



JAPAN PRIZE 2020

SINCE 1985

THE JAPAN PRIZE FOUNDATION

C O N T E N T S

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Significance of the JAPAN PRIZE



Chairman

Yoshio Yazaki

The peace and prosperity of mankind are the common aspirations for people of the world. When looking back over the history of humanity, science and technology have played an immense role in this cause.

The Japan Prize is an international award presented to individuals whose original and outstanding achievements are not only scientifically impressive but have also served to promote peace and prosperity for all mankind. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has awarded 98 laureates from 13 countries as of this year.

The most notable feature of the Japan Prize is its strong emphasis on “contribution to society”, as clearly stated in the philosophy which the prize was founded on. When I look back over the pedigree records of the 98 Japan Prize recipients from this perspective, I strongly feel that it reflects the overlapping history of the progress of science and technology and the peace and prosperity of mankind.

Looking back on the establishment of the Japan Prize, it can be said that there was a strong desire to “express Japan’s gratitude to international society” for the fruits of science and technology of the world that enabled Japan to achieve rapid post-World War II reconstruction and development.

The strong desires and aspirations of the first president, Konosuke Matsushita, and many of the predecessors involved in the creation of the prize still live on in Matsushita’s philosophy of “Lifelong Ambition”.

Every year in April, the Presentation Ceremony and Banquet are held in Tokyo in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and are also attended by prominent figures such as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of House of Councilors, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, as well as other distinguished guests, including eminent academics, researchers and representatives of political and business circles. I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all those who are involved, for without their passionate support, the Japan Prize would not exist today.

As was the case so far, the progress of science and technology will continue to play a significant role in mankind’s peace and prosperity into the future. With such strong desires and aspirations, the Japan Prize will strive to promote the further advancement of science and technology.

JAPAN PRIZE - Peace and prosperity for mankind



President
Hiroshi Komiyama

The Earth is just one of the countless planets in the vast universe. Following the birth of our planet 4.5 billion years ago, our ancestors only emerged during the last few millions of years, a very recent event in terms of cosmic scale. Since then, mankind as a species has continued to prosper and went on to develop civilization. While people's lives have greatly improved, the progress has been extremely slow. However, since the industrial revolution 200 years ago, the situation has completely changed. Especially since the turn of the 20th century, the pace of development has accelerated significantly, thereby making people's lives even more prosperous. The force that has been driving this development is science and technology.

For example, people now live much longer. In fact, almost all people throughout history lived very short lives. Even in the early 20th century, the average life span was only 31 years, but that has now increased to 72 years. Since the long-standing dream of longevity has now been realized, we must have succeeded in forming a civilization.

The Japan Prize was established to honor the achievements in science and technology that contribute to the peace and prosperity of mankind. When looking back over the history of achievements by the Japan Prize recipients, I am strongly reaffirmed that it reflects the prosperity of today's society and the major role of science and technology that helped to bring it about. Convinced of its significance, I will continue to devote myself to the Japan Prize and its cause.

At the same time, I cannot deny the anxiety that hangs over the future of humanity. Will we be able to maintain our beautiful planet? Can humanity continue to prosper without leaving anyone behind? These basic questions are unavoidable and must be confronted. I am confident that the Japan Prize will play a crucial role in promoting science and technology that will answer such questions.

The advancement of science has blessed us with a huge body of accumulated knowledge. Knowledge is the most prized asset of humanity. Because of its sheer volume, it has become difficult to grasp the overall picture of just how much knowledge we now have. This, coupled with the increasing complexity of prosperous society, and the prosperity attained as a result of making changes to our planet, has brought about anxiety over our future.

In other words, scientists must confront this problem head on, as the advancement of science itself is a source of anxiety for the future. In order to solve the various issues we face, we must work together by transcending the fragmented fields of knowledge.

Despite the possibility that science and technology may be used for a bad cause, I'm convinced that we also possess the "wisdom" to overcome such a dilemma.

As we contemplate on the future of civilization, science and technology, the Foundation will establish the "Japan Prize Heisei Memorial Research Grant Program" this year in order to express our sincerest appreciation to His Majesty the Emperor Emeritus, who has blessed us with great support for the Japan Prize since the first award ceremony in 1985. We hope the program will encourage motivated researchers to take on further challenges.

The Foundation will continue to contribute to the peace and prosperity of mankind through the Japan Prize, research grants and the promotion of science and technology education.

The Japan Prize Foundation

Objectives

Bearing in mind the fact that peace and prosperity for mankind is the common aspiration of all people, the Japan Prize Foundation encourages research that will contribute to the development of science and technology, and promotes the comprehensive spread and development of ideas and information in science and technology.

Activities

The Foundation conducts the following activities to accomplish its objectives:

- 1) Recognize outstanding achievements in science and technology with the Japan Prize
- 2) Encourage the study of science and technology through research grants and promotional activities
- 3) Promote the diffusion of knowledge and philosophy in science and technology through various activities including dissemination of information materials and research papers, and seminars
- 4) Other activities to fulfill the objectives of the Foundation

History

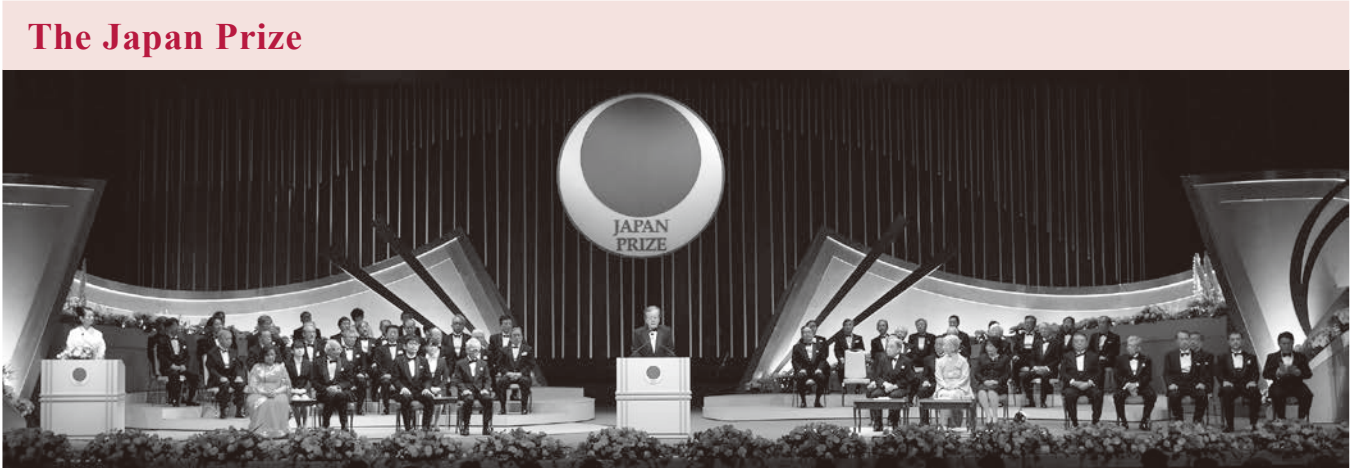
- 1982 The Japan Prize Preparatory Foundation is established.
- 1983 The establishment of the Japan Prize is endorsed by the Cabinet.
- 1985 The 1st Japan Prize Presentation Ceremony is held.
- 1987 The Foundation starts sending Japanese students to the annual Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar.
- 1989 The Foundation starts hosting
“Easy-to-understand Science and Technology Seminars”.
- 2006 The Foundation starts awarding Research Grants.
- 2010 As of October 1, 2010, the Foundation changes its legal status to a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation and renames itself to “The Japan Prize Foundation”.
- 2020 Launched the Japan Prize Heisei Memorial Research Grant Program(Reorganization of the research grant project)



