

NEWS RELEASE



Consulate-General
of Japan in Chicago

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Conferral of The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette Upon Dr. Mirja P. Hanson, Former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Minneapolis and Former President of the Japan America Society of Minnesota

On April 29, 2015 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2015 Spring Imperial Decorations. Among the 85 foreign recipients is Dr. Mirja P. Hanson, Former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Minneapolis and Former President of the Japan America Society of Minnesota. She will receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette in recognition of her significant contributions to promoting exchanges and friendship between Japan and the United States. The prestigious decoration is conferred by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

Dr. Hanson spent most of her childhood in Japan as the daughter of a missionary family from Finland. Since she moved to the United States in 1974, she has been actively engaged in promoting the Japan-United States relationship. As President of the Japan America Society of Minnesota from 1991 to 1995, Dr. Hanson broadened the range of programs to include not only cultural but also professional, economic, and public affairs presentations. Her initiative heightened the Society's role in the community, and it achieved a significant increase in membership. As Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Minneapolis from 2010 to March 2015, Dr. Hanson made an important contribution to further promoting the relationship between Japan and the United States in Minnesota.

Japan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Fumio Kishida, has sent a congratulatory message to Dr. Hanson that recognizes her outstanding contributions.

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