

Press Release

Embassy of Japan

Press Release

29 April 2020

2020 Spring Conferment of Decoration Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole

On April 29, 2020, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2020 Spring Imperial Decorations. Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole 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 between Japan and Nigeria, inter Alia, in health sector.

Professor Adewole becomes the second Nigerian to receive such Order from Japan, following Senator Udoma Udo Udoma who received it at the 2019 Autumn Imperial Decorations.

- DECORATION: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star
- SERVICE: Contribution to strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Nigeria on health sector
- NAME: Isaac Folorunso Adewole
- MAJOR TITLE: Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan
- ADDRESS: Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria

SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Professor Isaac Folorunso Adewole served as the Vice-Chancellor of University of Ibadan from 2010 to 2014. He also served as Nigeria's Minister of Health from 2015 to 2019.

During his tenure as the Minister of Health, he made outstanding contributions towards fostering bilateral relationship between Japan and Nigeria, inter alia, in health sector. His contributions have yielded much positive impact on Nigeria's healthcare system, which is of critical importance to the lives of Nigerian people. Notable achievements among them are:

1. On assumption of duty as the Minister of Health and realising the huge challenges facing Nigeria's health sector, Prof. Adewole decided to reinforce

the Japan-Nigeria partnership in the area of health and then went ahead to receive the support of the Government of Japan for the procurement of polio vaccines for the National Polio Immunisation Campaign for children under 5 years in Nigeria. This action has kept Nigeria free of the wild polio virus since 2016.

2. During his ministerial position, Prof. Adewole made unrelenting effort to receive the approval of the Government of Japan in 2017 and 2018 to donate 43 fully equipped medical ambulances to the Ministry of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. These ambulances were subsequently distributed to every state of the Federation as well as the FCT. Now with the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria, the services of these ambulances has become invaluable. For example, in Lagos State the ambulance has been used to resuscitate and transport COVID-19 patients to treatment centres.

3. As the Minister of Health, Prof. Adewole led his ministry to play a fundamental role in establishing a partnership between the Embassy of Japan in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC). This partnership has since resulted to extension of grants from the Government of Japan to the NCDC for establishment of NCDC's disease diagnostic centres in Lagos and Abuja as well as donations and distribution of medical equipment to numerous NCDC's reference laboratories in Nigeria.

4. As the Minister of health, Prof. Adewole' s efforts at improving Japan-Nigeria relationship in the area of health is not just restricted to the national level, but also at the local level. This is evidenced at his ministry's presence in some GGP's signing ceremonies that had to do with delivery of quality health care to rural communities in Nigeria.

On account of the aforementioned achievements and other numerous health related development cooperation projects that were implemented during his tenure as the Minister of Health in addition to his role in contributing to advancement and expansion of Japan's presence in Nigeria' prof. Adewole follows Senator Udoma Udo Udoma as the only Nigerian to receive such honour from Japan.

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