JAPAN PRIZE

The Japan Prize logo was designed by Mr. Yusaku Kamekura, then President of Japan Graphic Designers Association Inc. Commenting on his work, Mr. Kamekura said, “I used the image of the sun, the source of all energy for its primary design. The circles were added to represent perfection and truth”.

Main Activities of the Foundation



JAPAN PRIZE



The creation of the Japan Prize was motivated by the Japanese government’s desire to “contribute to the development of science and technology worldwide by establishing a prestigious international award”. Supported by numerous private donations, the Japan Prize was established in 1983 with a cabinet endorsement.

This award honors scientists and researchers worldwide who are recognized for having contributed significantly to the peace and prosperity of humankind through their original and outstanding achievements that have greatly advanced the progress of science and technology.

The eligible fields of this award cover all fields of science and technology. Every year, two fields for the award presentation are chosen by considering the developments in science and technology.

As a general rule, one award is given for each field and each laureate receives a certificate of merit, a prize medal and a cash prize.

The Presentation Ceremony is held annually in the presence of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan and is also attended by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of House of Councilors, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and various ministers as well as eminent figures from various circles.

Cabinet Endorsement

The official position of the Japanese Government is that the Japan Prize, to be bestowed by the Science and Technology Foundation of Japan*, will serve to deepen the understanding of the role played by science and technology in furthering world peace and prosperity, thereby making a vital contribution to the positive development of mankind. Based on this judgment, the government agencies concerned are urged to offer whatever cooperation necessary in all phases pertinent to this prize.

(Cabinet Endorsement, October 28, 1983)

* Current “Japan Prize Foundation”



Research Grants

The “Japan Prize Heisei Memorial Research Grant Program” is named after Their Majesties the Emperor Emeritus and Empress Emerita, who have been interested in the research activities of young scientists and have encouraged them for many years.

The Foundation provides research grants to scientists mainly under 45 years of age. Every year, the Foundation selects four to eight scientists who undertake knowledge-integrated research that contribute to solving social issues, and gives five to ten million yen.

The Foundation encourages international collaboration of scientists beyond their expertise.

(An applicant must belong to a research organization in Japan.)



“Easy-to-Understand Science and Technology Seminars”

The Foundation holds a series of public and student seminars on advanced technologies commonly used in everyday life by inviting experts, who will explain state-of-the-art technologies in plain terms. The program began in March 1989 and has since executed more than 300 seminars across Japan by the end of 2019.



Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar (SIYSS)

During the establishment of the Japan Prize, the Japan Prize Foundation donated to the Nobel Foundation. Following this exchange, the Japan Prize was invited to select and send two students (aged between 18 to 25) every year to Stockholm during the Nobel Prize Week to attend the “Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar” (SIYSS) which is hosted by The Swedish Federation of Young Scientists.

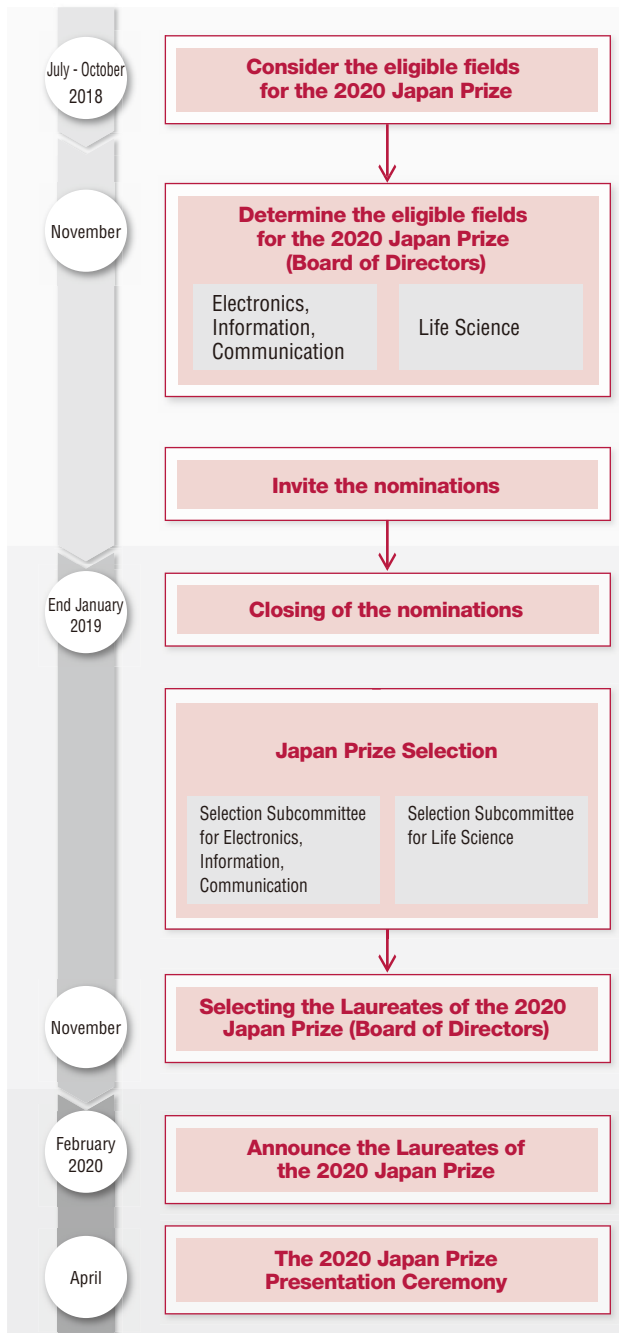
At SIYSS, young scientists and researchers from around the world attend various events during Nobel Week in Stockholm and present their research in front of their peers.



The Japan Prize

Nomination and Selection Process

Nomination and Selection Process for the 2020 (36th) Japan Prize Laureates



■ Every November, the Field Selection Committee of The Japan Prize Foundation designates and announces two fields in which the Japan Prize will be awarded two years hence. At the same time, the Foundation calls for over 15,000 nominators from around the world, invited by the Foundation, to nominate the candidates through our online nomination system. The deadline for nominations is the end of January of the following year.

■ For each field, a Selection Subcommittee conducts a rigorous evaluation of the candidates' academic achievements. The conclusions are then forwarded to the Selection Committee, which conducts evaluations of candidates' achievements from a wider perspective, including contributions to the progress of science and technology, and significant advancement towards the cause of world peace and prosperity, and finally the selected candidates are recommended for the Prize.

■ The recommendations are then sent to the Foundation's Board of Directors, which makes the final decision on the winners.

■ The nomination and selection process takes almost two years from the time that the fields are decided. Every January or February, the winners of that year's Japan Prize are announced. The Presentation Ceremony is held in April in Tokyo.

Fields Selection Committee and Selection Committee

Fields Selection Committee for the 2021 Japan Prize

Chairman Michiharu Nakamura Counselor to the President, Japan Science and Technology Agency Director, The Japan Prize Foundation		
Vice Chairman Kazuhito Hashimoto President National Institute for Materials Science Kohei Miyazono Professor Department of Molecular Pathology Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo		
Members Yozo Fujino President, Josai University Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo Professor Emeritus, Yokohama National University Ken Furuya Professor, Graduate School of Science and Engineering Soka University Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo Mariko Hasegawa President The Graduate University for Advanced Studies SOKENDAI Masaru Kitsuregawa Director General, National Institute of Informatics Professor Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo Kazuo Kyuma President National Agriculture and Food Research Organization Eiichi Nakamura University Professor Office of the President and Department of Chemistry The University of Tokyo Yuichi Sugiyama Head Sugiyama Laboratory, RIKEN Baton Zone Program Mariko Takahashi The Science Coordinator The Asahi Shimbun Masayuki Yamamoto Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo Professor Emeritus, National Institute for Basic Biology		

(alphabetical order, titles as of April, 2020)

Members of the 2020 Japan Prize Selection Committee

Chairman Makoto Asashima Research Professor, Academic Advisor, Teikyo University Academic Advisor, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo Vice Chairman Yoshinao Mishima Professor Emeritus and Former President, Tokyo Institute of Technology		
Members Yoshinori Fujiyoshi Distinguished Professor, TMDU Advanced Research Institute Tokyo Medical and Dental University Yoshihiro Hayashi President/Director General National Museum of Nature and Science Hiroyuki Morikawa Director The Japan Prize Foundation Kazunori Kataoka Professor, The University of Tokyo Vice President, Kawasaki Institute of Industrial Promotion Director-General, Innovation Center of NanoMedicine Yoichiro Matsumoto President Tokyo University of Science Masayuki Matsushita Director The Japan Prize Foundation Shojiro Nishio President Osaka University Tadatsugu Taniguchi Professor Emeritus, Advisor to the Office of President The University of Tokyo		

Selection Subcommittee for the "Electronics, Information, Communication" field	
Chairman Shojiro Nishio President Osaka University	Deputy Chairman Hiroyuki Morikawa Executive Vice President Kyushu University
Members Makoto Ando Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Institute of Technology President International Union of Radio Science (URSI) Hiroki Arimura Professor Graduate School of Information Science and Technology Hokkaido University Michiko Inoue Professor Graduate School of Science and Technology Nara Institute of Science and Technology Yoshiharu Ishikawa Professor Graduate School of Informatics Nagoya University Michihiko Minoh Executive Director RIKEN Hiroyuki Morikawa Professor Graduate School of Engineering The University of Tokyo Yasuo Okabe Director Academic Center for Computing and Media Studies Kyoto University Takao Onoye Executive Vice President Osaka University Naonori Ueda Deputy Director RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project Shigeaki Zaima Professor Graduate School of Science and Technology, Meiji University	

Selection Subcommittee for the "Life Science" field	
Chairman Yoshinori Fujiyoshi Distinguished Professor TMDU Advanced Research Institute Tokyo Medical and Dental University	Deputy Chairman Shigeo Koyasu Executive Director RIKEN
Members Junken Aoki Professor Graduate School of Pharmaceutical Sciences The University of Tokyo Hiroo Fukuda Executive Vice President The University of Tokyo Akinori Kimura Executive Director / Executive Vice President Tokyo Medical and Dental University Tomoko M. Nakanishi President, Hoshi University Professor Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences The University of Tokyo Commissioner, Japan Atomic Energy Commission Sumio Ohtsuki Professor Faculty of Life Sciences Kumamoto University Shigeo Okabe Professor Graduate School of Medicine The University of Tokyo Yasushi Okamura Professor Graduate School of Medicine Osaka University Atsuko Sehara Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University Cooperative Professor, Institute for Frontier Life and Medical Sciences, Kyoto University Masahide Takahashi Designated Professor / Director of Academic Program Fujita Health University Toichi Takenaka Chairman Japan Health Sciences Foundation	

(alphabetical order, titles as of April, 2020)

Eligible Fields for the 2021 Japan Prize

Area of Physics, Chemistry, Informatics, Engineering

Resources, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure

Background and rationale:

Today's lifestyle is supported by various infrastructure, created from the systematization of technologies. The dissemination and advancement of infrastructure technologies that support our society are crucial for realizing the goal of "eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions", which has been defined by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the "greatest global challenge".

Meanwhile, the effects of climate change are becoming more apparent, and there is a growing awareness that not only mitigation measures, but also adaptation measures are required. Amid mounting concerns of greater disasters in the future, the creation of a resilient society is also an urgent issue.

Thus, we are in serious need of further innovation in such areas as development and recycling technologies for resources including urban mines, water usage / treatment systems, energy management, the prediction of environmental changes and its countermeasures, as well as in social infrastructure technologies relevant to urban and transportation systems.

Eligible Achievements:

The 2021 Japan Prize in the field of "Resources, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure" is awarded to an individual(s) who has achieved breakthroughs in the creation, innovation or dissemination of science and technology, thereby contributing significantly to the sustainable development of human society.

Areas of Life Science, Agriculture, Medicine

Medical Science, Medicinal Science

Background and rationale:

The field of medical science and medicinal science has been undergoing remarkable progress in recent years. Genomic medicine, regenerative medicine and medical robotics have been making rapid progress. Also, revolutionary medicines such as cancer immunotherapy drugs and antiviral agents are being developed one after another.

Nonetheless, the need for new measures against emerging infectious diseases and diseases associated with aging and changes in lifestyle, as well as the emergence of drug-resistant pathogens and cancers, have all come to the fore as major global issues.

Today's medical science and medicinal science are expected to contribute even more to people's health and well-being. This is being sought through the creation and dissemination of new medical care that integrates other disciplines such as engineering and informatics, the development and production of new drugs, and new drug delivery systems.

Eligible Achievements:

The 2021 Japan Prize in the field of "Medical Science, Medicinal Science" is awarded to an individual(s) who has achieved scientific and technological breakthroughs, such as new discoveries or the development of innovative technologies on the "prevention", "diagnosis", "treatment" or "prognosis" of diseases, thereby contributing towards the health and well-being of humankind.

Schedule (2021-2023)

The fields eligible for the Japan Prize (2021 to 2023) have been decided for the two research areas, respectively.

These fields rotate every year in a three year cycle.

Every year the Fields Selection Committee announces the eligible field for the next three years.

Area of Physics, Chemistry, Informatics, Engineering	
Year	Eligible Fields
2021	Resources, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure
2022	Materials, Production
2023	Electronics, Information, Communication

Area of Life Science, Agriculture, Medicine	
Year	Eligible Fields
2021	Medical Science, Medicinal Science
2022	Biological Production, Ecology / Environment
2023	Life Science

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

(Titles at the time)

2020 (36th)

Field of Electronics, Information, Communication



Pioneering contribution to information and coding theory

Prof. Robert G. Gallager

USA Born in 1931

Professor Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

From general communication devices such as TVs, personal computers and mobile phones to cutting-edge researches utilizing big-data, such as particle physics and astronomy, digital information communication is one of the fundamental technologies that support today's society. However, when performing data communication, errors can occur due to external noise, and for many years, a lot of research was conducted on developing detection and correction schemes for such errors.

Among them, LDPC codes (Low-Density Parity-Check Codes), invented by Prof. Robert G. Gallager, is an extremely reliable and practical scheme.

Starting with its adoption in the fifth-generation mobile communication system (5G), LDPC codes are expected to support the coming generations of high-speed and large-capacity communications.

Field of Life Science



Pioneering contributions to paleoanthropology through decoding ancient human genome sequences

Dr. Svante Pääbo

Sweden Born in 1955

Director, Department of Evolutionary Genetics
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology

Where did we humans come from?

Elucidating “the origin and evolution of modern humans” is one of the biggest challenges in paleoanthropology. Traditionally, the evolution and classification of humans had been approached by analyzing the shape of excavated bone and teeth fossils. However, from the mid-1980s, Dr. Svante Pääbo adopted the “genetic approach”, which involves extracting and analyzing DNA, and made series of discoveries that have enabled us to understand modern human evolution at much greater depth.

In particular, the DNA analysis of Neanderthals revealed that the ancestors of modern humans interbred with Neanderthals. Furthermore, the DNA from a fossilized bone fragment excavated from the Denisova cave in Russia revealed the existence of a previously unknown species of humans called the Denisovans.

By analyzing the DNA of ancient humans, Dr. Pääbo has shed new light on the fundamental question of where modern humans came from.

2019 (35th)

Field of Materials and Production



Leading contributions to precision synthesis of helical polymers and development of practical chiral materials for separating chiral drugs

Prof. Yoshio Okamoto

Japan Born in 1941

University Professor of Nagoya University
Chair Professor of Harbin Engineering University China

Even among two molecules of the same chemical composition, some have a three-dimensional structure with a mirror image that cannot be superimposed on to the other, as it is the case with our left and right hand. Such molecules are said to be in an enantiomeric relationship. Among enantiomers, physical properties such as the melting point and boiling point are the same, but their physiological effects on the human body can differ. This can cause major problems for the production of pharmaceuticals.

Despite the above being the case, ordinary chemical synthesis can only produce enantiomer mixtures. Along with the advancement of the technique for synthesizing only one hand of the molecule with a catalyst, the convenient method for separating the generated mixture has also come to be widely used. This was made possible by helical polymers. When one-handed helical polymer is coated onto silica gel, packed in a column and enantiomer mixture is injected through, the enantiomer that is more prone to being captured by the helical polymer remains in the column for a long period of time, and the other enantiomer that is less prone to being captured flows out first.

Prof. Yoshio Okamoto was the first in the world to achieve the synthesis of a one-handed helical polymer, and even demonstrated its utility in the separation of enantiomers. Today, products that have been derived from the application of these discoveries are being widely used throughout the world for the research & development and the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, aroma chemicals and functional materials. Prof. Okamoto's achievements that span the advancement of basic polymer synthesis science to its practical application are highly regarded by the international community.

Field of Biological Production, Ecology



Sustainable soil management for global food security and mitigation of climate change

Prof. Rattan Lal

USA Born in 1944

Distinguished University Professor of Soil Science
Director, Carbon Management and Sequestration
Center The Ohio State University

Soil is important not only for food production but also for a wide range of functions in environmental conservation, such as carbon sequestration, environmental cleanup, material circulation and preservation of biodiversity. Prof. Rattan Lal demonstrated in Africa's sub-Saharan region that the “no-tillage cultivation method” can ensure stable biological production while preventing soil erosion, and has undertaken great efforts to spread this technique and promote the idea that a healthy soil is the basis of sustainable agriculture and good environment.

While the soil is usually plowed in agriculture, the no-tillage cultivation method which does away with plowing was adapted and tested by Prof. Lal who had noticed the outflow mechanism of soil organic matter. Based on this finding, Prof. Lal began studying the relationship between soil and global environmental issues.

As a result of the analysis of the global carbon cycle, he found out that with appropriate management, soil not only isolates carbon and reduces CO₂ in the atmosphere but also becomes fertile, thereby improving food production.

And as a result of his continuous appeal to the international community of the importance of appropriate soil management, Prof. Lal's ideas were formulated into the policy of international effort for soil preservation called the “4 per 1000 Initiative”, and is closely tied to the promotion of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Field of Resources, Energy, Environment and Social Infrastructure



Development of lithium ion batteries

Dr. Akira Yoshino

Japan Born in 1948

Honorary Fellow, Asahi Kasei Corporation
Professor, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Meijo University

The lithium ion battery is a type of secondary battery capable of charge/discharge that has become the backbone of today's mobile society by powering smartphones and laptop PCs. It is also being adopted in electric vehicles that are becoming increasingly widespread, serving to reduce emissions of environment-impacting substances. In the early 1980s, Dr. Yoshino put forth the concept of the lithium ion battery and demonstrated its charge/discharge capability. At the time, research on batteries using lithium metal anodes was more predominant, with a strong focus on cathode materials and non-aqueous electrolyte solutions. Dr. Yoshino proposed and demonstrated a viable secondary battery using lithium cobalt oxide for the cathode and a carbon-based material for the anode, which he combined with his original separator and current collector technology. The resulting battery attained high voltage, high energy density, safety and a long-life. Lithium ion batteries have since continued to improve through constant refinements in materials and manufacturing methods, and their application is anticipated to grow into the future.

