

## **The Fourth Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest in Trinidad and Tobago 2021**

On September 19, 2021, the Fourth Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest in Trinidad and Tobago was held in the format of online conference and 9 speakers participated in it. The Contest was co-organized by the Embassy of Japan and the Center for Language Learning (CLL), University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, and supported by the Japan Foundation, the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) and the Caribbean Gas Chemical Limited (CGCL).

After the opening remarks by Dr. Beverly-Anne Carter, Director of CLL and by Ambassador Tatsuo Hirayama, the 3 judges were introduced, namely Mrs. Sachiko Hirayama, Ambassador Hirayama's wife, Mr. Hikaru Shimizu General Manager (Finance and Administration), Caribbean Gas Chemical Limited and Ms. Shiho Sato, Japanese Language Specialist, The Japan Foundation in Mexico.

Overall there were 7 speakers in the Elementary Level, and 2 speakers in the Intermediate Level, and all of the participants made a speech in a passionate manner. After their pre-recorded presentations were shown, live questions and answers between the speakers and judges took place.

In the intermediate level, Ms. Adiola Chase who will be going to Japan through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme won the first place. In her speech she explained her perseverance with learning the Japanese Language. She explained how she became interested in Japan, its Culture and the Language that is, through Manga and Anime and how she enrolled in CLL. She said that she cherished studying Japanese at CLL and that learning Japanese together with friends was an unforgettable experience. "To me, studying Japanese is like a new world." – Adiola Chase

In the elementary level, Ms. Tamika Mason, won the first place. Her speech topic was "My Favourite Place in My HomeTown". She talked about the wonder and beauty of San Fernando Hill. She said that San Fernando Hill is her favourite place because it brings the people of the city of San Fernando

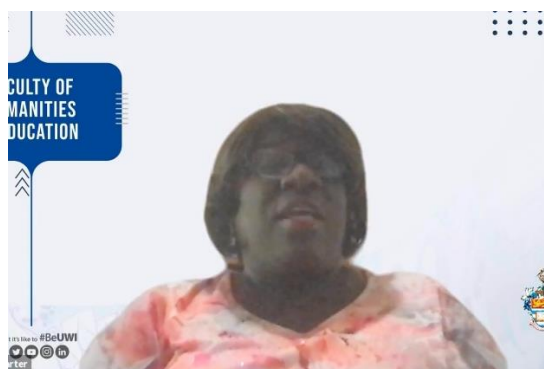
together.

After the winners were announced, Ms. Shiho Sato, Japanese Language Specialist of the Japan Foundation in Mexico, made an overall comment and provided a few pieces of advice to make and deliver a better speech, which was appreciated by Japanese language students.

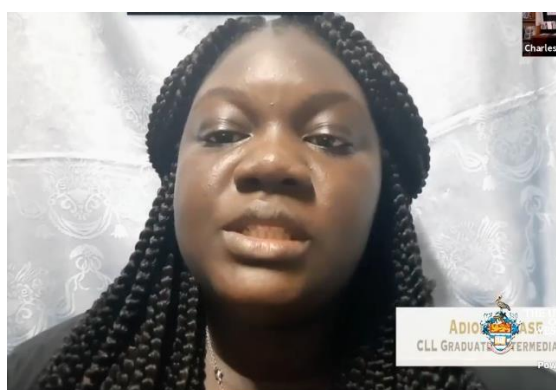
Under the COVID-19 pandemic, the Contest went to an online event. At the same time, the Contest was attended more widely from various regions including Japan. The contest were viewed by over 100 individuals from around the world.



Ambassador Hirayama gives his remarks



Dr. Carter, Director of the Centre for Language Learning gives remarks



Ms Adiola Chase - First Place Winner of the Intermediate Level



Ms Tamika Mason - First Place Winner of the Elementary Level



Judges: Mrs Sachiko Hirayama  
(Representative of the Embassy of  
Japan), Mr. Hikaru Shimizu (General  
Manager - Finance and Administration,  
Caribbean Gas Chemical Limited) & Ms.  
Shiho Sato (Japanese Language Specialist  
The Japan Foundation in Mexico)



Screenshot of the Zoom Contest