

Press Release

Embassy of Japan in South Africa

21st May, 2019

2019 Spring Conferment of Decoration from Japan

Emeritus Professor Douglas Stuart Butterworth

and

Mr Hans Peter Schröder

On 21st May 2019(Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2019 Spring Imperial Decoration. Emeritus Professor Douglas Stuart Butterworth and Mr Hans Peter Schröder are among the recipients of respective decorations by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan.

1. Emeritus Professor Douglas Stuart Butterworth, University of Cape Town (UCT) applied mathematician and fisheries scientist, will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon in recognition of his contribution to sustainable use of marine living resource of Japan through scientific advisory.

Professor Butterworth, who also previously received South Africa's highest National Order of Mapungubwe (Silver), has been responsible for developing the scientific methods underlying the management of nearly all South Africa's major fisheries. He has made major contributions internationally to the analysis and management of bluefin tuna and various whale populations, as well as Antarctic krill and fisheries in Canada and the United States.

In the two decades that Professor Butterworth has served on Japan's delegation to the Scientific Committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, he played a leading role in developing a management approach that saw the highly threatened resource under international litigation move to a situation where it is well on the route to recovery.

Professor Butterworth is recognised worldwide as a primary developer of the 'management procedure' approach to fisheries management, which allows the precautionary principle – which aims to minimise risks and protect fish stocks in the face on incomplete knowledge – to be incorporated into management decisions.

2. Mr Hans Peter Schröder, the owner of Starke-Condè Winery will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Ray in recognition of his contribution on promotion of friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and South Africa.

Mr Hans Peter Schröder, has been fostering friendship through interactions and exchanges between the people of the two countries. His relationship with Japan started when he went to study at the International Christian University in Tokyo. It was at the University where he met his wife Midori, and married while they were both university students. However, Hans and Midori were not able to come back to South Africa because at that time, South Africa was under Apartheid with infamous “Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act”, resulting in Mr and Mrs Schröder together with their 3 children living abroad for the next 25 years. Whilst living in Japan, Hans and Midori strongly expressed their disagreement with and the inhumanness of Apartheid laws and policies. In 1988, anticipating political change to follow in South Africa, the Schröder family decided to move to South Africa and settled in Stellenbosch.

Over a period of some 10 years, Hans made an effort for wine production and successfully produce excellent wines at this picturesque Jonkershoek valley of Stellenbosch. His award winning wines became famous and became popular in Japan. During 2010, Hans and Midori Schröder were featured on a Japanese TV Programme, “100 Japanese changing the world”. With their hospitality and receptiveness, Hans and Midori became famous figures in Japan. The beauty of South Africa was made known to people in Japan through their excellent wines. Over the years, they welcomed many Japanese visitors to Starke-Condè.

The contribution of Hans and Midori has also been invaluable to the local Japanese community in Cape Town. They are founding members of the Cape Town Japan Club established in 2007 and with their guidance, the Japan Club become home, not only for the 200 Japanese residents in the Cape, but also for their South African spouses and for friends of Japan. In 2018, Hans, Midori and Cape Town Japan Club members played major role in celebrating 100 years anniversary of the Office of Consul of Japan in Cape Town, the oldest Japanese overseas mission in the African continent.

End

--Enquiry to Yasushi Naito, Consul of Japan in Cape Town (021-4251695)--