

**Message from Mr Lamine Diack
IAAF President**

On behalf of the International Association of Athletics Federations, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Mr Koji Murofushi, winner of the Japan Association of Athletics Federations' 2012 "Athlete of the Year" Award.

Murofushi, the reigning IAAF World champion in the Hammer Throw, came to the London Olympic Games having thrown in only one competition in 2012 and yet remarkably won the bronze medal with his third round effort of 78.71 metres.

The 2012 JAAF Athlete of the Year Award is the latest recognition of the illustrious career of Murofushi, the 2004 Olympic champion, who has won three World championship medals and 15 national titles.

A Member of the IAAF Athletes' Commission, at 38 years of age Murofushi has graced many major championships over the last two decades and, competing in a discipline which history has taught us favours mature athletes, I hope his inspirational career will continue for many years to come.

Therefore I wish Murofushi a successful season in 2013 and a very bright future with many achievements still to come.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Lamine Diack.

Lamine Diack