

## Press Release

29<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

### JAPAN HONOURS DISTINGUISHED AUSTRALIANS

His Majesty the Emperor of Japan has today (29<sup>th</sup> April 2008) conferred awards to two distinguished Australians in recognition of their outstanding contribution and achievements in promoting good relations between Japan and Australia. The recipients are the Hon Richard Court, AC, former Premier of Western Australia and Dr Royall Tyler, former Head of the Japan Centre, ANU.

Award recipients and the honor bestowed are as follows.

<u>Name of the recipients</u>	<u>Awards</u>
<b>The Hon Richard Court AC</b>	The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star
<b>Dr Royall Tyler</b>	The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon

The second highest honor that can be conferred upon foreign nationals will be presented to the ***The Hon Richard Court, AC*** to acknowledge his exceptional contribution to the expansion of Australia-Japan relations in strengthening economic ties between Australia and Japan and also in the promotion of exchanges between Hyogo Prefecture and Western Australia.

Building on the foundation laid by his father the late Sir Charles Court, Mr Court has continued to facilitate trade between Western Australia and Japan. Indeed, there have been many political successes resulting from the initiatives of Mr Court while he was Premier of Western Australia from 1993-2001.

In the eight years that Mr Court was Premier of Western Australia he gave significant focus to cultivating good relations between Australian and Japanese business people together with government representatives. This focus was reflected in the repeated Ministerial visits from Japan to Western Australia during Mr Court's time as Premier. Mr Court's strong commitment to expanding Australia's relationship with Japan was exemplary. Today the successful outcome of Mr Court's efforts to strengthen the economic relationship with Japan is evident in Western Australia's exports to Japan, in which natural resources play a central role and account for one third of Australia's total exports to Japan.

Furthermore, Mr Court's response to the emergency situation in the wake of the devastating Hanshin Earthquake disaster in 1995 reached deep into the hearts of the Hyogo Prefectural Government and the people of Hyogo Prefecture.

The third highest honor that can be conferred upon foreign nationals was presented to **Dr Royall Tyler** acknowledging his exceptional contribution in introducing non Japanese audiences to the Noh theatre through his highly acclaimed translations and publications of numerous Noh plays, culminating in over forty years of research and deep understanding of classical Japanese literature and culture.

In 2001 Dr Tyler completed translating the entire *Tale of Genji*, a task that took approximately eight years. The result is not only a faithful rendering of the original but an outstanding example of modern English, replete with detailed commentary and illustrations that facilitate an understanding of the story. Dr Tyler's translation has made *Tale of Genji* accessible to a wider audience. In 2001, the translation was awarded the Japan-US Friendship Commission's Translation Prize. In addition, Dr Tyler's translation of anthology of medieval setsuwa stories *Japanese Tales (1987)* is highly regarded and has attracted a multitude of readers.

2007 saw Dr Tyler awarded a prestigious Japan Foundation Award for his contribution to the understanding of Japanese literature and culture in foreign countries through his long term research into and teaching Japanese literature.

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**Presentation:**

**The Hon Richard Court, AC** : The Order will be presented at a ceremony which will take place at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Dr Royall Tyler:** To be advised

**Media Enquiries:**

Enquiries regarding **The Hon Richard Court, AC** should be directed to:

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