

JAPAN-CARICOM Friendship Year2024 – Saint Lucia

October 25, 2024

To commemorate JAPAN-CARICOM Friendship Year2024, which celebrates the 30th anniversary since the first JAPAN-CARICOM consultations, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Saint Lucia, and the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College collaborated to create a special event which highlighted the cultural heritage of Japan and Saint Lucia.

The event, which took place on October 25, 2024 at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College comprised of three (3) segments: the official opening ceremony, a cultural performance, and an exhibition. Remarks were made by Mr. Cletus Springer, Chair of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, and the Honorary Consul for Japan, followed by **Mr. Hirohito Takata, Resident Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Saint Lucia, and** His Excellency Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan. Ambassador Matsubara highlighted the strong ties that Japan and Saint Lucia have shared over the years in areas of cooperation, such as education, culture, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development and fisheries, as well as the development assistance delivered through JICA and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV), which support community development and capacity building across Saint Lucia.

The cultural performance displayed Japanese martial arts, Japanese traditional wear and dance with the Saint Lucians highlighting Creole monologue, traditional masquerade costumes, and traditional creole wear and dance. At the exhibition, participants were able to learn and enjoy origami (Japanese paper craft), calligraphy, traditional games, and massage as well as creole arts and craft, books written in creole and other creole-inspired material. During the introduction of Japanese culture, the Ambassador and his wife joined in the Japanese traditional Fisherman's dance.



From left to right: Mrs. Matsubara, H.E. Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Cletus Springer, Chair of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, and the Honorary Consul for Japan, **Mr. Hirohito Takata, Resident Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Saint Lucia, and Mr. Atsushi Saga, First Secretary, Economic and Economic Cooperation for the Embassy of Japan.**



Mr. Cletus Springer, Chair of the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, and the Honorary Consul for Japan gives remarks.



Mr. Hirohito Takata, Resident Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Saint Lucia gives remarks.



H.E. Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan gives remarks.



Japanese Martial Arts.



Japanese Traditional Wear.



Traditional St. Lucian wear.



H.E. Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan and Mrs. Matsubara perform in traditional Japanese dance.



H.E. Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan, and Mrs. Matsubara with books from the Read Japan Project.