

## Mrs Hiromi Murai – International Friendship Ladies Badminton Tournament

Mrs Hiromi Murai is the recipient of the 2012 BWF Women in Badminton Award for her long service to women's badminton and her active involvement in badminton for women. Since establishing the Osaka Ladies Badminton Federation in 1975, Mrs Murai has been an active supporter of badminton for women. In 1995 she started the International Friendship Ladies Badminton Tournament with 155 teams from four countries (1122 female players) participating - and this event has been held every year ever since in Osaka (except in 2008 when it was held in the USA).



In 2012, the 18<sup>th</sup> International Friendship Ladies Badminton Tournament attracted 231 teams from six countries – a total of 1696 participants. The 15th International Friendship Ladies Badminton Tournament in 2009 was approved as a BWF sanctioned event and the tournament became a sanctioned event of Nippon Badminton Association and Japan Ladies Badminton Federation. The event over the years has attracted women's teams from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, USA and Vietnam.



In 2012 Mrs Murai received the Meritorious Service Award from Nippon Badminton Association and in 2013 she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Japan Ladies Badminton Federation. Mrs Murai is a tireless administrator and organizer of badminton for women organized by women.

Mrs Hiromi Murai will make a presentation on the International Friendship Ladies Badminton Tournament and how this provides opportunities for women's participation in an international teams event.

