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PRESS RELEASE

**Briefing Event with Former Participants in JICA Training Programmes**

On Thursday March 6, 2025 His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan, hosted a briefing event with former participants of technical training programmes carried out by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at his residence.

Ambassador Umezawa was joined for the occasion by Mr. Kota Sakaguchi, Chief Representative of JICA Dominican Republic Office, Ms. Anita Sohan, Director, International Cooperation Desk in the Ministry of Health, former JICA trainees from Trinidad and Tobago, as well as staff of the Embassy of Japan and the JICA Dominican Republic Office.

In his remarks, Ambassador Umezawa underscored JICA's training as a valuable opportunity for Japan to share from its own capacities and experiences with its partners around the world. Ambassador Umezawa then encouraged the creation of a local association of former JICA trainees to advance the networking fostered during the briefing event.

For his part, Mr. Kota Sakaguchi distinguished JICA's training programmes as a cooperation arrangement, rather than assistance. Further, he conveyed his anticipation for the continued success of JICA's capacity building programmes in the Caribbean region.

An informative presentation was then delivered by former trainee Dr. Roxanne Mitchell, General Manager, Primary Care Services, Tobago Regional Health Authority titled *Improving Health Literacy and Promoting Lifestyle Modifications to reduce rates of Type II Diabetes and Hypertension in Trinidad and Tobago*. During the said presentation, Dr. Mitchell identified Japanese health practices she hoped to eventually implement in Tobago.

Following the presentation, former trainees engaged in an open floor discussion where they reflected on their experiences in Japan, and the ways they applied their lessons to their areas of speciality in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Government of Japan will continue to offer its support in areas such as disaster prevention, environment, energy, waste management, fisheries and technical cooperation in order to overcome the vulnerabilities inherent to small island countries as well as to promote friendly relations and mutual understanding with Caribbean countries.

	
<p>Ambassador Umezawa delivers remarks</p>	<p>Mr. Kota Sakaguchi delivers remarks</p>
	
<p>Dr. Roxanne Mitchell delivers a health-related presentation</p>	<p>Ambassador Umezawa raises a toast with guests</p>
	
<p>(Front row- From left) Dr. Roxanne Mitchell, Ambassador Umezawa and Mr. Kota Sakaguchi pose with former trainees and staff of the Embassy of Japan and JICA Dominican Republic Office</p>	

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