

2021 Autumn Conferment of Decoration
H.E. Prof. Afework Kassu Gizaw
Former State Minister of Science and Higher Education
and
Mr. Girma Tamirat Weldesillasie
Former Local Employee, Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia

On 3 November, 2021 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2021 Autumn Conferment of Decoration. H.E. Prof. Afework Kassu Gizaw, former State Minister of Science and Higher Education, and Mr. Girma Tamirat Weldesillasie, former local employee of the Embassy of Japan in Ethiopia are among the foreign recipients.

H.E. Prof. Afework Kassu Gizaw

H.E. Prof. Afework is being conferred the decoration in recognition of his outstanding contribution to strengthening the relationship and promoting academic exchange between Japan and Ethiopia. He studied biomedical science in Japan, as a recipient of a scholarship offered by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology (MEXT). After gaining insights into human development during his doctoral studies in Japan, he actively engaged in the field of education and human resource development in Ethiopia. He was interested in the school lunch system in Japan, and has been working on introducing such a system in primary education throughout Ethiopia. In the area of higher education, he has engaged in academic exchanges with universities abroad, and played an important role in negotiating an academic exchange agreement between the University of Gondar and Tokushima University in Japan in 2007. He has also contributed to the introduction of the “Kaizen” workplace philosophy, in order to improve efficiency and productivity in Ethiopia. He was proactively involved in the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) as then State Minister of Science and Higher Education, and then as State Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing Ethiopia at the TICAD ministerial meeting held in Japan in October 2018.

Decoration: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

Contributions: Contribution to strengthening the relationship and promoting academic exchange between Japan and Ethiopia

Mr. Girma Tamirat Weldesillasie

Mr. Girma is being conferred the decoration in recognition of his longstanding contribution to activities of the Japanese overseas establishment. He has served for almost 30 years as a guard of the Residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Ethiopia. In 2012, he was awarded by the Embassy of Japan for his 20-year continuous service to the Embassy.

Decoration: The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Silver Rays

Contributions: Contribution to activities of the Japanese overseas establishment

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