

JICA Newsletter

—Leading the “Caribbean” World with Trust —

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JICA extends its deepest sympathies to those affected by Hurricane Beryl in the Region.

JICA is a Japanese government agency responsible for executing **Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA)**. JICA has **96** overseas offices (as of Jul, 2022) and conducts ODA projects in **139** developing countries (during fiscal year 2022). JICA has offices in St. Lucia, Jamaica, Belize and the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean. We are enhancing the capacity of the DR office to serve better to Caribbean people.

Lover's Leap, Jamaica



The Secretary-General of the CARICOM Secretariat visited Japan

Dr. Carla Burnett, Secretary General of the CARICOM Secretariat, along with **Ms. Elizabeth Solomon**, Assistant Secretary-General, visited Japan on 25 and 26 March 2024, to launch the **Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year**. She paid a courtesy call to Ms. KAMIKAWA Yoko, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and had discussions with Ms. MIYAZAKI Katsura, Senior Vice President of JICA.

For more information:

<https://caricom.org/caricom-secretary-general-dr-carla-barnett-conducts-visit-to-japan/>

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Japan's Commitment to the 4th SIDS International Conference

Mr. HOSAKA Yasushi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, participated in the SIDS International Conference in Antigua and Barbuda as the representative of the government of Japan and made a speech. He also had bilateral meetings with Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, and the CARICOM Secretariat. For more information: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/100676012.pdf>

(Photos are from MOFA's HP)



Mr. Hosaka also visited the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown, Guyana and paid courtesy call to Dr. Armstrong Alexis, Deputy Secretary-General. During the meeting, Mr. Hosaka referred to the issues faced by the CARICOM Member States, such as hurricanes and Sargassum, and exchanged opinions with the CARICOM Secretariat to promote further cooperation on the issues. The CARICOM Secretariat expressed its gratitude for the Japanese cooperation and expected further support for women, especially in Haiti, referring to the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) that Minister Kamikawa is promoting. Mr. Hosaka met with Guyana's **Foreign Minister Hon. Hugh Todd** and senior government officials.

For more information: <https://caricomhq.sharepoint.com/sites/Communications/SitePages/CARICOM-DSG-welcomes-high-level-Japanese-officials-for->



JICA in the SIDS International Conference!

Mr. Naoki Matsumura, Special Advisor for DRR, Disaster Risk Reduction group, Global Environment Department, JICA HQ, participated in the conference as a member of the Japanese delegation. He shared his experience with us.



I participated in the 4th Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference at the American University of Antigua in Antigua and Barbuda from May 27 to 30, 2024. 22 Heads of State, Ministers High level official were attended, and the conference was attracting attention in the global level. Honorable Prime Minister Mia Mottley, Barbados was particularly popular. At the side event session on the Bridgetown Initiative and financial system reform hosted by the Barbados Government (Session title: “Mobilising Capital to build Prosperity and Resilience in SIDS: Progress on and next steps for the Bridgetown Initiative”) on 29th May 2024, participants rushed to the session to meet Honorable Prime Minister Mottley. The venue was overflowing, so the session was held in the courtyard under the flaming sun. It was so impressive event among many sessions in SIDS Conference. JICA is supporting financial system reform according to the Bridgetown Initiatives. At the same time, we also expected strong initiative and leadership of each Small Islands Developing State for promoting disaster risk reduction according to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).



JICA Alumni Association

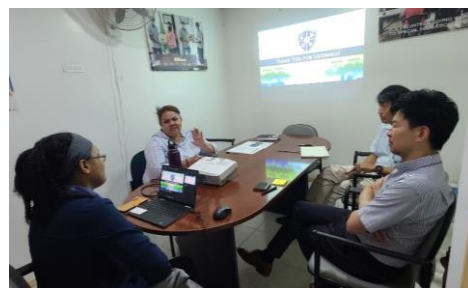
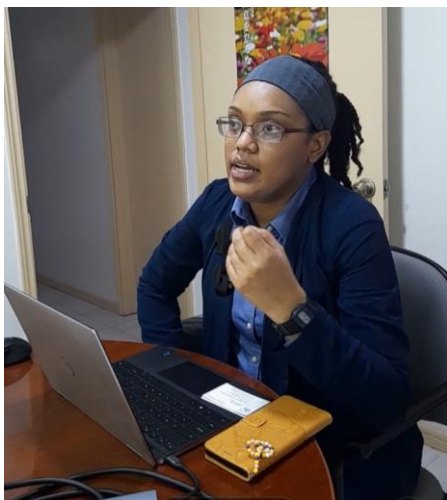
Each year, around 60-70 government officials from each member states participate in the KCCP. Up to now total of more than 1,000 government officials from CARICOM region have participated in KCCP from the year of 2000. The alumni association is a network of the to expand knowledge learnt in Japan or conduct cultural events. Long-lasting relationship with the alumni is our hope.



