His Excellency the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, Governor General of Jamaica (seated right) and His Excellency Masanori Nakano Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, (seated left) with JICA’s Volunteers and Staff on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers worldwide at King’s House, Kingston, Jamaica.
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**JICA’s VISION:** Inclusive and Dynamic Development

“Inclusive development” represents an approach to development that encourages all people to recognize the development issues they themselves face, participate in addressing them, and enjoy the fruits of such endeavors. The role of New JICA is to effectively provide backing for this process.

“Dynamic development” refers to the creation of self-reinforcing virtuous cycles of mid to long-term economic growth and poverty reduction in a constantly changing environment of developing countries where a variety of issues arise simultaneously and get entangled each other. New JICA will provide creative, highly effective support toward this end, at times moving swiftly and at times acting from the longer-term perspective as the situation calls for.
Greetings!

The Year 2015 became a memorable one, because Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Jamaica in September 2015, as the first Prime Minister of Japan to ever visit Jamaica. At that time, two advancements were evident in JICA’s programme;

A Grant Agreement for a Cultural Grant was signed and an approval for a Technical Cooperation Project was announced.

During this year also, the 50th Anniversary of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers was celebrated worldwide. Commemorating this milestone, JICA Volunteers led by Japan’s Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Masanori Nakano, paid a courtesy call on the Governor-General of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Sir Patrick Allen, and inserted acknowledgement articles in the main local newspapers on this special occasion.

JICA’s priority areas of cooperation in Jamaica are mentioned below, as in order to assist in overcoming vulnerabilities particular to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), emphasis has been placed on:

(1) Environmental Management and Disaster Risk Management,

(2) Expansion of Employment Opportunities and Human Resource Development.

These priority areas have not changed much in recent years. Currently “Environmental Management and Disaster Risk Management” include Adaptation to Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Waste Management.

Based on the Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting and the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Jamaica in 2014, new projects in Disaster Risk Management and in Energy Efficiency are presently being formulated.

Last year the Development Cooperation Charter was announced by the Japanese Government. It stated that Caribbean Countries are now placed in the category of “Priority Policy Issues by Regions”, because Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are subject to specific vulnerabilities, including various challenges and natural disasters under Climate Change.

Now a good wind is blowing on Japan’s cooperation with Jamaica and the Caribbean Region.

With all the schemes of JICA’s Official Development Assistance, we at the JICA Jamaica Office stand ready to continue to perform our work responsibly and energetically along with JICA’s Vision, with the Government and People of Jamaica, building on the solid foundation of cooperation laid over the past 27 years.
JICA DAY 2015 and JOCV’s 50th Anniversary celebration (worldwide) were held at the Knutsford Court Hotel in the Grand Caribbean Suite in Kingston, on Thursday, October 8, 2015. The event marked JICA’s 26th year of cooperation between the Jamaican Government and JICA and also the work of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, who provide technical assistance on behalf of the Japanese government.

The National Anthems of both countries were played by the National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica, after which Mr. Kenji Tobita, Resident Representative of JICA Jamaica, gave the opening remarks and welcomed all to this special function. Mr. Tobita also reported on JICA’s activities in Jamaica.

In attendance was the Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, His Excellency Masanori Nakano, who brought greetings on behalf of the Government and People of Japan. He congratulated JICA and referred to the Official Visit of the Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to Jamaica from September 30, to October 1, 2015, which enhanced the relationship between Jamaica and Japan. During these bilateral discussions, both Prime Ministers reaffirmed their intention and commitment to strengthen the Japan/Jamaica partnership between both countries, which focuses on three pillars. The First Pillar speaks to further cooperation towards sustainable development, including overcoming vulnerabilities in Small Island Development States (SIDS). The Second Pillar seeks to deepen and expand the bonds founded on exchanges and friendship. The Third Pillar involves cooperation in addressing the challenges of the international community.

With reference to the First Pillar, Jamaica and Japan will sign and exchange notes on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of JOCV in Jamaica in 2017, and that the JOCV will continue to play an important role in the sustainable development of Jamaica and in the strengthening of the cordial relationship between the two countries.

