

PRESS RELEASE

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2018 FALL CONFERMENT OF DECORATION MR. AKIRA KATAOKA

Detroit, MI – On November 3rd, 2018 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients of the 2018 Fall Imperial Decorations. Mr. Akira Kataoka, former president and chairman of Denso International America (DIAM) is among this year’s recipients. Mr. Kataoka will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon in recognition of his contributions toward strengthening the relationship between Japan and the United States.

- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
- SERVICE: Strengthening economic relations between the United States and Japan and improving the welfare of Japanese communities in the U.S.
- NAME: Akira Kataoka (84)
- MAJOR TITLE: President and Chairman of Denso International America
- ADDRESS (NATIONALITY): Troy, Michigan (Japan)



SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Since arriving in Detroit, in 1971, Mr. Akira Kataoka has made exceptional contributions towards creating trust and friendship between Japan and the United States. He strengthened economic relations between the two countries. He played an essential role in winning the trust of Americans and starting business with the Big Three automakers in order to transfer Denso’s manufacturing base to the United States, which began operation in 1984. After Denso International America was established, Mr. Kataoka became the first president and, later on, the chairman from 1997 to 1999.

When Japanese expatriates began relocating to Michigan for work, Mr. Kataoka realized the importance of proper education to Japanese children and, in cooperation with a small group of Japanese people sharing such views, helped establish a Japanese school in Detroit in 1973.

Mr. Kataoka also helped establish the Japanese Society of Detroit (1973), was the organizations fourth president (1976), and has remained active, providing advice to the organization, even after he stepped down from his previous role. (*The Japanese Society was renamed the Japan Business Society of Detroit in 1997.*)