

Embassy of Japan hosts Live Shakuhachi Concert celebrating 50 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Grenada

On November 13, 2025, the Embassy of Japan hosted a “Live Shakuhachi Concert: An Enchanting Evening of Traditional Japanese Bamboo Flute Music” at the Grenada Boys’ Secondary School, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Grenada. The concert, featuring the performance of Japanese “Shakuhachi” performer, Mr. Yosuke Irie, brought together distinguished guests, government officials, and the public in an evening that beautifully reflected five decades of friendship, cooperation, and shared cultural appreciation.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Dr. UMEZAWA Akima, Ambassador of Japan to Grenada, paid tribute to the golden jubilee of diplomatic relations between the two nations. He noted that this year’s celebrations began with Grenada’s lively carnival parade in Osaka, Japan during EXPO 2025’s Grenada National Day. Ambassador UMEZAWA further drew a symbolic connection between Japan and Grenada, highlighting bamboo as a shared natural element in both nations. He also expressed Japan’s deep gratitude to the Government and people of Grenada for their lasting friendship and cooperation over the past fifty years.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the Government of Grenada, the Honourable Adrian Thomas, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Export Development and the Minister for Toursim, the Creative Economy and Culture commended the longstanding partnership between Grenada and Japan with half a century of cooperation friendship and shared values. He acknowledged the culture and heritage on display with the evenings concert and advocated for deeper ties, not only at the policy level, but through people-to-people exchanges.

The evening’s featured performer, Mr. Irie, an acclaimed musician and composer, captivated the audience with the soulful sounds of the traditional Japanese bamboo flute. The concert also featured a special joint performance with the Grenada National School Orchestra, showcasing the harmony and power of cultural exchange in strengthening the bonds of friendship between both nations.

The concert was well attended with a number of distinguished guests, including the Honourable Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada; the Honourable Minister Adrian Thomas, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Export Development and the Minister for Toursim, the Creative Economy and Culture; the Honourable Philip Telesford, Minister for Health; Mrs. Roxie McLeish-Hutchinson, Permanent Secretary with responsibility for Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Export Development; and Dr. Nicole Phillip, Honorary Consul of Japan in Grenada.



His Excellency Dr. Akima UMEZAWA, Ambassador of Japan to Grenada, delivers opening remarks celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Grenada.



The Honourable Adrian Thomas, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Export Development and the Minister for Tourism, the Creative Economy and Culture delivers remarks



Mr. Yosuke Irie, renowned Japanese Shakuhachi musician and composer, enchants the audience with a mesmerizing performance



The Grenada National School Orchestra with Mr. Yosuke Irie perform together in a special collaborative performance.



The Grenada National School Orchestra and Mr. Yosuke Irie pose with Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, centre; Ambassador Umezawa Akime, first centre left; Minister Adrian Thomas, second centre left; Minister Philip Telesford, second centre right; and Dr. Nicole Phillip, Honorary Consul of Japan in Grenada, first centre left.