The Honorable Julian Robinson, then Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining brought greetings at the JICA Day function held at the Knutsford Court Hotel on October 8, 2015.

The Honourable Julian Robinson, then Minister of State in the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining brought greetings at the JICA Day function held at the Knutsford Court Hotel on October 8, 2015.

His Excellency Masanori Nakano, Japanese Ambassador to Jamaica, brought greetings on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of JOCV worldwide held in Kingston at the Knutsford Court Hotel on October 8, 2015.
In his own Ministry, there are projects that they are working on with the Japanese Government. Japan’s Prime Minister was in Jamaica in September 2015, which signifies the level of importance which is placed on the relationship with the Government and people of Jamaica.

The event was attended by other distinguished government officials, international development partners as well as private sector representatives and JOCV’s cooperating partners.

• JICA volunteers in Environmental Education and former JICA participant, Ms. Stephney Duhaney of the National Solid Waste Management Authority

• JICA Volunteers in Mathematics Education and former JICA participant, Mr. Seymour Hamilton of the Ministry of Education: Core Curriculum Unit, Mathematics.

• Mr. Tomokazu Furukawa, JICA Volunteer in Special Education and Mr. Roy Reid, former JICA participant, Principal of Llandilo school of Special Education - Jamaica Association on Intellectual Disabilities

• Mr. Ryuki Homma, JICA Volunteer at the Jamaica Paralympic Association and a Paralympic participant.

• Ms. Tendi Henry, Ms. Elizabeth Morrison and Mrs. Nicole Patrick Shaw of the Institute of Jamaica and former participants of JICA’s Training Programme in Japan - beneficiaries of Japan’s Cultural Grant Aid

• Ms. Claudia Stewart - Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management, proposed beneficiaries of JICA’s Grant Aid in Disaster Risk Management

Patrons were then entertained with cultural instrumental items from the National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica & JICA volunteers in Music. The pieces selected were “Sakura & Coconut Woman”. In order to further enhance the afternoon’s activities, gymnastics displays were done by Nishida’s Gym & JICA volunteers. This cultural segment was concluded with the singing of the 50th Anniversary Song by the JICA Volunteers, during which the Anniversary cakes were brought in. A toast was proposed by Mrs. Nerine Small, Deputy General Manager of the Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica/Senior Legal & Corporate Secretary, to the volunteers on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary.

The event was staged as an exhibition and presentation of JICA and JOCV’s activities in Jamaica and featured presentations from volunteer counterparts.

Presentations were made by:
In May 2015, after a multi-stakeholder workshop was held, the newly revised Drainage Design Guidelines was completed. A launch for the new Guidelines was held on June 9, 2015, hosted and attended by three Ministers of the Jamaican Government and many Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The new Guidelines will take effect on July 1, 2015.

Mr. Haruo Kubo received a JICA President Award during 2015 for contributing significantly to Disaster Risk Management in Jamaica and also for having enhanced the presence of JICA’s cooperation in Jamaica.
Westmoreland, Jamaica and Tottori, Japan: Sign Sister Region Cooperation

Contributed by: Mr. Tomoki Kosaka, Public Administration

The Mayor, Bertel Moore of the Parish of Westmoreland and his delegation including JICA volunteer, Tomoki Kosaka, paid a visit to Tottori Prefecture, in Japan. The Mayor signed a Sister Region Agreement with the Governor Hirai of Tottori on the 24th March, 2016, which was attended by the Jamaican Ambassador and Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry officials. Based on this agreement, both regions will further develop exchanges in wide areas including culture, sports, youth, education, tourism, and the economy. This Sister Region Agreement is the first between regions in Japan and CARICOM countries.

At the signing ceremony, Governor Hirai stated, “I am determined to enhance future-oriented exchanges to deepen the bond between Japan and Jamaica.” Mayor Moore, citing Bob Marley’s lyrics, said, “I really hope we will deepen our friendship over time with ‘One love, One Heart’.”

Mayor Moore was in Tottori prefecture until March 29, 2016 and participated in several events including “Jamaican Ambassador’s Cup Sprint Competition” on the 25th March and on the 28th March, a “Tree Planting Ceremony”.

