

Awarding Ceremony for the Patent of Decoration “The Order of The Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette” in FY2023 Autumn to Deputy Commissioner Derartu Tulu

On 2 April 2023, an awarding ceremony was held at Ambassador Shibata’s residence in Addis Ababa in celebration of Deputy Commissioner Derartu Tulu, President of the Ethiopian Athletics Federation, receiving the Patent of Decoration “the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette” in FY2023 Autumn.

Deputy Commissioner Derartu has contributed to sports diplomacy and exchanges in track and field between Japan and Ethiopia since she won a gold medal in the 2001 Tokyo International Women's Marathon. She assisted in organizing a meeting of young Ethiopian runners with the late Prime Minister ABE Shinzo in Addis Ababa in 2014, and he donated running shoes to them. Furthermore, in 2019, she accepted the first Japanese long-distance athletes at the Addis Ababa Sports Academy and played a central role in coordinating joint training with Ethiopian long-distance athletes in and around Addis Ababa, contributing significantly to strengthening the Japanese long-distance athletes.

Deputy Commissioner Derartu also made a significant contribution to deepening cultural ties between Japan and Ethiopia. She coordinated with then President Girma and ensured that the processes for the restoration of the Japanese Garden at the Presidential Palace in 2012 went smoothly. After the restoration of the Japanese Garden, she organised a Japanese tea ceremony and Ethiopian coffee ceremony in the Garden together with a Japanese tea ceremony master who visited Ethiopia from Japan.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Shibata hoped that Deputy Commissioner Derartu will keep contributing to the promotion of sports exchanges between Japan and Ethiopia and encourage Ethiopian youth and young athletes to find interest in training in Japan, as well as invite many Japanese youth and athletes to train in Ethiopia.

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.



Decoration to Deputy Commissioner Derartu



Deputy Commissioner Derartu making remarks



H.E. Mr. Kejera Merdasa, Minister of Culture and Sport, making remarks



Ambassador Shibata making remarks



Audience



Group Photo