

It's my genuine pleasure that one year has passed since my posting here in Port of Spain, in experiencing splendid events, plentiful excitement, and fruitful outcomes.

My most significant experience was, as everyone shared with me, to witness the landslide victory of the UNC, United National Congress, in the national election last April.



PHOTO CREDIT: [https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/venezuela-congratulates-kamla-persadbissessar-6.2.2295950.40eb5adbf5?fbclid=IwY2xjawQVJZdleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFramdwWjR3dW94ZjNqbDVyc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHkeYctVpkIh4loloqsitZmseYjkH\\_o8UF-nGylexcvEGGFcsCLhpfp7IMKbv\\_aem\\_g4cpcivxgJPXzeLDTmeoEQ](https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/venezuela-congratulates-kamla-persadbissessar-6.2.2295950.40eb5adbf5?fbclid=IwY2xjawQVJZdleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFramdwWjR3dW94ZjNqbDVyc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHkeYctVpkIh4loloqsitZmseYjkH_o8UF-nGylexcvEGGFcsCLhpfp7IMKbv_aem_g4cpcivxgJPXzeLDTmeoEQ)

The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar was sworn in for a second term as Prime Minister, becoming the only woman to serve as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago on two occasions.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREA DE SILVA

In the meantime, on the Japanese political scene last year, Her Excellency Sanae Takaichi was elected Japan's first female prime minister, a landmark moment for the historically conservative society in Japanese politics.



PHOTO CREDIT: <https://www.kantei.go.jp/jp/rekidainaikaku/105.html>

I feel a strong commonality between the two nations. The Honourable Kamla Persad-Bissessar was awarded the People's Choice winner of the Caribbean Global Leader 2025 in September, while Her Excellency Sanae Takaichi was ranked third in the World's Most Powerful Women by Forbes in 2025. The common trait between the two great politicians is undoubtedly their strong, robust leadership.



PHOTO CREDIT: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14XR6NT1Zbc/> (JAPAN TIMES)

Another commonality I discovered last year is that both countries are partners for a future society. In October, the University of the West Indies formalized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Japanese company Niterra Co., Ltd. to pioneer a groundbreaking green hydrogen initiative in Trinidad and Tobago.



The Japanese company identified a suitable site for its sophisticated hydrogen technology at the muscular petrochemical infrastructure of Point Lisas.



PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD RAMIREZ IMAGING [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PHOTO/?FBID=1114371742243632&SET=A.509954387814645](https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1114371742243632&set=a.509954387814645)

For such clean hydrogen power, Toyota, the world’s leading car manufacturer, has already developed the commercial basis vehicle of a hydrogen energy powerhouse, the “Mirai”. The name “Mirai” means “future” in Japanese. As one of the market-sharing leaders, Toyota tonight exhibits its state-of-the-art technology just outside this hall. The brand name “Yaris”, which highlights the most fuel-efficient passenger car in the world.



PHOTO CREDIT: [HTTPS://GLOBAL.TOYOTA/EN/MOBILITY/TOYOTA-BRAND/GALLERY/MIRAI.HTML](https://global.toyota/en/mobility/toyota-brand/gallery/mirai.html)

Next, I would like to move onto the sports world. In January this year, the legendary athlete Mr Keshorn Walcott was named First Citizens Sportsman of the Year 2025.

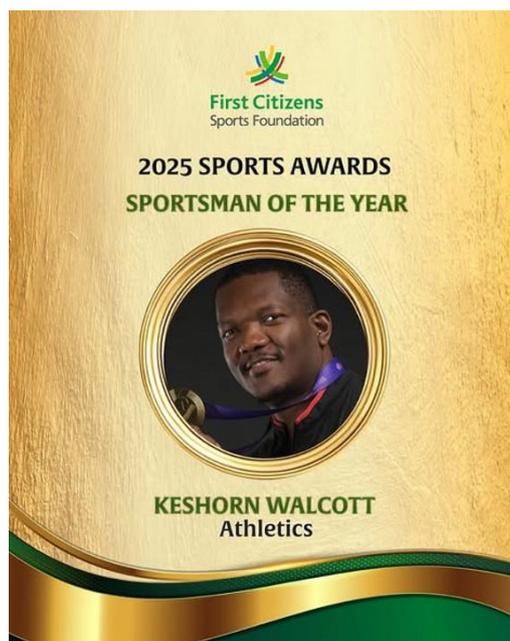


PHOTO CREDIT: FIRST CITIZENS [HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARE/14FN8SYIHNW/](https://www.facebook.com/share/14FN8SYIHNW/)

He is widely recognized as the 2012 Olympic Gold Medallist of javelin excellence.



