

## His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday Reception

On March 20, 2026, His Excellency Mr. MIYASAKA Yusuke, Ambassador of Japan, hosted a reception at his official residence to celebrate the 66th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. The event was attended by over one hundred guests, including Senator the Honourable Christopher SINCKLER, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Honourable Gregory NICHOLLS, Minister of Home Affairs and Information, and the Honourable Sandra HUSBANDS, Minister of Technological and Vocational Training. Also in attendance were government officials, heads and representatives of international organizations and diplomatic corps, members of academia, and guests from the private sector.

Delivering remarks on behalf of the Government of Barbados, Senator SINCKLER highlighted the many areas of cooperation between Japan and Barbados. Ambassador MIYASAKA, in turn, reflected on the Embassy's achievements over the past ten years, with both underscoring the enduring friendship between the two island nations.



L-R: His Excellency Mr. MIYASAKA Yusuke, Ambassador of Japan with Senator the Honourable Christopher Sinckler, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade



L-R: His Excellency Mr. MIYASAKA Yusuke, Ambassador of Japan with the Honourable Gregory Nicholls, Minister of Home Affairs and Information

In honour of the occasion, the reception featured a performance by world-renowned Shakuhachi master and composer Mr. IRIE Yosuke, showcasing the traditional Japanese bamboo flute. Guests also enjoyed a demonstration of shochu, a traditional Japanese distilled spirit, presented by sommelier OTAKE Ayako, along with a wide selection of Japanese dishes prepared by Chef SAKAMOTO Keita.

During the reception, Mr. IRIE presented a shakuhachi to the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus as a token of friendship. The instrument was received by Professor David AKOMBO, Dean of the Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts, symbolizing the longstanding cooperation between the University of the West Indies and the Embassy of Japan.



L-R: Mr. IRIE Yosoke, Shakuhachi Master and Composer, Professor David AKOMBO, Dean of Faculty of Culture, Creative and Performing Arts and Professor Winston MOORE, Deputy Principal of the University of the West Indies - Cave Hill Campus



L-R: Mr. NAKAE Arata, Deputy Chief of Mission, Senator the Honourable Christopher SINCKLER, Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, His Excellency Mr. MIYASAKA Yusuke, Ambassador of Japan, and the Honourable Gregory NICHOLLS, Minister of Home Affairs and Information



Mr. IRIE Yosuke, world-renowned Shakuhachi master and composer, performing a rendition of the national anthems of Barbados and Japan, along with a peice titled "Spirit of Samurai" using a traditional Japanese bamboo flute.



Sommelier OTAKE Ayako introducing Shochu, a traditional Japanese distilled spirit.



Guests sharing a light moment



Guests enjoying the evening's programme.