

Embassy of Japan

Press Release

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David Bolam-Smith Awarded Japanese Order of the Rising Sun Decoration for Promotion of Mutual Friendship and Cultural Understanding

Mr David Bolam-Smith, immediate-past Chair of Kurashiki-Christchurch Sister City Committee, has been granted the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, in appreciation of his important assistance in promoting the friendly ties and mutual understanding between Japan and New Zealand. In 2012, he received a commendation from the Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan for the same laudable service.

Under his stewardship, the Kurashiki-Christchurch Sister City Committee made the relationship between the two cities, and between the citizens of Christchurch and Japan in a wider sense, flourish, strengthen, and diversify. During this time, he and the Committee assisted in the conduct of sports and youth interactions, and dance and musical exchanges between the two cities. Moreover, they were also involved in organising expositions and activities of Japanese and New Zealand arts and cultures to the peoples of these cities.

Amongst those accomplishments, the most notable one was Mr Bolam-Smith's efforts in commissioning two memorial sculptures, each was unveiled in Christchurch and Toyama, to pay tribute to the lives of those Japanese who died during the devastating earthquake in Christchurch in 2011.

Though Mr Bolam-Smith has already passed on the organization's leadership helm to his successor, he still has constantly and actively supported the various activities of the Kurashiki-Christchurch Sister City Committee, which continue to intensify and deepen the local ties between the peoples of these two cities.

On top of other recognitions that he received for his unselfish and voluntary works to the people of Christchurch City, he was awarded the Queen's Service Medal (QSM) for doing such exemplary services in December 2010.

Further details about these Japanese Decorations are available from the Embassy of Japan in Wellington.

For more information:

Order of the Rising Sun:

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/504465/Order-of-the-Rising-Sun>

<http://www8.cao.go.jp/shokun/en/orders-of-the-rising-sun.html>

Kurashiki-Christchurch Sister City Committee:

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