

Foreign Minister's Commendations

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney Mr Masato Takaoka held two events at his official residence to present Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendations. The Foreign Minister's Commendation is awarded to those who have contributed to strengthening the friendship between Japan and Australia and deepening the bilateral relationship.



At the ceremony on 14 September, **Ms Aiko Goto** (violinist, Australian Chamber Orchestra) [second right], **Mr Akira Isogawa** (fashion designer) [second left] and **Ms Satsuki Odamura** (koto player, representative of the Australia Koto Music Institute) [in kimono] received their commendations presented by the Consul-General. Members of **SMASH!**, the Japanese pop-culture event, also attended the reception. SMASH! President Mr Andrew Qiu [far left] had received the commendation from the Consul-General on 21 August, day two of the annual convention. The toast was proposed by **Mr Ken Done** [far right], who had received a Foreign Minister's commendation ten years ago on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty.

On 6 October, the recipients were **Mr Ian Cleworth** (wadaiko player and co-founder of drumming group Taikoz) [back, far left], **Mr David Jacobs** (CEO, Australia-Japan Business Co-operation Committee (AJBCC)) [front, second left], **Prof. Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson** (professor, University of New South Wales) [front, far right], **Dr Riley Lee** (shakuhachi player and co-founder of Taikoz) represented by Taikoz member Ms Kerryn Joyce [back, second right], **Mr Philip Mitchell** (President, Australia Japan Society of NSW) [front, far left], **Mr Mitsuo Shoji** (ceramist) [back, far right], **Mr Ian Williams** (Vice President, AJBCC) [back, second left] and **Chado Urasenke Tankoukai Sydney Association** represented by President Mr Yoshiaki Matsunaga [front, second right].



Consul-General's Commendations

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, Consul-General Masato Takaoka presented several Consul-General's commendations to individuals and groups.



On 15 July, the Consul-General's commendation ceremony and reception were held at his residence to honour the significant contribution by the awardees to the Japan-Australia friendship. Their efforts have helped to strengthen the Japan-Australia relationship as well as promote multiculturalism in Sydney and New South Wales. The individuals recognised were **Ms Kuniko Nakano** (ikebana artist) [back, second left], **Ms Midori Furze** (origami artist) [in kimono], **Mr Yoshihide Hosaka** (founder of the Japan Club of Sydney) [front, far right], **Mr Gerard McDonald** (President of the Koi Society Australia) [back, second right], **Mr Ren Yano** (calligrapher) [back, far right]; the groups were **JCS Rainbow Project** (group assisting children affected by the Great East Japan

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