PHOTO CREDIT: [HTTPS://NEWSDAY.CO.TT/2021/07/23/MIND-OVER-MATTER-THE-OLYMPIAN-MINDSET/6934196-3/](https://newsday.co.tt/2021/07/23/MIND-OVER-MATTER-THE-OLYMPIAN-MINDSET/6934196-3/)

Last September, he returned to the summit of his discipline by winning the World Athletics Championships title in Tokyo, Japan – his first global gold medal in over a decade since his Olympic victory.



PHOTO CREDIT: [HTTPS://NEWSDAY.CO.TT/2025/09/18/KESHORN-LANDS-JAVELIN-GOLD-AT-WORLD-CHAMPS/](https://newsday.co.tt/2025/09/18/KESHORN-LANDS-JAVELIN-GOLD-AT-WORLD-CHAMPS/) AP

I'm convinced the enthusiastic support from the Japanese audience miraculously pushed his javelin flying faster and higher.



PHOTO CREDIT: GUARDIAN [HTTPS://WWW.GUARDIAN.CO.TT/SPORTS/WALCOTT-LANDS-WORLD-JAVELIN-GOLD-6.2.2404007.518D8FAE57](https://www.guardian.co.tt/sports/walcott-lands-world-javelin-gold-6.2.2404007.518d8fae57)

It could be a synergy, and we Japanese were so delighted by the tireless spirit and astonishing strength of the Trinidadian legend.

I also would like to touch upon the World Expo Osaka 2025 held in Japan last year.

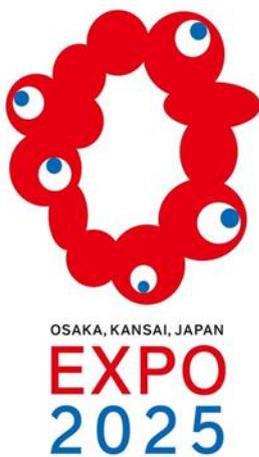


PHOTO CREDIT: [HTTPS://WWW.KANPAI-JAPAN.COM/JAPAN-IN-THE-WORLD/EXPO-2025-OSAKA](https://www.kanpai-japan.com/japan-in-the-world/expo-2025-osaka)

The Expo significantly drew the attention of many Japanese people who were captivated by Trinidad and Tobago's music, parade dancing, and fashion.



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAM PHELAN, JAPAN EXPO 2025

During the six-month Expo Osaka, the Trinidad and Tobago Pavilion attracted more than 600,000 visitors to its enjoyable cultural exhibitions, which showcased the steelpan, a TT's symbol of creativity, resilience, and national pride.



PHOTO CREDIT: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS

On 11 August, World Steelpan Day, Japanese spectators were so impressed by the vibrant carnival parade.



PHOTO CREDIT: EXPO 2025 JAPAN [https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNNlrXgoCmg/?utm\\_source=ig\\_web\\_copy\\_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNNlrXgoCmg/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==)

The Honourable Minister Sobers represented the government and highlighted the steelpan's role in promoting an inclusive society, sustainable communities, and the creative economy.

In the meantime, here in Trinidad and Tobago, numerous Japanese cultural events were held last year. In May, Japan donated over 100 books on Japanese history, economy, and literature to the National Library of Trinidad and Tobago.



A ladies' Japanese cultural association presented so many hands-on experiences of Japanese culture for hundreds of Trinidadians, particularly children, around the country.



In August, one of TT's organizers presented a two-day event of Japanese animation and cosplay at the Trincity Centre of Excellence. The event, named ALIAS Entertainment Expo, attracted more than 3,000 attendees from across the nation.



So, I am delighted to work here in such a highly Japanese-friendly country.

Another fascinating experience since my posting here has been to appreciate the beautiful, colorful, and cheerful birds. I have enjoyed taking bird photography for around a year. I hope you can enjoy my printed photographs on the tables in this hall.



In 2025, another epoch-making news for Japanese society was that two prominent Japanese scientists won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and Physiology or Medicine, respectively.

