

“Empowering TT and Grenadian Youth for Global Exchange” 2025 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Send-Off Reception

On July 31, 2025, the Embassy of Japan held the send-off reception and pre-departure orientation for participants of the 2025 Japan Exchange and Training (JET) Programme at the residence of H. E. Dr. UMEZAWA Akima, Ambassador of Japan. For the 2025 JET Programme Cycle, twenty (20) candidates have been selected; eighteen (18) participants from Trinidad and Tobago and two (2) from Grenada.

Ambassador UMEZAWA warmly welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of cross-cultural exchange, skill development, and personal growth through immersion in Japanese culture. Senator Professor the Honourable Prakash Persad, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, expressed his support and confidence in the hope that the participants will play a vital role in strengthening the friendly relations between Japan and their respective countries.

With warm words of encouragement from Ambassador UMEZAWA and Senator Professor the Honourable Prakash Persad, the participants departed for Japan eager to embrace their new roles. Their contributions are anticipated to further strengthen the enduring bonds of friendship between Japan, Trinidad and Tobago, and Grenada.

Participants will serve as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) in Japanese elementary, junior high, and high schools. They will also promote cultural exchange and foster global awareness within the classroom and broader communities. Participants are expected to gain valuable professional and personal experiences, including enhanced teaching skills, improved language proficiency, and deeper intercultural understanding, while contributing meaningfully to their communities and promoting their own cultures abroad.

Please visit the Embassy of Japan website for more information on the JET Programme and the Embassy’s daily activities: https://www.tt.embjapan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html



Professor Stephen Joseph, President (Ag.) of UTT, Senator Professor the Honourable Prakash Persad, Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, H.E. UMEZAWA Akima, Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Hansen Narinesingh, Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training, Dr. Keith Nurse, President of COSTATT, and Dr. Nicole Roberts, Director of the CLL, UWI, with the 2025 JET participants



Ambassador UMEZAWA gives his remarks



Senator Professor the Honourable Prakash Persad gives his remarks



Mr. Denzyl Evelyn gives his remarks on behalf of the outgoing Trinidad and Tobago JETs



Mr. Cameron Hillaire gives his remarks on behalf of the outgoing Grenada JETs



Ms. Miriam Lochan, President of the JET Alumni Association of Trinidad & Tobago, speaks at the JET Orientation



Ms. Sharon Dolabaille, Public Relations, Cultural Affairs & Programmes Coordinator, speaks at the JET Orientation



Ms. Kadeisha Edwards points out where her new home will be in Japan



Ms. Stephanie Lee places her tag by her new home in Japan



Past JETS share their experiences with
the 2025 JET participants



Guests enjoy a wide array of Japanese
cuisine

Ambassador UMEZAWA's Remarks

It's my great pleasure to extend my sincere gratitude to all the esteemed guests gathered here this evening on the occasion of the today's JET send-off reception.

I also have the privilege of welcoming many prominent professionals from the educational sector and the international affairs field in the Caribbean region. So, my purpose, this evening, is to highlight how useful, beneficial, and valuable it is to participate in the JET Programme for Caribbean young individuals. I also hope my highlights will reach the hearts of the young people who wish to participate in JET Programme next year as well as in the future through all the guests today.

Firstly, the JET Programme fosters cross-cultural exchanges, enabling participants to share common values beyond ethnic boundaries, and cultivate resilience in the face of challenges of living abroad.

Secondly, the Programme provides an opportunity to enhance educational skills through English teaching, and acquire Japanese language proficiency through daily school communication. By the end of the program, participants will be able to enjoy Japanese animation without subtitles. It's great, isn't it?

Thirdly, this is the point I envy them, the JET program offers a diverse range of tourism experiences, such as weekend short trips and long extended travels in school holiday seasons. JET Participants will also have chances to immerse themselves in Japanese festivals to enjoy Japanese local carnivals.

Fourthly, the JET Programme provides participants with a daily experience of delightful surprise, the opportunity to make new friends, and the enjoyment of new tasteful Japanese cuisine. Fortunately, both Japanese dishes and sake have been recognized as UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage. Of course, you can enjoy both today.

In addition to the foods and beverage, there are 26 UNESCO world heritage in Japan. So, participants will have the privilege of experiencing hands-on tastings and fantastic tours of UNESCO heritage, simultaneously.

Furthermore, the JET program presents a significant advantage, because you can earn a big salary. Consequently, the JET Programme offers a comprehensive and enriching experience that will leave a lasting impact on your life.

I am confident that you will have an unforgettable year from this September. Your success is entirely dependent on your efforts, your perseverance, and your motivation. I have complete faith in your ability to achieve big success.

I extend my best wishes, “bon voyage”.