

## **Presentation of Copy Letters of Credentials by Jamaica’s Ambassador-designate Shorna-Kay M. Richards to Japan’s Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Takeo Akiba**

Ambassador-designate of Jamaica to Japan, Shorna-Kay M. Richards, presented her Copy Letters of Credentials to the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Takeo Akiba, on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.



During the discussion, the two officials expressed their commitment to working closely together to strengthen the longstanding partnership between Jamaica and Japan. The Ambassador-designate pledged to build on the successful outcome of Prime Minister Andrew Holness’ Official Working Visit to Japan in December 2019, including deepening cooperation in the areas of disaster risk reduction, education, tourism resilience and sport and culture. Forging closer trade and investment ties remain a top priority. She also indicated the desire to explore new areas for enhanced cooperation to cover digitalization, among other spheres of mutual interest.

Both officials highlighted the importance of international cooperation and solidarity to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, Ambassador-designate Richards used the opportunity to reiterate Jamaica’s gratitude to Japan for its continued partnership and friendship in extending Grant Aid to help bolster Jamaica’s COVID-19 response.

The Ambassador-designate reaffirmed Jamaica’s commitment to support Japan’s hosting of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, currently rescheduled for 2021, stating that “we share Prime Minister Suga’s view that the hosting of the Games next year is proof that humanity has defeated the pandemic”. The Vice-Minister expressed Japan’s appreciation and indicated that “we are looking forward to welcoming the athletes from Jamaica”.

The meeting ended on a high note, with both officials expressing a keen interest in continued dialogue on the dynamic work programme between the two countries.