

The conferment of a National Decoration (the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays) to Mrs. Kazuko Rankine
February 2, 2021

On February 2, 2021 the conferment ceremony of the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays to Mrs. Kazuko Rankine, former Japanese language instructor at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) of the University of the West Indies (UWI), for her exceptional contribution to the promotion of Japanese language education in Trinidad and Tobago, was held at the Ambassador of Japan's residence.

The award ceremony was celebrated with the presence of Dr. Sylvia Moodie-Kublalsingh who was the first Director of the Centre for Language Learning (CLL), Ms. Nicole Taylor, a former French lecturer at CLL, Ms. Maureen Manchouck, former President of the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST), Dr. Beverly Ann-Carter, Director of CLL, Ms. Misato Noto and Ms. Shiho Arakawa, Japanese language teachers at CLL.

Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama stated that the National Decoration was awarded to Rankine Sensei for her years of contribution in promoting Japanese language education in this country since 1995, and mentioned that while more than 1,400 people have studied Japanese language at UWI in more than 20 years, it was made possible thanks to the dedicated efforts of Rankine Sensei and other pioneers of Japanese language education. After his speech, Ambassador Hirayama read the "Patent of Decoration" and presented it to her.

Rankine Sensei expressed her deep gratitude for the award, and mentioned she tried many different ways of teaching so that the students had an interest in learning Japanese, not only mastering the Japanese language but understanding the Japanese Culture, recalling how she started teaching in this country. She thanked her former colleagues who were present at the ceremony for providing valuable advice and cooperation, and added that this award could be considered as recognition of the contribution of all of these colleagues.

Ms. Manchouck, former president of NIHERST, Dr. Kublalsingh, first Director of CLL, and Dr. Carter, Director of CLL all congratulated Mrs. Rankine and praised her enthusiasm for Japanese language education and her student-centered teaching method with her wonderful personality.

Rankine Sensei received the Foreign Minister's Award for the Promotion of Mutual Understanding between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago in 2011, and in 2019, the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) at the University of the West Indies received the Foreign Minister's Award for the Promotion of Japanese Language Education.



Ambassador Hirayama presents Ms Rankine with the certificate



Group photo with certificate



A toast was made to Ms. Rankine by Ambassador Hirayama on her achievement