Field of Medical Science and Medicinal Science

Discovery of B and T lymphocyte lineages and its impact on understanding disease pathology and therapeutic development (Joint Award)



Dr. Max D. Cooper

USA Born in 1933

Professor,
Emory University School of Medicine



Dr. Jacques Miller

Australia Born in 1931

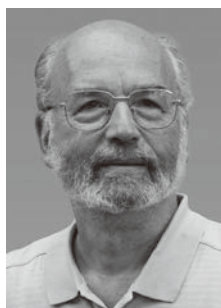
Professor Emeritus, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

Dr. Max D. Cooper and Dr. Jacques Miller discovered the "B and T lymphocytes", the two primary cell lineages involved in adaptive immunity that are responsible for protecting our bodies from intrusion by foreign substances. The B lymphocytes are responsible for the production of antibodies that attack foreign substances such as invading pathogens. T lymphocytes, on the other hand, are responsible for attacking virus-infected cells and cancer cells, and assisting B lymphocytes in the production of antibodies. Using mice, Dr. Miller discovered that T lymphocytes are produced by the thymus, which was considered a vestigial organ at the time. Dr. Cooper, on the other hand, hypothesized that there are two cell lineages with different functions in adaptive immunity and verified their existence through experiments on chickens. Their pioneering achievements laid the foundation for the next half century of developments in immunology from basic concepts to applied research. The development of new therapeutic drugs for cancers and immune disorders, which has been attracting much attention in recent years, would not have been possible without Dr. Cooper and Dr. Miller's discoveries.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

2017 (33rd)

Field of Electronics, Information and Communication



Contribution to information security through pioneering research on cryptography

Dr. Adi Shamir

Israel Born in 1952

Professor,
Weizmann Institute of Science

The advent of open digital networks, namely the Internet, has enabled us to lead a convenient lifestyle like never before. Such comfort has been made possible thanks to security measures preventing the theft and manipulation of valuable information. It is Dr. Adi Shamir who proposed many of the underlying concepts in information security and developed a series of practical solutions.

Information in digital networks is coded in binary digits. Utilizing mathematical methodology, Dr. Shamir has invented and proposed numerous techniques, such as the innovative “RSA cryptosystem,” the “secret sharing scheme” which ensures secrecy by breaking up classified information into parts and dispersing it among several participants, the “identification scheme” with which individuals can be identified without revealing secret information and the generic “differential cryptanalysis” which deciphers many common key cryptosystems.

Dr. Shamir has also made a significant breakthrough in the research of side-channel attacks which decipher code by monitoring the physical information of the computer carrying out encryption, such as power consumption and noise.

Field of Life Science

Elucidation of the genome editing mechanism by the CRISPR-Cas (Joint Award)



Prof. Emmanuelle Charpentier

France Born in 1968

Director,
Max Planck Institute
for Infection Biology (Berlin)



Dr. Jennifer A. Doudna

USA Born in 1964

Professor,
University of California, Berkeley

Genome editing using the CRISPR-Cas system, announced by Prof. Emmanuelle Charpentier and Dr. Jennifer Doudna in 2012, is a revolutionary new technology in genetic engineering. It was adopted at an explosive rate as a useful tool for research in the life sciences. Today, it continues to be applied to research in a wide range of fields, such as breeding, drug development and medicine. This technology was developed in the process of elucidating the bacterial defense mechanism against such threats as viral infections. Bacteria can remember the DNA of intruding viruses by absorbing their DNA into their own. Upon the next infection, bacteria recognize the intruder’s DNA and snips it with the RNA-guided CAS protein, thereby destroying intruding viruses. Genome editing by the CRISPR-Cas system takes advantage of this mechanism, and enables one to cut the DNA of any organism at arbitrary locations to edit freely by means of removing, replacing or insertion.

Field of Materials and Production



Creation of unconventional inorganic materials with novel electronic functions based on nano-structure engineering

Dr. Hideo Hosono

Japan Born in 1953

Laboratory for Materials and Structures, Institute of Innovative Research, Tokyo Institute of Technology
Director, Materials Research Center of Element Strategy

Discovery of new materials is a major driving force that transforms industry and our society. Dr. Hideo Hosono endeavored to create new functional materials in areas where others had not yet achieved success. For example, it was said that “transparent oxides” like glass are unsuitable as electrofunctional material because of their electrical nonconductivity, but Dr. Hosono studied their nano-structure and developed the “transparent amorphous oxide semiconductor.” Today, it is extensively used in technologies such as liquid crystal displays (LCDs) and organic light-emitting diode (OLED) displays, contributing enormously towards our society.

Furthermore, he has developed a series of unconventional inorganic materials with electronic functions. In the field of superconductivity research, he focused on iron compounds, which nobody had been paying attention to, and achieved high superconducting transition temperature. He also developed “electrically conductive cement” by modifying the nano-structure of what had been considered an archetypal insulator material.

Field of Biological Production and Biological Environment



Contribution to modern crop breeding through research on development of molecular genetic analysis

Dr. Steven D. Tanksley

USA Born in 1954

Professor Emeritus,
Cornell University

Since the beginning of agriculture, mankind has practiced selective breeding in search of crops with enhanced traits. For most of that time, the methods practiced relied on experience and intuition. From the 1980s, however, rapid advancements in genomic analysis techniques brought about significant changes. The pioneering figure who continuously led this field was Dr. Steven Tanksley.

Dr. Tanksley created chromosomal maps of crops by molecular genetic analysis and went on to identify genes that are related to agricultural productivity, such as fruit size, thereby developing a genomic analysis technique that is instrumental for selective breeding. His research, which combines genetic information and breeding techniques, has contributed enormously to increasing selection accuracy and reducing the amount of time required to breed new crop varieties.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

2015 (31st)

Field of Resources, Energy and Social Infrastructure



Contribution to development of innovative concept on river basin management and reduction of water-related disasters

Dr. Yutaka Takahasi

Japan Born in 1927

Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

We humans benefit from rivers in our day-to-day lives, but on occasion, suffer severe damage from bank collapse due to swelling river waters. Dr. Yutaka Takahasi has conducted field surveys and data analysis on post-war flood disasters, such as those caused by typhoons, and scientifically verified that transformations in river basins due to large-scale river improvements and developments from the Meiji Era onward have contributed to the magnification of the scale of floods. In addition, in order to reduce the scale of flood damage, he has continued to propose “integrated flood control measures,” which aim not only to make river improvements such as the building of banks but also to achieve basin management through regulating reservoirs and the maintenance of a sound water cycle. Dr. Takahasi’s proposal has also been applied to measures against flood disasters frequently occurring worldwide which have been attributed to global warming.

