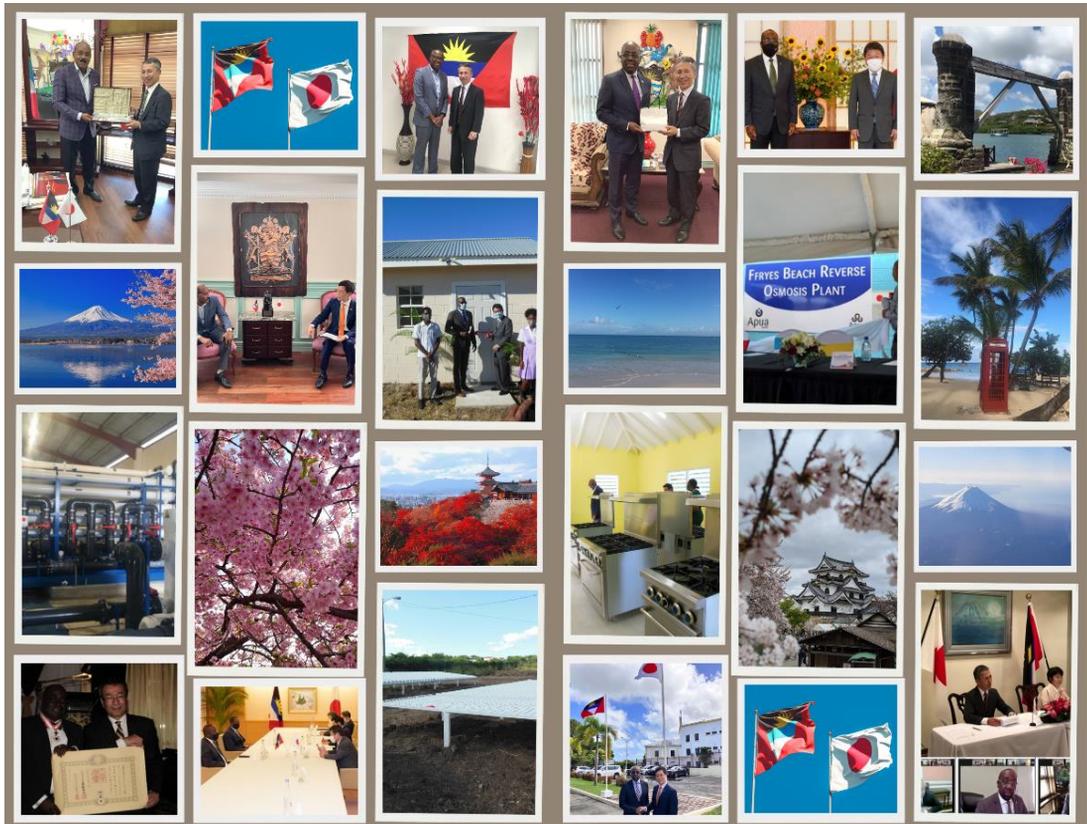


In Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Antigua & Barbuda



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Message from MATSUBARA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan



October 2022 will mark the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Antigua and Barbuda. The friendly and cooperative approach of our two countries to bilateral and multilateral engagements is quite a testament to our ever-blossoming relations. Despite the challenges posed by economic uncertainty due to global security concerns and a protracted pandemic, Japan-Antigua and Barbuda relations have remained steadfast, while guided by the mutual basic values of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Our bilateral relations continue to be bolstered through cooperation in a number of essential development fields, including fisheries, disaster preparedness and environment. Both countries are maritime nations and Japan has attended a number of Eastern Caribbean Ministerial Meetings on Fisheries and Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources hosted by Antigua and Barbuda, demonstrating how robust our collaborations have become in both bilateral and multilateral spheres.

There have also been many occasions for knowledge exchange with training programs offered by Japan in multiple development fields every year, and Japanese experts visiting Antigua and Barbuda to share their expertise. It is significant that such levels of cooperation between Japan and Antigua and Barbuda have remained strong even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In terms of people to people exchanges, Japan has hosted Foreign Ministry officials for the Juntos!! Japan-Latin American and Caribbean Exchange Program; awarded scholarships to Antigua and Barbuda students through the MEXT Scholarship Program; and hosted participants in the Japan Exchange Teaching Programme (JET).

