July 11, 2014

Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino to visit and welcome Kiwanis International convention attendees

CHIBA, Japan (July 11, 2014)—Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino will visit, and Prince Akishino will welcome more than 2,000 Kiwanis convention attendees during the opening session of the 99th Annual Kiwanis International Convention in Chiba, Japan next Thursday.

“We are so honored that Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino will visit our convention to welcome Kiwanis members from around the world,” said Kiwanis International President Gunter Gasser. “Their presence at our convention will be an extraordinary experience, and we are pleased to be able to share the important charity works of Kiwanis International, especially the success of The Eliminate Project, with the Imperial Family.”

Each year, Kiwanis members from more than 25 countries attend the Kiwanis International convention for education, idea-sharing, speakers, entertainment, workshops and governance. This year, attendees also will celebrate the momentum of The Eliminate Project, Kiwanis’ effort to rid the world of maternal and neonatal tetanus. Kiwanis’ Japan District is a fundraising leader for The Eliminate Project, leading the way in per-member-fundraising and surpassing the district’s goal of US$1 million.

“We are humbled that His Imperial Highness would take time from his schedule to speak to our Kiwanis members, who are passionate about serving their communities around the world,” said former Kiwanis International Trustee Tadao Oda. “I know our Japanese members feel especially privileged to have Their Imperial Highness Prince and Princess Akishino as our guests.”
The opening session of the 99th Annual Kiwanis International Convention will take place on Thursday, July 17 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Makuhari Messe Convention Center in Chiba.

About Kiwanis
Founded in 1915, Kiwanis International is a global organization of clubs and members dedicated to serving the children of the world. Kiwanis and its family of clubs, including Circle K International for university students, Key Club for students age 14–18, Builders Club for students age 11–14, Kiwanis Kids for students age 6–12 and Aktion Club for adults living with disabilities, dedicate annually more than 18 million service hours to strengthen communities and serve children. The Kiwanis International family is composed of nearly 600,000 adult and youth members in 80 countries and geographic areas. For more information about Kiwanis International, please visit www.kiwanis.org.