



## **Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Inbound Program (CARICOM Group) Report**

### **Theme: Enhancing Exchanges in Anticipation of the 2024 Japan-Caribbean Exchange Year**

#### **1. Program Overview**

【Objectives】 This program was implemented with the aim of having young government officials from member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) learn about Japan's diplomatic stance, development cooperation, and marine conservation initiatives in Japan so that they can utilize what they learn for environmental protection and global warming countermeasures in their countries. The participants learned about ties between Japan and Latin American countries through theme-related observations and lectures, cultural experiences, and exchanges, with the aim of strengthening friendly relations ahead of the 2024 Japan-Caribbean Exchange Year.

#### **【Participants】**

Total: 12 young government officials from 11 member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)\*

\*Member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM): Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago

#### **【Location】**

Tokyo, Kagoshima (Yoron Island)

#### **2. Program Schedule**

##### **■ Pre-study Program (online):**

Wednesday, January 18 【Orientation】 Orientation before arriving in Japan, prior explanation on the Inbound Program

Set period 【Webinar】 Lecture on Japan, Learning Japanese

##### **■ Inbound Program:**

Tuesday, January 24: Entry from Haneda Airport

Wednesday, January 25 【Orientation】 Orientation upon arrival to Japan

【Observation】 Asakusa

【Lecture】“Overview of Japan and its Attractiveness” Lecturer: Mr. YAMADA Akira,  
Special Assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs

Thursday, January 26 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. TAKEI Shunsuke, State Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of Japan

【 Theme-related Lecture 】 "JICA's Cooperation in CARICOM Membership Countries" Lecturer: Ms. Sulimara Takahashi, Deputy Director, Central America and the Caribbean Division, Latin America and the Caribbean Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

【 Lecture 】 "Japan's Diplomacy towards Latin America and the Caribbean" Lecturer: Mr. SHIMIZU Chitaru, Director, Mexico, Central America Caribbean Division, Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

【Lecture】 "Combatting IUU fishing for Sustainable Fisheries; Japan and the Caribbean Region" Lecturer: Mr. FUJIWARA Toshihisa, Assistant Director, Fishery Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan

【Lecture】 International Nuclear Energy Cooperation Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

【Reception】 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Friday, January 27 Travel from Tokyo to Kagoshima

【Courtesy Call】 Mr. FUJIMOTO Naruaki, Vice Governor, Kagoshima Prefectural Office

【 Observation 】 Kagoshima City (Observatory of the Kagoshima Prefectural Government, AEON Mall Kagoshima, etc.)

Saturday, January 28 Traveling from Kagoshima to Yoron Island

【Exchange】 Welcome ceremony by Yoron Town Office and volunteer group "Unjami," opinion exchange, and exchange (including singing Yoron folk songs and dancing Eisa)

Sunday, January 29 【Exchange】 Garbage collection with the volunteer group "Unjami"

【Observation】 Yoron Garbage Treatment Plant, etc.

【Cultural Experience】 Plant dyeing and shamisen at Yoron Folk Village

Monday, January 30 【Exchange】 Garbage collection with the volunteer group "Unjami"

【School Exchange】 Yoron Municipal Chabana Elementary School

Travel from Yoron Island to Tokyo

Tuesday, January 31 【Workshop】 Preparations for the reporting session



【Reporting Session】

【Experience】 Tea ceremony





Wednesday, February 1 Departure from Haneda Airport

### 3. Program Photos

Pre-Program

 <p><b>Juntos!!</b> JAPAN'S FRIENDSHIP TIES PROGRAMS "JUNTOS!!" VISITING JAPAN PROGRAM <i>Exchange Japan-Caribbean ~Strengthening Exchanges in anticipation of the Japan- Caribbean Year of Exchange 2024 ~</i> <b>Pre-Departure Orientation</b> Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023</p>	
<p>January 18 【Orientation】 Overview of Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program</p>	<p>January 18 【Orientation】 Self-introductions</p>

### Inbound Program

	
<p>January 26 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. TAKEI, State Minister for Foreign Affairs</p>	<p>January 26 【 Theme-related Lecture 】 Commemorative photo after the lecture on "JICA's Cooperation in CARICOM Membership Countries"</p>
	
<p>January 27 【Courtesy Call】 Mr. FUJIMOTO, Deputy Governor of Kagoshima Prefecture</p>	<p>January 28 【Exchange】 Commemorative photo with the staff of Yoron Town Office and the member of a volunteer group "Unjami"</p>



January 29 【Exchange】 Garbage collection with the volunteer group "Unjami"



January 29 【Cultural Experience】 Playing Shamisen at Yoron Folk Village



January 31 【Reporting Session】 Presentation



January 31 【Reporting Session】 Group photo

#### 4. Voices from Participants (excerpt)

##### ◆ Working Youth (Republic of Guyana)

I was completely impressed by the visit to the local people in Yoron. This visit highlighted the many similarities we have with Japan, which we didn't realized we had. This also proved that we could learn a lot from the local people who have so much knowledge of nature and the effective use of each natural product.

