

Peace, Harmony Felt at Grenada/Nigeria Tea Ceremony

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New York, United States—Ambassadors to the United Nations from Grenada and Nigeria co-hosted a Japanese Tea Ceremony in cooperation with UPF International.

The “tea gathering for peace” was hosted by Grenadian Permanent Representative to the United Nations H.E. Mr. Denis G. Antoine and Nigerian Permanent Representative to the United Nations H.E. Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu. The event took place on December 2, 2015, on the 21st Floor of Nigeria House, the Consulate General of Nigeria.

The more than 20 participants included 12 ambassadors and three diplomats from member states of the UN, and also staff members from the UN agencies Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), as well as a permanent observer to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



Mrs. Amy Yang Miyamoto, the emcee and organizer, introduced the two host ambassadors, who are also UPF Ambassadors for Peace. H.E. Mrs. Ogwu of Nigeria said she would like to convey “peace and security” through this Tea Ceremony, which was occurring near the end of her two years on the Security Council. H.E. Mr. Antoine of Grenada testified about how he had become an Ambassador for Peace, and said he would like to invest in the next generation through this higher-level Tea Ceremony.

After that, Mrs. Lynn Walsh, on behalf of Dr. Taj Hamad, the secretary general of the UPF Office of United Nations Relations, expressed appreciation for all the participants' hard work for the sake of the world, and invited everyone to enjoy peace through tea.



Mrs. Kyoko Sato explained “the way of tea,” gave insights into the Tea Ceremony and introduced Mrs. Fumie Watanabe, the tea master. Mrs. Watanabe invested her heart to decorate the venue with flower arrangements (ikebana), colorful origami and items of Japanese art. She also chose special bowls and made tea for each participant with utmost sincerity.

After tea, Mr. Andrew Miyamoto performed the song “Edelweiss” on the trumpet, which was appreciated by all the ambassadors, as the lyrics include the message “Bless my homeland.”

Many ambassadors among the participants are working very hard at the United Nations. For example, the Kenyan Permanent Representative to the United Nations leads the Sustainable Development Goals; the Angolan Permanent Representative to the United Nations is also on the Security Council. They felt comfort and peace through the Tea Ceremony. Even the Japanese representative who attended this event said, “It was wonderful.”

H.E. Mr. Antoine of Grenada was seen to be smiling throughout the Tea Ceremony. As H.E. Mrs. Ogwu concluded, “Every participant loved this ceremony. Until lunch nobody wanted to leave the venue. We enjoyed peace and harmony in our mind.”

