

**Miss Shorna-Kay Richards – Ambassador-designate to Japan**



A career diplomat, Miss Richards has been a member of the Foreign Service for over 25 years and is presently the Director of the Bilateral Relations Department in the Ministry. She was previously assigned as Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, New York and also served at the Jamaican Embassy and the Permanent Mission to the OAS in Washington, DC as well as at Jamaican High Commission in Pretoria.

With vast expertise in bilateral and multilateral affairs, the foreign service veteran has supported efforts to secure increased access to official development assistance, technical cooperation, human resource development, and trade and investment opportunities.

At the multilateral level, she has worked extensively in the field of international security and disarmament, having served as Vice-Chair of the UN Disarmament Commission and was also a facilitator for the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations. She has served as lead negotiator in the UN Nuclear Ban Treaty process and was also actively engaged in negotiations on oceans and the law of the sea.

Miss Richards holds a Master's degree in International Policy and Practice from the Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University, USA. She also obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of the West Indies and is a past student of the Bishop Gibson and Hampton High Schools for girls.

The Ambassador-designate is expected to assume duties in September 2020. Her jurisdiction will include several other countries in Asia.