

The Emperor's Birthday Reception

On December 6th, the reception to celebrate the Birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan was held at the residence of His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan, with over 150 guests in attendance, including the Honourable Stewart Young, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (ag), members of the diplomatic corps and other specially invited guests.

The Reception began with the national anthems of both Trinidad and Tobago and Japan, which was played by steel pan players from the PCS Nitrogen Steel Orchestra, followed by a speech from Ambassador Okada. In his speech, Ambassador Okada highlighted the deepening of bilateral relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago during this year, including the visits of His Excellency Kentaro Sonoura, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Mr. Kenya Akiba, Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the Special Committee on Disasters to Trinidad and Tobago as well as the strengthening of cultural and academic ties.

Following Ambassador Okada's speech, Minister Young, on behalf of Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, made remarks to celebrate the birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and praised the successful bilateral cooperation between the two countries, including the Japanese Grass-roots Human Security Grant Projects as well as the gas chemical plant project in La Brea supported by the Mitsubishi Group.

During the Reception, Ambassador Okada conferred of the Japanese National Decoration, "The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette" upon Mr. E. Gervase Warner, President and Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Massy Holdings Limited. Mr. Warner became the first Trinidad and Tobago national to receive a national decoration from Japan. Various other activities were organized to showcase Japanese culture, such as Japanese Sake tasting, a demonstration of Takoyaki making, as well as a display of Japanese calendars. Vehicles from the Massy Motors and Toyota were also on show along with a display from Caribbean Gas Chemicals Limited (CGCL).

END



Ambassador Okada delivering remarks



The Hon. Stewart Young delivering remarks



From left, Mrs. Okada, the Hon. Stewart Young, Ambassador Okada and Mr. Gervase Warner



Conferment of decoration to Mr. Warner



Japanese Vehicle exhibition



CGCL booth