

# JAPAN PRIZE NEWS

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
FOUNDATION OF JAPAN (JSTF)

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## Two U.S. Scientists Awarded 1993 (9th) Japan Prize

Recognized for Scientific Achievements in Safety Engineering and Disaster Mitigation and in Molecular and Cellular Technology in Medicine



Dr. Frank Press

Two scientists from the U.S. were awarded the 1993 (9th) Japan Prize, the most prestigious and honored prize in the fields of science and technology, at a presentation ceremony held at the National Theatre in Tokyo on April 28, 1993.

The Prize is presented annually by The Science and Technology Foundation of Japan to scientists and researchers who have made substantial contributions to the advancement of science and technology and to the peace and prosperity of mankind.

The categories of this year were Safety Engineering and Disaster Mitigation and Molecular and Cellular Technology in Medicine. Top scientists and academics around the world submitted 589 nominations, 195 for Safety Engineering and Disaster Mitigation and 394 for Molecular and Cellular Technology in Medicine.

Dr. Frank Press, President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, received the 1993 (ninth) Japan Prize in the category of Safety Engineering and Disaster Mitigation. Dr. Press is credited for his contributions to the development of modern seismology and advancement of international cooperation in disaster science.

In the category of Molecular and Cellular Technology in Medicine, the Prize went to Dr. Kary B. Mullis, Founder and Vice President Research of Atomic Tags, Inc., who is credited for his development of the polymerase chain reaction.



Dr. Kary B. Mullis

## JAPAN PRIZE

### Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress Attended The Presentation Ceremony

Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress attended the presentation ceremony at the National Theatre in Tokyo on April 28, 1993. Some 800 prominent guests attended the ceremony, including the President of the House of Councillors, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Science and Technology Agency, numerous ambassadors to Japan, eminent scholars and researchers, and representatives from other fields including politics, finance, industry and the media.

The ceremony began with a rendition of Minoru Miki's Overture Japan, a work composed specially for the ceremony and performed by the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra under the direction of Shunsaku Tutumi. The Foundation Chairman Dr. Masami Ito made the opening address and Dr. Jiro Kondo, Chairman of the 1993 Japan Prize Selection Committee, introduced the two winners and their achievements. After the chairman of the two selection panels presented the reasons for their selections, Foundation Chairman Dr. Ito presented the winners with their certificates of merit, commemorative medals and cash awards of 50 million yen for each category.

In his acceptance speech, Dr. Press said, "I received overly much credit for helping to launch the international Decade of Natural Hazard Reduction. I can say that this program would not have been possible without the help of literally thousands of scientists and engineers the



world over, and especially without the early material and political support of the Japanese government." Dr. Mullis expressed his appreciation, saying, "On behalf of the thousands of scientists who have magnified a simple invention into a tool that is being used at this very moment in thousands of laboratories around the world, I gratefully accept this generous award."



### Brilliant Banquet Held with Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress

Following the presentation ceremony, a banquet for the 1993 Japan Prize winners was held at the Hotel New Ohtani in Tokyo on the evening of April 28, in the presence of Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress as well as 400 dignitaries including Japanese government top officials, the U.S. ambassador to Japan, other ambassadors and ministers, and celebrities from various fields. The brilliant celebration included music by the New Vivaldi Ensemble.

An opening address by the Foundation Chairman Dr. Ito was followed by dinner, after which His Majesty The Emperor honored the two laureates with a congratulatory toast. A second toast was made by His Excellency Mr. Ryohachi Kusaba, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who represented the three branches of the Japanese government. The wife of Dr. Press and the fiancée of Dr. Mullis were then presented with bouquets.

Another toast was proposed by His Excellency Mr. Mamoru Nakajima, Minister of Science and Technology Agency, who asked the guests in toasting to the Japan Prize's further development and contribution toward world peace and prosperity.

The banquet continued with a congratulatory message from H.E. Mr. Fawzi Bin Abdul Majeed Shobokshi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, representing the diplomatic corps in Japan.

