

# Spring Imperial Commendations for Sydney academics

*Dr Hugh Clarke, Emeritus Professor, University of Sydney, and Dr Sakuko Matsui, Honorary Associate Professor, University of Sydney, receive 2016 Spring Imperial Decorations.*

On 29 April, it was announced by the Cabinet Office of Japan that **Dr Hugh Clarke**, Emeritus Professor at the University of Sydney, will receive The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon. The award is in recognition of his contribution over many years to the development of Japanese studies and Japanese language education which has in turn promoted mutual understanding between Japan and Australia.

Dr Clarke specialised in linguistics and Okinawan studies, in which he is considered an international leader in the field. In addition to his many contributions to Japanese studies, in 1996 he received a Foreign Minister's Award for his involvement in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program, and he has supported people-to-people exchange through sister-city ties.

It was further announced on 29 April that **Dr Sakuko Matsui**, Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Sydney, would receive The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays in recognition of her meritorious service promoting Japanese language and Japanese studies over more than four decades.

While instructing at the university and writing on contemporary Japanese literature, she was active on various committees including as chair of HSC exam committees for Japanese language. In 2012, Dr Matsui was designated by the National Policy Unit of Japan as a "Japanese person transmitting 'Japan' to the world" by having "enthusiastically worked hard across international borders".

*Dr Matsui received her decoration in a conferment ceremony in Tokyo in May; Dr Clarke will receive his decoration in a ceremony to be held here in Sydney next month.*

# G7 2016 Ise-Shima Summit

The G7 Ise-Shima Summit, chaired by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, took place on 26 to 27 May 2016. It was the first time Japan hosted the G7 Summit since the Hokkaido-Toyako Summit in 2008. The 2016 Summit was held in another beautiful location, Mie Prefecture in central Japan.

In the G7 Leaders' Declaration, the leaders agreed to jointly take a leading role in international efforts to address pressing issues, such as downside risk for the global economy and challenges to the international order through unilateral actions, as a group guided by common values and principles, including freedom, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The **global economy** was discussed at length, focussing on policy responses in order to swiftly achieve a strong, sustainable and balanced growth pattern in light of current global economic conditions with growing uncertainty. The G7 Leaders committed to reinforce their efforts to address the current economic situation in order to avoid another crisis. They agreed on the G7 Ise-Shima Economic Initiative that contains specific initiatives by the G7 on the global economy, trade, infrastructure, health, women, cyber and anti-corruption.



The importance of free **trade** was reconfirmed as was the commitment to fight against protectionism. G7 Leaders stressed the benefits of free trade for development and agreed to promote trade liberalisation in developing countries.

In **politics and diplomacy**, a range of issues was discussed including maritime security, countering terrorism and violent extremism, and North Korea.

The **Outreach Meeting** discussed stability and prosperity in Asia and African development.

To read an overview of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit and to view official documents (in English), go to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website:

[www.mofa.go.jp/ecm/ec/page24e\\_000148.html](http://www.mofa.go.jp/ecm/ec/page24e_000148.html)

**On 27 May after the conclusion of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit, United States President Barack Obama paid a historic visit to Hiroshima City with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.**

**They laid wreaths at the cenotaph and met with survivors of the atomic bombing.**



Photo: Cabinet Public Relations Office