After almost 40 years of diplomatic relations, the partnership and accomplishments of Japan and Antigua and Barbuda are most deserving of special celebration. It is an immense privilege to receive the mission of building our relations on such a strong foundation, and I genuinely look forward to exploring new avenues of engagement and cooperation as we seek to further advance Japan-Antigua and Barbuda relations in the years to come.

The JET Programme is a competitive employment opportunity that allows young professionals to live and work in cities, towns, and villages throughout Japan. Being a JET is an opportunity to work and become cultural ambassadors to Japan. Most participants serve as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) and work in public and private schools throughout Japan, while others work as Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs) as interpreters/translators.

Antigua and Barbuda nationals have participated JET Programme in the teaching and exchange programme in the past, with 3 nationals taking part.

Examples of "People to people Exchanges"



Ms. Sherese George

(JET participant 2009 – 2010)

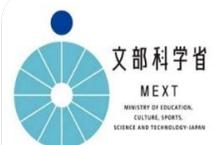
My experience on the JET Programme was truly enriching. I had the awesome opportunity to team teach with excellent English language teachers across the Shimonoseki Prefecture. I gained life-long friendships and memories. I would, therefore, encourage anyone given the opportunity to participate in the JET Programme to be prepared to have an educational and culturally fulfilling encounter.



Mr. Shaka Francis is currently pursuing his PhD at the University of Tsukuba, Graduate School of Life and Environmental Studies. He was awarded the Scholarship in 2013.

"The MEXT scholarship allowed me to expand and diversify my academic and professional endeavors; providing my family and I with a rich and immersive Japanese experience for which I am eternally grateful."

MEXT Scholarship: Two nationals from Antigua and Barbuda have been awarded the MEXT Scholarship. The Government of Japan, through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, also known as the MEXT, Monbu-Kagaku-Shō, offers scholarships to foreign students who desire to study at Japanese universities as postgraduate/research students every year.



Remarks by the Honourable E. P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, Antigua and Barbuda



40 years ago, in October of 1982, Antigua and Barbuda established diplomatic relations with Japan based on core values of cooperation and mutual respect. Over the years, our relationship has grown, providing mutual benefit in areas of multilateralism and technical cooperation.

As a global player with a commitment to the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and a strong advocate for peace building, disarmament issues and a nuclear free world, Japan has been a dedicated and generous friend to Antigua and Barbuda. As a small island state with many economic and social challenges, Japan over the years has provided support in critical areas such as the management of coastal fisheries, the environment, disaster mitigation, agriculture, water harvesting and solid waste management.

For Antigua and Barbuda, fisheries plays a significant role in feeding our growing population. To efficiently utilize and manage the consumption of our ocean resources requires a sustainable approach that would enable those resources to be available for use for generations to come. The government of Japan, through its many agencies, has been able to help us achieve those objectives through technical support and training. The construction of over four fisheries facilities, and the provision of training for officers over the past 40 years have helped to improve our capacity to manage our island's ocean resources. In addition, Japan through its annual training programme, has exposed hundreds of Antiguan and Barbudans to short-term training in areas such as fire prevention and awareness, education, agriculture, youth development, entrepreneurial development, and community health.

The conferment of the Japan National Decoration, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon," upon His Excellency Daven Joseph, further exemplifies the productive nature of our relations over the past 40 years. I therefore look forward to further friendship and cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and Japan as we continue to work together on the critical task of building a prosperous and resilient global environment for peace, security, and development.



Juntos!! Japan-Latin America and the Caribbean Exchange Program was implemented for the main purpose of utilizing the initiatives of creating a sustainable environment and improving systems in the home countries of participants.



In addition to learning about examples of Japanese government and environmental business, the participants learn about the connections between Japanese companies and Latin American countries.