Then, a special and congratulatory message to each of the laureate from H.E. William J. Clinton, the President of the United States of America was introduced by its Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary,

H.E. Michael H. Armacost, followed with a congratulatory speech by the Ambassador himself.

The end of the banquet was highlighted by a performance of the Mixed Chorus of Chiba University and Utsunomiya University with 160 members featuring songs of the universities and country where the laureates spent their days as young students.

Prior to closing the banquet, Dr. Press and Dr. Mullis gave speeches of thanks and brought their memorable banquets to its close.



# JAPAN PRIZE

## Address by His Majesty the Emperor



On the occasion of the ninth Japan Prize Presentation Ceremony, it is a great pleasure for me to offer my sincerest congratulations to each of the two awardees: Dr. Frank Press in the category of Safety Engineering and Disaster Mitigation and Dr. Kary Banks Mullis in the category of Molecular and Cellular Technology in Medicine.

Dr. Press exercised supreme leadership in promoting scientific research on earthquake mechanisms and on the structure of the earth's interior and further has made substantial contributions to the advancement of international cooperation in the prevention of the impacts of natural disasters.

Dr. Mullis developed a revolutionary technique in analyzing genes and its results will in many ways greatly influence the development of life science.

I am convinced that the studies of both doctors will be of great significance for the people of the world in their desire to prevent the impact of natural disasters and to conquer diseases.

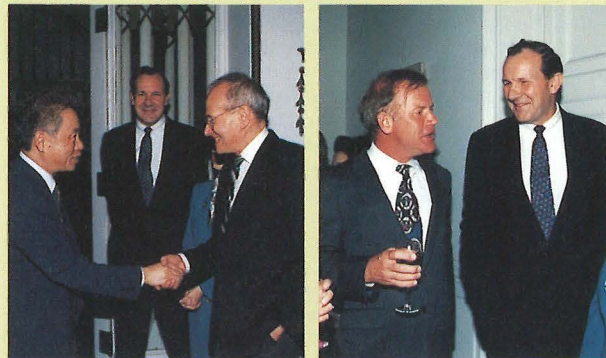
I would, therefore, like to express my deepest respects for the remarkable achievements of these two doctors.

At present, the world is confronted with various problems. It is my hope that science and technology will help to overcome these issues and will further be developed so that they will bring about benefits to all the people of the world.

The Prize Presentation Ceremony of this year is the ninth since its beginning. I am truly sorry not to see here today Dr. Kisaburo Yokota. He had devoted himself to develop the Prize as chairman and later as president since the establishment of the Foundation. I deeply regret the death of Dr. Yokota and would like to praise him highly for his contributions to this Prize.

I sincerely hope that the Japan Prize will further contribute to the development of science and technology in the world.

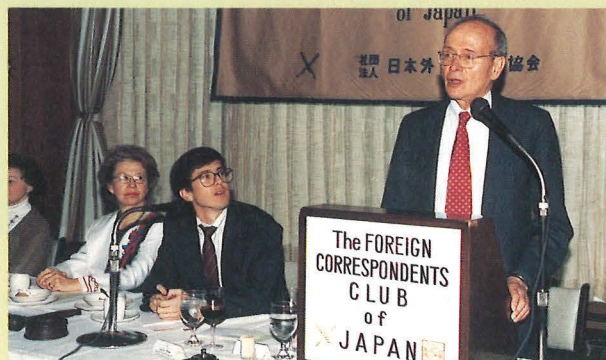
## Japan Prize Week



Reception Party by American Ambassador (April 27)



Press Conference at the Japan Press Center (April 30)



Luncheon Meeting with foreign correspondents (April 30)



Commemorative Lectures at the Hall in Science Council of Japan (April 30)



# JAPAN PRIZE

## International Exchange Activities

The Foundation has close relationships with the Nobel Foundation since its establishment. In 1987, the Foundation instituted a program to send two Japanese students majoring in natural sciences to the annual Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar ("SIYSS") which is sponsored by the Swedish Federation of Young Scientists during the Nobel Prize Week in early December. The seminar seeks to promote international exchanges among young scientists of the world and is supported by the Nobel Foundation.

