

Embassy of Japan

Press Release

April 29, 2015

### **2015 Spring Conferment of Japanese Decorations**

On April 29, 2015 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2015 Spring Conferment of Japanese Decorations. Among the 85 foreign recipients are Former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Göteborg Mr Thomas Lumsden who will receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon and Former Museum Director of the Museum of Ethnography Ms Ulla Wagner who will receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

#### 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 decorations and medals to Japanese nationals. On 29 April 2015, the Government of Japan announced the conferment of decorations on 85 foreigners, of which 31 will receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon and 14 will receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

The Orders of the Rising Sun are bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the nation or public. The Orders of the Rising Sun are also conferred upon foreign nationals who have made notable contribution to promotion of exchanges 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>



- NAME (AGE): Thomas Lumsden (72)
- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
- SERVICE: Contribution to the promotion of the friendship and mutual understanding between Japan and Sweden
- MAJOR TITLES: Former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Göteborg
- ADDRESS (NATIONALITY): Billdal (Sweden)

During his tenure as Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Göteborg from 2004 to 2013, Mr Lumsden actively promoted exchanges between Japan and Sweden. With a background of years of working for a maritime corporation, Mr Lumsden visited Japan many times and established good contacts in both Japan and Sweden. With his wide range of network, Mr Lumsden facilitated Japanese delegations' visits to Göteborg by establishing proper channels with Swedish counterparts.

Mr Lumsden's consular service and prompt support for the Japanese nationals in Sweden were very much appreciated by the local community especially when they encountered troubles with regard to consular affairs. He also assisted Swedish people by providing practical information prior to their visits to Japan. In addition, he attended Japan-related events in the Göteborg region on behalf of the Japanese Embassy in Stockholm, which led to enhancing the presence of Japan in Sweden.

Mr Lumsden, as a supportive and active Honorary Consul-General, contributed to the promotion of the friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries.



- NAME (AGE): Ulla Wagner (79)
- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
- SERVICE: Contribution to the introduction and promotion of Japanese culture in Sweden
- MAJOR TITLES: Former Museum Director of the Museum of Ethnography
- ADDRESS (NATIONALITY): Stockholm (Sweden)

During her tenure as Director of the Museum of Ethnography from 1983 to 1991, Dr. Ulla Wagner contributed to the promotion of Japanese culture in Sweden by organizing a number of exhibitions and events at the Museum. In addition, Dr. Wagner, together with her staff as well as sponsors in Japan and Sweden, succeeded in obtaining a new teahouse, Zui-Ki-Tei for the museum. Like the original teahouse of the same name, which perished in a fire in 1969, the new Zui-Ki-Tei is located on the site of the museum, and was inaugurated in 1990.

After resigning from the position of director, Dr. Wagner has written books and articles, mainly related to the understanding of Japanese cultural history and society as well as the strong and historical ties between Japan and Sweden.