



< Budoor Steele >

Country/Region : Bahrain

Current Post : Founder of
“Chawan Japanese Teahouse”
Full-time Instructor of
Urasenke Tea Ceremony School
Japanese Cuisine Goodwill
Ambassador

○ Helping spread Japanese tea culture in the Gulf region and promote Japan-Bahrain cultural exchange

- 2013: Founded Chawan Japanese Teahouse, the first authentic tea house in Bahrain
- 2020: Certified as Shihan (Master) of Urasenke Tea Ceremony School, appointed as a special member of the World Green Tea Association (WGTA)
- 2023: Received the O-CHA Pioneer CHALLENGE Award from the WGTA
- 2023: Appointed as a Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador

Inspired by the Chado (the Way of Tea) culture she experienced while staying in Japan, Ms. Steele started promoting the Japanese tea culture in Bahrain.

In 2013, she founded Chawan Japanese Teahouse, the first authentic tea house in Bahrain. Since then, she has been tirelessly spreading Japanese culture through education and demonstration of Chado, Japanese sweets, kimono, and more.

In 2015, Ms. Steele returned to Japan and studied at Kyushu University. There, she obtained a Master's degree with research on the Japanese tea ceremony grandmaster system called Iemoto. She also acquired qualifications as a kimono dressing instructor and tea blending professional.

Since 2019, Ms. Steele has built direct partnerships with Japanese organic tea farmers to provide quality tea leaves to the food and beverage industry in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Dubai. This has been a significant driver for the demand growth and export promotion of Japanese agricultural, forestry, and fishery products and foods.

As of 2025, the Japanese tea she handles is introduced in 50 shops. Through training local staff, Ms. Steele teaches correct methods of handling and serving Japanese tea. She also collaborates with local Japanese restaurants in the U.S. and France to offer opportunities to experience “*Teicha*”, “*Nerikiri*” and so on (casual tea service).

Her achievements in these efforts have also been highly recognized within Japan. In 2023, Ms. Steele was appointed as a Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador. In the same year, she also received the O-CHA Pioneer CHALLENGE Award from the World Green Tea Association in Shizuoka Prefecture.

Grounded in the accurate understanding of the essence and techniques, Ms. Steele continues her pioneering activities to promote and spread Japanese food and culture to other countries.