

## **The Emperor's Birthday Reception**

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, the reception to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan was held at the residence of His Excellency Mitsuhiko Okada, Ambassador of Japan, with over 100 guests in attendance, including Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, the Honourable Chief Justice Ivor Archie, the Honourable Major General Edmund Dillion, Minister of National Security and the Honourable Darryl Smith, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs.

The Reception began with the national anthems of both Trinidad and Tobago and Japan, which was played by steel pan players from the Pan-Demonium Steel Orchestra, followed by a speech from Ambassador Okada. In his speech, Ambassador Okada referred to Japan's diplomatic relations during this year, noting the G7 2016 Ise-Shima Summit and the Fifth Japan-CARICOM Ministerial-Level Conference, as well as deepening relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago, such as the dispatch of a record-number of English teachers from Trinidad and Tobago to Japan under the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program as well as the progress of gas chemical projects supported by Japanese investors.

Following Ambassador Okada's speech, Minister Moses, on behalf of Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Government and people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, made remarks to celebrate the birthday of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan and highlighted the bilateral cooperation between the two countries, using the example of the Japanese Grass-roots Human Security Grant Project for disaster relief management in Matelot, Trinidad.

During the Reception, guests were entertained with various activities that were organized as an introduction to Japanese culture, such as Japanese Sake tasting, a demonstration of Sushi making (using freshly harvested Japanese rice), as well as several displays of Bonsai. A photo exhibition showing the Embassy's activities of the year was also featured.



Japanese Ambassador Mitsuhiro Okada delivers his speech at the reception



Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Minister Dennis Moses gives remarks at the reception



Some of the Bonsai on display at the reception



Guests view the Photo Panel Exhibition



Steel Pan Players perform the National Anthems of both countries



Staff of the Embassy assist guests with their tasting of Japanese Sake



The table is laid for the introduction of New Japanese Rice



Guests sample sushi during the Sushi Making Demonstration