

AMBASSADOR YOSHIKAWA PRESENTS
THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN, GOLD AND SILVER RAYS
TO MR DERRY RALPH



On 25 June, Mr Yutaka Yoshizawa, the Ambassador of Japan, presented the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays to Mr. Derry Ralph, the founder of Shibui Bonsai Kai and former President of Ikebana International Johannesburg Chapter, for his outstanding contribution to the introduction and the deepening understanding of Japanese culture in South Africa through Bonsai related activities.

Mr Derry Ralph found Bonsai culture when he visited Japan for the first time in 1970 for EXPO 70 in Osaka. Since he founded the Shibui Bonsai Kai in 1981, Mr. Ralph has been promoting Japanese traditional culture, Bonsai, in South Africa for more than 30 years. The activities of the Shibui Bonsai Kai have made Bonsai increasingly popular in South Africa.



Mr. Derry Ralph has also contributed to the foundation of the Heritage Bonsai collection at Brenthurst Garden at the property of Oppenheimer family. Mr. Derry Ralph has also cooperated with the Japanese Embassy in various Bonsai exhibitions and Japanese cultural events, and with his effort, Bonsai is increasingly accepted and enjoyed by South African people.



Through such cooperation, Mr. Derry Ralph and the Shibui Bonsai Kai have contributed not only to the promotion of Bonsai related activities in South Africa but also to promoting good relations between the two countries.

(END)

