

JAPAN PRIZE NEWS

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOUNDATION OF JAPAN (JSTF)

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U.K. and Japanese Scientists Awarded 2006(22nd)Japan Prize

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress Attend the Presentation Ceremony



The presentation ceremony of the 2006 (22nd) Japan Prize, the most prestigious and honored prize in the fields of science and technology, was held at the National Theatre in Tokyo on April 20, 2006.

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 prize categories this year were "Global Change" and "The Development of Novel Therapeutic Concepts and Technologies." A total of 305 nominations were made by top scientists and academics around the world, 102 for the Global Change prize category and 203 for the Development of Novel Therapeutic Concepts and Technologies prize category.

Out of those nominations, two scientists from U.K. and Japan were awarded the 2006 Japan Prize.

OUTLINE

The Japan Prize is awarded to world-class scientists and technologists who were credited with original and outstanding achievements and contributed to the advancement of science and technology, thereby furthering the cause of peace and the prosperity of mankind. In principle, original achievements in science and technology are given priority during the selection process.

No distinction is made as to nationality, occupation, race, or sex.

Only living persons may be named.

Fields of study for the prize encompass all categories of science and technology, with two categories designated for the prize each year in consideration of developments in science and technology.

Each Japan Prize laureate receives a certificate of merit and a commemorative medal. A cash award of 50 million yen is also presented for each prize category.

Global Change

Achievement:

For pioneering research on atmospheric structure and composition based on his satellite observation technology and for promotion of international assessments of climate change

Sir John Houghton CBE FRS (U.K.)

Honorary Scientist, Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research and Formerly Chief Executive, Meteorological Office, U.K.



The Development of Novel Therapeutic Concepts and Technologies

Achievement:

The Discovery of the Statins and their Development

Dr. Akira Endo (Japan)

Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology
Director, Biopharm Research Laboratories, Inc., Tokyo, Japan



The Presentation Ceremony

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress attended the presentation at the National Theatre in Tokyo on April 20, 2006. Some 1,000 prominent guests attended the ceremony, including H.E. Mr. Yohei Kono the Speaker of the House of Representatives, H.E. Mrs. Chikage Oogi the president of the House of Councillors, H.E. Mr. Iwao Matsuda the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy, H.E. Mr. Kenji Kosaka Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, 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 cere-



mony and performed by the Tokyo Geidai Student Orchestra. Foundation Chairman Hiroyuki Yoshikawa made the opening address and Dr. Nobuaki Kumagai Chairman of the 2006 Japan Prize Selection Committee, introduced the two laureates. After the chairmen of the two selection panels presented the reasons for their selections, Foundation President Masao Ito presented the two laureates with their certificates of merit, commemorative medals and cash awards of 50 million yen for each category.

His Majesty the Emperor gave a congratulatory address honoring the two laureates. Finally, a congratulatory speech by H. E. Mr. Yohei Kono the Speaker of the House of Representatives, was delivered.

After the ceremony, Tokyo Geidai Student Orchestra performed the commemorative concert.

Address by His Majesty The Emperor

On the occasion of this Twenty-second Japan Prize presentation ceremony, I offer my sincere congratulations to Sir John Houghton who receives the Japan Prize for his work on "Global Change" and to Dr. Akira Endo who earns his prize for his work on "The Development of Novel Therapeutic Concepts and Technologies."

Sir John Houghton developed a new device to measure the temperature, structure and composition of the atmosphere surrounding the earth, using earth-orbiting satellites, and he thereby greatly contributed to our understanding of global atmospheric conditions. The instrument he developed is now playing an essential role in monitoring atmospheric change including the thinning of the ozone layer and the rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide. Sir John also made enormous efforts to promote international cooperation for protection of the Earth's environment, and to raise awareness of global environmental issues, on the basis of his findings.



Dr. Akira Endo found and extracted a cholesterol-lowering substance from Penicillium and patiently worked on and finally overcame many problems to open the way to turn the substance into a drug. High blood cholesterol tends to cause arteriosclerosis and leads to myocardial and cerebral infarctions. The substance Dr. Endo found became the basis for a range of statin drugs that are now widely used, and dramatically decreased vascular disorder

diseases all over the world.

I hereby express my deep respect to both scientists for their outstanding accomplishments, in the areas of environment and health which greatly contribute to people's happiness.

Let me express, in offering my congratulations, my wish that the Japan Prize continues to contribute toward the advancement of science and technology in a manner to ensure true happiness.



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress arrive at the National Theatre



Opening address by Chairman Yoshikawa



Report on the Selection by Dr. Kumagai



Citation for the award presented by Dr. Hirota



Citation for the award presented by Dr. Kamoshita



Congratulatory address by H.E. Mr. Kono



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress listen to the commemorative concert



Commemorative concert

Banquet

Following the presentation ceremony, a banquet for the 2006 Japan Prize laureates was held at the Hotel New Otani in Tokyo on the evening of April 20 in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan as well as 240 dignitaries including Japanese government officials, other ambassadors and ministers, and celebrities from various fields.

