

## ヘレン・クラーク氏に対する叙勲伝達式(旭日大綬章) (2017年12月19日)

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12月19日、平成29年秋の外国人叙勲にて旭日大綬章を受章したヘレン・クラーク氏に対する叙勲伝達式を大使公邸で実施しました。ヘレン・クラーク氏は、元首相として日本・ニュージーランド間の友好親善及び相互理解の促進に寄与したほか、前国連開発計画(United Nations Development Programme, UNDP)総裁として、日本とUNDPとの関係強化に尽力されました。伝達式では、高田大使から勲章と勲記が伝達され、これまでの同氏の活動に対し、日本政府を代表し謝意が述べられました。同氏からは、NZやUNDPと、アジア太平洋地域において最も歴史のある民主主義国家の一つである日本との様々な分野に亘る関係の重要性及び深さ、また長年の同氏と日本の関わりについて述べられ、受章に関する感謝と喜びの念が表明されました。



**Speech on the Conferral Ceremony for the Rt Hon Helen  
Clark**

5:30 PM Tuesday, 19 December 2017

Japanese Ambassador's Residence, Khandallah, Wellington

**The Right Honourable Helen Clark and members of the  
Clark family**

**Respected Friends and Former Colleagues of the Right  
Honourable Helen Clark**

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and gentlemen:**

I am very honoured and pleased that you are all able to join me here this evening to celebrate the conferment for the Right Honourable Helen Clark of Auckland, New Zealand, who has been awarded with the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

This prestigious award, the highest in the Japanese Honour System, is in recognition of Miss Helen Clark's great contributions towards the promotion of mutual understanding and friendly and cooperative relations between Japan and New Zealand throughout her distinguished career. I would like to highlight in particular as Member of Parliament and as Prime

Minister of New Zealand, Miss Clark realized multiple high level exchanges between our two countries through visits including those by Their Imperial Highnesses the Crown Prince and Crown Princess to New Zealand in 2002 and her own visit to the World Exposition in Aichi, Japan in 2005. The long list of this nature of collaborative engagements has resulted in a deeper understanding and in-depth appreciation among our peoples of the strong bond of friendship between our two countries.

We also highly appreciate the fact that Miss Clark strongly promoted the relationship between Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) during her tenure as Administrator. Japan and the UNDP expanded cooperation on pressing global issues such as eradicating poverty, realizing sustainable development, building more resilient and inclusive communities. Miss Clark notably showed strong support for initiatives by the Government of Japan such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held recently in 2013 and 2016, the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015, and the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) since 2014, by personally attending many of these conferences.

Through such activities, Miss Clark has made a significant contribution towards enhancing the mutual friendship between Japan and New Zealand, as well as the partnership between Japan and the UNDP.

All throughout these years of unwavering commitment and dedication as a leading official of the New Zealand Government and the UNDP, Miss Clark visited Japan at least twenty times, one of the top

records for the number of visits so far by such a renowned and highly regarded foreign dignitary. She is one of the best friends Japan could wish for, not only in New Zealand but also in the international community.

I hope that the Miss Helen Clark would continue to be the vital catalyst for more diverse modes of exchanges, interactions, and collaborations to further strengthening and deepening the already flourishing bilateral ties between our two countries and peoples.

Here I wish to share with you my personal and recent experience regarding Miss Helen Clark. I have had two occasions to go back to Japan during the past three months. On board the Air New Zealand flight, I watched a couple of times a very good documentary film “My Year with Helen”. As you may know the ending of the story is a disappointing one, but I felt very much energized and encouraged when I got off the plane after a long-haul flight between Auckland and Tokyo. I wondered why and I did not know, but I guess that the feeling of being energized and encouraged is common to everyone who comes in contact with Miss Helen Clark, either directly or indirectly like through watching a film.

Let me conclude my remarks by expressing once again my heartfelt congratulations to Miss Helen Clark on being bestowed this decoration, and I wish for her continued good health, happiness, and success to all her current and future undertakings. Thank you.