

The Emperor's Birthday Celebration Reception 2015.12.9

A reception to celebrate the 82nd birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan was held at the residence of His Excellency Mitsuhiro Okada, Ambassador of Japan, on December 9, 2015 with a total of about 130 guests in attendance.

This special event was attended by dignitaries, including Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses, Minister of CARICOM and Foreign Affairs, as the guest of honour and representative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago; Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry; the Honourable Nyan Gadsby Dolly, Minister of Community Development, Culture and Arts; the Honourable Ancil Antoine, Minister of Public Utilities; and Senator the Honourable Nigel De Freitas, Vice President of the Senate.

At this year's reception, the national anthems of Trinidad and Tobago and Japan were performed by local steel pan players. Ambassador Okada then addressed the gathering, noting the close bilateral relations which exist between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago. Ambassador Okada also expressed solidarity with the people affected by terrorist acts around the world. Another notable portion of Ambassador Okada's address included an announcement by His Excellency Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, at the COP21 Meeting in Paris, where the Prime Minister announced new climate change measures. Ambassador Okada then invited guests to experience "washoku" or Japanese traditional cuisine, which has been added to UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritages.

In his remarks, the Foreign Minister Moses, extended greetings on behalf of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, and the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago. The Honourable Minister also offered best wishes to His Majesty the Emperor of Japan on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday. Minister Moses highlighted the technical cooperation by JICA, the work of the JET program (Program for youth from overseas to teach English language in Japan), as well as the investment by Japanese companies, especially the methanol and DME production plant project. Minister Moses also noted the cultural exchange between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago through the steel pan, and expressed his appreciation for Japan's contributions to anti-climate change measures, which were announced at this year's COP21 Meeting.

During the reception, guests were treated to a number of cultural activities which included the sampling of Japanese sake, a sushi demonstration, a bonsai exhibition, an origami exhibition with origami souvenirs, and a photo panel display showcasing the Embassy's activities for 2015.

National anthem playing / steel pan player

My speech / Okada Ambassador other party speech / Moses Minister of Foreign Affairs

Exhibition of the sake of Japan product / various parts of Japan's sake PR & tasting

Japanese offer / nigiri sushi demonstration and provide Japan Culture / bonsai exhibition

Japan Culture / paper cranes exhibition, provide to the applicant

PR / photo panels exhibition (this use credential presented his, meeting with government officials, grant aid signing ceremony, etc.)



Steel pan players wait to perform the national anthems of T&T and Japan



Ambassador Okada delivers his speech at the National Day Reception



Foreign Minister Moses gives remarks at the National Day Reception



Guests sample the sake on offer



Information on Japan's sake by region of origin



Sushi demonstration and sampling of the chef's culinary work



Two bonsai display featured at the National Day Reception



Foreign Minister Moses takes a closer look at the origami display



Culture Minister Gadsby Dolly collects an origami souvenir



Photo panel exhibition of the Embassy's 2015 activities, including Ambassador Okada's presentation of credentials, signing ceremonies and meetings with government officials

