

**Speech on the Conferral Ceremony for Dr Edwina Palmer
12:00pm Monday 17 December 2018
Japanese Ambassador's Residence, Khandallah, Wellington**



Associate Professor Edwina Palmer, members of her family, respected friends, and former colleagues
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very honoured and pleased that you are all able to join me here today to celebrate the conferment for Dr Edwina Palmer of Christchurch, New Zealand, who has been awarded with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette by his Majesty the Emperor of Japan. This prestigious award is in recognition of Dr Palmer's great contributions towards promoting the understanding and appreciation of the Japanese language and culture in New Zealand, as well as adding much research literature to Japan-related fields throughout her distinguished career.

Dr Edwina Palmer, Former Associate Professor and Head of the Japanese Programme of Victoria University of Wellington, has spent over 40 years teaching the Japanese language and culture to students not only of the aforementioned Victoria University, but also those of the University of London and The University of Canterbury. Alongside this, she has also contributed a great deal of important literature in Japan-related fields. These academic works are widely respected and cited in New Zealand and internationally. Especially notable is her annotated translation of Harima Fudoki with commentary, and her article "A poem to Carp About". Dr Palmer became the first New Zealand based academic to receive the Yasushi Inoue Award for the latter.

Dr Palmer has spent years of unwavering commitment and dedication to the promotion of Japan and Japanese in the academic world, and her achievements have resonated with Japan and internationally. In light of this, I, on behalf of the Government of Japan, consider Dr Palmer to be worthy of being bestowed the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

Please allow me to conclude my remarks by expressing once again my heartfelt congratulations to Dr Edwina Palmer 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.