

The 8th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest in Trinidad & Tobago

On November 29, 2025, the Embassy of Japan and the Centre for Language Learning (CLL), the University of West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, jointly hosted the 8th Annual Japanese Speech Contest at the CLL auditorium.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Dr. Akima UMEZAWA, Ambassador of Japan emphasized that this Contest serves as an important platform for strengthening cultural exchange between the two countries. He further highlighted the Contest's role in promoting Japanese language learning and deepening understanding of Japanese culture in Trinidad and Tobago. Ambassador UMEZAWA also expressed deep gratitude to Caribbean Gas Chemical Company (CGCL), Hachidorikai (the Japanese Ladies' Association of Trinidad and Tobago), and More Vino Restaurant for their longstanding contributions to the Contest's success, particularly in awarding special prizes to the winners. This ongoing cooperation has been fundamental to the event's eight consecutive years of operation.

In this year's Speech Contest, there were six (6) contestants; five (5) of which were in Category I (The Japan Foundation (JF) standard A1/2, study hours 100 – 200 hours) and one (1) in Category II (JF standard A2 and above, study hours 200 hours and above).

The contest was judged by Ambassador UMEZAWA, Mr. Keio KATO (Chief Executive Officer, Caribbean Gas Chemical Limited) & Ms. Asahi KUNITO (Japanese Language Education Advisor, The Japan Foundation in Mexico).

The result of the judge are as follows:

- **Category I: First Place winner**

Ms. Tershawna Glasgow Theme: "How Curry Shaped My Life"

- **Category I: Second Place winner**

Ms. Ambika Ramdass Theme: "How Anime Impacted My Life"

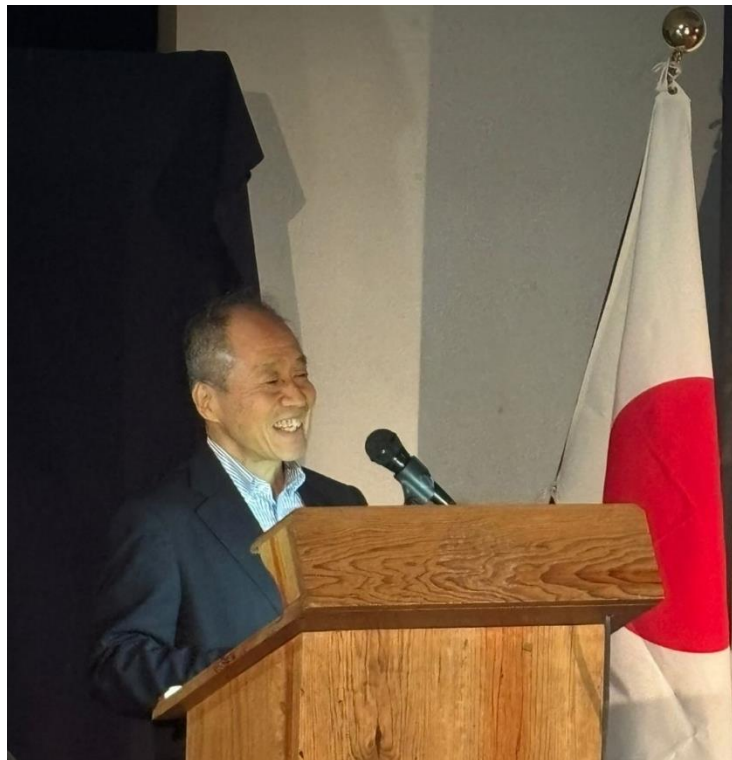
- **Category II: Recognition Award**

Ms. Ariel Procope Theme: "Nature: Positive Impact of Mangroves"

Preceding the Speech Contest, the "Japan Day" event was also organized by the Japan Cultural Association of Trinidad and Tobago (JCATT). Diverse aspects of Japanese culture, ranging from traditional arts and to contemporary pop culture, were showcased through demonstrations and hands-on experiences. It provided an invaluable opportunity for members of the public experience Japanese culture.



CLL Director Dr. Roberts gives her Welcome Remarks



Ambassador Umezawa gives his Opening Remarks



Category I: First Place winner: Ms. Tershawna Glasgow



Category I: Second Place winner - Ms. Ambika Ramdass



Category II: Recognition Award - Ms. Ariel Procope



Group photo with Contestants, Judges and Sponsors