

February 21, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

**JICA Alumni Association of Trinidad and Tobago (JAATT) Second Annual General Meeting**

The second annual general meeting for the JICA Alumni Association of Trinidad and Tobago (JAATT) took place on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, at 4:00p.m. at the Maracas Room, Courtyard by Marriott, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The mission of JAATT is to provide a forum through which continued relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Japan will be fostered. JAATT seeks to accommodate persons from Trinidad and Tobago who are former participants of JICA technical training programs, persons who have been to Japan or who are interested in Japanese culture and/or education and prospective training participants.

The reception was attended by His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka, Ambassador of Japan to Trinidad and Tobago, Mr Shane Ballah, President of JAATT, and JAATT members.

In his speech, His Excellency Yoshimasa Tezuka stated that he is pleased to see that after only a year JAATT has already begun to bring together past training participants to share their knowledge of and experiences in Japan. Additionally, he said that JAATT is a good indicator of the strength of the relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Japan as it is a forum for deepening ties between the two countries. It is a learning community where individual and collective knowledge about Japan can be advanced. He also reassured JAATT that the Embassy will continue to provide as much support as possible for its activities.

The Establishment of JAATT is considered a success in the advancement of bilateral ties and the Government of Japan welcomes further opportunities to work with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and JAATT, all with a view to strengthening the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding which exist between the two countries, especially in the Japan-CARICOM Friendship year 2014, which marks 20 years since the first Japan-CARICOM Consultation in 1993, as well as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago.

**END**

Attached are pictures of the ceremony which may be resized and distributed.

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