

Press Release

Embassy of Japan

Press Release

3 November 2019

2019 Autumn Conferment of Decoration Senator Udoma Udo Udoma The first Nigerian for the Rising Sun

On November 3, 2019, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2019 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Senator Udoma Udo Udoma is among this year's foreign recipients. He will receive *The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star*, one of the highest order awarded in the name of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of his contributions towards strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and Nigeria. Senator Udoma, an accomplished lawyer who served as the Minister of Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 2015 to 2019, and Honorary Consul of Japan at Lagos from 2011 to 2015, is the first Nigerian ever to receive the Order of the Rising Sun award from the Government of Japan.

- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star
- SERVICE: Contribution to strengthening bilateral relations and promoting friendship between Japan and Nigeria
- NAME: Udoma Udo Udoma
- MAJOR TITLE: Minister of Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Honorary Consul of Japan at Lagos
- ADDRESS: Lagos, Nigeria

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Senator Udoma Udo Udoma has played an important role for many years in improving the Japan-Nigeria relationship. In his role as the Minister of Budget and National Planning of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from 2015 to 2019, Senator Udoma has been a strong proponent of Japan's official development assistance to Nigeria. In 2015, Japan was the 3rd largest donor in Nigeria, and a number of development cooperation projects related to health and infrastructure were implemented during his tenure. His contributions also extended to a promotion of bilateral trade and Japanese investment in Nigeria as a way to create jobs and generate wealth for both economies. Senator Udoma's role in deepening the economic and social ties between Nigeria and Japan was also prominent when he served as the Honorary Consul of Japan at Lagos from 2011 to 2015. He supported the economic relationship through closer business-to-business ties. This role contributed to advancement and expansion of Japanese companies' presence and investment in Nigeria.

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star



The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star is one of the orders under the Order of the Rising Sun, established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji. The Order of the Rising Sun was the first national decoration awarded by the Government of Japan. The badge features rays of sunlight from the rising sun. The order is awarded in the name of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and is awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancements in their field, development in welfare or preservation of the environment. The Order of the Rising Sun comprises as follows:

1. Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun
2. The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star
3. The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon
4. The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
5. The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays
6. The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays