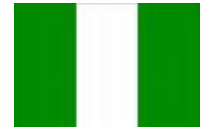




PRESS RELEASE



13th February 2020

PR/31/FY2020

Imperial Decoration Conferment Ceremony

Japan conferred The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star to Senator Udoma Udo Udoma

On February 12, 2020, an Imperial Decoration Conferment Ceremony took place at the residence of Ambassador Kikuta. Senator Udoma Udo Udoma received The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, one of the highest orders 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, became the first Nigerian to receive the Order of the Rising Sun award from the Government of Japan.

The ceremony was attended by his family and friends: Mrs. Sally Udoma, Wife of Honouree, Retired Counsel General, Exploration & Protection, Chevron Europe, Eurasin and Middle East; Mr. Hakeem Belo-Osagie, Chair Metis Capital Partners and Chairman, FSDH Holding Limited; Chief Nduka Obaigbena, founding Chairman & Editor-in-Chief of the THISDAY Media Group, ARISE News Channel; Obong Victor Attah, former Governor of Akwa Ibom State, etc. Officials of the Embassy of Japan, and Ms. Makiko Okumura, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Nigeria Office, also participated in the ceremony.

<Imperial Decoration Conferment Ceremony>

Venue: Ambassador's residence

Date: 12 February 2020

Time: 12:00-14:00

(*)The Order of the Rising Sun

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star is one of the highest 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: (i) Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun; (ii) The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star; (iii) The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon; (iv) The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette; (v) The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays; and, (vi) The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays.