

January 26, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

On Friday 26 January 2024 the Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency MATSUBARA Yutaka, hosted a welcome back reception for former participants in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme who recently returned to Trinidad and Tobago following their terms as Assistant English Language Teachers (ALTs).

In attendance at the event were Ambassador Dr. Paul Byam, Director of Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Ms. Satie Jamraj-Marimuthu, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts as well as officials representing the University of the West Indies.

During his remarks, Ambassador Matsubara congratulated the returning JET participants on their successful efforts as cultural ambassadors of Trinidad and Tobago, especially while navigating the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic. He also noted the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago, which will be commemorated throughout this year.

Ambassador Byam likewise acknowledged the work of the JETs to represent Trinidad and Tobago in Japan and expressed his hope that their time had energized them to face new opportunities.

Ms. Miriam Lochan, President of the JET Alumni Association, delivered remarks on behalf of the group, and underscored the camaraderie, understanding and support offered by the Association.

Remarks on behalf the returning JETs were delivered by Mrs. Samantha Samlal and Ms. Nafeesa Alha, who both offered exciting details of their respective experiences.

Please visit the Embassy of Japan website for more information on the JET Programme and our daily activities: https://www.tt.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html



Front Row (L-R): Dr. Nicole Roberts, Director (Ag.), Centre for Language Learning, Mrs. Matsubara Masako, Ambassador Matsubara Yutaka and Ambassador Dr. Paul Byam with recently returned former JETs



Ambassador Matsubara Yutaka delivers remarks



Ambassador Dr. Paul Byam delivers remarks



Former JET participants



Former JET participants share a light moment