

2020 Autumn Conferment of Decorations

November 3rd, 2020

On November 3rd, the Government of Japan announced the conferment of the 2020 Autumn Conferment of Decorations, “The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays” (please see the details below) on Ms. Kazuko Tsunoda (Mrs. Kazuko Rankine), a former Japanese language instructor at the Centre for Language Learning of the University of the West Indies, in recognition of her exceptional contribution to the promotion of Japanese language education in the St. Augustine Campus the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

She started her activities as a Japanese language instructor at the National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology of Trinidad and Tobago in 1995. From January 1999, she initiated the Japanese language course at the Centre for Language Learning at the University of the West Indies, as the first and only active Japanese language instructor. Since then, she has made great efforts to promote Japanese language education for a about twenty years, laying the foundation for the popularisation of Japanese language education in this country.

In addition to promoting Japanese language education, she has also contributed to the promotion of understanding of Japan by hosting Japanese cultural exhibitions and culture festivals, among other events, at the University.

Furthermore, in July 2011, she received the Commendation from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan for her outstanding achievements in promoting mutual understanding between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago. Likewise, in August 2019, the Centre for Language Learning of the University of the West Indies received the Minister for Foreign Affairs Commendation for its contribution to Japanese language education for more than twenty years in this country.

The Order of the Rising Sun is a Japanese order, established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji. The Order was the first national decoration awarded by the Japanese government, created on 10 April 1875 by decree of the Council of State. The badge features rays of sunlight from the rising sun. The design of the Rising Sun symbolizes energy as powerful as the rising sun in parallel with the "rising sun" concept of Japan ("Land of the Rising Sun").

The order is awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancements in their field, development in welfare or preservation of the environment.

"Orders of the Rising Sun" - Cabinet Office Website
<https://www8.cao.go.jp/.../en/orders-of-the-rising-sun.html>



Ms. Kazuko Tsunoda (Mrs. Kazuko Rankine)