

Embassy of Japan Hosts Japanese Sake and Washoku Experience at Soft Box Gallery

On July 31, 2026, the Embassy of Japan in collaboration with Soft Box Art Gallery, hosted a Japanese Sake and Washoku Experience, drawing approximately 70 guests at the gallery, for an evening dedicated to Japan's culinary traditions.

Sake is a traditional Japanese alcoholic beverage produced by fermenting steamed rice with, koji (rice mould), and yeast. Crafted by more than 3,000 breweries across Japan, sake is celebrated for its meticulous craftsmanship and its ability to pair exceptionally well with Japanese cuisine. In recognition of its cultural significance, sake production was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2024.

Guests were treated to a premium selection of Japanese sake, paired with an array of traditional Washoku dishes, Japan's traditional dietary culture. Washoku emphasizes the use of fresh, seasonal ingredients, a deep respect for nature, and a balanced approach to nutrition and presentation. Like sake-making, Washoku is recognized by UNESCO and was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2013.

The evening offered guests a rare opportunity to learn of the depth and artistry of Japanese food and beverage culture in an intimate setting, further strengthening appreciation for Japan's culinary heritage in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Embassy of Japan remains committed to promoting Japanese cuisine and fostering closer ties between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago through cultural exchange and public engagement initiatives.



Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa gives sake lecture.



Ms. Hosein, Soft Box Gallery's owner, gives welcome remarks.



From left to right: Ms. Michelle Ann Thomas, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Mrs. Ayanna Gaspard-Clarke, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa, Ms. Abigail



From left to right: Senator the Honourable Phillip Alexander, Minister of Ministry of Housing, The Honourable Khadijah Ameen, Minister of Rural Development and Local Government,

Bynoe, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism, Ms. Annalean Inniss, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ms. Trudy Lewis, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice

Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa, The Honourable Devesh Maharaj, Minister of Justice.



Guests look on as Ambassador Dr. Akima Umezawa gives sake lecture.