

Conferment of a Japanese Order to Baroness Barbro Beck-Friis



Baroness Barbro Beck-Friis



Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

On 3 November 2011, the Government of Japan announced that Baroness Barbro Beck-Friis was conferred a Japanese order, namely, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

Baroness Beck-Friis was given the Order for her outstanding contribution to the development of elderly care in Japan and enhancement of the relationship between Japan and Sweden.

Baroness Beck-Friis is a leading expert in the world regarding the care of elderly with dementia. Whilst working at the Geriatric Clinic at Motala hospital, she set a precedent for dementia care in group home by establishing Baltzargården. There she developed the fundamental principles and techniques for the care of dementia patients. The most important concept in the care of dementia patients generated by Baroness Beck-Friis is to focus on improving the quality of life for everyone involved with the care; the elderly with dementia, their family and the staff who provides care for the patient. Baroness Beck-Friis played a vital role in introducing the concept of group home to Japan by accepting many study visits. In this way, she has influenced many people in Japan, from members of the parliament and policy makers in the ministries to researcher and people working in the field of care for the elderly with dementia, thus making a significant contribution to the development of this area in Japan.

Baroness Beck-Friis was one of the most crucial members in the establishment of Silviahemmet in 1996, and she was in charge of education of assistant nurses, research and health care with focus on elderly with dementia, under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Silvia until 2006. Other than the acceptance of study visits to Silviahemmet and the provision of training courses for groups from Japan, she has, on numerous occasions visited Japan to give lectures and many books have been published in Japan on her philosophy for the care of the elderly with dementia, contributing to the further dissemination of her philosophy. When the Emperor and Empress of Japan visited Sweden in 2000, she welcomed Their Majesties to Silviahemmet, and contributed to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Sweden.

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 2011, 53 foreigners from 30 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>.