

March 2021



NEWSLETTER

JICA Jamaica Office



LEADING THE WORLD
WITH TRUST



JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY



JICA IN JAMAICA

As one of the world's largest bilateral cooperation agencies, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is an incorporated administrative agency of the Japanese government with a network of 97 overseas offices and projects in more than 150 countries including Jamaica.

JICA Jamaica utilizes an array of development assistance schemes to support the country's socioeconomic development. They are Technical Cooperation, Official Development Assistance Loans and Grants, and Citizen Participation which includes the Volunteer Programme.

MISSION

JICA, in accordance with the Development Cooperation Charter will work on human security and quality growth.

VISION

“Leading the World with Trust”

JICA, with its partners, will take the lead in forging bonds of trust across the world, aspiring for a free, peaceful and prosperous world where people can hope for a better future and explore their diverse potentials.

ACTIONS

1. COMMITMENT

Commit ourselves with pride and passion to achieving our mission and vision.

2. GEMBA

Dive into the field (“gemba”) and work together with the people.

3. STRATEGY

This and act strategically with broad and long-term perspectives.

4. CO-CREATION

Bring together diverse wisdom and resources.

5. INNOVATION

Innovate to bring about unprecedented impacts.



MESSAGE

FROM THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The people of Japan share an unbreakable bond with the people of Jamaica that spans for nearly six decades since Jamaica's independence in 1962. Built on a solid foundation of trust and mutual corporation, Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA, is the Japanese Government agency in charge of administering Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA), and has been extending Japan's ODA in Jamaica since the 1970's.

As a demonstration of the Japanese commitment to Jamaica's development, JICA officially opened its office in Kingston, Jamaica in July 1989. Since then, JICA Jamaica Office has developed a reputation for effectively implementing projects, undertaking cooperation modalities such as concessional ODA loans, Grant Aid and Technical Cooperation including the Knowledge Co-Creation Programme, KCCP offered in Japan, and Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV).

At JICA, we take pride in providing support to the government and people of Jamaica that is timely and relevant. Since the island is susceptible to hurricanes and other natural disasters, and is also heavily impacted by external factors such as the trading partners' economic conditions, we are playing a pivotal role to assist in overcoming vulnerabilities particular to small island developing states (SIDS). With this in mind, JICA's support to Jamaica focuses on: 1) disaster risk management and the environment, and 2) disparity reduction.

Additionally, in 2020 through 2021, we continue to implement the concessional ODA Loan project of US\$15 million, "Energy Management and Efficiency Programme (EMEP)", a Grant Aid project of up to approximately US\$ 13 million

for the "Project for Improvement of Emergency Communication System", and also a Technical Cooperation project, the "Project to Promote Energy Efficiency in Caribbean Countries".

Since early 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic has been ravaging the world and impacting JICA's operations. Flagship programmes like the KCCP and the Volunteer Dispatch Programme were paused for extended periods. However, in the face of this uncertainty, new norms were created - JICA Jamaica Office organized and trained twenty-nine (29) participants from nine (9) organisations, in seven (7) subject areas via the online platform. Similarly, volunteers who had to returned to Japan prematurely continued to support organisations in Jamaica virtually. One volunteer built and managed the website and other social media accounts for one of our partner organisation whilst in Japan.

In this COVID-19 and post-COVID-19 world, in accordance with our vision "Leading the world with trust", we at JICA Jamaica Office stand ready to continue to perform our work with the Government and People of Jamaica, building on the solid foundation of cooperation and assisting Jamaica to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to realize Human Security.

TAKANO Takeshi (Mr.)
Resident Representative
JICA Jamaica Office

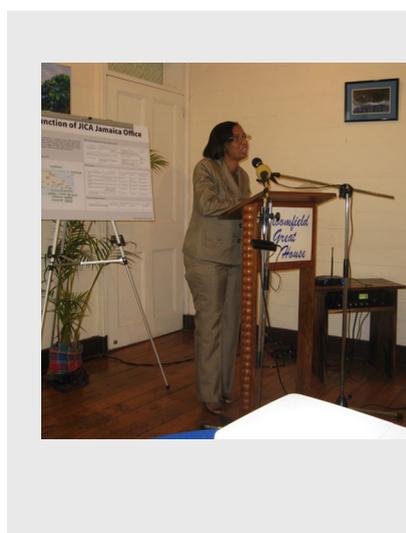
OFFICE MOVEMENT ~ WHERE DID WE GO?

