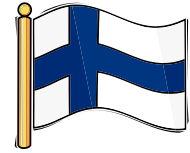


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Press Release

Two Finnish Recipients of Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for FY 2014

25 September 2014

The Embassy of Japan in Helsinki congratulates Mr. Petteri Kostermä, former chairman and current vice-chairman of the Finnish-Japanese Chamber of Commerce (FJCC), as well as Chado Urasenke Tankokai Finland Association for receiving the [Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for fiscal year 2014](#).

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups with outstanding achievements in international fields, to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries. The Commendation also aims to promote the understanding and support of the Japanese public for their activities. This year, the Commendation has been awarded to 108 individuals and 30 groups by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Mr. Fumio Kishida.

Mr. Kostermä has been selected to receive the prestigious award for his contribution to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Finland during his tenure as the Chairman of the Finnish-Japanese Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Kostermä attended the award-giving ceremony which was held on 4 August 2014 in Japan.

The Chado Urasenke Tankokai Finland Association is the Finnish Chapter of Urasenke, one of the largest schools of traditional Japanese tea ceremony, known as "chado" or "sado" in Japanese. The Finnish Tankokai has been selected to receive the Foreign Minister's Commendation for their contribution to the promotion of Japanese culture in Finland. The award-giving ceremony for Finnish Tankokai is scheduled to be held in Turku, Finland at the end of October this year. Further information on the award-giving ceremony will follow.

(end)