The whole town was enveloped in a mood of warm welcome for the Mayor.

The parish of Westmoreland is similar to Tottori prefecture, with its thriving agriculture and beautiful coastal scenery. While Jamaica and Tottori prefecture continue to foster exchanges of mutual interest, including the hosting of training camps for the Jamaican Track and Field Team, Mayor Moore proposed last August that they become sister regions. Following their aspirations towards exchanges at the regional level expressed by the Prime Ministers of Japan and Jamaica during the top-level meeting held on September 30, 2015, Westmoreland and Tottori had been taking the necessary steps, based on the Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing a Sister City Agreement signed on October 8, 2015.

In commemoration of Sister Region, coffee seedlings were planted by two leaders and their wives.
Mobile Business Clinic

Contributed by: Ms. Atsuko Hideshima, Business Development Consultant

The best way to understand Jamaica’s small businesses is to visit them in the rural areas. The Jamaican Business Development Corporation (JBDC) has a program called “Mobile Business Clinic”, and I was fortunate enough to participate in events in Port Antonio, Port Maria and St. Thomas. At these events, we talked to small business owners about their business management issues, and gave them the necessary advice. Jamaicans are very creative, friendly and educated people, but some often lack understanding of “Money Management”.

For example, a chicken farmer sells chickens on “Trust”, and her customers pay her whenever they can. There is no agreed upon payment terms, and she therefore experiences cash flow problems. She wants to borrow money from banks, but she doesn’t have any financial statements to show her ability to pay back. An elderly woman bakes whole wheat bread, and delivers to neighbourhood customers, by taking taxis and buses. When I calculated the product cost of the bread, she is barely making a profit. She was only accounting for her baking materials, and not including the labour, transportation, fuel and facility costs. In both cases, the business owners enjoy working with their communities and they are passionate about their businesses. Accordingly, these business advisors must focus on improving the quality of their lives, and help them to contribute to their family’s generational wealth.
Productivity Improvement in Jamaica

Contributed by: Takao Kakiuchi, Business Management Consultant

When I intervened in the program to promote the development of Small and Medium Enterprises, SMEs in Jamaica, I wondered why there were so many raw materials in the storage areas. I also wondered why there were so many unnecessary goods in the working areas, why non-functioning machines were left without being repaired or why there were so many motion wastes of workers during working processes.

I interviewed owners, accountants, technical and quality staffs, and workers and found they were doing whatever was good for them and found that there was a lack of harmony among the workers.

To improve those situations, looking for total harmonization in SMEs, what I have to do is not to apply the Japanese Kaizen method, Improvement, merely but to apply the Jamaicanized Kaizen method, Improvement.

I found that there is not enough communication among company members about their work, in general. For example, the technical or quality staff didn’t listen to the workers’ opinions. The workers didn’t normally talk about problems in the work field to the persons in charge.

As the first step, I proposed discussions between an owner, an accountant, technical and quality staffs, and workers simultaneously in front of the goods ‘Not necessary’ and ‘Not necessary now’. A discussion by major members of the company could clarify sealed problems and provide quick solutions. Very fruitful plans came out of these discussions.

I named these activities ‘Ideal Seiri’, the first step of Improvement. Look at the YouTube ‘Ideal Seiri the 5S way’ of home page - Jamaica Productivity Centre.

By ‘Ideal Seiri’, an owner recognized the problems of the work field and asked his members to do Action Plans. By the strong intention of the owner, workers and other members were motivated to do and they began to do Kaizen, Improvement, actively. As the next step, I would like to confirm how the Action Plans are progressing and to consult with them again.

Those actions step by step will no doubt affect the productivity of the SMEs and finally those must affect the GDP and increase employment in Jamaica. How exciting these activities in Jamaica are!
It is impossible to talk about environmental issues in Jamaica without the garbage problem. In spite of the increased amount of waste year after year, there are limits to landfills in Jamaica. Besides, a big fire occurred at the Riverton Landfill in Kingston which was caused by a spontaneous combustion last year. One could see a lot of rubbish that was thrown away by people at any site. I always think that the destruction of the environment and landscape will be like “cutting their own throats” because Jamaica’s main industry is tourism.

