**Press Release**

The Order of the Rising Sun

**Makoto Nakao honoured by Japanese government**

**Leuven, November 2019 – Almost 100 years ago, three young chemists from Japan founded what would one day become GC Corporation, a leading manufacturer of dental products. Among them was Kiyoshi Nakao. He succeeded in keeping the company in family hands, his son and grandson serving in GC’s top leadership for many years. Now, the Japanese government decided to bestow grandson Makoto Nakao the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.**

Makoto Nakao, the former President of GC Corporation and CEO of GC International AG. In the past decades, he made a significant contribution to the company’s sustainable growth and continued success by creating a high-performance environment based on a blend of Japanese-European culture.

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, is one of the highest orders conferred by the Japanese government. Makoto Nakao will receive the award for his distinguished accomplishments in the Japanese pharmaceutical industry at a Conferment Ceremony on Friday, December 13th, 2019. Afterwards, he will be invited to the Imperial Palace to have an audience with the Emperor.

While Makoto Nakao was the President of GC, the company prospered and grew: Factories and offices were opened all over the world, and new products and training concepts were developed. All this happened with the goal to improve global oral health. These efforts paid off. Lately, for example, GC Europe N.V. was recognized from the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) with the Global Excellence Award 2019 as the first dental company ever.

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