



## *Embassy of Japan*

29 April 2013

### **PRESS RELEASE**

Conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon  
upon Mr. Tupua Frederick Wetzell,  
the former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Apia

On April 29, 2013, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2013 spring Imperial Decorations. Among 40 recipients is Mr. Tupua Frederick Wetzell, the former Honorary Consul-General of Japan in Apia, who will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, in recognition of his significant contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and Samoa.

Mr Wetzell first visited Japan in the early 1970s and since then, he visited Japan more than twenty times. Mr Wetzell was appointed as the Honorary Consul-General in 1997 and his tenure ended in January 2013, when the Embassy of Japan opened in Apia. With his profound knowledge and understanding of Japanese people and culture, he has served as a bridge between Japan and Samoa.

It is hoped that Mr. Wetzell continues to contribute in further deepening the friendship between our two countries.

The decoration will be presented to Mr. Wetzell in Apia in June by H.E. Mr Yasuaki Nogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Samoa.

ENDS

For further information

Kazumasa Shibuta, Embassy of Japan in Samoa  
TEL: 685-21185