

**The Conferment of the Order of the Rising Sun – Gold and Silver Rays on Mrs.
Danielle Crafford
June 5, 2010**



The Emperor of Japan awarded Mrs. Danielle Crafford, former President of Ikebana International Pretoria Chapter with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays for her contribution to the promotion of traditional Japanese Culture, IKEBANA- Japanese flower arrangement, in South Africa.

On behalf of the Japanese Government and the Emperor, His Excellency Mr. Toshiro Ozawa, the Ambassador of Japan, conferred the Order on Mrs. Crafford at his official residence on Saturday, 5 June 2010.

At the ceremony, Ambassador Ozawa mentioned a few examples of Mrs Crafford's dedication to Ikebana in her nearly 40 year career. She was one of the founding members of the Pretoria Chapter of Ikebana International. During the 8th Ikebana World Convention held in Yokohama in 2001, Mrs. Crafford was one of four members selected from around the world who actually demonstrated their skills at the convention. At the time, her work was featured in a major Japanese Newspaper.

The Conferment Ceremony coincides with the Centennial Celebrations of the establishment of official relations between Japan and South Africa. Many events are being held this year in both South Africa and in Japan to promote mutual understanding between our peoples. Mrs Crafford was one of the first people to show an interest in actively

participating in the Centennial Celebrations, and her role was essential for the successful and well attended Ikebana demonstration event by Riji Master Ms. Jennie Sterling, which was held at Japanese Embassy in April.

Furthermore, in the first weekend of September 2010, Mrs. Crafford is going to organise an Ikebana display in the foyer of the State Theatre, concurrent with the performances of the Japanese Awa Dance and Wadaiko (Japanese drums) at the Capital Arts Festival.

Mrs. Crafford is the third South African to receive an Order from the Japanese Government for Ikebana and the fifth South African for contributions to promoting Japan-South Africa friendship. Previously in 2008, Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun was conferred to Dr. Ginwala, the former Speaker of the National Assembly for her outstanding contribution to the Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD) process. The Embassy of Japan wishes to continue to honour distinguished individuals who have been working tirelessly to build stronger relationships between Japan and South Africa.



Mrs. Crafford with her family



H.E. Amb T Ozawa & Cici Ozawa with Mrs. Crafford