

2009 Spring Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals

Decoration	Services	Major Titles	Name (Age)	Address and Nationality
Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Contributed to the strengthening of friendship and understanding between Japan and Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *President of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Italian Senate *Former President of the Council of Ministers *Former Minister of the Treasury *Former Minister of Foreign Affairs *Former Vice President of the Italian Senate 	Lamberto Dini (78)	Lazio, Roma, Italy (Italy)
Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Contributed to the promotion of economic development and mutual understanding between Japan and the Netherlands and closer partnership between Japan and the European Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Former Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Affairs of The Netherlands *Former Minister of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries of The Netherlands *Former Ambassador, Delegation of the European Commission to Japan 	Laurens Jan Brinkhorst (72)	The Hague, The Netherlands (The Netherlands)
Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Contributed to the development of people's awareness of environmental problems in Japan and the promotion of Japan's international status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Nobel Peace Prize laureate (2004) *Former (first) president of the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council *Former Assistant Minister for Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kenya *Founding Chair of the Green Belt Movement 	Wangari Maathai (69)	Nairobi, Kenya (Kenya)
Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Contributed to the development of sports, technical development and promotion of association football in Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *President of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) *Member of International Olympic Committee 	Joseph Sepp Blatter (73)	Zurich, Switzerland (Switzerland)
Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Contributed to the promotion of political, economic and cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the Republic of Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Former Vice Prime Minister and Minister of the Economic Planning Board *Former Minister for Finance *Vice-President of Korea-Japan Cooperation Council 	Lee Seung Yun (77)	Seoul, Korea (Korea)

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Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Contributed to the promotion of political, economic and cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the Republic of Korea	*Former Prime Minister *Former Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of the Economic Planning Board *Former Minister of Finance *President of Korea-Japan Cooperation Council	Nam Duck Woo (84)	Seoul, Korea (Korea)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to the advancement in scientific cooperation between Japan and the US	*Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF)	Arden L. Bement, Jr. (76)	Arlington, Virginia, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to the development of relations and strengthening friendship between Japan and Austria	*Former Member, National Council, Republic of Austria *Former President, Austrian Academy of Science *Former Dean of the Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, University of Vienna *Austrian President of the Japanese-Austrian Committee for the 21st Century	Gerhart Bruckmann (77)	Vienna, Austria (Austria)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to enhancing cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and Korea	*Chairman, Korea-Japan Cultural Exchange Council *Emeritus Professor of Dankook University *Former Dean of Graduate School of Hanyang University	Kim Yong Woon (81)	Seoul, Korea (Korea)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to the advancement of scientific cooperation between Japan and Germany	*Former president of the German Research Foundation (DFG)	Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker (67)	Brussels, Belgium (Germany)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to the promotion of Japanese Studies in Germany and of academic exchanges between Japan and Germany	*Former Rector of Dusseldorf University	Alfons Labisch (62)	Dusseldorf, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany (Germany)

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The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to the development of Japan-Hungary relations and the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Hungary	*Former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Hungary to Japan *Former Member of the Japan-Hungary Cooperation Forum *Representative Director, Südy & Co. Ltd.	Südy Zoltán (57)	Budaörs, Hungary (Hungary)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to the promotion of regional exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and France	*Mayor of Nancy *Former Minister for the Civil Service *Former Minister for Relations with Parliament	André Rossinot (69)	Nancy, France (France)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Contributed to the development of the relationship between Japan and Botswana and to enhanced friendship between them	*Former Ambassador of the Republic of Botswana in Japan	Oteng Jenamo Tebape (60)	Gaborone, Botswana (Botswana)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States of America through film productions	*Film actor *Film director	Clint Eastwood (78)	Burbank, California, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to introduction of Japanese Art and promotion of cultural and educational exchange between Japan and the United States of America	*Founder, Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture *Member, CULCON *Former board member, Asian Art Museum of San Francisco	Willard Clark (78)	Hanford, California, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the introducing of Classical Japanese Literature and the training and nurturing of young scholars in Japanese Studies	*Professor of Japanese Literature, Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University	Edwin A. Cranston (76)	Lexington, Massachusetts, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to promotion of the social welfare, civil rights, and sociological study of Japanese Americans	*Professor Emerita of Sociology, Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, The City University of New York *Founding President, Asian American Federation of New York, Inc.	Setsuko Matsunaga Nishi (87) (F)	Tappan, New York, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)

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The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the advancement of Japanese studies in the United States of America and to the promotion of academic and cultural exchanges between Japan and the U.S.A. through his study of Japanese history	*Professor Emeritus of the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) *Former Director of the UCLA Center for Japanese Studies	Fred George Notehelfer (70)	Salt Spring Island, Canada (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to strengthening political and economic relations between Japan and the United States and to the development of the Japan's wood products industry	*Former President of American Chamber of Commerce in Japan *Former President of Weyerhaeuser Far East	William E. Franklin (76)	Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the development of Japanese studies in Israel and the promotion of academic exchange between Japan and Israel	*Former Professor of Comparative Religion, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem	R. J. Zwi Werblowsky (85)	Jerusalem, Israel (Israel)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the strengthening of cultural exchanges between Japan and Italy thanks to organ music education	*Professor Emeritus of the State Conservatory of Music "G. Rossini" of Pesaro *Professor Emeritus of Conservatory of Music "G.B. Martini" of Bologna *Director of the municipal school of music "T. Mabellini" of Pistoia	Umberto Pineschi (73)	Toscana, Pistoia, Italy (Italy)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to strengthening economic relations between Japan and Egypt	*Former Chairman, Federation of the Egyptian Chambers of Commerce *Chairman, El Araby Group	Mahmoud El-Araby (77)	Heliopolis, Cairo, Egypt (Egypt)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Canada	*Former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Winnipeg *Former Mayor of the City of Winnipeg *Chancellor, University of Manitoba	William Norrie (80)	Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (Canada)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the enhancement of relations and the promotion of friendship between Japan and The Gambia	*Honorary Consul-General of Japan at Banjul	George S. Madi (65)	Banjul, The Gambia (The Gambia/Lebanon)

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The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the promotion of economic exchange between Japan and Greece	*Chairman of the Greek Japanese Chamber of Commerce *President of FOLLI FOLLIE S.A.	Dimitris Koutsolioutsos (66)	Kifissia, Greece (Greece)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the advancement of archaeology in Japan and to academic exchange between Japan and the Syrian Arab Republic	*Former Director General of Antiquities and Museums, Ministry of Culture *Professor, Damascus University	Sultan Muhesen (62)	Tel, Damascus, Syria (Syria)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the development of economic relations between Japan and Korea	*Former Chairman, Korea Federation of Companies in Japan *Former President, Samsung Japan	Lee Soo Chul (59)	Seoul, Korea (Korea)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to exchanges of culture and friendship between Japan and the Republic of Korea	*Executive Director, Joseon Tongsinsa Cultural Exchange Association *Former President, Pukyong National University	Kang Nam-Chu (69)	Busan, Korea (Korea)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Hungary and to the introduction of Japanese culture	*President, Hungary-Japan Friendship Association	Vihar Judit (64) (F)	Budapest, Hungary (Hungary)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the enhancement of economic relations and the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and France	*Vice-President, France-Japan Economic Exchange Committee, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Paris *President, Mellerio dits Meller	François Mellerio (65)	Paris, France (France)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the promotion of parliamentary exchange between Japan and Vietnam	*Former Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly *Former Head of Secretariat of the National Assembly	Vu Mao (69)	Ha Noi, Viet Nam (Viet Nam)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Contributed to the promotion of cultural exchange between Japan and Vietnam and the promotion of Japanese language education in Vietnam	*Vice Chairman, Secretary General of Vietnam Japan Culture Association *Former Deputy Minister of Ministry of Culture and Information	Vu Khac Lien (74)	Ha Noi, Viet Nam (Viet Nam)

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The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to introduction and promotion of contemporary Japanese popular culture in the United States of America	*Writer, translator, and interpreter	Frederik L. Schodt (59)	San Francisco, California, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to promotion of friendship between Japan and the United States and to improving the welfare of Japanese and Japanese American people in Nevada	*Former Principal of Clark High School *Former Honorary Consul-General of Japan, Las Vegas *Former Executive Board of Japanese American Citizens League, Las Vegas Chapter	Wayne Norio Tanaka (60)	Las Vegas, Nevada, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the introduction and the diffusion of Naginata in the United States of America	*Vice President of the International Naginata Federation *Former President of the United States Naginata Federation	Helen Michiyo Nakano (70) (F)	Torrance, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to enhancing the status of the Japanese-American community and promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the United States	*A.J. Hartsook Professor, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Rice University *President of Japanese American Citizens League, Houston Chapter	George J. Hirasaki (69)	Bellaire, Texas, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the UAE through activities for the Japanese School and business partnerships	*Chairman of the Sharaf Group	Ibrahim Al Saeed Sharaf (60)	Dubai, U.A.E. (U.A.E.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the promotion of Judo and Karate in Italy	*Vice-president of the International Federation of Associated Wrestling Styles *President of the Italian Federation of Judo, Wrestling, Karate, and Martial Arts	Mateo Pellicone (74)	Lazio, Rome, Italy (Italy)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the introduction of Spanish culture to Japan and the diffusion of Japanese culture in Spain	*Director, Department of 18th Century Painting, Prado Museum	Juan José Luna Fernández (62)	Madrid, Spain (Spain)

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The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the promotion of Japan's policy on African development	*Former Director for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD), Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP	Bouna Semou Diouf (62)	Dakar, Senegal (Senegal)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the strengthening of economic relations and promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Germany	*Commissioner for Industrial Locations, Baden-Wuerttemberg International (Agency for International Economic and Scientific Cooperation)	Hans-Dieter Roth (66)	Stuttgart, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany (Germany)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the development of the academic research of Japanese language in Bulgaria and to the promotion of Japanese language education	*Vice-Director of 18th Comprehensive School "Willian Gladstone" in Sofia	Bratislav Ionchev Ivanov (64)	Sofia, Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the promotion of Japanese literature in Bulgaria and to the promotion of Japanese language education	*Translator *Former lecturer, Sofia University "St. Climent Ohridski"	Todorka Mincheva Barova (60) (F)	Sofia, Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the promotion of mutual understanding and academic exchanges between Japan and Malaysia	*Former Director for Japan Studies, and former Director of Bureau for Foreign Policy and Security Studies, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia	Stephen Leong Mun Yoon (70)	Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia (Malaysia)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to Japanese language education in Mexico	*President of Chuo Gakuen School	Amelia Kayo Matsubara Oda (59) (F)	Mexico City, Mexico (Mexico)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the promotion of Japanese language education and of mutual understanding between Japan and Romania	*Professor of Japanese Literature and Civilization at Hyperion University	Hondru Angela Varvara (64) (F)	Bucharest, Romania (Romania)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to study and introduction of Japanese literature and promoting understanding of Japan	*Writer, scholar of Japanese literature	Grigory Chkhartishvili (52)	Moscow, Russia (Russia)

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The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the enhancement of the Japanese American Community and the promotion of friendship between Japan and the United States of America	*Former President, Hawaii Island Japanese Community Association *Former President, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawaii Island	Larry Shunji Isemoto (81)	Hilo, Hawaii, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to friendship between Japan and the United States of America	*Former President of the Japan Club of New Orleans	Cecil John Murphy, Jr. (77)	New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A. (U.S.A.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the promotion of Japanese traditional culture	*President of Aikido Union England	Patrick Walter Stratford (83)	Coventry, U.K. (U.K.)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the strengthening of economic relations and the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Spain	*Director of Research and Public Affairs of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Madrid Office	Ignacio Jiménez Blanco (68)	Tres Cantos, Madrid, Spain (Spain)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to friendship and to youth exchange between Japan and the Republic of Korea	*Former President of Jeju Council, Korea Scout Association	Oh Dae-Soo (70)	Jeju-si, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, Korea (Korea)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the promoting of cultural and people-to-people exchanges based on the sister cities relationships between Japan and Germany	*Professional councilor of city Wolfratshausen *Chief officer administration	Peter Struzyna (60)	Penzberg, Bavaria, Germany (Germany)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to promotion of friendship between Japan and Germany	*President of the German-Japanese Society, Siegburg	Claudia Bjelke-Holtermann (69) (F)	North Rhine-Westphalia, Siegburg, Germany (Germany)

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The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to promotion of friendship and strengthening of economic relations between Japan and Germany	*President of the German-Japanese Society, Cologne	Karl-Heinz Meid (69)	North Rhine-Westphalia, Cologne, Germany (Germany)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Introduction of Japanese culture and contribution to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and Turkey	*Former President of the Turkish-Japanese Women's Friendship and Culture Association	Nur Karakoc (62) (F)	Ankara, Turkey (Turkey)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the welfare of Japanese immigrants in Brazil and the promotion of Japanese language and culture	*President of the Cultural, Sporting and Agricultural Association of Suzano (Associacao Cultural Esportiva e Agricola de Suzano - ACEAS Nikkey)	Kazuhiro Mori (79)	Suzano, Sao Paulo, Brazil (Brazil)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the promotion of medical services for the Japanese and friendly relations between Japan and Malaysia in the field of medicine	*Private Medical Practitioner, Clinic Medical Health Care, Pantai Hospital	Lau Poh Yok (69)	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Malaysia)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the promotion of friendship between Japan and Mexico	*ex Vice president, Mexico-Japanese Association	Shiguenori Kawabe Tamori (67)	Mexico City, Mexico (Mexico)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays	Contributed to the enhancement of the friendship between Japan and Indonesia and the improvement of the welfare of Nikkei	*Adviser, Yayasan Warga Persahabatan	Umar Hartono (89)	Jakarta, Indonesia (Indonesia)
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the promotion of Japan's activities to receive Indo-Chinese refugees	*Former Honorary Chief, Himeji Resettlement Promotion Center, Refugee Assistance Headquarters, Foundation for the Welfare and Education of Asian People	Hendrikus Quaadvliet (79)	Himeji-shi, Hyogo, Japan (The Netherlands)
The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the activities of the Japanese Overseas Establishment	*Former local employee of the Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD	Carol Shaffer Anderson (65) (F)	Paris, France (U.S.A.)

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The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the activities of the Japanese Overseas Establishment	*Former local employee of the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia	Santy Christiana Soenarno (60) (F)	Jakarta, Indonesia (Indonesia)
The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the activities of the Japanese Overseas Establishment	*Former local employee of the Embassy of Japan in Indonesia	Julia Zulkarnina (60) (F)	Banten, Indonesia (Indonesia)
The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the activities of the Japanese Overseas Establishment	*Former local employee of the Embassy of Japan in Colombia	Luiz Aristobulo Vargas Rodriguez (61)	Bogota, Colombia (Colombia)
The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays	Contributed to the activities of the Japanese Overseas Establishment	*Former local employee of the Consulate General of Japan at Sao Paulo	Mieko Miura (55) (F)	Sao Paulo, Brazil (Brazil)
The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays	Contributed to the activities of the Japanese Overseas Establishment	*Former local employee of the Embassy of Japan in Egypt	Yehia Mohamed Abdel Muneim (60)	Mokatam, Cairo, Egypt (Egypt)
The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays	Contributed to the activities of the Japanese Overseas Establishment	Former local employee of the Embassy of Japan in Egypt	Yusri Ismail Mahmoud (60)	Nasr City, Cairo, Egypt (Egypt)
The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette	Contributed to the development of education in Japan and to introduction of Japanese culture	*Retired Professor, Osaka University of Foreign Studies *Lecturer, Ryukoku University	Hashem Rajabzadeh (67)	Suita, Osaka, Japan (Iran)