

## The full text of the statement of the reasons for the award by Ambassador Erno Bohar

Today is a very special occasion and we have gathered here to celebrate Noriko Mizuta, chancellor and leader of the Josai university group, who has been awarded with the “Pro Cultura Hungarica” medal.

This award is given by the Republic of Hungary to foreign citizens, who have made a major contribution to spreading Hungarian culture in abroad and to deepening cultural and civil relations between Hungary and other nations.

The person who has contributed the most to the deepening ties between Japan and Hungary on many fields including education, culture and civil society, is standing right next to me: Ms. Noriko Mizuta.

The Hungarian activities and relations of the Josai university group go back to more than five years and already have a very rich history. Within these years Josai has established official relations with numerous universities in Hungary including Szt. István University of Gödöllő, Budapest Business School or ELTE. As a result of this, intensive exchange of professors and students has been going on. Presently there are more than 200 Japanese students studying the Hungarian language at the different campuses of Josai, and every year Josai hosts several events popularizing Hungarian culture.

The most memorable moment in our mutual cooperation with Josai was in December 2009 when then Hungarian president, László Sólyom paid an official visit to the university, held a lecture and met with students.

And the biggest achievement for Hungary was, and I cannot find the words to describe how grateful we are for

this, the Mizuta Hungary Scholarship that was launched last year. The Mizuta Hungary scholarship is the biggest scholarship program ever offering the chance for young Hungarian students to study in Japan for one year. In the first year we had eleven students at the different campuses of Josai, and this year there are numerous applications with many bright students among them, which clearly shows the success and the growing popularity of the Mizuta Hungary Scholarship Program.

I know this humble award cannot fully reflect all those great achievements that Ms. Mizuta has done so far for our country and the Japanese-Hungarian relationships, but it is to symbolize our gratitude to you, and also to encourage you to walk this path in the future and further develop the strong friendship between our nations.

For Ms. Mizuta's outstanding contribution to the development of cultural and educational cooperation between Hungary and Japan, the Minister of National Resources of the Republic of Hungary, Miklós Réthelyi awards the PRO CULTURA HUNGARICA commemorative medal to Ms. Noriko Mizuta.

15<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Budapest

Signed by Minister Réthelyi.