Ms. Balicia Whyte (Juntos!! participant 2019)

Being selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda in Japan for the Juntos Programme 2019 was a phenomenal experience and an overall success. Being involved in the programme, I was exposed to Japan's diverse culture, society and the international economy as a whole. The different workshops and the historical sites were very insightful and informative. A heartfelt thank you is expressed to the Government of Japan for a remarkable, organized programme.



Host Town Initiative – Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games

In 2019, Antigua and Barbuda, as well as Dominica and Grenada, signed the Host Town Agreement for the Tokyo 2020 Games. Antigua and Barbuda's host towns was Yoron Town, Kagoshima Prefecture, the Amami Islands.



5 towns in Amami Islands (5 Caribbean countries)



Yoron Town, Kagoshima Pref. (Antigua and Barbuda)



The Host Town Initiative's aim was to connect Japanese local towns with countries/regions taking part in the Tokyo Games, and to facilitate various exchanges to promote cultural understanding between Japan and participant countries.

Economic Cooperation

The Government of Japan's Basic Policy of Assistance is Overcoming Vulnerability and focusing on the priority areas of Environment, Disaster Risk Management and Fisheries.

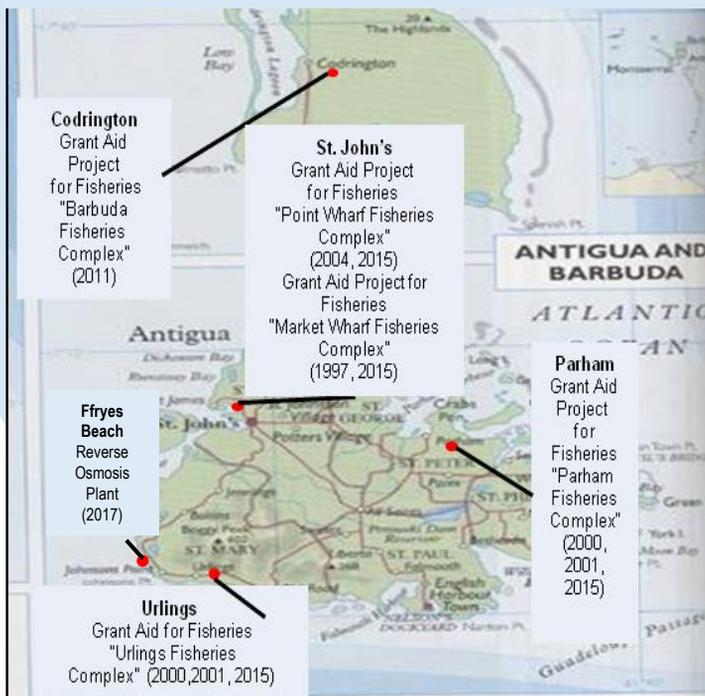
The Government of Japan recognizes the vulnerabilities particular to Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the importance of assisting Caribbean countries from perspectives other than those based on per capita income. The total number of JICA trainee from Antigua and Barbuda is 133.



Ffryes Beach Reverse Osmosis Plant



Urlings Fisheries Complex



Other Cooperation

Grant Aid Project for Disaster Management (2015, 2018)

Grant Aid Project for Water Management (2017)

Grant Aid Project for Environment (Sargassum seaweed) (2020)

Technical Cooperation for Fisheries Sector (2008- present)

Provision of Emergency Relief Items 1998 (Hurricane Georges) 2017 (Hurricane Irma)

Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) (from 2011) (Assisted 7 projects in the areas of Education, Social Welfare and Health)

Towards the Future of Bilateral Relations

His Excellency Daven C. Joseph Receives Decoration from Japan (January 2020)

The conferment of the Japanese National Decoration, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon," upon Ambassador Daven Joseph.



Mr. Akimoto Masatoshi, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, visited Antigua and Barbuda (October 2022), and met with the Hon. Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Hon. Foreign Minister E.P. Chet Greene of Antigua & Barbuda, while also marking four decades of diplomatic relations with a flag raising ceremony. Japan and Antigua and Barbuda also affirmed their commitment to expand exchanges in a wide range of areas.