(JULY, 2020)

In July 2020, JICA Jamaica Office was relocated from the 8th floor to 5th floor of Courtleigh Corporate Centre to a larger space which in the long term reinforces our commitment to operations in Jamaica.

Since the official establishment of the JICA Jamaica Office in 1989, JICA Jamaica has implemented a number of projects, dispatched over 462 volunteers and provided training opportunities in Japan to over 650 Jamaicans.

JICA Jamaica will continue to work closely with Jamaican stakeholders in order to contribute to the interests of as many Jamaicans as possible.

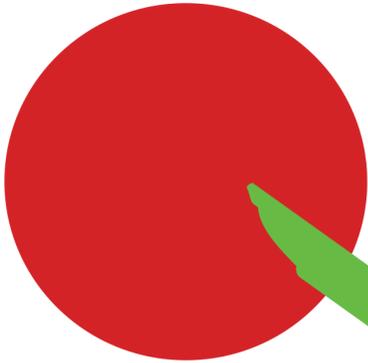


THANK YOU FOR SERVING THE WAY YOU DID!

With dedication unmatched and a commitment to getting the job done, Lorna Wallace served JICA Jamaica Office with distinction for just under three decades.

Her proactivity led to the relocation of the office from South Avenue to our present Courtleigh Corporate Centre, formerly Island Life. During her tenure, she supported numerous Resident Representatives, Volunteer Coordinators and volunteers from Japan while contributing to the building of bridges between JICA and Jamaican government organisations. A recipient of the JICA's President's award as National Staff of the Year in 2016, she smoothly spearheaded administrative support for handover ceremonies, signing of grant agreements, Knowledge Co-Creation Programme and Disaster Management initiatives among others. At the end of March 2020, Lorna moved on to another phase of her life as a retired professional with a lot of energy and zest. We sincerely wish her continued health and strength as she navigates another milestone.

LET'S TAKE SOME STEPS BACK



1964

Establishment of diplomatic relations between Jamaica and Japan.

1974

Establishment of the Japan International Cooperation Agency in Japan.

1977

The first Jamaican participants accepted for JICA's Technical Training Programme in Japan.

1984

[ODA Loan] Commencement of "Blue Mountain Coffee Development Project". Amt: 5.9 Billion Yen

1987

Exchange of Notes between the government of Jamaica and Japan for dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV)

2008

JICA merged with the development assistance section of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) making JICA then the world's largest bilateral development agency.

2007

[Technical Cooperation] Commencement of "Capacity Building of Water Maintenance". Period: 2007 - 2010

2004

"Human Security" became one of the three important pillars of JICA's reform plan.

2002

[ODA Loan] Commencement of "The Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) Water Supply Project". Amt: 6.6 Billion Yen

2013

[Cultural Grant] "The Project for the Improvement of Japanese Language Learning Equipment of the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus". Amt: 27 Million Yen

2015

[Cultural Grant] "The Project for the Improvement of the Exhibition and Audiovisual Equipment of the Institute of Jamaica" Amt: 58 Million Yen

Visit of then Prime Minister ABE Shinzo, first Japanese Prime Minister to visit Jamaica.

2017

[ODA Loan](ON-GOING) Commencement of "Energy Management and Efficiency Programme" to introduce energy-saving technologies and equipment. Amt: 15 Million USD

[Grant Aid](ON-GOING) Commencement of "The Project for Improvement of Emergency Communication System" to improve digital radio communication system. Amt: 1.4 Billion Yen

ACK 1964 - 2020



1988

[ODA Loan] Commencement of "Montego Bay Water Supply (Great River) Project". Amt: 4.7 Billion Yen

1989

Establishment of JICA Jamaica Office in Kingston. The first three JICA volunteers arrived in Jamaica under the JOCV Programme.

1991

[ODA Loan] Commencement of "North Coast Development Project" to improve sewerage, roads, ports and drains. Amt: 8.6 Billion Yen

1997

[Technical Cooperation] Commencement of "The Improvement of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)". Period: 1997 - 2002

2001

Dispatch of the first batch of Senior Volunteers to Jamaica.