JICA Alumni Association of Belize (JAAB), in collaboration with **JICA Belize**, has done Medical Outreach in the Community of Watahole, Cayo District in borderline with Guatemala. Rotary Satellite Club of San Ignacio/Benque Viejo partnered with us during this noble mission. Patients included adults and children, and free consultation and medication were given to the people. We had doctors and nurses in the team and volunteers who helped with logistics and attended the people that arrive to the clinics.

The Knowledge Co-Creation Program (KCCP)

JICA's Knowledge Co-Creation Programs are a form of technical cooperation that JICA carries out in Japan. Some of the knowledge that Japanese society has accumulated, including its background in areas such as organizational know-how and social systems, can only be understood through first-hand experience. The programs are an important means of technical cooperation which supports human resource development and resolving issues in developing countries.



Ms. Areli Sutherland, Ministry of Public Utilities, Energy, Logistics & E-Governance of **Belize** attended the KCCP course in “Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Conservation (A)” She formulated an action plan to be implemented by her unit to improve energy efficiency in industrial, commercial and residential sectors. Mainly, focusing on energy conservation since Belize does not practice “energy conservation” too often. The strategies of her action plans are the following: 1. Standardizing Belize’s Statistical System 2. Reduce Reliance on (Electricity) Imports through Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation. 3. Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation implementation through National Policies.

As a follow-up to **the SHEP Approach training** in Guatemala in January this year, a Feasibility Study on the SHEP Approach was conducted. **Dr. Jiro Aikawa** who developed the SHEP Approach, visited Jamaica, Grenada, and Barbados to interact with farmers, market stakeholders, and government officials. The results of the study were reported online on June 18, 2024. In addition, representatives from Jamaica and Barbados presented their plans for the future introduction of the SHEP Approach. Among the participants, we had a representative from Caribbean Agricultural Extension Providers’ Network (CAEPNet).



JICA Volunteer

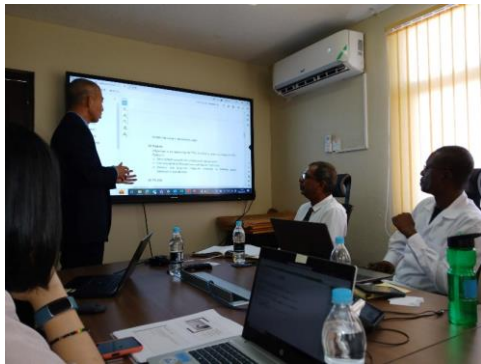
JICA's volunteer programs support activities by Japanese citizens who wish to cooperate in the economic and social development as well as the reconstruction of developing countries. 1,105 volunteers have been working with CARICOM nationals so far (as of June 2024).

Four (4) volunteers arrived at Norman Manley International Airport in Jamaica on May 2, 2024 and have since been dispatched to their host organizations. From left, Mr. Masanobu Inokuma (ICT), Ms. Naomi Kinoshita (Marketing and Handicraft), Mr. Toshiki Nakashima (Agriculture) and Mr. Seiji Tsuji (ICT)





Mr. Tetsuya Miyahara, Statistics / Sea-moss cultivation / Project coordination, with his counterpart was deploying sea-moss raft at Savannes Bay and processing sea-moss at Praslin Bay in St. Lucia. **Mr. Miyahara** also conducted online meeting with the project directors of Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.



Mr. Hisashi Suzuki, resident representative of JICA Dominican Republic and **Jamaica National Fisheries Authority (NFA)** held a kick-off meeting on May 27th to prepare for the launch of a new cooperation, "**Fisheries Development Advisor**". This advisor will work to support NFA's on-going initiatives by applying JICA's Fisheries Blue Economy (Co-Management, Satoumi, and Fish Value Chain). Among the activities planned is the introduction of the good practices of CARIFICO and COASTFISH, JICA's fisheries projects in the Eastern Caribbean, to Jamaica.



During May 2024, **Mr. Tatsuya Morita**, JICA Advisor visited Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and interacted with farmers, market vendors, and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture.



Mr. Morita also visited solid waste management authorities in Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. As small island states with limited land space, waste reduction is one of the biggest issues, according to landfill managers in both countries. JICA has been cooperating in waste management in the CARICOM region for many years, and there are many ex-participants of JICA's training courses working in the field.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept, 2024 "Regional Seminar: Fisheries data analysis with R" will be held in Saint Lucia with fisheries statisticians from 6 CARICOM member states

Sept, 2024 Dr. Gaku Funabashi of the International University of Japan will give a lecture on "Economic Growth and Japanese Management" at Sir Arthur Lewis Community College in St. Lucia.