

The 4th Central American and Caribbean Japanese Language Speech Contest

The Japanese Speech Contest of Central America and the Caribbean 2024 was held on Sunday, November 24, 2024, at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL), University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus.

Co-hosted by the Central America and Caribbean Japanese Language Education Network and the Centre for Language Learning, UWI, St. Augustine, the contest featured ten contestants from Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The winners of the contest were: Ms. Camila Mendez (Honduras), who secured first place, and Mr. Matthias Elliot (Trinidad and Tobago), who took second place. For her efforts, Ms. Mendez has won a two-week trip to Japan.

Following the contest, the Ambassador of Japan hosted a cocktail reception for all judges and contestants. Remarks were given by His Excellency Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan; Ms. Antonia Luisa Rivas Saenz, President, Central American and Caribbean Japanese Language Education Network; Ms. Asahi Kunito, Japanese Language Specialist, Japan Foundation, Mexico, and Chief Judge; Ms. Reita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign and Caricom Affairs; and Dr. Nicole Roberts, Director of the Centre for Language Learning.



H.E Ambassador Matsubara and Mrs. Matsubara poses with first and second place winners and the judges of the contest.



H.E Ambassador Matsubara and Mrs. Matsubara with organizers, judges and contestants of the contest.



H.E Ambassador Matsubara gives opening remarks at the reception.



Ms. Antonia Luisa Rivas Saenz, gives her remarks.



Ms. Asahi Kunito, gives her remarks



Ms. Reita Toussaint gives her remarks



Dr. Nicole Roberts gives her remarks



H.E. Ambassador Matsubara gives his welcome remarks at the contest.



H.E. Ambassador Matsubara and Mrs. Matsubara with organizers, judges, and contestants of the contest



Right: First place winner Ms. Camila Mendez Second place winner Mr. Matthias Elliot