

Conferment of a Japanese Order to Prof. Svante Lindqvist



Prof. Svante Lindqvist



Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun

On 3 November, Culture Day of Japan, in 2013, the Government of Japan announced that Prof. Svante Lindqvist was conferred a Japanese order, namely, Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun. The conferment ceremony for him was held at the residence of the Ambassador of Japan on 7th February, 2014.

Prof. Lindqvist was given the Order in recognition of his outstanding contribution to promoting friendly relations between Japan and Sweden and facilitating exchange in the academic fields of science and technology.

As the founding Director of the Nobel Museum, Prof. Lindqvist contributed to establishing a closer cooperation between the Nobel Museum and various institutions in Japan, such as the National Museum of Nature and Science and the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, or Miraikan, for short. Moreover, he organized in Japan an exhibition commemorating the 100th year of the Nobel Prize, which was the first to be held outside Sweden and Norway. The Exhibition drew the Nobel Prize even closer to the people of Japan.

Prof. Lindqvist was elected as President of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the selection board of the Nobel Prize for Physics and Chemistry, and contributed to promoting academic and scientific exchanges with Japan. During his tenure as President, many renowned scientists from Japan visited Sweden and established close cooperation

with their counterparts in Sweden. During the last 15 years, Professor Lindqvist has met and befriended many Japanese Nobel Laureates. He has lectured widely in Japan, for example in Tokyo, Kyoto, Kumamoto and Tsukuba.

As the Marshal of the Realm, his current post, he has contributed enormously to enhancing the relationship between the Japanese Imperial Family and the Swedish Royal Family, which forms a basis for good friendship between the two nations. Under the enlightened leadership of Prof. Lindqvist many memorial events have been successfully conducted, such as the Royal Wedding of H.R.H. Crown Princess Victoria in June 2010 to which H.I.H. Crown Prince Naruhito was invited, and the Royal Wedding of H.R.H. Princess Madeleine, which was visited by H.I.H. Princess Takamado.

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 2013, Japanese decorations were awarded upon 49 foreigners, of which only 7 received the highest class, the Grand Cordon of the order of the Rising Sun.

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/shokun/en/index-e.html>