Focus on the familiar problem, not only a lot of children but also many adults always throw away rubbish on the road, without thinking about the effect on nature. The first time I saw that view, I was so confused and surprised. Then I decided to take action to improve the Jamaican environment and its future.

I would like to ask them some questions. “How long do plastic bottles take to decompose?” “How long do banana peels take to decompose?” “How long do glass bottles take to decompose?” I want to know how many people will be able to answer correctly. I thought about what I could do as an environmental educator for the Jamaican environment and I have practised it so far.

I am attached to the Jamaica 4-H Clubs in Westmoreland, and I travel to several schools in the parish and do “Trash to Cash” training. It aims at teaching students to learn 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) and make useful and valuable items from garbage. If they knew the word “3R”, they don’t understand the real meaning of it and know how to do 3R actions. They always take my training eagerly, but their face is crowded over when I ask them “Have you ever thrown away rubbish on the road?”. I always try to make time for thinking about what we can do to protect our environment with them.

I would like to continue my activity for making an eco-friendly society and keeping the beautiful natural scenery in Jamaica.
The environmental change by natural disasters and climate change is a serious issue for Jamaican people engaged in agriculture and fisheries. Especially in the parish of St. Ann where I am assigned to, along the sea ashore, there are many hotels, and tourism is prosperous but most people are engaged in agriculture, except for that area. For them, the environmental problem is connected directly to their lives.

In 2015, the parish was affected by one of the worst droughts ever recorded in history. All categories of crops and livestock recorded losses. Crop production reduced significantly, in some cases by over 30% when compared to the corresponding period last year. Productivity also declined with crops showing stunted growth and increase in the pest population. In spite of such situation, farmers didn’t find any solution and cooperate in their community. Some farmers didn’t understand how to resolve that situation at all.

To improve these situations, each organization related to agriculture and the community established Agricultural Disaster Risk Management (ADRM). They carried out several training sessions to create awareness in the farming communities that may assist in reducing the impact of climate change.

In ADRM, Jamaica 4-H Clubs are in charge of the training to students who engage in agriculture for the future. I greatly hope that by this effort, they will develop an interest in environmental issues and solve the situation they are faced with.
There is a quote written by Albert Einstein: “If the bee disappeared off the surface of the globe, then man would only have four years of life left. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.” The quote suggests that we as human beings living on earth, could not live without nature, even though our technology is developing and the entire system is seemingly covered, we should not stop taking care of our environment.

Since I have a concern that we have a lot of things to learn from nature, I decided to expand on an apiculture project at the Hanover Educational Institute. This institution is a school for young people who are “slow learners”, “dropouts”, and “under achievers”. Now they are learning about our natural environment with our bees in the subject of Agricultural Science. In addition, we have made honey products from our beehives and this project was launched in March, 2016. The income will help our school.

We are going to taking care of it, and follow the said quote, because we believe we should live in harmony with nature.

I tell the students how to make this and we are currently using it. This pesticide is friendly for the environment, people and our wallet! I would like the students to eat natural and safe foods. I hope they grow up healthy persons in a good Jamaican environment.
One former participant of JICA’s Training Program in Japan, “Sustainable Solid Waste Management for CARICOM States”, Ms. Stephney Duhaney, of the National Solid Waste Management Authority, received Follow-Up Cooperation support from JICA during Fiscal Year 2015 to implement the Project “SOLID WASTE REDUCTION IN JAMAICA” - ‘Reducing Waste for a Cleaner Space’. She worked in collaboration with her colleagues at the NSWMA and JICA Volunteers in the Environmental Education Sector.

The Project had three (3) Phases:

1. Waste Characterization Studies
2. School & Community Awareness Solid Waste Reduction Activities
3. A Clean Jamaica Campaign with Pilot Separation at source

One of the most successful components of the project was conducting school and community meetings to raise public awareness among the Jamaican population. Several primary schools were visited and students between the ages of eight and thirteen years old received training on the three R’s (reduce, reuse and recycle).
KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER SEMINAR ON “COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT” TRAINING PROGRAMME IN JAPAN

Ms. Heather Williams, District Officer, Jamaica Fire Brigade participated in the captioned training programme in Japan and based on her Action Plan developed at JICA Kansai International Centre in Kobe, she conducted a Knowledge Transfer Seminar to her colleagues in Portmore, St. Catherine. The session took place at the Portmore Municipal Council’s Conference Room on September 29, 2015.

Participants of the Seminar included twenty colleagues from the Jamaica Fire Brigade, two disaster parish coordinators and a representative from the Ministry of Education. The members of the Jamaica Fire Brigade included colleagues from Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Clarendon and Manchester.

Ms. Williams’ Action Plan entailed a “Disaster Risk Reduction Education Programme towards Safer Communities”. The target group are fifteen primary schools as well as communities. Also being trained are teachers in the area of DRR as approval has been granted by the Ministry of Education for this training programme to be utilized in primary schools. The workshops were successfully held on April 27 and 28, 2016 at the Portmore Municipal Council’s Conference Room in Portmore, St. Catherine.

Asst. Supt. Heather Williams of the Jamaica Fire Brigade, centre, presented a “Knowledge Transfer Seminar” to her colleagues on September 29, 2015 in Portmore, St. Catherine. Ms. Williams studied “Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (A)” in Kobe, Japan during FY2015.

Asst. Supt. Heather Williams of the Fire Prevention & Public Relations Dept. in Spanish Town, St. Catherine indicated some measures adopted in Japan, which could also be emulated for Disaster Risk Reduction in the communities where she is assigned of Portmore & Old Harbour Bay.
A Seminar to promote JICA’s Training Program in Japan was held on July 3, 2015 at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston. The session was organized by JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica.

Participants of the Seminar included former participants of JICA’s Training Program in Japan, who gave presentations in their special areas of training. Some former participants were Mr. Damion Richards of the National Water Commission, Mr. Kristoffer Henry of the National Works Agency, Mr. Tedroy Gordon of the Jamaica 4-H Clubs and Ms. Collette Campbell of the RESET Foundation.

Most former participants mentioned their Action Plan which would be shared with their colleagues. The target group were human resources managers and training officers from the various Ministries Departments and Agencies. Also being trained are teachers in the area of DRR as approval has been granted by the Ministry of Education for this training programme to be utilized in primary schools. The workshop was successfully held and Mr. Kenji Tobita, JICA’s Resident Representative rolled out the Knowledge Co-Creation Programs for the FY2015 emphasizing JICA’s priority areas for cooperation in Jamaica. The Senior Programme Officer of JICA, Ms. Lorna Wallace, also explained to the Training Officers and Human Resources Managers the details of the program and the necessity for accuracy in completing forms.

Ms. Donnette Skervin, from the Jamaica Agricultural Society pursued training in May 2016 at Tsukuba “Development of Agricultural Cooperatives and Improvement of Management Capacity.”
JICA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN JAMAICA’s ACTIVITIES FOR FY2015

(1) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The JAAJ’s Annual General Meeting for FY2015 was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in the Somerset Suite at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston. The purpose of the meeting was to elect new officers for the Executive Board of the JAAJ and to report on the Follow-Up Cooperation granted to the Association by JICA. The elected officers were given the mandate to plan and execute activities for FY2015 as well as to organize the membership in such a way as to involve as many members as possible in the implementation of activities.

(2) SUMMER PROGRAM ON JAPAN:

A Summer Program was held at the Junior Centre of the Institute of Jamaica for Jamaican students. In addition to other topics, these students were exposed to the Japanese language and culture through the efforts of JICA Volunteers who taught them origami, calligraphy and other Japanese art forms. The Institute of Jamaica was the beneficiary of a Cultural Grant from the Government of Japan.

(3) SEMINAR ON JICA’S TRAINING PROGRAM IN JAPAN:

A Seminar to promote JICA’s Training Program in Japan was held on July 3, 2015 at the Courtleigh Hotel in New Kingston. Former participants of JICA’s training program in Japan gave reports and encouraged the Training Officers and Human Resource Managers of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies to send their officers on training to Japan, as the former participants had benefited greatly. Among ex-participants who made presentations were Mr. Damion Richards of NWC, Mr. Kristoffer Henry of the NWA, Mr. Tedroy Gordon of the Jamaica 4-H Clubs and Ms. Collette Campbell of the RESET Foundation.

Sharing Traditional Culture of Japan with Jamaican Students

One of the JICA Volunteers taught the Campers how to cook “Udon”. Campers played a traditional Japanese game “Kamizumo”.

Last summer, five (5) JICA JOCV members held a summer camp in Savanna La Mar, Westmoreland Parish to teach Grades 1, 2 and 3 students about Japanese language, culture, cooking, sports and handicraft. Students were also given lessons on environmental issues and disaster planning. In total 18 students participated in the Summer Camp.

The students prepared Japanese meals daily using several ingredients which they had never seen before. They also learned about the difference between Japanese and Jamaica rice. Udon (a type of thick wheat flour noodle) was favorite dish and most campers commented on how delicious it was. On the other hand, they hesitated to eat Sushi Roll (vinegared rice and ingredient rolled in laver) because of the peculiar appearance and laver’s smell.

Campers also learned Japanese greeting and gradually got to know Japanese words. On the final day, all of them greeted us in Japanese style like as “Sensei, Ohayo (Good morning, teachers).” “Matane (See you next time).” They still greet us cheerfully in Japanese style when we happen to meet them at their school or on the street.

The final day of the camp was spent doing handicrafts. Many of the students who haven’t had enough opportunity to do handicrafts before really enjoyed the experience and their enthusiasm for learning was a great reward for the hard work done by the JICA Volunteers. We hope that they will maintain their interest in Japanese culture and tell their family or friends their experience that was gotten at the Summer Camp.
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan paid an official visit to Jamaica in September 2015, at the invitation of The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica.

Recalling Japan’s policy of extending cooperation towards sustainable development, including overcoming vulnerabilities particularly in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as in the First Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting, and Japan’s “Development Cooperation Charter”, which states that Japan will extend necessary cooperation to small island countries and others that are faced with special vulnerabilities despite having attained a certain level of per capita income, Prime Minister Abe stressed that Japan has been steadily implementing new cooperation projects for CARICOM Member States including Jamaica, in the field of disaster risk reduction among others. Prime Minister Abe also announced that Japan decided to extend a new technical cooperation project to Jamaica and three other CARICOM Member States in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy, which is one of the highest priority areas of cooperation requested by CARICOM Member states.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of the Exchange of Notes concerning the “Project for the Improvement of the Exhibition and Audiovisual Equipment of the Institute of Jamaica” as part of their efforts in cultural cooperation. They shared the expectation that this Project would contribute to the further promotion of culture in Jamaica.

* (from J-J Partnership Joint Statement)

In addition, at that time, the Grant Agreement of this project was signed by JICA’s Resident Representative, Mr. Kenji Tobita and the Finance Minister, Dr. the Honourable Peter Phillips.

Technical Cooperation Project to Promote Energy Efficiency in the Caribbean Countries

Based on a Japan-CARICOM Summit Meeting held in July 2014, JICA conducted a Data Collection Survey on Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency in the CARICOM Region during 2014. As a result of the Survey, a Technical Cooperation Project to promote Energy Efficiency in Caribbean countries was planned. The Target countries consisting of Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Barbados were agreed upon. Official Requests were submitted to the Government of Japan during the first half of 2015 and these requests were approved in September 2015. When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan visited Jamaica, he announced the approval of this cooperation. A Detailed Design of the Project was done in early 2016 but regarding Jamaica, this design was not finished because a General Election was held in Jamaica at that time.
The objective of the Project is to improve the emergency communication infrastructure in Jamaica by installing a wireless communication system and relevant equipment, thereby contributing to the swift and robust communication between Government offices and the Jamaican people to respond to disaster emergencies.

JICA’s Project Team (referred to as “the Team”) carried out the First Field Survey in July, 2015 with ODPEM (Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management) for the Jamaican side. The Team started the Second Field Survey in February, 2016 and they are scheduled for completion in April 2016.

The Second Field Survey will clarify the needs for better radio communication and will provide detailed issues for the system design and the procurement plan of the radio equipment.

Repeater Site (Huntley): Existing antenna towers owned by JPS, DIGICEL, JCF, etc. will be utilized for the installation of a new digital system of “DECOM” (A national Disaster-Emergency Communication System).
Mr. Yoshiaki Nishimura, a JICA Regional Expert in Disaster Management, is now assigned to Jamaica’s national disaster management organization, ODPEM (Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management) to support ODPEM and other concerned organizations in Jamaica in improving their disaster management capacity. Among his advisory work, he has surveyed flood prone areas in Jamaica and he is supporting the rehabilitation of existing Community Flood Warning Systems.

His mission also includes giving necessary advice to the follow-up activities of JICA’s previous regional project for disaster management, CADM2 (Caribbean Disaster Management Project Phase 2), which introduced Community Early Flood Warning Systems, Community Hazard Maps and Community Disaster Risk Management Plans to the projects of participating countries like Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana and Saint Lucia.

As a Regional Expert, he organized CADM2 Follow-up Meeting in the Bahamas, in cooperation with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) in December 2015. At this meeting, CADM2 participating countries reported on the current status of their follow-up activities and various difficulties which they are facing. It was observed that both insufficient allocation of funds and lack of human resources are the most serious issues.

Mr. Nishimura is now planning to hold Regional Workshops this year (2016). One of the workshops will focus on the policy aspect of disaster risk management, especially on the enhancement of appropriate and timely investment for disaster risk management. This workshop is planned to be held in Kingston, Jamaica in December. The other workshop will focus on technical aspects to maintain Community Early Flood warning Systems in the region, for which the venue and schedule are still under negotiation.

Field survey to Rio Minho flood plain area in Jamaica.
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<td>45</td>
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<td>Ministry of Transport and Mining</td>
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JV: Junior Volunteer who is under 40 years old  
SV: Senior Volunteer who is over 40 years old
<table>
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<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
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<td>2015/8/10</td>
<td>2015/9/3</td>
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<td>STEWART, Claudia (Ms.)</td>
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<td>National Works Agency</td>
<td>LYN, Krystal (Ms.)</td>
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<td>Intellectual Disabilities in Community Activities</td>
<td>2015/6/3</td>
<td>2015/7/19</td>
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<td>Comprehensive Bridge Engineering</td>
<td>2015/9/7</td>
<td>2015/10/24</td>
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<td>St. Elizabeth Parish Council</td>
<td>DUNKLEY, Kevin (Mr)</td>
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<td>Road Maintenance &amp; Management (C)</td>
<td>2015/10/21</td>
<td>2015/12/12</td>
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<td>FRANCIS, Robert (Mr)</td>
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<td>Improvement of Electric Power Distribution Grid</td>
<td>2015/5/13</td>
<td>2015/6/19</td>
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<td>Jamaica Public Service Co. Ltd.</td>
<td>McINTOSH, Andre (Mr)</td>
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<td>Small &amp; Medium Enterprise Development Policies</td>
<td>2016/2/14</td>
<td>2016/3/12</td>
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<td>2015/5/13</td>
<td>2015/6/19</td>
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<td>Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Fisheries/Jamaica 4-H Clubs</td>
<td>GORDON, Tedroy (Mr)</td>
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<td>LAWRENCE-TUCKER, Sonia (Ms)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Operation and Maintenance of Sewerage System</td>
<td>2016/1/11</td>
<td>2016/4/12</td>
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<td>National Water Commission</td>
<td>JACKSON, Jermaine (Mr)</td>
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<td>Sustainable Solid Waste Mgmt. For CARICOM Members States</td>
<td>2015/10/14</td>
<td>2015/11/28</td>
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<td>MURRAY, Garfield (Mr)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Design &amp; Maintenance of Semi Aerobic Landfill Sites</td>
<td>2015/10/12</td>
<td>2015/11/14</td>
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<td>Lifestyle Related Diseases Prevention (Young Leaders Training Program)</td>
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<td>2015/12/16</td>
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<td>Southern Regional Health Authority/Ministry of Health</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Participants**: 13
1964 Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Jamaica.


