

Embassy of Japan hosts Live Shakuhachi Concert, the Sound of Bamboo: An Evening of Traditional Japanese Bamboo Flute Music

On March 21, 2026, the Embassy of Japan hosted a “Live Shakuhachi Concert, the Sound of Bamboo: An Evening of Traditional Japanese Bamboo Flute Music” at the Centre for Language Learning, University of the West Indies, St Augustine. The concert featured the performance of a Japanese “Shakuhachi” performer, Mr. Yosuke Irie. In attendance was The Honourable Khadijah Ameen, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, The Honourable Dr. Michael Dowlath, Minister of Education.

In his opening remarks, His Excellency Dr. UMEZAWA Akima, Ambassador of Japan to Trinidad and Tobago, reflected on the natural significance of bamboo in Japan, drawing a meaningful connection to Trinidad and Tobago’s own lush landscapes where bamboo is widely found. He also highlighted that the Shakuhachi embodies a shared natural heritage and symbolizes the profound connection between the two nations.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honourable Khadijah Ameen, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government, acknowledged the strong diplomatic relations with the Ambassador and expressed appreciation for Japan’s donation of sargassum removal equipment. She highlighted the uniqueness of the Shakuhachi and the creative use of bamboo in Japanese culture. She commended the Embassy’s efforts to promote cultural exchange in Trinidad and Tobago.

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 guest performance by pannist Mr. Emmanuel Joseph, who performed popular Japanese anime theme songs. Prior to the performance, Mr. Irie presented a Shakuhachi flute to the Japanese Ladies Association of Trinidad and Tobago (Hachidorikai) as a symbolic gesture of cultural exchange.



His Excellency Dr. Akima UMEZAWA, Ambassador of Japan, delivers opening remarks.



The Honourable Khadijah Ameen, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government gives her remarks on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.



Group Photo (From left The Honourable Dr. Michael Dowlath, Minister of Education, Mr. Emmanuel Joseph, Mr. Irie, and His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa)



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



Guest pannist, Mr. Emmanuel Joseph performs a popular Japanese anime theme song.



Mr. Irie presents the Shakuhachi flute to Ms. Ashlyn Bute, President of the Japanese Ladies Association