

# Decorations and Medals – Praise the Glory

## Decoration Bureau

- Planning and Selecting Recipients for the Biannual Decoration Ceremonies and Other Honors.
- Conducting Studies and Research on the Honors System.

## What is the Honors System in Japan?

- Honors, in the form of decorations and medals of honor, are bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their national or public services, and in honor of their distinguished accomplishments in various areas of society.
- The honors system in Japan was established in the early Meiji period.
- Awarding of honors is one of the constitutional functions of the Emperor, with the advice and approval of the Cabinet.
- Decorations play an important role in keeping international goodwill; they are exchanged mutually when the state or official guests visit Japan.



Ceremony of Imperial Conferment of Decoration  
(Imperial Palace : Matsu-no-ma of the Seiden) <©Imperial Household Agency >

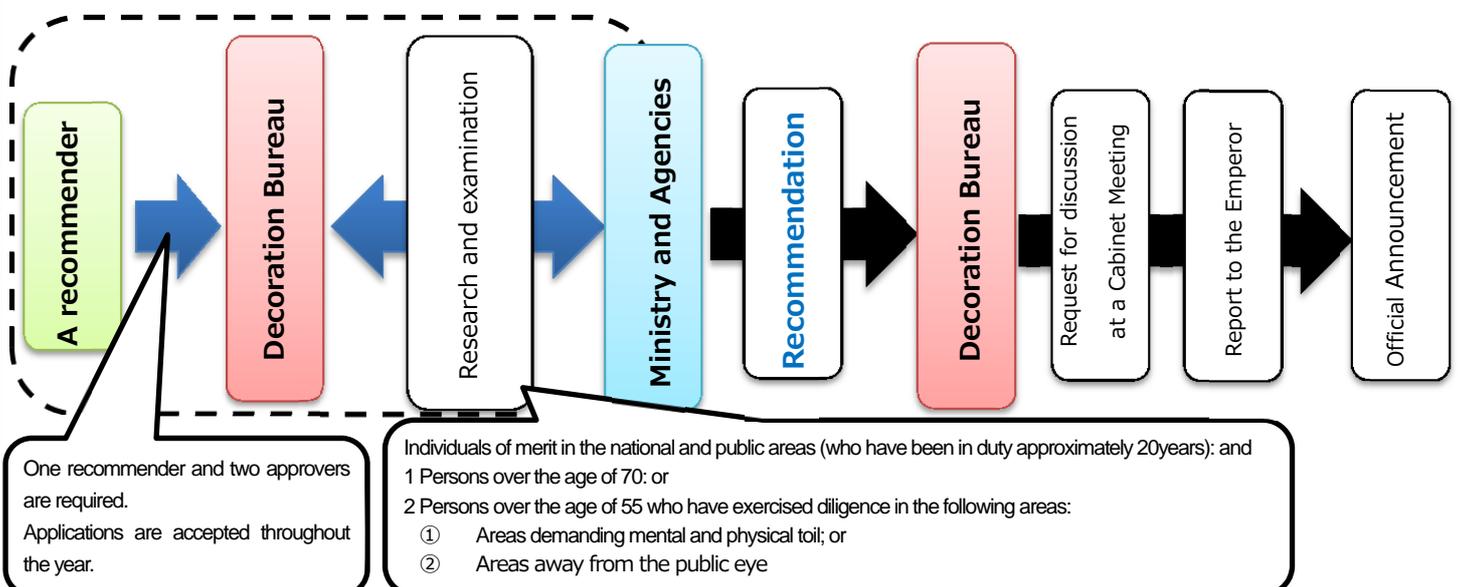


Recipients of Order of Culture

## Recommendation of Candidates for the Biannual Conferment

A recommendation system in which the public can recommend worthy candidates for the Biannual Conferment has been in effect since 2003. This system is for individuals who have made genuine achievements in areas away from the public eye or individuals who have achieved accumulated merits in multiple areas.

### 【Process】



# Types of Decorations and Medals and Summary of the Honors System

		Types	Persons Eligible
Decorations	<b>Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum</b> <b>Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum</b> <b>Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers</b>		Individuals of superior merit whose accomplishment is greater than those of the individuals to be awarded the Grand Cordon Of the Orders of the Rising Sun or of the Sacred Treasure
	<b>Orders of the Rising Sun</b>	<b>Orders of the Sacred Treasure</b>	Individuals who have made distinguished contributions to the nation or public
	Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun	Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure	
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star	
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon	
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette	
	Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays	
	Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays	
	<b>Order of Culture</b>	Individuals with highly distinguished achievements in cultural development in Japan	
			<p><b>Orders of the Rising Sun</b></p> <p>In recognition of individuals' distinguished accomplishments</p> <p><b>Orders of the Sacred Treasure</b></p> <p>In recognition of individuals' accomplishments achieved by their lengthy service</p>

		Types	Persons Eligible
Medals of Honor	<b>Medal with Red Ribbon</b>	Individuals who have risked their own lives to save others	
	<b>Medal with Green Ribbon</b>	Morally remarkable individuals who have voluntarily participated in saving society	
	<b>Medal with Yellow Ribbon</b>	Individuals who, through their diligence and perseverance, became public role models	
	<b>Medal with Purple Ribbon</b>	Individuals who have contributed to academic and artistic developments, improvements and accomplishments	
	<b>Medal with Blue Ribbon</b>	Individuals who have made prosperous efforts in the areas of public interest and public welfare	
	<b>Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon</b>	Individuals who have made exceptionally generous financial contributions for the good of the public	

		Types	Persons Eligible
<b>Biannual Conferment</b>		April 29 <sup>th</sup> for the spring and November 3 <sup>rd</sup> for the autumn (Approximately 4,000 recipients each)	Individuals of merit in the national and public areas; and 1. Persons over the age of 70; or 2. Persons over the age of 55 who have exercised diligence in the following areas: (1) Areas demanding mental and physical toil; or (2) Areas away from the public eye
<b>Conferment for Persons with Dangerous Occupations</b>		April 29 <sup>th</sup> for the spring and November 3 <sup>rd</sup> for the autumn (Approximately 3,600 recipients each)	Individuals over the age of 55 who have exercised diligence in high-risk professions, in recognition of their national and public services
<b>Conferment for the Elderly</b>		Approved at the end-of-month Cabinet meetings and officially announced on the first day of the next month	Meritorious individuals who have not received honors in the Biannual Conferment are conferred decorations at the age of 88
<b>Posthumous Conferment</b>		Approved at a Cabinet meeting when the occasion arises (The official announcement is back-dated to the last day of the person's life)	Decorations are conferred posthumously to commendable individuals
<b>Conferment for Foreigners</b>	<b>Courtesy Conferment</b>	Same day as the Biannual Conferment	State or official guests visiting Japan; or Diplomats from certain countries leaving office
	<b>Conferment in Recognition of Merits</b>	Upon arrival or departure	Foreigners who have made notable contributions to Japan
<b>Order of Culture</b>		November 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Approximately five recipients)	Individuals of particularly distinguished achievement in cultural development
<b>Biannual Conferment of Medals</b>		April 29 <sup>th</sup> for the spring and November 3 <sup>rd</sup> for the autumn (Approximately 800 recipients each)	Individuals or groups of merit in the national and public areas (Medals will be awarded regardless of age)
<b>Medal with Dark Blue Ribbon</b>		Approved at the end-of-month cabinet meetings and officially announced as of the first day of the next month	



Collar of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum



Grand Cordon of the Supreme Order of the Chrysanthemum



Medal with Red Ribbon



Order of Culture



Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers

Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun

Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure

(In addition to the above, there is another type of decoration, the Orders of the Precious Crown, which are bestowed only on females, on special occasions such as courtesy conferment on foreigners.)