

Conferment of a Japanese Order to Dr. Håkan Mogren

Dr. Håkan Lars Mogren



**The Order of the Rising Sun,
Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon**



On 3 November 2007, the Government of Japan announced that Dr. Håkan Mogren was conferred a Japanese order, namely, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.

This Order is bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their distinguished accomplishments and 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.

Dr. Mogren was given the Order for his outstanding contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Sweden, mainly as Chairman of the Sweden-Japan Foundation between April 1998 and April 2003 and as Vice Chairman of the Sweden-Japan Foundation between September 1993 and April 1998.

He contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Sweden through the expansion of the scholarship program during his years as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Sweden-Japan Foundation. Utilizing his good contacts in both the business and academic worlds, he was successful in receiving support from the industries and contributed to increasing funds for the scholarship program of the Sweden-Japan Foundation. As a result of such efforts, the Sweden-Japan Foundation's scholarship program became one of the largest Japan related scholarship programs in Europe, allowing about 50 students and

researchers to visit Japan every year. Many of the recipients of the scholarship has, upon returning to Sweden, been playing important roles in promoting the relationship between Japan and Sweden and they are a valuable asset to the promotion of mutual understanding between the two countries.

Dr. Mogren also played a vital role for the Swedish scientific and industrial missions led by His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf. He took part in His Majesty the King's visit to Japan on two occasions, namely, the Science and Technology Exposition held in Tsukuba in 1985 and the Royal Technology mission in 1990, working in close cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, of which he is also a member. Dr. Mogren held lectures at the Suntory Research Center and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited, thus contributing to the promotion of exchange between Japan and Sweden in the fields of science and industry.

In the fields of academic exchanges, he visited Japan in 1974 and established contacts with Japanese research institutions and researchers of food and pharmaceutical companies and universities upon request by the Royal Institute of Technology and AB Marabou. Furthermore, he enabled Astra Zeneca PLC to finance the studies on Japan's research and development policy at the European Institute of Japanese Studies at the Stockholm School of Economics.

His achievement is profoundly appreciated in Japan. Dr. Mogren was given the opportunity to meet with Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan when they came to visit Sweden in May this year.

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. There are two different types of Japanese decorations which are conferred to foreigners:

1) Orders of the Rising Sun – given to individuals of merit, in recognition of their distinguished accomplishments and their outstanding contribution to the promotion of exchange between Japan and other countries.

The Orders of the Rising Sun, established in 1875, was Japan's first award. It features rays of sunlight radiating from the rising sun. The attachment is shaped into a chrysanthemum.

2) Orders of the Sacred Treasure – given to individuals engaging in official duties over many years in recognition of their outstanding contribution.

Within each order, there are 6 different types of decorations, depending on the significance of the individual's accomplishments and contributions.

On 3 November 2007, 57 foreigners from 29 countries were awarded decorations. The regional distribution of the order recipients are as follows: 23 from Europe, 12 from North America, 8 from Asia, 6 from Latin America, 4 from Oceania and 3 from Africa.

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