

Aug 20, 2021

The Foreign Minister's Commendations for 2021 to Mr. Eddy Devisse  
President, the Kendo Federation of Trinidad and Tobago

On August 20, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan announced the recipients, 177 individuals and 41 organizations, of the Commendation from Minister for Foreign Affairs for 2021, including Mr. Eddy Devisse, President of the Kendo Federation of Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr. Devisse established the Kendo Federation of Trinidad and Tobago in 2004. The Federation is a member of the Latin American Kendo Confederation and is recognized by the All Japan Kendo Federation, and this year marks the 17th anniversary since its establishment. The Federation has been organizing multiple Kendo classes each week to promote kendo in various areas of the country, under the guidance of Mr. Devisse, who has also established close cooperative relations with the Embassy of Japan in Port of Spain. Mr Devisse has also arranged Kendo demonstrations at various occasions such as the Opening Ceremony of the Japan Budo Exhibition in 2008, and a reception at the Ambassador's Residence in 2014. He also engaged in coordination tasks to receive the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Kendo Team in Trinidad and Tobago in 2014.

The Kendo Federation has been organizing the annual Kendo Championship Tournament since 2015, where participants compete for the "Japanese Ambassador Cup". At the 2019 tournament, the Ambassador's Commendation was conferred on the Kendo Federation to commemorate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and in recognition of the Federation's long-term contribution to the promotion of Kendo.

Since 2019 Mr. Devisse has introduced Kendo to underprivileged communities in the hopes that the principles of Kendo would help improve the lives of the country's youth. Thus, Mr. Devisse has also been greatly contributing to the promotion of Japanese culture through Kendo in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, in recognition of their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries. The Commendations also aim to promote understanding and support for the recipients' activities among the Japanese public.



Mr. Eddy Devisse, President of the Kendo Federation of Trinidad and Tobago.



Ambassador Hiram (left), the Honourable Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Sport and Community Development (center) and Mr. Eddy Devisse, President of the Kendo Federation of Trinidad and Tobago (right), speak at the One-year Count Down to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics event hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Trinidad and Tobago.