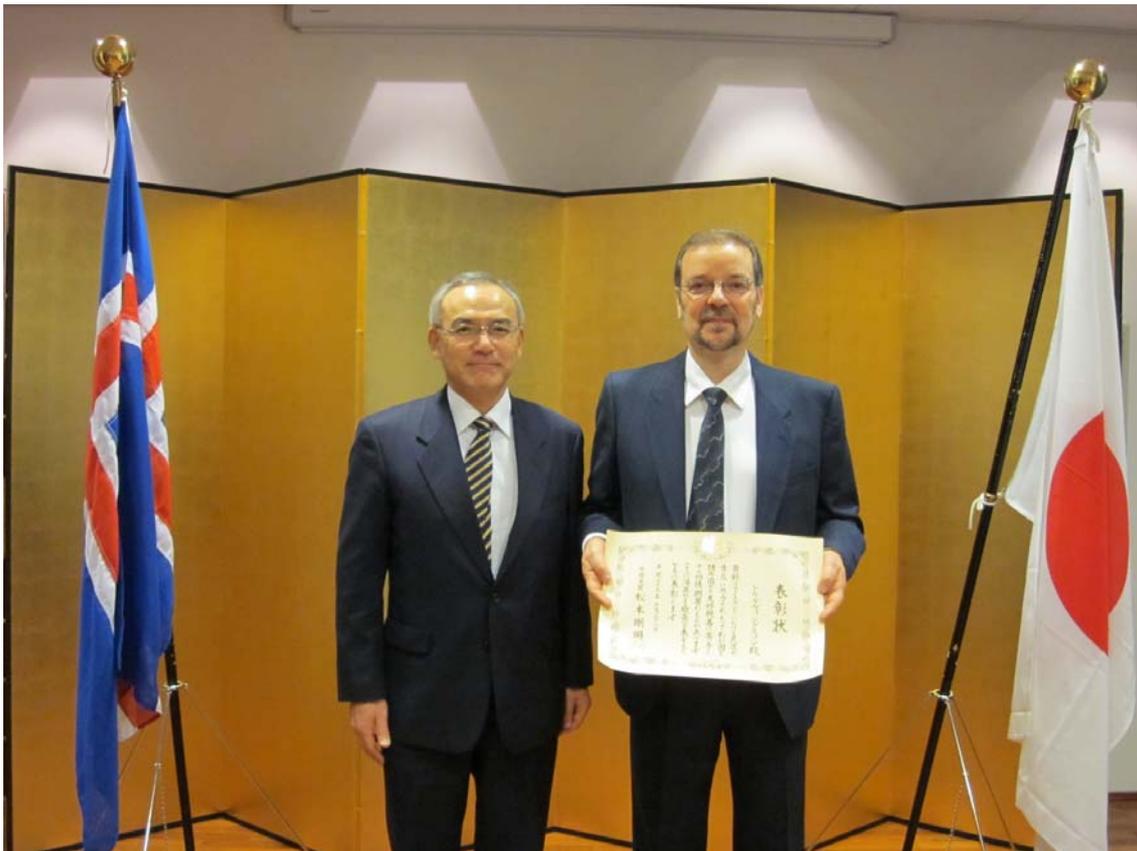


Press Release

Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson to receive 2011 Foreign Minister's Commendation

November 2011
Embassy of Japan in Iceland



On the 18th November 2011, the award ceremony of the Minister's Commendation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in FY 2011 toward Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson, the President of both the European Kyudo Federation and the Icelandic Kyudo Association, was held at the Embassy of Japan in Iceland. Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson was awarded of the Foreign Minister's Commendation in recognition of his distinguished service in promoting martial arts in Iceland, contributing to promoting friendly relations between Japan and other countries. (*"Kyudo" is a Japanese archery.)

The Foreign Minister's Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups

of outstanding achievements in international fields, to acknowledge their contribution 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 was awarded to 68 individuals and 30 groups of which 52 individuals and 27 groups are from overseas.

At the award ceremony, in his speech, Ambassador Takashima remarked on Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson's decades of contribution to the promotion of martial arts, especially those of Kyudo, not only in Iceland but over the other countries in Europe. On behalf of awarding the Foreign Minister's Commendation, Ambassador Takashima expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson for his outstanding contribution of promoting martial arts that have led to the promotion of the friendly relationship between Iceland and Japan.

Upon receiving his Commendation, Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson responded, by expressing his surprise, that he did not expect to receive such honorable Commendation and this was great pleasure of his to have his activities on martial arts were awarded. Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson also mentioned about his long-years of passion in not only martial arts but in Japanese arts in which he found "the unique beauty and aesthetic sensibility of the country (Japan)". He is also fascinated by Japanese culture that he, himself, goes to Japan twice a year for Japanese arts search. Dr. Tryggvi Sigurðsson concluded his speech with his gratitude to receive the award in heartfelt Japanese, "Kokoro kara arigatou" (Sincerely thank you from bottom of my heart).