

## Press Release

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva  
November 3, 2014

### **Conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, Upon Mr. Olivier Vodoz, Former Chairman of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund\*, Former Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross**

On November 3rd, 2014 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2014 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Among the 57 foreign recipients is Mr. Olivier Vodoz, former Chairman of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund and former Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

- DECORATION            The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
- SERVICE                Contributed to the development of the Empress Shoken Fund and further promoted relationship between Japan and the ICRC
- NAME (AGE)            Olivier Vodoz (71)
- MAJOR TITLES        Former Chairman of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund  
Former Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)  
Former President of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva  
Member of the Board of Directors of Union Bancaire Privée  
Member of the Board of Directors of Heritage Bank & Trust
- ADDRESS                Geneva, Switzerland (Swiss)  
(NATIONALITY)

Mr. Vodoz is the former president of the Geneva Liberal Party. From 1977 to 1989, he was member of Geneva's cantonal Parliament and, from 1989 to 1997, member of the Council of State of the Republic and Canton of Geneva. He was the President of the Council of State from 1994 to 1995.

Mr. Vodoz became member of the ICRC in 1998 in addition to his professional activities. In 2005, he became chairman of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund\*. He managed the Fund carefully and effectively and allocated its resources to most suitable grants. He was also active to make the Fund more known to the world. On the occasion of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fund, he made every effort to celebrate this milestone, and the Joint Commission published a book about the history of the Empress Shoken Fund and its achievements under the leadership of Mr. Vodoz. He actively developed the Fund until his retirement in 2013.

In 2006, he was appointed ICRC Vice-President. He contributed to the promotion of relations between Japan and the ICRC. He traveled to Japan to attend the Tokyo International Conference on African Development V (TICAD V) in 2013 on behalf of the ICRC and as chairman of the Joint Commission of the Empress Shoken Fund. In the garden of ICRC headquarters, there is a sapling from a Ginkgo biloba tree which survived the Hiroshima atomic bomb and planted by Mr. Vodoz.

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\* The Japanese Red Cross Society was established in 1877 and recognized by the ICRC in 1886. The Empress Shoken Fund was created in 1912 by Her Majesty The Empress of Japan at the 9th International Red Cross Conference to promote "relief work in time of peace". The Fund was set up with a donation of 100,000 yen in Japanese gold. This has since been augmented with further endowment by the Imperial Family and with contributions from the Government of Japan and the Japanese Red Cross Society, among others. Today, the Fund has a total value of 14 million Swiss francs, the proceeds of which are used to support projects of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the world. The Joint Commission, consisting of six members, three from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the other three from the ICRC, manages the Fund and approves grants submitted annually by National Societies.