##### ◆ Working Youth (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Though the company visits and lectures allowed me to gain greater insight into sustainability and how it can benefit my country, I think the visit to Yoron island was the most impressive part for me. The Folklore village, the food, the residents, and the students were remarkable. We share such great similarities and because of that, I gained a greater appreciation for Japanese culture overall.

##### ◆ Working Youth (Saint Christopher and Nevis)



"My most memorable moment throughout this trip is and will remain our trip to Yoron Island. Everybody is like family, and it reminds me of home.

The warm welcome we received from the children at the elementary school was particularly



surprising. The excitement displayed by them, having researched our respective countries was refreshing. Based on our responses to their questions, their interest in wanting to visit our shores in a similar exchange program was evident. I hope that one day this will come to fruition. Our visit to the recycle plant was very insightful. The way the waste is being managed is well organized and efficient. "

## 5. Disseminations by the participants

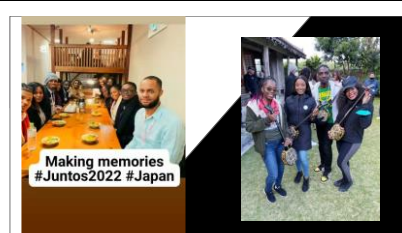
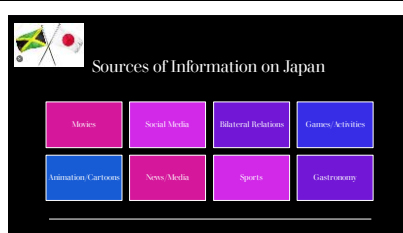
	
<p>January 31, 2023 (Instagram) Working Youth (Bahama) Group photo at Kaminarimon, the symbol of Asakusa</p>	<p>January 29, 2023 (Instagram) Working Youth (Saint Christopher and Nevis) Embracing the Japanese culture at the Yoron Folklore Village.</p>

## 6. Action Plans for After Returning Home Presented at the Reporting Session (excerpt)

CARICOM Group (1)	
	
<p>■ Promoting community engagements in waste management with the focus on our youth. Concept Summary – Promoting Youth Community Engagement in Waste Management Our mission is to use the experience gained during our time in Japan, especially on Yoron Island, to develop community awareness projects targeting youth groups to promote engagement in the preservation of the environment through sustainable waste management.</p>	

- (1) WHY: As SIDS (Small Island Developing States) dependent on tourism, proper waste management is crucial to the economic development of our nations.
- (2) WHEN: Presentations will be developed over the next three months as different groups are identified for engagement.
- (3) BY WHO: Partnership with Diplomats who participated in the “Juntos!! 2022” program and community stakeholders
- (4) FOR WHO: Young people between the ages of 10 and 21.
- (5) HOW: Organizing forums with youth groups to share knowledge gained by engaging with Japanese contacts to identify common challenges and solutions with the focus on our youth. Can we act?

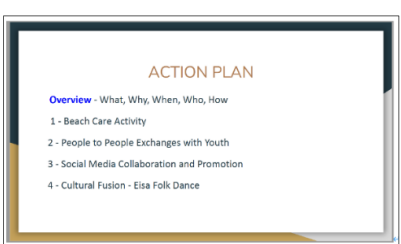
### CARICOM Group (2)



#### ■ Action plan

- (1) Cultural sensitization workshops
- (2) Cultural exchange
- (3) Increase Japanese courses
- (4) Revamp the importance of environmental preservation
- (5) Recommend and follow-up towards implementation of the Strategic Framework and Technical Cooperation

### CARICOM Group (3)



#### ■ Action plan

#### ● Overview

- (1) What: Beach care activity
- (2) Why: People-to-people exchanges with youth
- (3) How: Social media collaboration and promotion
- (4) Cultural fusion: Eisa folk dance

#### ● Beach care: Towards cleaner beaches

- (1) What: Promote manual beach cleaning and waste recycling.
- (2) Why: Raising awareness of the importance of cleaner beaches.
- (3) When: March to May with the possibility to continuing. . .
- (4) Who: Youth association.
- (5) With whom: Communities close to the sea and other people.
- (6) How: Sharing the experience of Yoron Island in social media through the content created during the Juntos!! exchange program and organizing focus groups.

**Implementation agency: Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE)**