## Japanese Nobel Prize Laurates in 2025

**KITAGAWA Susumu : Chemistry**  
**Metal-Organic Frameworks**  
**Foundational work on**  
**molecular building blocks**

**SAKAGUCHI Shimon : Physiology/Medicine**  
**Peripheral immune tolerance**  
**Discovery of regulatory T Cells**

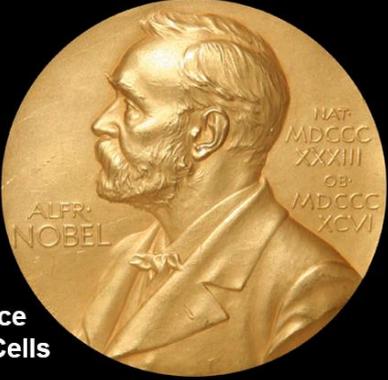


PHOTO CREDIT: BY PHOTOGRAPH: JONATHUNDERMEDAL: ERIK LINDBERG (1873-1966) - DERIVATIVE OF FILE:NOBELPRIZE.JPG, PD-US, [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/W/INDEX.PHP?CURID=58432969](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?curid=58432969)

In the last decade, more than ten Japanese Nobel Laureates have been bestowed the world's most prestigious awards in various categories, including Physics, Literature, and Peace, not only Chemistry and Physiology or Medicine.

 <b>Japanese Nobel Laureates in the last Decade</b>				
Year	Laureate	Organization	Award	Achievement
2014	NAKAMURA Shuji	California Uni	Physics	Blue light emitting diode
2014	AMANO Hiroshi	Nagoya Uni	Physics	White Colour Blue LED
2014	AKAZAKI Isamu	Nagoya Uni	Physics	White Colour Blue LED
2015	OMURA Satoshi	Kitasato Institute	Physiology/ Medicine	New infection therapy
2015	KAJITA Takaaki	Tokyo Uni	Physics	Neutrino oscillation
2016	OSUMI Yoshinori	Tokyo Uni	Physiology/ Medicine	Autophagy
2017	ISHIGURO Kazuo	Freelance	Literature	Novels
2018	HONJO Tasuku	Kyoto Uni	Physiology/ Medicine	Cancer immunotherapy
2019	YOSHINO Akira	Osaka Uni	Chemistry	Lithium-ion battery
2021	MANABE Toshiro	Princeton Uni	Physics	Global warming system
2024	Gen-Sui-Kyo	Gen-Sui-Kyo	Peace	World without Nuclear Weapons
2025	KITAGAWA Susumu	Kyoto Uni	Chemistry	Metal-organic framework
2025	SAKAGUCHI Shimon	Osaka Uni	Physiology/ Medicine	Peripheral immune tolerance

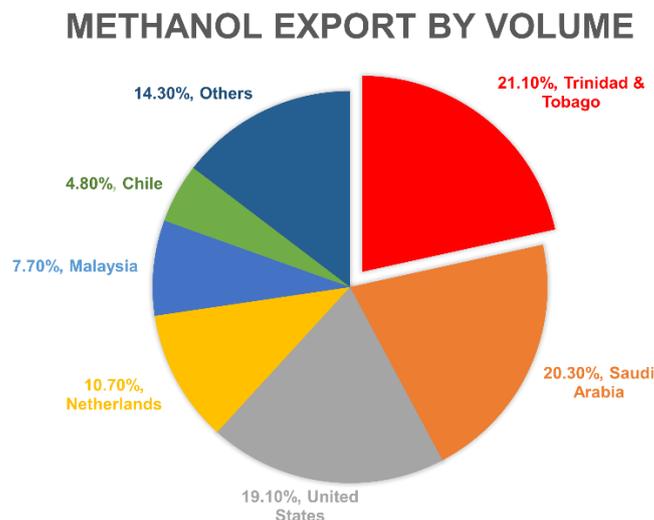
However, there is one category missing: the Nobel Prize in Economics. Some suggest that Japanese people are not particularly adept at making money, like me. That's why it is so important to foster close cooperation with Trinidad and Tobago.

For example, Caribbean Gas Chemical Limited (CGCL), a company established by a Japanese enterprise, Mitsubishi Corporation, is one of the largest methanol producers in this country.



PHOTO CREDIT: CGCL

Then, Trinidad and Tobago has been the world's largest methanol export country for many years.



[HTTPS://WITS.WORLDBANK.ORG/TRADE/COMTRADE/EN/COUNTRY/ALL/YEAR/2024/TRADEFLOW/EXPORTS/PARTNER/WLD/PRODUCT/290511](https://wits.worldbank.org/trade/comtrade/en/country/all/year/2024/tradeflow/exports/partner/wld/product/290511)

This is a good example of how close cooperation and collaboration between us have yielded significant results.

Finally, it is truly a fruitful year for me in 2025 to 2026, and there are enormous possibilities that our synergy could make the greatest contributions to global prosperity.



Thank you very much.