

# JAPAN PRIZE NEWS

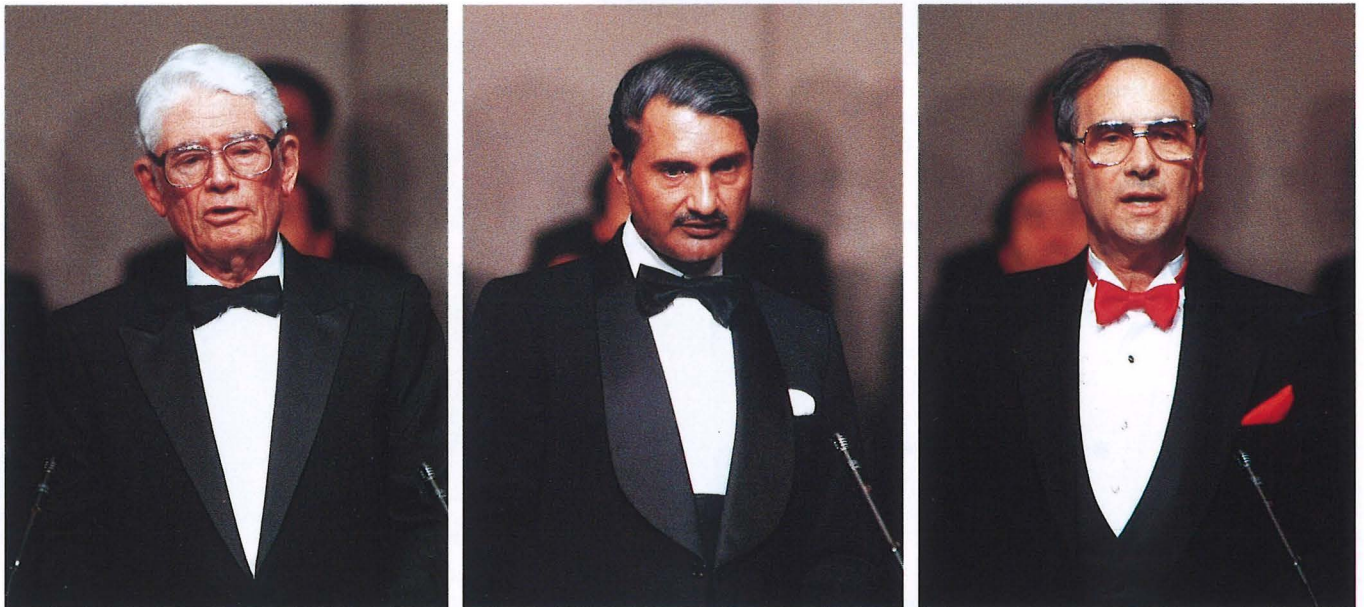
THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOUNDATION OF JAPAN (JSTF)

Shisei-Kaikan 5F  
1-3 Hibiya-koen, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100, Japan  
Tel. (03)508-7691

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## American, Indian scientists receive '87 Japan Prize for rice strain improvement and laser development



*The three Japan Prize laureates, left to right, Drs. Beachell, Khush and Maiman, made commemorative speeches at the awards ceremony in the National Theater.*

The Crown Prince and Princess of Japan were among the 1,300 distinguished Japanese and foreign guests on hand for the awards ceremony of the 1987 Japan Prize held on April 14 at the National Theater, Tokyo.

The Science and Technology Foundation of Japan (JSTF) awards the Japan Prize to scientists who have made significant contributions to the development of various technologies. This year's winners, in the category of improvements of biological functions, were Drs. Henry M. Beachell (U.S.A.) and Gurdev S. Khush (India), the former and current directors of Plant Breeding at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines.

They won the prize for their development of the high-yielding rice strains IR8 and IR36. Dr. Theodore H. Maiman (U.S.A.), who in 1960 became the first scientist to succeed in generating radiation with a ruby laser, was named the laureate in the category of electro-optics.



*The awards ceremony was made even more impressive by the creation of a huge Japan Prize symbol above the stage.*



## Research achievements that open the door to the 21st Century



### Crown Prince stresses happiness for all mankind

Following remarks by JSTF Chairman Kisaburo Yokota, JSTF President Konosuke Matsushita presented a certificate of merit and commemorative medal as well as supplementary cash awards — ¥50 million (\$337,000) for each laureate category. The Crown Prince, at far right below, applauded each presentation.

The three Japan Prize laureates paid a call on Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and told him of their hopes to continue to contribute to the progress of science and technology.

To this, Mr. Nakasone replied, "I hope each of you will do just that and in so doing contribute to the ultimate goal of mankind — the realization of peace."



In his address commending the three doctors' achievements, the Crown Prince said: "Spectacular advancements have been made in science and technology and such progress must continue to be pursued to attain happiness for all mankind. The accomplishments of these three doctors well fit this goal."



### Prize winners meet the press

During their visit to Japan, the three Japan Prize recipients met the local and foreign press in Tokyo and commented on what they hoped to achieve in the near future.

Dr. Beachell noted that there are still many unresolved questions in the research for rice strain improvement and that he will continue to commit himself to research in this field.

Dr. Khush said he had strong hopes of educating the next generation of researchers and of establishing a scholarship fund for students in poverty-beset regions of the world.

Dr. Maiman will direct his future research to the development of medical applications of lasers so that he can contribute to the progress of preventive medicine.



The award winners also paid a call on Tokyo Governor Shunichi Suzuki (right) who presented them and their wives with several commemorative gifts.



## Banquet honors scientists for their achievements and contributions toward peace



The 1987 Japan Prize winners were honored at a banquet in Tokyo on the evening of April 14, attended by the Crown Prince and Princess, officials from assisting ministries, recipients of Japan's Order of Cultural Merit, and ambassadors and ministers representing nations worldwide — more than 500 guests in all.

During the banquet, a laser show honoring the achievements of Dr. Maiman drew appreciative exclamations from the audience. And to the delight of Drs. Beachell and Khush, the banquet menu included a dish made with an IR strain of rice.



The Crown Prince, center, joined in a toast to the three prize winners.



At a small reception following the banquet, the Crown Prince and Princess talked privately with the award recipients.



### Lectures deeply impress audiences in Japan

Each of the three laureates gave commemorative lectures to scholars and the public in Tokyo and Kyoto. Their talks included anecdotes and descriptions of the difficulties encountered in their respective research, and the processes through which their creative ideas bore fruit. The lectures made a great impression on their audiences.

The three scientists also met with eminent Japanese scholars in their respective fields in Tokyo and Kyoto and exchanged the latest information on their research.



In addition to the banquet, the prize winners also attended receptions hosted by the American and Indian Embassies in Japan to congratulate them on their new honors.





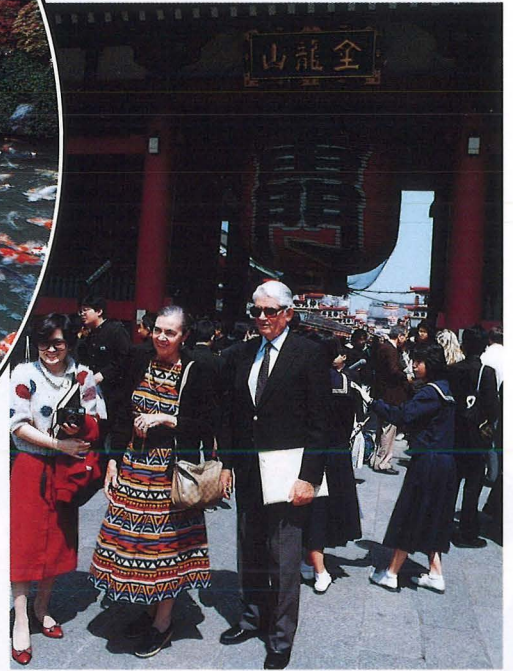
### Laureates, wives enjoy sightseeing

In Kyoto, the three laureates and their wives joined in feeding the golden carp in the pond of the Japanese garden Shin-shin-an.

The laureates' achievements and the awards ceremony were widely reported in the world print and broadcast media.



In Tokyo, they enjoyed a glimpse of the Edo period (1603–1867), visiting the ancient Kaminari Gate in Tokyo's Asakusa district.



### Behind the Japan Prize selection

● In March 1986, the JSTF sent letters to 9,313 distinguished scholars in 86 countries requesting their nominees for the 1987 Japan Prize in two categories, improvements of biological functions and electro-optics. After excluding duplicate nominations, a total of 510 recommendations from 29 countries were received, with 96 names coming from Japan.

The foundation's selection committee composed of 27 scholars studied each nomination carefully, finally selecting Drs. Beachell, Khush and Maiman.

### 406 nominations for '88 Japan Prize

● The 1988 Japan Prize selection committee is now engaged in selecting the 1988 Japan Prize winners in two award categories: Energy Technology and preventative Medicine.

Research in energy technology, important to the peace and prosperity of mankind, has seen spectacular development in recent years. As covered for the Japan Prize award the field is not limited to developments in the conventional production, storage, conversion, transmission and consumption of energy, but also includes such areas as nuclear fusion and solar energy as well as the generation and saving of energy brought about by the wind, tides and waves, geothermal technology and inventive conservation.

The preventative medicine category transcends research for immediate medical benefits. It includes research that has contributed to protecting the human body from pathogenic bacteria, abnormalities in metabolism, the process of aging and the various forms of cancer. It also includes the detection and interruption of the mechanisms by which humans contract diseases.

● Approximately 10,000 letters seeking nominations for the two 1988 categories were sent to scientists and scholars worldwide. In all, the foundation received 406 recommendations.

Concurrently, the JSTF has begun working on the selection of the award categories for the '89 Japan Prize.