

## **JAPAN AND NIGERIA STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION AGAINST FINANCIAL CRIMES**

INTERPOL and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have collaborated with Nigerian national law enforcement agencies to improve investigative skills aimed at combating financial crimes.

The INTERPOL/JICA Workshop which was held from 29 July to 1 August 2024, at the EFCC Academy in Abuja, Nigeria started with an opening ceremony attended by Ambassador MATSUNAGA Kazuyoshi and other distinguished guests.

The workshop marked a significant collaboration aimed at enhancing the capabilities of national law enforcement agencies. Supported by critical partners including JICA, the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), this project focused on strengthening the skills required for conducting financial investigations and traditional policing.

The workshop's overarching goal was to bolster Nigeria's safety and security framework by equipping law enforcement officials with essential knowledge and skills to combat financial crimes. The initiative also sought to train the trainer and create a network of skilled investigators capable of fostering collaboration across multiple agencies.

The workshop attracted about 40 officials from 10 Nigerian law enforcement bodies. Experts from Interpol and Japan's National Police Agency provided insights on international cooperation and methodologies for investigating crimes involving cryptocurrencies.

A highlight of the workshop was indeed a simulation exercise focusing on a case where an elderly man was defrauded through cryptocurrency investment solicited on a social media platform. Nigerian investigators praised the program for its practical relevance in combating corruption and financial crimes within the country.

Interpol officials expressed optimism that Nigerian investigators would leverage their newfound skills to combat international criminal networks, thereby contributing to global security.

This workshop was also covered by NHK World.

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