1998

[Technical Cooperation] Commencement of "Strengthening of Health Care in the South Region of Jamaica" to prevent and control chronic non-communicable diseases. Period: 1998 - 2003

JICA Alumni Association of Jamaica (JAAJ) voluntarily established by former participants of JICA's training programme.

2019

[Technical Cooperation](ON-GOING) Commencement of "The Project to Promote Energy Efficiency in Caribbean Countries" to improve energy security through the introduction of renewable energy and promotion of energy efficiency. Period: 2019 - 2022

Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP, paid an official working visit to Japan and met with JICA's President KITAOKA Shinichi.

Thirty years since the dispatch of volunteers to Jamaica.

[Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (training programme)] Jamaican primary school teacher selected as recipient of "SDGs Global Leaders Programme" scholarship for a master's degree in Mathematics Education in Japan.

2020

[Data Collection Survey] "North and Latin America Data Collection Survey on Marine Plastic Litter in the Caribbean Region"

Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP) facilitated short-term online courses- seven training sessions for Jamaica and one for the Bahamas.

[KCCP] University of the West Indies alumnus selected as recipient of "SDGs Global Leaders Programme" scholarship for a master's degree in International Relations in Japan.

2018

Jamaican lecturer from the Caribbean Maritime University selected as recipient of "the Future Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean Programme" scholarship for a doctoral degree in Marine Engineering in Tokyo.

NORTH AND LATIN AMERICA DATA COLLECTION SURVEY ON MARINE LITTER IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION (AUGUST – OCTOBER, 2020)



Over the last 50 years, global plastic production has increased from 15 million tons in 1964 to 311 million tons in 2014, and is expected to double further in the next 20 years. On the other hand, the amount of plastic released into the ocean in 2015 is estimated to be about 8 million tons per year for macroplastics (more than 5 mm) only, of which 7.36 million tons are estimated to leak from land to ocean via rivers due to improper treatment of municipal solid waste. Other major sources are the loss of fishing nets and fishing activities (about 650,000 tons per year) and microplastics (5 mm or less) (about 280,000 tons per year).

In Jamaica, which is surrounded by the ocean, tourism centered on beach resorts and fisheries are important industries, so marine pollution caused by plastic litter directly affects the economic and social activities.

This survey covered 17 countries in the Caribbean region and the Latin American region (Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Mexico, etc.)

In the Survey, information from each country on the current situation of marine plastic litter, current status and issues of countermeasures, cooperation needs, relevant Japanese technologies, etc. were collected and organized by a JICA expert team, and the information necessary for considering future support policies will be confirmed.



KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAMME

(Nov 2020 - Aug 2021)



Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development



Community Based Rehabilitation Jamaica



Jamaica Association on Intellectual Disabilities



Ministry of Industry Investment & Commerce



National Environment and Planning Agency



Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries



Ministry of Science, Energy & Technology



National Solid Waste Management Authority

9 Organizations

7 Courses

29 Participants

COURSES

- Comprehensive Disaster Risk Reduction in Small Islands
- Energy Policy (B)
- Developed Market Oriented Export Promotion Strategy/Marketing Strategy
- Technology for Solid Waste Management with Recycling Promotion for Sound Material-Cycle Society
- Urban Solid Waste Management (Emphasis on Collection, Transportation and Final Disposal)
- Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation
- Intellectual & Development Disabilities in Community Activities



THE KNOWLEDGE CO-CREATION PROGRAM, formerly called the Training Program, is one of the core programs carried out in Japan. By inviting officials from partner countries and with cooperation from domestic partners, the Knowledge Co-Creation Program provides technical knowledge and practical solutions for development issues in participating countries. About 400 pre-organized courses cover a wide range of professional fields, ranging from

education, health, infrastructure, energy, trade and finance, to agriculture, rural development, gender mainstreaming, and environmental protection. The Knowledge Co-Creation Program continued during COVID-19 via online learning platforms due to travel restrictions associated with the pandemic. The KCCP continues to serve as a mutual learning platform.

Courses were facilitated online for the first time due to the restrictions associated with COVID-19

ALUMNI CULTURE DAY

(NOVEMBER, 2020)

The JICA Alumni Association of Jamaica held a Cultural Extravaganza on November 26, 2020. The hybrid event featured a live host, live performances and presentations via Zoom platform, demonstrated a culturally enlightening blend of food and artistic expressions from Jamaicans and Japanese.

The JICA Alumni Association was voluntarily formed in March 1998. Initially, the association concentrated activities conducive to strengthening friendship with Japan and among their members. In recent years, they incorporated more collaborations with the Japanese Embassy, JICA and local communities.



Susette Burton, a Jamaican living in Japan spoke about her love for Japanese food via a video presentation commissioned by former JICA Volunteer, NAGAMURA Natsumi.



Moderator Sharille Pink on the base set of JICA Alumni's Cultural Extravaganza.



Animated Starz Academy representative demonstrates the expressive nature of Jamaican story telling.

JICA & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Technical cooperation is people-to-people cooperation that supports partner countries in enhancing their comprehensive capacities to address development challenges by their own efforts. Instead of applying Japanese technology to partner countries, JICA's technical cooperation provides solutions that best fit their needs by working with people living there. In the process, consideration is given to factors such as their regional characteristics, historical background, and languages. JICA does not limit its technical cooperation to human resources development; it offers multi-tiered assistance that also involves organizational strengthening, policy formulation, and institution building.



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SEMINAR

(FEBRUARY, 2021)

What is a technology transfer seminar?

A technology transfer seminar is the name given to an information session in which the most recent participants of a Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (KCCP) make presentations about what they

learnt during their training session in Japan. The sessions are held at different intervals during the fiscal year.



Mr. DeYen Smith: District Officer- Jamaica Fire Brigade: "Fire Management and Disaster Risk Reduction"



Ms. Deon Brown Forest: Technician- Forestry Department: "Nature Conservation"



Mr. Carlinton Elliston Supervisor: Sewer Operations & Connections, National Water Commission. "Sewage Management"

BONDING THROUGH HURDLES

(DECEMBER, 2020)

JICA through its Smile for All in the World programme facilitated the donation of twenty-seven (27) land hurdles to the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association (JAAA), by the Tottori Athletics Association (TAA), as part of an ongoing Friendship Exchange Agreement (<https://youtu.be/SVCOulFW4P4>) between the two athletics organizations. Tottori is also the host town of Jamaican athletes for Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games.

The donation was made possible by efforts of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer, Mr. KAJITANI Akio who was dispatched to the Westmoreland Municipal Corporation. Upon realizing the need for the items, Mr. Kajitani applied to JICA Smile for All in the World programme and the TAA responded favorably to the request. In the words of KAJITANI Akio, "Although we cannot visit Jamaica because of COVID-19... I hope that we could welcome the Jamaican national team in safety next year 2021 and would like to continue to cherish the wonderful friendship with Jamaica. Bless you all."

Please visit his Youtube site with QR code.



Left to right: President, JAAA, Mr. Garth Gayle; 1st Vice President, JAAA, Mr. Ian Forbes; Minister, Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange; Ambassador of Japan to Jamaica H.E. Mr. FUJIWARA Masaya and Resident Representative, JICA Jamaica Office, Mr. TAKANO Takeshi at the handing over ceremony of land hurdles to the JAAA.



Land hurdles on display in Tottori before being shipped to Jamaica.

JICA Volunteers

Their hearts are in Jamaica even though they had to return to Japan due to COVID-19

Our volunteers continued to work as best as possible to keep their connection with Jamaica by being actively involved in projects associated with their local counterparts and Jamaica in general.

Here **HIGASHI Iori** former PC Instructor of CBRJ continued to develop the organization's website whilst still in Japan.



YABITSU Masaki worked at the Westmoreland 4H Clubs as an Environmental Educator. Having returned to Japan, he spoke to a group of Grade 9 students at Kiyota Junior High School who were studying Sustainable Development Goals on the topic "Think about the global climate change through Jamaica."



NAKATA Misaki, a former Development Associate at Bureau of Gender Affairs, supported the opening of an online store for the selling of jewelry created by Chupse, Jamaica Association on Intellectual Disabilities.
Website: <https://www.likklenuff.jp/>
Instagram: [@likklenuff](https://www.instagram.com/likklenuff)



NAGAMURA Natsumi, a former environmental educator at the St. Ann 4H Clubs, established an online store along with former JICA volunteers and her Jamaican friends.
Website: <https://chakachaka.official.ec/>

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