

‘SPREADING PEACE THROUGH CULTURE’ IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
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SGI-Trinidad & Tobago held its first ever Youth Culture Festival on July 15. With the theme “Spreading Peace Through Culture,” the festival was held in commemoration of the United Nations International Year for a Culture of Peace and the 40th anniversary of President Ikeda’s leadership of the SGI.

One observer described the event as a “World Culture Youth Festival.” Both the performers and performances straddled the rich and diverse ethnic and cultural milieu of Trinidad and Tobago. The cultural acts included poems, classical East Indian, calypso and Latin dancing, African drumming, story telling, and more.

The audience included invitees from the Ministry of Sports & Youth Affairs, the Office of the Mayor of Port-of-Spain, the local United Nations Economic, Scientific, Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Office and representatives from other religious and civic organizations from the wider community. The minister of Sports & Youth Affairs sent a message congratulating SGI-T&T for taking the initiative to stage such a festival. He saw the festival as providing a medium for young people to freely express their many and varied talents.

Following the festival, Port-of-Spain City Councilor Alvin Narine invited the SGI-T&T to collaborate with the Port-of-Spain City Corporation to stage a similar event first in Port-of-Spain, and then in smaller towns and villages in various parts of Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative is to be sponsored by the Port-of-Spain City Corporation.

In congratulating the SGI, Mr. Narine remarked that “this was not just a professional event; it wasn’t acts just coming and going on and off stage. The entire show had a positive vibe that gripped you from the beginning to the end.”