And a congratulatory address was made by H.E. Mrs. Chikage Oogi, President of the House of Councilors.

Prior to closing the banquet, the two laureates gave speeches of thanks and brought the elegant state banquet to its close.



Banquet



Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress arrive at the Hotel New Otani



Opening address by President Ito



Congratulatory address by H.E.Mrs. Oogi



Acknowledgement by Sir John



Acknowledgement by Dr. Endo

2007(23rd) Japan Prize

The categories for the 2007 (23rd) Japan Prize are "Innovative Devices Inspired by Basic Research" and "Science and Technology of Harmonious Co-existence". Candidates have been recommended through numerous letters of nomination received by the Foundation from around the world. The 2007 (23rd) Japan Prize Selection Committee will be established in the Foundation and the results will be announced in January 2007. The presentation ceremony will take place in April 2007.

Field I: Production

Prize Category: Innovative Devices Inspired by Basic Research

Basic research in science is playing an important role as a cornerstone of our modern society.

Breakthroughs in physics, chemistry and other fields of basic research often come to fruition in the form of the new materials or devices, eventually leading to the development of a new industry.

The award for 2007 will be focused on accomplishment in developing original findings in basic research into the invention of an innovative device which will likely create a new industry.

Field II: Life Conservation Technology • Life Environment

Prize Category: Science and Technology of Harmonious Co-existence

Life is expressed in each entity at every level of the biological hierarchy such as cells, individuals and eco-systems. All of them show a particular set of features of life. It is also expressed in the network of complex overlapping relationships, direct or indirect and competitive or cooperative, between such systems. Breakage of a network of stable relations between biological systems causes a disruption, and may eventually result in the destruction of the biosphere as well as the physicochemical conditions of our mother planet, the Earth. It has been suspected that the network of biological relationships is ripping apart as a result of human activities. It is thus of urgent necessity to understand the mechanisms underlying--and also to develop technologies for reasonable management of--the harmonious co-existence of various biological systems. The harmonious co-existence is a much broader concept than *sympiosis* and includes any relationship, which fosters living harmoniously together with others, between biological systems at any level of the hierarchy of life.

The Japan Prize for 2007 in this field will be awarded for significant accomplishment in the science of disruption and stabilization and the technology of protection and restoration of harmonious co-existence in biological systems in a very broad sense. This includes studies on the effects of degradation in the atmosphere, hydrosphere or soil-sphere, and of emerging infectious diseases on the co-existence of these entities, and conversely on those changes caused by disruption of co-existence.

Photo recollections of laureates

Sir John Houghton



▲ In the garden were his brother's thermometer and rain gauge (Sir John:Center)



▲ Doctorate at the age of 23 (1955)



▲ With Prime Minister Thatcher at Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research (1990)



▲ IPCC Working Group meeting (2001)



▲ At his house with Lady Sheila



▲ With his 16-years-old grandson, Daniel (2006)

Dr. Endo



▲ Fascinated by the fungi that grew in Akita, the north of Japan



◀ High School junior year (1952)



▶ With classmates at senior year (1956)



▲ Playing mahjong-like game at home (1981)

▶ Dressed up in Chinese costume (Dr. Endo:left)



▲ A trip with his students (1988)



Japan Prize Week



Welcome Reception, April 17



Courtesy Call on the Japan Academy, April 18



Joint Press Conference, April 17

The week of April 17 to 22, 2006, was designated as "Japan Prize Week" with many events.



Academic Roundtable Discussions, April 19



Courtesy Call on the Prime Minister, April 18



Holiday in Kyoto, April 22



Commemorative Lectures, April 19

■ Students volunteer support for Japan Prize Week ■

Students from various universities attended the 2006 Japan Prize Week events.

The participants were Mr. Daisuke Akai (Kyoto University), Mr. Tsuyoshi Katagiri (Tokyo University), Mr. Kazuyuki Kuroyanagi (Tokyo University), Mr. Takashi Mura (Tokyo Institute of Technology), Mr. Yoichi Matsumura (Tokyo University), Mr. Masayuki Motoyoshi (Hosei University), Ms. Kanami Orihara (Showa University), Ms. Miwako Sano (Japan Women's University).

Comments from Mr. Mura follow:

I participated in the Japan Prize ceremony this year and in related activities, as a student volunteer. It was a moving and most inspiring experience. The cere-

mony itself was most solemn and touching and I pay my deepest respect to the laureates, whose accomplishments seem to me to be a product of superhuman talent and efforts. At the same time, casual conversations with the laureates reminded me of the fact that they are humans like us. The experience as a student volunteer strongly encouraged me to study further in pursuit of a dream of becoming a great scientist myself.

