

NEWS RELEASE



**Consulate-General
of Japan in Chicago**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mizuho Kondo: (312)280-0436
mizuho.kondo@mofa.go.jp

Order of the Rising Sun Conferred upon Three Individuals in Indiana and Wisconsin for Outstanding Contribution to Japan-US Relations

[November 5, 2018] On November 3, the Government of Japan announced the 135 foreign recipients of the 2018 Autumn Decoration, which is conferred by the Emperor of Japan.

From Indiana and Wisconsin, three individuals have been recognized for their outstanding contribution to the Japan-US relationship. The recipients include:

- **Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette for Dr. Alexander P. Durtka, Jr.**, President, Japan-America Society of Wisconsin; President & CEO, International Institute of Wisconsin; Board Member, Wisconsin-Chiba, Inc.

Dr. Durtka has played a key role in fostering people-to-people Japan-Wisconsin exchange, particularly through the Wisconsin-Chiba sister state relationship. He has planned and facilitated events that highlight Japanese culture in Wisconsin. His dedication to the expansion of grassroots exchange between Japan and the U.S. has contributed to deeper understanding and has elevated Japan's presence in local communities.

- **Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for Mr. Milton E. Neshek**, Vice-Chair of the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association; Secretary, Member of the Board of Directors and General Counsel of Kikkoman Foods, Inc.

Mr. Neshek has been involved with Kikkoman Foods since 1971 when the company started to plan its expansion to the United States. He has played a vital role in building a good relationship with the community, especially in the plant construction phase. His dedication to the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference has contributed to strengthening the relationship between Japan and the U.S. by providing business opportunities.

- **Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays for Mr. Larry Ingraham**, Founder and President of Ingraham & Associates; Board Member, Japan-America Society of Indiana.

Mr. Ingraham has been dedicated to strengthening the economic relationship between Japan and the U.S. by promoting trade and investment activities. He has supported trade and investment missions to Japan sent by successive Indiana Governors since he served as the director of the State of Indiana Japan Office from 1983-86. He has also advised many Japanese companies that were planning to expand their businesses to the U.S. and has

assisted expatriates with their new lives in the States. He has become an instrumental figure for both Japan and Indiana.

The remarkable achievements of each recipient represent the diversity and depth of the relations between Japan and the United States.

For more information, please contact Ms. Mizuho Kondo of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago at 312-280-0436 or by e-mail at mizuho.kondo@mofa.go.jp

###

JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER
737 North Michigan Avenue • Suite 1000 • Chicago • Illinois 60611
www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp