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The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE

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A Global Celebration of Culture and Cuisine: Society of Foreign Consuls Hosts International Food Festival

New York, November 14, 2024 –The Society of Foreign Consuls (SoFC) in New York, in collaboration with the Turkish House as our gracious host, proudly presented the highly anticipated International Food Festival today. This event united Consular representatives, diplomats, and New York City officials to celebrate the rich diversity of global cultures and flavors.

This vibrant festival showcased the culinary and cultural heritage of 16 participating countries, featuring authentic dishes and captivating performances from around the world. Each country's unique contributions highlighted the unity, diversity, and multicultural spirit that define New York City's international community.

Key Highlights of the Festival:

Culinary Delights from Around the World: From Thai dumplings and Moroccan tagines to Filipino desserts, the festival featured a wide array of dishes prepared by each participating Consulate, offering guests a culinary journey across continents.

Engaging Cultural Performances: Traditional dance and musical performances from countries such as Bulgaria, Georgia, Indonesia, Serbia, and Thailand captivated the audience, reflecting the dynamic cultural exchanges fostered by the SoFC.

Promoting International Harmony and Understanding: The event served as an opportunity for the Consular community to strengthen ties and build bridges of cultural understanding with the New York public.

Mr. Amir Farid Abu Hasan, Consul General of Malaysia and President of the Society of Foreign Consuls, spoke at the event, underscoring the importance of events like the International Food Festival in promoting cultural diplomacy and fostering unity.

"This festival is not only a celebration of food and culture but also a testament to the power of diversity in bringing people together," said Mr. Abu Hasan. "As we look forward to the Society's 100th anniversary next year, we are reminded that our strength lies in our shared values and mutual respect."

In welcoming the guests, Ambassador Muhittin Ahmet Yazal, Consul General of the Republic of Türkiye expressed his enthusiasm for hosting the festival once again: “We are honored to welcome our vibrant guests to the Turkish House, and we invite everyone to treat this space as their home. Türkiye embraces this event with open arms, and we hope to see many more gatherings where people from diverse cultures can come together and celebrate. This is the third time the Turkish House has hosted the International Food Festival, and I sincerely hope it will not be the last.”

The evening concluded with a shared appreciation of the arts, foods, and friendships nurtured through cultural exchange, reflecting the mission of the Society of Foreign Consuls to promote harmony and understanding among nations.

Attendees, including prominent diplomats and special guests, enjoyed a wide variety of traditional foods and cultural performances from the following participating Consulates General namely: Argentina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, Thailand, Türkiye and United Arab Emirates.

For more information about the event or to inquire about future initiatives, please contact the Society of Foreign Consuls at:

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