

## Conferment of a Japanese Order to Prof. Hans Wigzell



Prof. Hans Wigzell



The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

On 3 November 2008, the Government of Japan announced that Prof. Hans Wigzell was conferred a Japanese order, namely, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

Prof. Wigzell was given the Order for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of academic exchange between Japan and Sweden, mainly in his capacity as the President of Karolinska Institutet and the Chief Scientific Advisor for the Swedish Government.

Prof. Wigzell is a distinguished researcher in the field of medicine, pathology and immunology and played a significant role in the development of science and technology in Japan. He has also made significant contribution to developing and cementing the academic exchanges between our two countries by initiating a number of scientific seminars and other joint undertakings, and actively engaging in exchanges with Japanese dignitaries in charge of science and technology. Under his strong leadership as the President of Karolinska Institutet, the Institute concluded agreements on research cooperation with Riken, which has led to the strengthening of cooperation between Japan and Sweden.

Prof. Wigzell visited Japan on numerous occasions, for example as a member of the Riken Advisory Council, and as a member of the Swedish Prime Minister's delegation to Japan in 2004, and established many contacts with Japanese research institutes and researchers. The significant role he played, in this way, can be symbolically qualified as a bridge between Japan and Sweden in the scientific field.

### Conferment of Japanese Decorations to foreigners:

Japanese decorations are conferred upon foreigners twice a year, on April 29 and November 3, concurrently with the conferment of orders and medals to Japanese.

On 3 November 2008, 75 foreigners from 40 countries were awarded decorations.

The Order of the Rising Sun is bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the promotion of exchange between Japan and other countries in fields such as research and education, medicine and social welfare, economy and industry, and culture and sports.

For further information on Japanese Decorations and Medals, see <http://www8.cao.go.jp/intro/kunsho/english/index.html>.

### Riken

Riken is a leading and long-established research institute under the aegis of the government of Japan in the field of physics, chemistry and life science.