

JICA Newsletter

—Leading the “Caribbean” World with Trust —

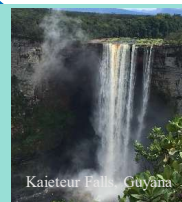
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JICA is a **Japanese** government agency responsible for executing **Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA)**. JICA has **96** overseas offices (as of Jul, 2022) and conducts ODA projects in **139** developing countries (during fiscal year 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.



New Year's Message from Mr. Akiyama Shintaro, Director of Central America and the Caribbean Region

JICA wishes you all the best for the wonderful and successful year ahead !



The year 2024 marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and various events were held to celebrate ***Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2024***.

In February, **Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica** visited Japan. In March, **Dr. Carla Natalie Barnett, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)** visited Japan and both met with **JICA Executive Senior Vice President Miyazaki Katsura**.

In August, **JICA President Tanaka Akihiko** visited Jamaica for the first time. Although it was immediately after the hurricane disaster, the team reviewed the results of Japan's cooperation on disaster prevention to date and exchanged opinions on future cooperation.

In November, **Senior Vice President Imoto Sachiko** became the first JICA board member to visit Guyana and visited the CARICOM Secretariat.

In addition, we had an opportunity to introduce JICA cooperation to the group of young diplomats participating in “**Juntos**”, an invitation program implemented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and exchanged views on cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction.

In December, the **Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference** was held in Tokyo, and Ms. Imoto took the opportunity to exchange views with representatives of the nine countries and the CARICOM Secretariat.

Furthermore, JICA held Caribbean photo exhibitions, Caribbean film screenings, and music events, making the Caribbean familiar to Japanese citizens.

In 2025, the **Osaka-Kansai Expo** will begin in April. Twelve countries from the Caribbean are expected to participate.

We will continue to work on strengthening our relationship with the Caribbean region and encourage more people in Japan to pay attention to the Caribbean region.



Eighth Japan CARICOM Ministerial Level Conference: https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00804.html

Osaka-Kansai Expo: <https://www.expo2025.or.jp/en/>

Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2024 Event “Highlighting Past and Future Cooperation of Caribbean Water Sector” in Guyana



Ms. Sachiko Imoto, the Senior Vice President of JICA assisted in a milestone event, “Highlighting Past and Future Cooperation of Caribbean Water Sector”, held in Guyana on November 4, 2024 with the presence of Hon. Collin Croal, Minister of Housing and Water, H.E. Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of the Embassy of Japan, Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of CARICOM, and Ms. Lorena Solorzano Salazar, IDB Country Representative in Guyana. Ms. Imoto had bilateral discussions with the agencies such as the Ministry of Finance.



Activities conducted by **Mr. Naoki Matsumura**, Regional Policy Advisor for Disaster Risk Reduction to CDEMA



In December 2024, the 13th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM 13) was held from December 2-6, 2024 in St. Kitts and Nevis under the theme "Road to Resilience - Checkpoint 2024: Levelling Up for a Dynamic Future,". It is held every two years to discuss diverse issues including implementation of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy (2014-2024). **The Honorable Dr. Terrance Michael Drew**, Prime Minister of St. Kitts & Nevis, Ministers from the Bahamas, Barbados, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Trinidad & Tobago, as well as the heads of disaster management organizations, around 400 people participated in the discussions on how to reduce disaster risk and improve disaster management capacity in the Caribbean region. I moderated a technical session on the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System connecting the Caribbean region and the Pacific region from a SIDS (Small Islands Developing States) perspective.

Apart from the above event, in November 2024, Japan's first Tourism Resilience Summit was held in **Sendai, Japan** where I presented a case study of JICA's Tourism Crisis Management Training Program for the **Caribbean region implementing with the Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC)** in Jamaica. In February 2025, the Second Tourism Crisis Management Training and Workshop will be held in Jamaica. The tourism sector is a very important sector in the Caribbean region, so we will continue to work on how to reduce the risk of disasters and how to promote build-back-better approach in the tourism industry.



