



## PRESS RELEASE



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### **The Government of Japan Dispatched Japanese Volleyball Coach to Nigeria**

The government of Japan dispatched a Japanese Assistant Coach for Women's National Volleyball Team to Abuja to train Nigerian volleyball coaches.

The volleyball coach, Mr. Mizuno, arrived in Nigeria on Saturday, 13th February 2016, and held refresher course and training sessions with Nigerian state head coaches from all 37 states of Nigeria including the F.C.T, coaches of some University teams and other volleyball clubs. All of the participants benefited technically from the knowledge and experience of the coach during the one week interactive programme.

This program is part of 'SPORT FOR TOMORROW' programme committed by the Government of Japan towards Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games which involves a dynamic plan to pursue international cooperation and cultural exchange through sports, particularly in developing countries.

The official closing ceremony was held on Monday, 22 February at the National Institute for Sports, Package B, National Stadium Complex Abuja, and it was opened by the welcome speech of Engr. Habu Ahmed Gumel, President of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation. The Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Sports, Mr. Christian Ohaa, who represented the Honourable Minister of Sports presented certificates to all the participants. Mr. Masaya Otsuka, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Nigeria officially handed over 200 volley balls donated by the Japanese Volley Ball Association to the Nigerian Volley ball Federation at the ceremony.



Mr. Mizuno



National Team Coaches

For media enquiries, please contact:

Mr. Hideki Sakamoto

Head of Culture & PR Section, Embassy of Japan



<http://www.sport4tomorrow.jp/>

Attachment 1



Athletes in training session



Cross Section of Uni-Abuja Team



Engr. Gumel making a speech



Mr. Masaya Otsuka Handing over V-balls



Participant Receiving Certificate



Group Photo of Athletes at closing ceremony

**REMARKS BY THE DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION OF JAPAN AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF VOLLEY BALL TRAINING AT  
NATIONAL STADIUM, ABUJA (22 Feb.2016)**

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports,  
H.E. Mr. Chinyeaka Ohaa

President of the Nigeria Volley Ball Federation and the Nigerian Olympic Committee,  
Engr. Habu Ahmed Gumel

Other Directors of the National Sports Commission here present

Distinguished Members of the Volleyball Federation

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to be here today to witness the closing ceremony of one week training program for the National and State Team Coaches of the Nigeria Volley Ball Federation.

Although this arrangement was put together through the friendly relationship between the President of the Nigeria Volleyball Federation, Engr. Habu Ahmed Gumel, and his Japanese counterpart, it generally falls within the Japanese Governments "Sports For Tomorrow" program committed towards Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Through this program the Japanese government seeks to pursue a vibrant international cooperation and exchange through sports.

Volley ball is one of the popular sports in which Japan has progressed very well. After winning the gold medal by the Japanese women's National Team at the 1964 Olympic Games, which was hosted by Tokyo, the interest in Volley ball has continued to increase leading to two more Gold medals, Men's team in 1972 Munich Olympics and Women's team in 1976 Montreal Olympics.

The government of Japan is pleased to hear that Nigeria is already keying into this program. I am particularly impressed by the idea to train the coaches, who shall then train all of the players and, I hope that this is going to be very productive in the end.

This time, the Japanese Volley Ball Association does not only provide the training program, but also donate 200 official Volley Balls to Nigeria Volley Ball Federation here today. Nigeria is the biggest country in Africa in many aspects, and has been providing the lead for other African countries in sports, especially in the football event in which Nigeria have won several Gold medals at the world stage.

It is my hope that, utilizing this great opportunity, Nigerian National Volley Ball Team shall be well prepared for next four years and getting strong as same as National football team, and we are expecting to see Nigerian Volley Ball National team at Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics games.

Thank you.