

The Sunday Gleaner
Arts & Education

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SECTION E

POSTCARD FROM JAPAN

Tokyo Sky Tree:
**Tradition in
 harmony with
 technology**

TOKYO, Japan:
TOKYO SKY Tree literally kisses the stratosphere, rising 634 metres above the ground, and the view of the vast expanse of one of the world's most vibrant cities from Tembo Galleria, the observation deck that culminates at 451.2 metres, is awe-inspiring.
 This towering marvel of engineering is



Amitabh Sharma

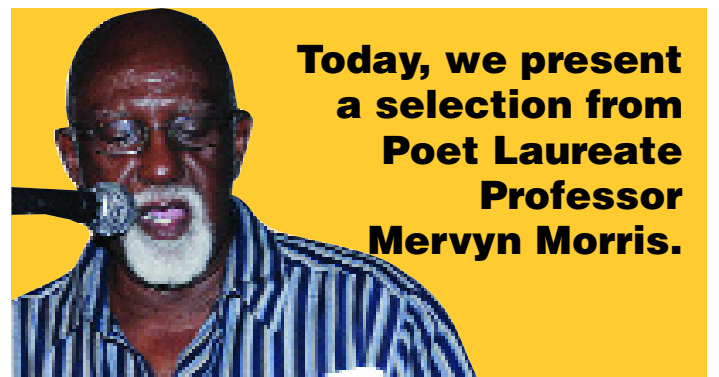
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the transmission hub for major television and radio channels in Tokyo, and, of course, a tourist hotspot.
 "The need to construct this tower arose to facilitate smooth and uninterrupted radio transmission as a

PLEASE SEE **HARMONY, E4.**

PHOTO BY AMITABH SHARMA

Towering glory: Tokyo Sky Tree rises above the city's skyline. At 634 metres, it is the tallest tower in the world



Today, we present a selection from **Poet Laureate Professor Mervyn Morris.**

The Poet Laureate of Jamaica Presents...
From our Poetry Books



MORNING
 by Stewart Brown

Bright, purple waking,
 nothing grey or sallow
 about this Saint's town

on a rum-scarred
 morning. . . Sunlight, squeezed
 between bread-fruit

and galvanize, splinters
 across the yard. That
 transforming lick

of fire, red and raucous
 as our rooster,
 has changed the world

has opened the eyellids
 of affection, turned
 this exile to a home.

From Elsewhere (Peepal Tree, 1999)

From Our Poetry Books, a weekly feature, presents a Jamaican poem selected by the Poet Laureate of Jamaica, Mervyn Morris.





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HARMONY

CONTINUED FROM E1

lot of buildings in Tokyo were 200 metres high," informed

Hiroyuki Ami from Secretariat of Public Relations, Tobu Tower Skytree Co Ltd. Sky Tree, rising above the expanse of a city inhabited by more than 13 million people, has been recognised by the

Guinness World Records Company as the tallest tower in the world.

The pristine white steel structure incorporates elements of traditional Japanese minimalism in design. The decision to paint the tower in white is a confluence of harmony with its surroundings. "The creation of city scenery transcending time," said the official communiqué of Sky Tree. "A fusion of traditional Japanese beauty and neo-futuristic design."

INDIGO LEGACY

The colour of Sky Tree is derived from 'ajiro', the lightest shade of Japanese traditional indigo blue, which replicates the technique of indigo dyers, which represent the legacy of Japanese traditional craftsmanship as conserved in the downtown area housing the tower.

The tower is 634m high, and there is a reason behind this height.

"The height was 610m in the original project," said Ami. "After research on high-rise buildings that are being built around the world, the height was finally decided on 634m.

The sound of the number '634' when read in old Japanese numbers is 'mu-sashi', which reminds Japanese people of Musashi Province that used to cover Tokyo, Saitama and part of Kanagawa Prefecture.

From the Observation Decks, the landscape of the old Musashi Province spreads out.

Tokyo Sky Tree, supported by myriad steel tubes in its core – an estimated 37,000 steel girders give it strength, a foundation of reinforced concrete embedded 35 to 50 metres into the ground and 96 vibration dampers to absorb the earthquake shocks and



Massive steel tubes in Tokyo Sky Tree's core – an estimated 37,000 steel girders give strength to this tower.



PHOTO BY AMITABH SHARMA

Visitors enjoy the views from Tembo Deck on the 350th floor of Tokyo Sky Tree.



Visitors at Tembo Galleria – 450th floor of Tokyo Sky Tree.

