



Bridgestone CEO and President Shoshi Arakawa Honored with Commander of the Order of Leopold of the Kingdom of Belgium

Shoshi Arakawa, Chairman of the Board, CEO and President of Bridgestone Corporation, was presented with the prestigious Commander of the Order of Leopold of the Kingdom of Belgium. The Order of Leopold is the most prestigious order that can be bestowed upon an individual for his contribution to the development of Belgium. The ceremony was held at the official residence of Mr. Johan Maricou, Ambassador of H.M. the King of the Belgians to Japan, who presented the award.

Arakawa was inaugurated as Chairman, CEO and President of Bridgestone Europe NV/SA ("BSEU") in March 2001 and held that position for approximately three years. The achievements of BSEU during his leadership period and his accomplishments as CEO and President of Bridgestone Corporation were significant in the evaluation of his contribution to the economic development of Belgium.

"The decoration of Commander of the Order of Leopold that you bestow on me today, as I understand, is in recognition of Bridgestone's contribution to the economic development of your country," stated Arakawa at the ceremony.

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Bridgestone Corporation,

headquartered in Tokyo, is the world's largest tire and rubber company. In addition to tires for use in a wide variety of applications, it manufactures a broad range of diversified products, which include industrial rubber and chemical products and sporting goods. Its products are sold in over 150 nations and territories around the world.

For More Information please contact:

Noura Souki
Pencell PR & Events
Tel: +971-4-4278733
noura@pencelldubai.com