1974 Acceptance of Jamaican Trainees for the Overseas Technical Training Programme in Japan through Embassy of Japan, Jamaica.

1987 Exchange of Notes between the Governments of Japan and Jamaica for the commencement of technical cooperation programme, implemented through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).


1991 North Coast Development Project - Objective: to develop and improve infrastructure such as water supply and sewerage, roads, drainage channels and ports with a focus on regions of Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, Negril and other major tourist resort spots - Executing Agencies: National Water Commission, National Works Agency and Port Authority of Jamaica.

1996-2001 Commencement by JICA of the Project for the Promotion of Sustainable Marine Fisheries Resource Utilization for the CARICOM Region held at the Caribbean Fisheries Training Development Institute, (CFTDI) in Trinidad and Tobago from April 1996 to March 2001. Several Fisheries Officers from Jamaica benefited from the region-focused training in Trinidad.

1997-2002 Commencement of a five-year Technical Cooperation Project between the Governments of Japan and Jamaica for the “Improvement of Technical and Vocational Education and Training”, implemented by the Ministry of Education (TVET Unit) - Jose Marti Technical High School in Jamaica for technical high schools throughout Jamaica.

1998 The JICA Alumni Association in Jamaica was established in March, 1998.

1998 Jamaica received the largest Grant-Aid from the Japanese Government with the construction of the Whitehouse Fishing Complex, in Westmoreland, through the Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica - Project implemented by Gillings Gully Fishermen’s Cooperative and the Fisheries Division under the guidance of JICA Experts.


2001 July 1, 2001, Dispatch of the first batch of Senior Volunteers to Jamaica.

2002-2005 Commencement by JICA of a Three-Year Project to support Disaster Risk Management Programme in CARICOM states, implemented by CDERA in Barbados, benefiting Disaster Management personnel from several Caribbean islands including Jamaica.


2003 October 1, 2003 JICA’s reform commenced.

2004 In March 2004 under JICA’s Reform Plan “Human Security” is one of the three most important pillars of the Reform.

2008 On October 1, 2008 JICA merged with the development assistance section of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), making JICA the world's largest bilateral development agency. The merger is a part of an overall restructuring of Japan’s ODA. Under the new JICA, Technical Assistance, Grant Aid and Yen Loans may now be accessed under the same umbrella.


2007 Tenth (10th) Anniversary of the Japan International Cooperation Agency Alumni Association in Jamaica.

2008 Twentieth Anniversary of the Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers to Jamaica.


2011 Ex-Post Monitoring of Completed ODA Loan Project - North Coast Development Project.

2012 November 22, 2012 Official Commencement of Pipelaying Work on the Portmore Pipeline Project (KMA Lot 2b) along Municipal Boulevard. The Portmore Pipeline Project is one component of the Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) Water Supply Improvement Project with the NWC.

2013 Cultural Grant Aid for the University of the West Indies for the “Project for the Improvement of Japanese Language Learning Equipment at the University of the West Indies, Mona”. The Grant for the amount of Twenty Seven Million One Hundred Thousand Japanese Yen (27,000,000.00 Yen) is the second Cultural Grant, of which the UWI has been a Beneficiary. Donation of Sony equipment for the new Language Laboratory will benefit students from the entire CARICOM Region.

2014 Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) to Jamaica - JICA Jamaica Office.

2014 Fiftieth Anniversary since the establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Jamaica and Japan - Embassy of Japan.

2015 Visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, first Japanese Prime Minister to visit Jamaica in September, 2015.

2015 Cultural Grant of 58,000,000 Japanese Yen extended to the Government of Jamaica from the Government of Japan for the “Project for Improvement and the Exhibition of Audio Visual equipment at the Institute of Jamaica, Ministry of Youth and Culture.
ENJOYING JAMAICA

Japan International Cooperation Agency Jamaica Office
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URL: http://www.jica.go.jp
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/jicajamaica