Field of Medical Science and Medicinal Science

Proposal of the concept of gene therapy and its clinical applications (Joint Award)



Dr. Theodore Friedmann

USA Born in 1935

Professor of Pediatrics, University of California San Diego, School of Medicine



Prof. Alain Fischer

France Born in 1949

Professor at Collège de France, Director of Institute Imagine, Hôpital Necker-Enfants malades

“Injecting genes or gene-transduced cells into a human body for the purpose of treating diseases” is called gene therapy. In the last few years, there has been a series of reports on convincing clinical efficacy of gene therapy in patients suffering from difficult-to-treat diseases, such as congenital diseases and intractable neurological diseases. The origin of gene therapy can be traced back about 40 years ago to 1972, when Dr. Theodore Friedmann published an article on the revolutionary therapeutic concept and research procedure in a scientific journal. In the years following that event, many researchers carried out fundamental research. Clinical studies started in 1990, but no convincing clinical efficacy could be established. After a period of trial and error, in 1999, Prof. Alain Fischer successfully implemented a hematopoietic stem cell gene therapy on patients with X-linked severe combined immunodeficiency disease with dramatic results, proving the efficacy of gene therapy. The vision of gene therapy as portrayed by Dr. Friedmann and the empirical study carried out by Prof. Fischer paved the way for the present gene therapy.

Field of Electronics, Information and Communication



Pioneering research on semiconductor lasers for high-capacity, long-distance optical fiber communication

Dr. Yasuharu Suematsu

Japan Born in 1932

Honorary Professor,
Tokyo Institute of Technology

Optical communication network using optical fiber is the pillar of present information society. Dr. Suematsu, Honorary Professor of Tokyo Institute of Technology, has been undertaking the study of optical communication since the early 1960s, the dawn of the optical electronics age. Dr. Suematsu was also a forerunner in taking a “problem-solving approach” in research. In this approach, levels of performance required by society are projected first, and theory and experiments are combined to achieve the goal. In the early 1980s, Dr. Suematsu gave shape to his idea of dynamic single-mode laser, which emits light in the wavelength range where the minimum loss is achieved and has a stable wavelength even with high-speed light modulation when transmitting information. His research on semiconductor lasers has greatly contributed to the realization of a high-capacity, long-distance optical fiber communication.

Field of Life Science



Discovery of histone modifications as fundamental regulators of gene expression

Dr. C. David Allis

USA Born in 1951

Joy and Jack Fishman Professor,
The Rockefeller University

A human body consists of approximately 60 trillion cells, and most of them have the same genetic information in DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). How can cells with the same DNA develop into many different types of cells to make up the different organs in the body with different forms and functions, such as skin, liver and cranial nerves? A biochemist from the U.S., Dr. Allis, tackled this question and discovered from his research in the 1990s that enzymes that chemically modify histones, proteins found in chromosomes, play a vital role in the regulation of gene activity. His findings have greatly contributed to the understanding of the generation mechanism in which an organism grows from a fertilized egg, as well as to the development of drugs to treat cancer related to abnormalities in histone modifications.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

2013 (29th)

Field of Materials and Production

Development of chemically amplified resist polymer materials for innovative semiconductor manufacturing process (Joint Award)



Prof. C. Grant Willson

USA Born in 1939

Professor of Chemistry
and Chemical Engineering
The University of Texas at Austin



Prof. Jean M. J. Fréchet

USA Born in 1944

Vice-President for Research
King Abdullah University of Science
and Technology

The most important key technology which has been the driving force for innovation in semiconductor technology over the past half a century is lithography, which engraves fine circuits in semiconductors. Dr. Willson and Dr. Fréchet, along with the late Dr. Hiroshi Itoh, embarked on the development of the resist to be used for lithography in the early 1980's, and succeeded in developing a new key technology known as a chemically amplified resist. Through the use of resist developed jointly by the three doctors, a lithography using a short wavelength deep ultraviolet (deep UV; wavelength 254nm) was achieved. By improving this chemically amplified resist, an era of the next generation integrated circuit with a minimum semiconductor circuit width of under 250nm was opened up. The chemically amplified resist is an important technology for the extreme ultraviolet lithography (EUV; wavelength 1-10nm), a present leading edge technology, as well as for electron lithography, and is a key technology in creating new types of electronics.

Field of Biological Production and Biological Environment



Contribution to marine environmental conservation through research on ecology and biodiversity of deep-sea organisms

Dr. John Frederick Grassle

USA (1939 - 2018)

Professor Emeritus,
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

It has been thought for many years that only a limited number of living organisms exist in the deep sea exceeding a depth of 200m, due to the fact that hardly any sunlight, needed for photosynthesis, reaches there. However, in 1977, a hydrothermal vent called a black smoker was discovered at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, and the existence of a wide variety of organisms was recorded. Marine Biologist Dr. Grassle organized an ecological survey mission using a manned research submersible, and clarified the existence of a chemosynthetic ecosystem in the deep ocean which utilizes not sunlight, but chemical substances supplied from the earth's interior.

Through his studies in the 1980's and the 1990's, Dr. Grassle proved that an abundant biodiversity exists in the deep sea comparable to that of the tropical rainforest. Furthermore, in 2000, a 10-year project which endeavors to shed light on the diversity, distribution and population of all marine life called "CoML: Census of Marine Life" was founded. The research findings thereof are greatly contributing to the preservation of the marine ecosystem which has rapidly been lost since the 20th Century.

Field of Environment, Energy and Infrastructure



Developing the world's highest performing Nd-Fe-B type permanent magnet and contributing to energy conservation

Dr. Masato Sagawa

Japan Born in 1943

President, Intermetallics Co., Ltd.

One of the fundamental materials which support our highly industrialized society is a permanent magnet. In order to respond to the expectations for a stronger magnet, the Sm-Co(samarium-cobalt) magnet was developed in the 1960's. However, because cobalt was a rare resource, the scope of its application was limited. Amid such a climate, Dr. Sagawa embarked on the challenge of achieving a permanent magnet using iron, an abundant resource. Dr. Sagawa engaged in research and development of magnetic materials from a completely different perspective to the conventional. In 1982, he discovered the Nd-Fe-B (neodymium-iron-boron) magnet that has the world's largest energy product which breaks the Sm-Co magnet's record in the maximum energy product, and achieved the industrialization of this magnet. Motors which use neodymium magnets are compact, lightweight and highly efficient. Thus, they have greatly contributed to the solution of global environmental issues through power-saving industrial and household electronic products as well as through the high efficiency of new energy sources such as wind power generators.