In addition, I went to Colombia to discuss and seek a possibility of triangular cooperation in disaster risk reduction for the Caribbean region in November. As others are mentioned, I also participated in the Japan-CARICOM Friendship Year 2024 Event “Highlighting Past and Future Cooperation of Caribbean Water Sector” held in Guyana and made a presentation on JICA's cooperation on water and disaster risk reduction for the Caribbean region on behalf of CDEMA. We would like to continue working to improve the capacity of disaster risk reduction in the Caribbean region in 2025.

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).



Ms. Tomoyo Kameda, as a Special Education volunteer in Dunnottar school in St. Lucia



Mr. Hiroshi Satomi, as a Vegetable Growing volunteer in the Technical & Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Unit in St. Lucia

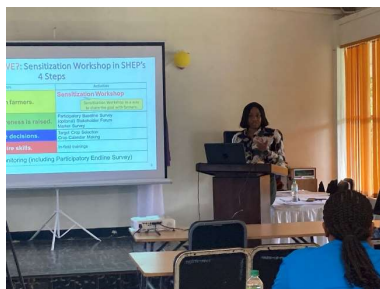
Mr. Tatsuya Morita, JICA Advisor, observed activities conducted by **three JICA volunteers in Belize**.

Ms. Ayako TAKADA (left), Welfare for Person with Disabilities, is playing with students with cards. **Ms. Ayako SUGINAKA** (centre), Environmental Education, is having discussions on plastic disposals with students. **Mr. Koji SAKURAI**, PC instructor, is giving a lecture about the function of the PC. These volunteers are well-received by the students, their colleagues, and the communities.



SHEP in the CARICOM Region

Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment and Promotion (SHEP) Approach was developed in Kenya through technical cooperation project by JICA. SHEP Approach is a market-oriented agricultural extension approach.



The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) conducted a SHEP training for agricultural and marketing extension officers from all parishes in Jamaica. The training was organized and implemented by **Ms. Alicia Chambers**, extension education specialist, with the full support of **Mrs. Marina Young**, CEO of RADA.

22 extension officers from all parishes in Jamaica completed the training and received the certification.

Following the training, the participants are expected to introduce the SHEP approach to their colleagues and farmers within their respective parishes. Please visit

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DENCHxYR_1w/?igsh=MTg0dmw3ODN0d2ozZw==



The Project for Strengthening Sustainable Use and Management of Coastal Fisheries Resource in the CARICOM Countries



Mr. Kenichi Machida, Advisor for Improving Agricultural Value Chain in Belize, finished his mission in Belize. As a final step in the project, he visited a group of farmers with the extension officers of the Ministry of Agriculture to evaluate the results of the activities. Farmers are working to further develop their markets by utilizing **the SHEP Approach**. At the closing ceremony, the farmers presented gifts to express their gratitude.



The Project for Strengthening Sustainable Use and Management of Coastal Fisheries Resource in the CARICOM Countries

The project has been promoting the consumption of Lionfish and Sea-moss. **Mr. Tetsuya Miyahara**, a Japanese Expert showcased the Lionfish Sushi/Tempura and Sea-moss Salad on various occasions such as at a local Japanese Restaurant, the Government office in **Saint Lucia**, and an event hosted by the Embassy of Japan. The Project also supported the Choiseul Secondary School to register with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration so that the school TVET program can teach comprehensive sea-moss business skills from production to export. Moreover, the Project supported the Choiseul Fishermen's Cooperative Society to reach the overseas market ensuring a better stable income, by registering them with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



The **Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)** received a team from **JICA Belize** and shared information about the progress of the **Sargassum** project. JICA team expressed their gratitude to **Mr. Hugh Milton**, Executive Director, for his many years of cooperation with JICA and presented him with a final farewell address on his retirement. JICA Belize team also had dialogues with **CCCCC** and **SIDS-DOCK Secretariat**.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 27 – Feb.22, 2025: KCCP, Training course for NCDs Prevention and Control will be held in Okinawa, Japan.

Feb. 05: Mr. Tatsuya Morita, JICA Advisor will finish his mission at the CARICOM Secretariat.

Feb. 12-14: KCCP, training course for “Enhancement of sharing experience/knowledge and partnership with Caribbean region countries on Tourism Crisis Management” will be held in Kingston, Jamaica