

February 26, 2025

### **JET Programme Welcome Back Reception**

On Thursday, February 20, 2025, His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan, hosted a welcome back reception at the Ambassador's residence for former participants in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme who recently returned to Trinidad and Tobago following their tenure as Assistant English Language Teachers (ALTs).

In attendance at the reception were Ms. Reita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Professor Derek Chadee, Deputy Principal of the University of the West Indies, and Dr. Nicole Roberts, Director, Center for Language Learning along with specially invited guests.

During his remarks, Ambassador Umezawa commended the returning JET participants on their successful efforts as "bridge creators" between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago, alongside the JET Alumni Association of Trinidad and Tobago (JETAATT). He also encouraged reflection on the meaning and significance of the JET Programme, while highlighting the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the JETAATT in 2026.

Ms. Miriam Lochan, President of the JETAATT, delivered remarks on behalf of the Association, highlighting the camaraderie, understanding, and support it offers to former, current, and prospective JET participants in partnership with the Embassy.

Ms. Anisha Romany, a returning JET participant who was placed in Kahoku City, Ishikawa Prefecture, delivered her remarks on behalf of the returnees. Although she spent just one year in Japan, Ms. Romany emphasized that the experience had a lasting impact on her life. She shared her exciting journey on the JET Programme and expressed her strong desire to maintain ties with Japan, continuing to foster the relationship between the two countries.

After the formal program, specially invited guests and JET participants were treated to Japanese cuisine and engaged in lively conversation.

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](https://www.tt.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html)



Front Row (L-R): Ms. Reita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa and Dr. Nicole Roberts, Director, Centre for Language Learning; flanked by recent JET returnees and members of the JETAATT.



Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa gives remarks



Ms. Miriam Lochan, President of the JETAATT delivers remarks



Ms. Anisha Romany, recently returned JET participant, delivers remarks of behalf of the JET returnees





Former JET participants enjoy Japanese Cuisine



Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa shares a light moment with Professor Derek Chadee