BELOW: Art in the tree, representations of Tokyo Sky Tree in 3D installations.



reduce the swaying.

Four elevators, zipping at the speed of 600 metres per minute, represent four seasons, transport visitors to the Tembo deck where they get a panoramic view of Tokyo city and its environs. On a clear day, one can see Mount Fuji.

VISITORS AWED

On the 450th floor, on the Tembo Deck, Sorakara Point at 451.2 metres is the highest elevation of the observation deck. Visitors stand transfixed, awed and struck by the sheer magnitude of elevation, gazing, photographing, and panning the Lego-like city around them in the glitzy observation decks.


The smooth running of this gigantic structure is in the hands of Tomoyuki Hidaka and his team of 12. Two levels

below ground level, they work round the clock, harnessing geothermal energy to keep residents, businesses and visitors to Tokyo Sky Tree Town cool and comfortable.

"We work day and night to monitor the process of using geothermal energy to produce hot or cold water, which is stored in 7,000-ton capacity storage tanks," said Hidaka, manager of Energy Centre of Tobu Energy Management Co Ltd.

This technology, Hidaka explained, is helping to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as the main source of powering the air-conditioning systems is water, which he said, is also used to water the plants in the mini city surrounding the Sky Tree, and can be used for firefighting and its 230,000 residents if natural disaster strikes.

Tokyo Sky Tree, a marvel of engineering and craft – rising to touch the skies, yet grounded in



Spanish Town High School
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Special Congratulations to:

NAMES	PASSES	NAMES	PASSES
Patrick Burke	8	Annalee Whittaker	5
Raheem Pinnock	7	Natasha Whittle	5
Sherry-Kay Gilbert	7	Latoya Williams	5
Mahalia Evans	7	Tevin Wilson	5
Sabrina Ashley Johnson	7	Amanda Wisdom	5
Dimitrian Bennett	6	Jellisa Allen	4
Carlene Brown	6	Ann-Ashawna Baker	4
Taiyana Clarke	6	Havinash Brown	4
Denesiha Crosdale	6	Randal Brown	4
Danielle Fearon	6	Cristal Cameron	4
Akelah Gordon	6	Jhenelle Crawford	4
Kadesha Grant	6	Jevaughn Dean	4
Mickhalia Green	6	Shamona Fearon	4
Daniel Harris	6	Shanate Forbes	4
Joel Hall	6	Kedisha Fortella	4
Indra Jones	6	Toni-Ann Gayle	4
Chadray Kenyon	6	Roxann Gordon	4
Kimarily Malcolm	6	Shavel Grant	4
Olephia Walters	6	Simone Henry	4
Kimberly Williams	6	Tasan Hall	4
Geogian Wright	6	Shania Johnson	4
Kimberly Aiken	5	Johnell Kerr	4
Ajomoie Anglin	5	Britaneia Maxwell	4
Atiba Bailey	5	Gabrielle McNuff	4
Andre Cole	5	Ackeeem Mitchell	4
Corie Eastwood	5	Amoy Morgan	4
Christian Ellis	5	Remona Morgan	4
Mickey Ann Fagan	5	Rose-Marie Nelson	4
Tasana Gordon	5	Rushawn Nembhard	4
Abi-Gay Grant	5	Natan Prince	4
Drucilla Hall	5	Kemar Pryce	4
Ashly Heslop	5	Monique Robinson	4
Jevon Hibbert	5	Samantha Salmon	4
Jody-Ann Hylton	5	Natassia Simms	4
Romario Lawrence	5	Shackera Simms	4
Rashaad Miller	5	Yanique Spreddie	4
Sharifa Nelson	5	Tamara Stephenson	4
Sidony Parkes	5	Tavaughn Walters	4
Britany Reid	5	Tyreke Walters	4
Curtis Robinson	5	Kavon Williams	4
Leeann Rowe	5	Nyoka Willimas	4
Favene Scottman	5	Shackeil Woodburn	4
Diana Surgeon	5	Abigail Wright	4
Rinaldo Valentine	5		


34 Students Passed 3 Subjects

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PHOTO BY AMITABH SHARMA
Highest point at Tembo Galleria on the 450th floor of Tokyo Sky Tree.

earth – a confluence of the endearing human spirit, spiritual realism and humility of character.

■ The visit to Japan is part of 'Pacific Islands and Caribbean Journalists' Programme' organised by the Tokyo based Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) with support from Foreign Press Centre, Japan.
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