The participants in the 1992 seminar were Ms. Keiko Endo from the Hydraulics Laboratory, Civil Engineering Major, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Nihon University and Ms. Sachiko Iseki from the Department of Developmental Biology, Division of Life Science Maxillofacial Systems, Graduate School of Dentistry, Tokyo Medical and Dental University.

Their memoirs are as follows:



Ms. Endo at the Nobel ball (center)

I was fortunate to participate in the 17th Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar ("SIYSS"), which was held during the Nobel Week, December 4 through 11, 1992.

The purpose of the seminar is to encourage and stimulate the students of many countries of the world who study the science and technology and participate in the Stockholm seminar, by offering opportunities to make precious exchanges with the Nobel Prize laureates.

The 17th seminar collected such students from 17 countries, aged 16 through 28.

The seminar program included lectures by the Nobel winners, courtesy visits to Her Majesty Queen Silvia and the Nobel Foundation and tour to Karolinska Institute.

I was continuously tensed during such events.

The seminar further included the formal events of the awarding

ceremony, banquet and ball, which necessitated us to wear Japanese traditional and formal clothes of Kimono.

My realistic finding was my own Kimono of long-sleeved Furisode type had not been appropriate for dancing in the ball.

In the reception party for the Nobel laureates, I had opportunities to ask personally to the laureates for their research works, which were very significant experiences.

The words left in my mind more than anything else were "Go your own way" given by a laureate to our colleague young scientists.

(by Ms. Keiko Endo)



Ms. Iseki shaking hands with Queen Silvia

I was unexpectedly given an opportunity to participate in the 17th Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar ("SIYSS") and to attend the 91st Nobel Prize awarding ceremony and its related events.

For people living in Stockholm, the Nobel Prize awarding ceremony held on December 10 was in a sense, a festival.

Other than the ceremony, the lectures by the Nobel Prize laureates and receptions for the laureates were held and individual and department stores were decorated with various displays for celebration.

The day when the awarding ceremony held at the Concert Hall and the banquet followed at the City Hall was really the climax of the festivities.

The scenes of the ceremony and the banquet were broadcast over TV network.

At each course of dinner dishes during the banquet, the attendees enjoyed a different performance of entertainment, which should have given a great fun for TV watchers.

Although not every citizen could attend the ceremony nor lectures nor receptions, I felt the entire city was fascinated with the honor that the awarding ceremony of the most prestigious Nobel Prize for scientists had been held there.

I feel very honored that I attended the awarding ceremony, which was so solemn and seemed loved by people of Stockholm.

I would very much appreciate to all people concerned, who gave me such opportunity to make precious exchanges with the students sharing to major sciences and to mutually understand various views and thoughts.

(by Ms. Sachiko Iseki)

## Selection of Winners Begins for the 1994 (10th) Japan Prize

The categories of the 1994 (10th) Japan Prize are Aerospace Technologies and Psychology and Psychiatry. Candidates have been recommended through numerous letters of nomination received by the Foundation from around the world. The 1994 (10th) Selection Committee has been established and the process of selecting next year's winners is under way. Results will be announced publicly in December, 1993 and the presentation ceremony will be held in April, 1994.

## Monthly Science and Technology Seminars

The Foundation holds a series of monthly science and technology seminars in Japanese for the general public, free of charge. The seminars are aimed at promoting the comprehensive spread of information and development of ideas regarding science and technology.

Distinguished scholars, scientists, engineers and other recognized leaders in their fields give lectures in easy-to-understand language for the

benefit of the public.

Seminars in the 1993 series have the yearly theme "Science and technology approaching to Human Body." Seminar titles from August through December this year are "Social Behavior of Cells—normal and cancer cells" (August 25), "Neuro-computer—seeking for human computer" (September 29), "Immunity—masterminding to maintain functions of human body" (October 27), "Intellectual Robots—robots approaching to man" (November 24), and "Language Understanding System—computer that understands natural languages" (December 22).

