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**Conferment Ceremony of Decoration on Mr. Heinz Kress,  
Japanese *Inro* Researcher and Collector,  
on 7 October at the Residence of the Ambassador of Japan**

1 October 2019

The Ambassador of Japan, **H.E. Mr. Takashi Murata**, is going to confer the decoration on **Mr. Heinz Kress**, Japanese *Inro* researcher and collector, at the Conferment Ceremony at his official residence on Monday, 7 October as part of the 2019 Spring Conferment of Decoration on Foreign Nationals decided by the Government of Japan on 21 May. Mr. Kress will be bestowed the decoration “**Order of Rising Sun, Silver Rays**” on him in recognition of his outstanding contributions to promote Japanese culture overseas through the research of Japanese *Inro*.

*Inro* are light and multi-tiered containers especially for medicines formerly worn by men. Its fashion spread among the samurai, and they became increasingly popular during the Edo period (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century).

Mr. Kress with his wife, **Mrs Else Kress**, encountered *inro* in 1964. They moved to Finland on business in 1970's and started to collect and research *inro* actively. After selling their business in 1990, the Kresses have been able to dedicate themselves fully to their passion towards *inro*. In 2010, they collaborated with Museum Centre **Vapriikki** in Tampere, to hold a huge *inro* exhibition.

The media is all welcome to the ceremony on 7 October at 17:00-17:30 with pre-registration.

For further information, please contact Tomohiro Ogawa (Mr), Protocol Affairs or Kenji Ohashi (Mr), Cultural Section: 09-686 0200/ culture@hk.mofa.go.jp