

Japanese Night and Opening Ceremony @NALIS’ “Asian Nights 2” - Wednesday May 14, 2025

The Embassy of Japan in collaboration with the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) hosted “Asian Nights 2”, from May 14 – 16, 2025 at the National Library of Trinidad and Tobago, Abercromby Street, Port of Spain. The festivities commenced with the Japanese Night and an engaging Opening Ceremony on Wednesday 14 May.

Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa introduced the array of cultural activities, in his the-shorter-the-better speech, throughout the evening and offered exquisite Japanese cuisine such as sushi and sake. Both of which have been recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2013 and 2024, respectively.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Umezawa, presented NALIS with a donation of Japanese books under the READ JAPAN PROJECT to enrich the library’s collection.

The opening ceremony featured captivating martial arts demonstrations by the members of the Trinidad and Tobago Kendo Federation and the Queen’s Park Judo Club.

The Embassy fully appreciates the Hachirdorikai (Japanese Ladies Association of Trinidad and Tobago) for their tremendous support for the cultural workshops throughout the evening.

Japanese Book Donation Handing Over Ceremony

Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan presents a certificate to Ms. Paula Greene, Executive Director, National Library, and Information System Authority (NALIS) in recognition of the donation of one hundred and fifty – seven (157) Japanese books through the READ JAPAN PROJECT.



Kendo and Judo Display

The audience was captivated by a dynamic Kendo performance by members of the Trinidad and Tobago Kendo Federation. This was then followed by an informative Judo demonstration

presented by the Queen's Park Judo Club.



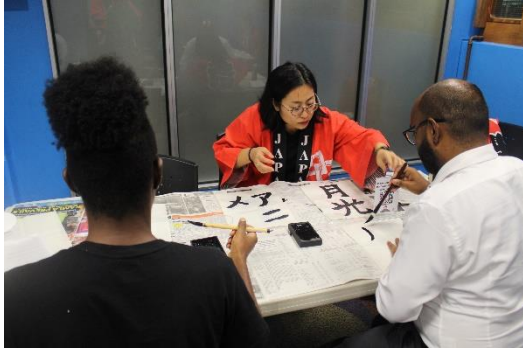
Origami Booth

Origami, the traditional Japanese art of paper folding, was a highlight of the event. Attendees had the opportunity to learn how to create simple origami designs and proudly took home their handmade creations.



Calligraphy Booth

Japanese calligraphy (書道, shodō), is a form of calligraphy, or artistic writing, of the Japanese language. Attendees enjoyed being able to write words or their names using traditional writing instruments such as brush and ink.



Yukata Wearing Booth

A yukata is an unlined cotton summer kimono, worn in casual settings such as summer festivals and to nearby bathhouses. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to try on the yukata and posing in the photobooth.



Japanese Exhibition

The Embassy of Japan proudly displayed an array of cultural artifacts, including a traditional Hina Doll set, a tea ceremony display, Kabuto helmets, taiko drums, architectural models of temples and castles and a wakizashi (Japanese short sword).

