



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Japanese judge to officiate at IDW 2006**

Australian dairy farmers have the opportunity to see in action one of Japan's most respected judges with the appointment of Mr Tommy Araki to judge the Holsteins at International Dairy Week (IDW) in January.

Mr Araki's visit is the first time a Japanese judge has officiated at IDW, Australia's largest dairy cattle sale and show, and is part of a program to improve trade between dairy breeders in Australia and Japan.

IDW Co-director, Mr David Blackmore said he hoped Mr Araki's visit would encourage more Japanese farmers to attend IDW and see what Australian farmers had to offer.

"The original purpose in setting up IDW was to promote Australian live cattle, semen and embryos to the world market," Mr Blackmore said.

"We hope that Mr Araki is impressed with the high quality of cattle in Australia and encourages further visitors and buyers from Japan.

"This visit is also an opportunity for Australian farmers to learn from Mr Araki what Japanese farmers want in stud dairy cattle."

IDW Co-director, Mr Brian Leslie who visited the All Japan Show in November - the country's largest dairy show held every five years, said Mr Araki was regarded as the best judge in Japan.

"I met with Mr Araki at the show and learnt that he had heard about the quality of cattle in Australia and was very eager to see our cattle at IDW," Mr Leslie said.

"Mr Araki will be commenting on the Holstein cattle after each class, which will then be translated into English and communicated by loudspeaker to the audience."

Mr Blackmore said with the advent on BSE, or mad cow disease, in Canada and the USA in 2003 they had made a concerted effort to encourage Japanese buyers to attend IDW.

"In last two to three years, IDW has seen an increasing number of Japanese buyers come to Australia and purchase some of the top priced cattle at the sales.

"Last year we had up to a dozen Japanese visitors and this year we hope to have significantly more. We believe the Japanese farmers are realising that our farmers have genetics as good as anywhere else in the world.

“To date there has been limited understanding of the markets and trade between the Japanese and Australian dairy industries. Opening this dialogue through IDW is a significant opportunity for Australian dairy farmers to increase exports of dairy cattle and products,” he said.

Mr Leslie said Japanese farms were run similar to those in North America given the similar husbandry conditions and said he was impressed by the quality of the farms and the show.

“For the past 25 years, Japanese farmers have been purchasing the best genetics from North America. While the farming techniques are quite different to what we do in Australia, the genetics are the same as here, with the winners at the All Japan Show sired by the same winners at IDW.

“Interestingly farmers in Japan cannot enter the All Japan Show as cattle have to qualify within their regions. Cattle are selected from all over the country and are judged by the chief classifier,” he said.

Other judges at this year’s IDW include Stephen White from Indiana, USA judging the Jerseys and Illawarras, Ken Empey from Ontario Canada judging the Ayrshires, Anthony Le Trionnaire from Rennes, France judging the Brown Swiss and Carl Saucier from Quebec Canada to judge the Guernseys.

Based on cattle and exhibitor numbers, International Dairy Week is the largest cattle dairy show and sale in the southern hemisphere and is in the top five shows worldwide. IDW will be held in Tatura, Victoria from January 15 to 20, 2006. Entries to exhibit cattle close on Friday 9 December 2005. Further information can be found at [www.internationaldairyweek.com.au](http://www.internationaldairyweek.com.au)

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