

## **Embassy of Japan Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with a Live Shakuhachi Concert in Suriname**

On March 27, 2026, the Embassy of Japan co-organized a Live Shakuhachi Concert at Spice Quest in Paramaribo, Suriname, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Conservatorium Suriname, and Spice Quest, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Suriname. The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Japan through the eloquent sounds of the traditional bamboo flute, the Shakuhachi.

The concert featured renowned Shakuhachi master and composer, Mr. Yosuke Irie, whose masterful performances captivated the audience and created an atmosphere of serenity and deep appreciation for traditional Japanese music. Attendees were treated to a unique musical experience that highlighted the depth and beauty of Japanese artistic expression.

Following his performance, Mr. Irie engaged with attendees, sharing insights into the history and techniques of playing the Shakuhachi. As a meaningful gesture of cultural exchange and friendship between Japan and Suriname, Mr. Irie presented a Shakuhachi to Ms. Charmain Belfor, Director of Conservatorium Suriname symbolizing the continued strengthening of cultural ties between both countries.

The Embassy of Japan remains committed to fostering mutual understanding and cultural collaboration and looks forward to continued engagement with the people of Suriname.



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



Mr. Yosuke Irie and His Excellency Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ambassador of Japan, present a Shaku-hachi as a token of friendship to Ms. Charmain Belfor, Director of Conservatorium Suriname.



Mr. Yosuke Irie with a member of the audience who joined the hands-on demonstration of playing the Shaku-hachi.



Mr. Irie guides a member of the audience on the correct placement of the Shaku-hachi.



Mr. Yosuke Irie instructs a member of the audience on the breathing technique required to play the Shaku-hachi.