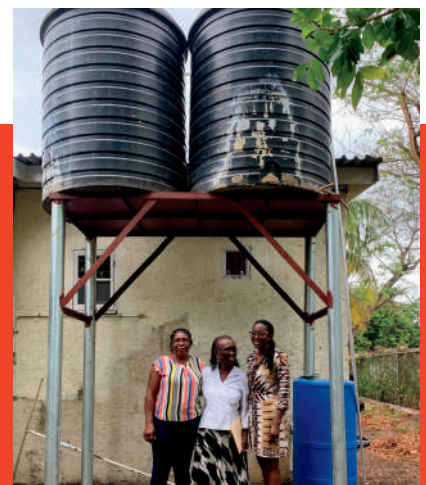
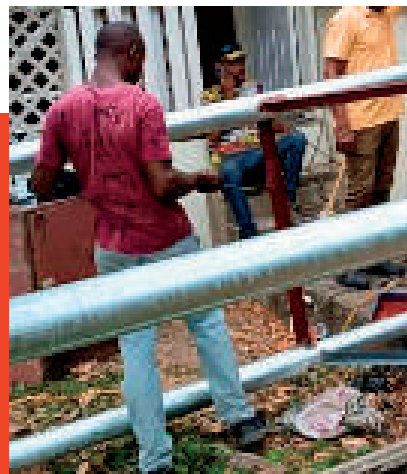
# JOINT PROJECT: THE JAAJ AND JETAA



The organization that benefited from the joint outreach programme between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Alumni Association in Jamaica and the JET Alumni Association of Jamaica (JETAA) was the Early Childhood Education and Therapeutic (ECET) Centre operated by the Community Based Rehabilitation Jamaica (CBRJ). The CBRJ provides access to assessment, early intervention, educational, therapeutic, and other support services for over 600 children with disabilities and their families in four rural Parishes, through Home-Based and Centre Based Programmes.

On Friday March 17, 2023, members of the JAAJ witnessed the installation of water tanks hoisted to a previously built metal frame funded by the Alumni Associations. The installation of this frame will better facilitate the flow of water in the Centre. The Early Childhood Education and Therapeutic Centre started in July 2012 and currently provides services to forty-nine (49) children with moderate to severe disabilities and other special needs. The programme also prepares children for placement in regular or special schools wherever possible through activities designed to enhance their social, cognitive, language and motor development.

The JET Alumni Association of Jamaica (JETAA Jamaica) was established in 2002 with the objective of promoting a deeper and broader understanding of the JET Programme and of Japanese culture. The JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica was established in 1998 aimed at strengthening the bond of friendship between Jamaica and Japan while promoting both cultures.





# JICA PARTICIPANTS OF KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAMMES FY2022

Training opportunities were provided online as well as in Japan to Jamaicans as part of the Official Development Assistance of the Government of Japan, based on the bilateral agreement between Japan and Jamaica.

Twelve (12) Jamaicans accessed training in nine (9) specialty areas during FY2022 including branding & marketing utilizing local resources, integrated water resource management, policy planning skills for implementation of REDD for executives, marine search & rescue, maritime disaster prevention and marine environmental protection, marine litter control, human resource development private/public academia for agriculture and rural development, community policing, operation and maintenance of urban water supply system, human resource development for creating tourism destination for sustainable tourism. The organizations that benefited from the training were:

**Ministry of  
Agriculture &  
Fisheries**

**Water Resources  
Authority**

**Jamaica Defense  
Force**

**National Solid  
Waste Management  
Authority  
(NSWMA)**

**National  
Environment &  
Planning Agency  
(NEPA)**

**Jamaica  
Constabulary  
Force**

**Ministry of  
Tourism**

**National Water  
Commission**

**Ministry of  
Economic Growth  
& Job Creation**



**Ms. Johnil Morgan**  
Course: Marine Litter Control  
Agency: NEPA



**Ms. Sharon Williams**  
Course: Marine Litter Control  
Agency: NSWMA



**Ms. Tamickia Anderson**  
Course: HRD for creating tourism  
destination for sustainable tourism  
Agency: Ministry of Tourism

## JICA LONG-TERM TRAINING PROGRAMME

Three (3) Jamaicans who commenced their training in 2019 and 2020, returned after completing their Masters and Doctoral programmes in Universities in Japan. Two returned at the end of FY2021 (March 2022) while one returned in September 2022. Two other trainees commenced their training in March and September 2022 and are scheduled to return in 2023 and 2024 respectively.



# PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

## RADIO INTERVIEW

Mrs. Marilyn McKoy, President of the JAAJ facilitated a telephone interview on April 27, 2022, at 9:15 a.m. on the Jamaica Observer's Edge FM hosted by Mr. Ron Muschette on his Morning Show. The discussion focused on the work of the JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica and the impact of training received in Japan to individual organisations in Jamaica.

## JICA VIDEO PRODUCTION

A video was created to build awareness among JICA, and its contribution to national development. The production featured the programmes of JICA and the work of the JAAJ. There were highlights of the impact of the training received in Japan on the affiliated organizations of beneficiaries.

# MEMBERSHIP IN THE JAAJ

Each person is considered a member of the Association with the payment of dues annually. The Membership dues are usually paid before or at an Annual General Meeting and is the first step in maintaining your active status. The next step is making a deliberate effort to participate in some activities. The JAAJ is supported by its membership dues. The annual fee of \$1,500 paid by each member is used to finance specific operations and assist in executing the planned activities of the Association.

Some of the benefits include:

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

One of the greatest advantages is the professional network opportunities.

- Events hosted by the JAAJ offer the chance to network with other alumni members and persons from other professions who work in the public or private sector. These include meetings, recreational activities (outings to attractions and socials), Culture Extravaganzas and Technology Transfer Workshops.
- Some of these networking opportunities provide an avenue for the recruitment of fellow-alumni for projects and collaboration.
- Membership also offers opportunities to network with other alumni members from other countries such as the Latin and Central America and the Caribbean

## **THE OPPORTUNITY TO “GIVE BACK”**

- There are several committees that Alumni members can join and be active. Many past participants show their appreciation by giving back to their organization and their country, their time, talent and resources through the implementation of projects.
- By becoming a part of the JAAJ, they also give back to JICA by sharing information about the Courses attended to those who are unaware of the work of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

## **REPRESENTING THE JAAJ AT MEETINGS/REUNIONS**

- As a member of the Executive of the JAAJ, you could be sponsored to represent the JAAJ at meetings of other JICA Alumni Associations in Central, Latin America and the Caribbean. Over the past few years, members have represented the JAAJ at meetings of FECCEBEJA (Federation of Ex-participants of the Japan International Cooperation Agency Alumni Associations in Central America and the Caribbean) and FELACBEJA (Federation of Ex-participants of the Japan International Cooperation Alumni Association in Latin America and the Caribbean)

To the Team at the JICA Jamaica Office  
Led by Mr. Mitsuyoshi Kawasaki, Resident  
Representative,

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

From the members of the JAAJ