

**Japan Honors Deputy Commissioner Derartu Tulu
with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
in the 2023 Autumn Conferment of Decorations on Foreign Nationals**

On November 3, 2023, the Government of Japan announced the foreign recipients of the 2023 Autumn Imperial Decoration. Ms. Derartu Tulu, President of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation, is among this year's foreign recipients in recognition of her outstanding contribution towards strengthening the bilateral relationship between Japan and Ethiopia in the field of sports diplomacy and exchange. She will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette.

With regard to sports diplomacy, Ms. Derartu Tulu assisted in organizing a meeting of famous Ethiopian runners with the late Prime Minister ABE Shinzo when the latter visited here in Addis Ababa in 2014 (<https://japantoday.com/category/politics/abe-meets-ethiopian-running-heroes>). In 2019, Ms. Derartu also met Mr. SUZUKI Daichi, Commissioner of the Japan Sports Agency, and Ms. HASHIMOTO Seiko, the then Minister in charge of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and shared her experiences to contribute to the success of the then upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Ms. Derartu made various contributions in the area of sports exchange, including her leadership in sending Mr. Abebe Mekonnen (known in Japan for his three consecutive wins in the Tokyo Marathon) to Kasama city as a coach for the Athletics academy of the city in 2019.

The Order of the Rising Sun, established in 1875, is the Japanese Government's oldest honor. The Decorations are awarded to individuals with outstanding achievements in international fields, in order to acknowledge their contributions to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries and areas. The Decorations also aim to promote the understanding and support of the Japanese public for the activities of the recipients.