



30 August 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Importance of Sister City relationships and other cultural diplomatic assets

I recently had the great pleasure to present the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays decoration to Mr Russell Duff of Wanaka for his contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and New Zealand.

In fact, I awarded the decoration to Mr Duff on the same day as the Embassy hosted the Japan-New Zealand Friendship Symposium. It was a pleasure to be able to share the investiture ceremony with so many people who have also devoted themselves to promoting cross-cultural relations, and who understand the importance of sister city relationships to this end.

The broad and well-developed network of sister city relationships between Japan and New Zealand is one of the most important diplomatic assets we share, and I hope we will be able to use them strategically to further bilateral relations between the two countries in the future.

For your information, please find attached the Embassy's media release of 26 August regarding the awarding of the decoration to Mr Russell Duff.

Yours faithfully,

Hideto Mitamura
Ambassador of Japan