Field of Healthcare and Medical Technology

Development of a new therapeutic drug targeting cancer-specific molecules (Joint Award)



Dr. Janet D. Rowley

USA (1925 - 2013)

Blum-Riese Distinguished Service Professor of Medicine, Molecular Genetics & Cell Biology and Human Genetics, The University of Chicago



Dr. Brian J. Druker

USA Born in 1955

Professor and Director of OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Oregon Health & Science University



Dr. Nicholas B. Lydon

USA Born in 1957

Founder and Director, Blueprint Medicines

Chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) is a disease which is caused when a hematopoietic stem cell in the bone marrow turns cancerous. In 2001, with the introduction of the molecularly targeted drug imatinib, treatment results dramatically improved. The origin of imatinib began in 1973 when Dr. Rowley discovered that chromosomes 9 and 22 were recombined in the white blood cells of patients with CML. Dr. Druker and Dr. Lydon succeeded in developing a drug which suppressed the activity of the BCR-ABL protein which occurs as a result of the chromosomal recombination. At present, molecularly targeted drugs are indispensable to the treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases, and the results obtained from the studies of Dr. Rowley, Dr. Druker and Dr. Lydon underscored the importance of developing molecularly targeted drugs, providing a guiding post for future research.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

2011 (27th)

Field of Information and Communications

Development of the operating system, UNIX (Joint Award)



Dr. Dennis M. Ritchie

USA (1941 - 2011)

Distinguished Member of Technical Staff
Emeritus, Bell Labs



Dr. Ken L. Thompson

USA Born in 1943

Distinguished Engineer, Google Inc.

With present computer systems, basic software called operating systems are used in addition to application software to perform word processor, spreadsheet tasks, and so on. Dr. Ritchie and Dr. Thompson developed an advanced operating system called UNIX in 1969. The operating systems in those days were increasing in scale but becoming complex and disorderly. With UNIX, stability and high-speed performance could be attained by combining modularized programs. UNIX's superior design concept has been carried on by many computer technicians, and has supported the development of an advanced information society including the Internet.

Field of Bioscience and Medical Science

Discovery of interleukin-6 and its application in treating diseases (Joint Award)



Dr. Tadimitsu Kishimoto

Japan Born in 1939

Emeritus Professor, Osaka University



Dr. Toshio Hirano

Japan Born in 1947

Professor, Osaka University

Our bodies detect external invasions of bacteria and viruses and eliminate them. This mechanism is called "immunity." Immunity is a complex system consisting of various cells such as lymphocytes (T-cells, B-cells) and macrophage, but the substance which plays an important role in transmitting information between cells is called interleukin. Dr. Kishimoto and Dr. Hirano have purified interleukin 6 (IL-6), which plays a vital part in the production of antibodies, and also succeeded in gene cloning in 1986. In addition, the two doctors have identified a wide range of functions of IL-6 and their research results have contributed to the progress of bioscience and the development of therapeutic drugs for inflammatory diseases.

2010 (26th)

Field of Industrial Production and Production Technology



Contributions to high-density magnetic recording technology by the development of a perpendicular magnetic recording method

Prof. Shun-ichi Iwasaki

Japan Born in 1926

Director, Tohoku Institute of Technology
Professor Emeritus, Tohoku University

LSI (large-scale integration) and the HDD (hard disk drive) which records information have played major roles in the progress of computer technology in the 20th century. It is not an exaggeration to say that the miniaturization and the increasing capacity of the HDD have created the information society through the Internet. Furthermore, what is giving behind-the-scenes support to the attainment of the next-generation system such as cloud computing is the ever-increasing capacity of the HDD by means of the perpendicular magnetic recording method. Prof. Iwasaki, through inspiration from the research of the magnetic recording principle, has developed the perpendicular magnetic recording method, which is more advantageous in attaining higher capacity in comparison to the conventional horizontal magnetic recording method. Since he advocated this method to the world in 1977, he has continued research and development for the practical application thereof.

Field of Biological Production and Environment



Contributions to solving global environmental issues based on the analysis of nitrogen and other substances' cycles

Prof. Peter Vitousek

USA Born in 1949

Professor of Biology, Stanford University

Since the Industrial Revolution, human economic activities have continued to expand, making the earth a relatively smaller place. Prof. Vitousek, an expert in ecosystems ecology, has been studying the material cycle of such nutrient elements as nitrogen and phosphorus in the ecosystem. Based on the aforementioned research, Prof. Vitousek has made pioneering achievements in the field of "biogeochemistry," which analyzes how various factors influence the ecosystem. From his achievements, he has pointed out the serious effects human activities have on the global environment as well as potential solutions for solving global environmental issues.

2009 (25th)

Field of Transformation towards a Sustainable Society in Harmony with Nature



Contribution towards a sustainable world as founded in the 1972 Report titled 'The Limits to Growth'

Dr. Dennis L. Meadows

USA Born in 1942

Professor Emeritus of Systems Policy,
University of New Hampshire
President, Laboratory for Interactive Learning

For humanity, the Earth is both irreplaceable and finite. The continued survival of humanity on Earth depends on its success in creating a "sustainable society." More than 30 years ago, Dr. Meadows was at the center of a research group that used scientific analysis to make this point. "The Limits to Growth" shocked the world when first published in 1972, and it continues even today to illuminate the way forward.

Field of Technological Integration of Medical Science and Engineering



Contribution to tomographic imaging in nuclear medicine

Dr. David E. Kuhl

USA (1929 - 2017)

Professor, Radiology,
University of Michigan Medical School

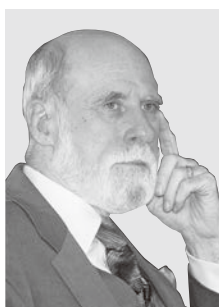
Today various types of diagnostic imaging systems including CT (computed tomography) are used on a daily basis in hospitals and clinics all over the world. Dr. Kuhl, one of the world pioneers in tomography, began experimenting in the late 1950s by taking cross-sectional images of the distribution of radioisotopes in the body. He went on to develop SPECT (single photon emission computed tomography) in the late 1960s and succeeded in producing the world's first tomographic images of the human body. In addition to having a profound impact on the subsequent development of X-ray CT scanning and MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), Dr. Kuhl's research brought about the realization of PET (positron emission tomography), which is proving to be invaluable in the early detection of cancers.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

2008 (24th)

Field of Information Communication Theory and Technology

Creation of network architecture and communication protocol for the Internet (Joint Award)



Dr. Vinton G. Cerf

USA Born in 1943

Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google Inc.



Dr. Robert E. Kahn

USA Born in 1938

Chairman, CEO & President of Corporation for National Research Initiatives

The appearance of the Internet has pioneered the way for the establishment of a network society that has completely transformed the lifestyles of people around the world. Two men in particular were instrumental in the creation of the concept for the basic framework and the TCP/IP communication protocol which has made the Internet possible. These men are Dr. Cerf and Dr. Kahn. Known as the "Fathers of the Internet," Dr. Cerf and Dr. Kahn continue to lead advances in information communication.

Field of Medical Genomics and Genetics



Establishment of medical genetics and contributions to its development

Dr. Victor A. McKusick

USA (1921 - 2008)

University Professor of Medical Genetics, the McKusick- Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University

With the completion of the human genome project, we have come to understand almost all of the genetic information contained in DNA, which is encoded in a series of letters. However, we are still some way from fully identifying those parts which are related to the treatment of diseases. Dr. McKusick, has spent over half a century compiling related knowledge, and advocating the importance of the formulation of a genomic map for genetic disorders. Today, researchers and clinicians around the world are sharing the fruits of Dr. McKusick's labors which have become indispensable to the world of genetic medicine.

2007 (23rd)

Field of Innovative Devices Inspired by Basic Research

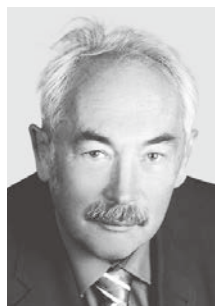
The discovery of Giant Magneto-Resistance(GMR) and its contribution to development of innovative spin-electronics devices (Joint Award)



Prof. Albert Fert

France Born in 1938

University of Paris-South



Prof. Dr. Peter Grünberg

Germany (1939 - 2018)

The Research Center of Solid State Physics

Computer hard discs, which store vast amounts of memory, are improving year by year and at a faster rate than ever before. Now, however, these memory storage discs are not limited to computers, but are also being used in such electronic appliances as mobile music devices and video cameras. The reason behind the great increases in memory storage capacity and the rapidly diversifying use of hard discs is the discovery of Giant Magneto-Resistance (GMR), a groundbreaking technological innovation. The researchers responsible for this astonishing discovery are Prof. Fert and Prof. Dr. Grünberg.

Field of Science and Technology of Harmonious Co-Existence



Contribution to the conservation of tropical forest

Dr. Peter Shaw Ashton

UK Born in 1934

Charles Bullard Professor of Forestry

In recent times, the destruction of tropical forests has been progressing at an alarming rate. Tropical forests are a veritable treasury of a diverse array of many forms of life, and it is widely believed that the loss of this environment would have a major impact on the ecosystem of the entire planet. Dr. Ashton was awarded the 2007 Japan Prize in the category of "Science and Technology of Harmonious Co-Existence" for his extensive research into the phylogenetic systemization of flora and ecological studies in the tropical forests of Southeast Asia, and the contribution his findings have made to tropical conservation efforts.

2006 (22nd)

Field of Global Change



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

UK Born in 1931

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

Observations by weather satellites began in the 1970s. When Sir John Houghton developed a new means for making observations to measure the temperatures and composition of the upper atmosphere based on his independent theory. This opened the way to elucidating the three-dimensional temperature structure of, and distribution of micro-components such as ozone in the atmosphere across the entire globe. Then he established the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research to pursue this research and to study international climate change. He also has played a central role in compiling the First, Second and Third Assessment Reports under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Field of The Development of Novel Therapeutic Concepts and Technologies



The discovery of the statins and their development

Dr. Akira Endo

Japan Born in 1933

Director, Biopharm Research Laboratories, Inc., Tokyo, Japan

In 1973 Dr. Endo isolated from penicillium a ground-breaking substance called ML-236B (currently known as compactin) that lowers blood cholesterol levels, and confirmed that it was also effective in humans. This discovery triggered world-wide research into the compactin group and resulted in the birth of several hypercholesterolemia drugs from amongst that group. These drugs, known collectively as statins, are presently used by approximately thirty million people around the world and help to prevent cardiac disease and strokes and so on.

2005 (21st)

Field of Information and Media Technology



Pioneering contributions to natural language processing and intelligent image processing

Dr. Makoto Nagao

Japan Born in 1936

President, National Institute of Information and Communications Technology

Dr. Nagao has pioneered research in the fields of machine translation, natural language processing, and image processing, and has achieved extensive results that have had a significant impact on other researchers in this field. Notably, he developed a fully functional Japanese-to-English / English-to-Japanese translation system, and was the world's first advocate of example based translation in machine translation. In image processing, he was the first to introduce feedback analysis mechanisms, which had a dramatic impact on many later research activities. He developed the world's first digital library prototype system incorporating natural language processing and image processing technologies, and has contributed to the new digital library era. In addition to being a pioneer, Dr. Nagao has been a leader in this field as well, for example as a founder of the International Association for Machine Translation and The Association for Natural Language Processing.

Field of Cell Biology

Fundamental contribution in elucidating the molecular mechanisms of cell adhesion (Joint Award)



Dr. Masatoshi Takeichi

Japan Born in 1943

Director of RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology



Dr. Erkki Ruoslahti

USA Born in 1940

Distinguished Professor, The Burnham Institute

Cell adhesion is fundamentally important in the construction of tissues and organs. Dr. Takeichi and Dr. Ruoslahti pinpointed the essential core processes in the complex phenomena of cell adhesion and succeeded in elucidating the mechanisms at the molecular level. Their accomplishments are expected to fundamentally contribute to working out the etiology and developing therapy of serious diseases such as malignant tumors.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

2004 (20th)

Field of Chemical Technology for the Environment

Pioneering work on photochemical catalysis and its application for the environment (Joint Award)



Dr. Kenichi Honda

Japan (1925 - 2011)

Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo



Dr. Akira Fujishima

Japan Born in 1942

Chairman, Kanagawa Academy of
Science and Technology

Dr. Honda and Dr. Fujishima found that irradiation of solar light onto a single crystal titanium dioxide (TiO_2) electrode resulted in the splitting of water into hydrogen and oxygen (The Honda-Fujishima effect). Thus, they pioneered research on artificial photosynthesis and production of hydrogen as a clean energy from water by using solar light. Furthermore, the development of the self-cleaning coatings of TiO_2 on a variety of surfaces is going to produce a new industry of photocatalysts, which significantly contributes to environmental conservation. The contributions of these two scientists to “Chemical Technology for the Environment” for the sustainable development of society are enormous.

Field of Food Production Based on Ecosystem Concepts



Contributions to the understanding of shelf ecosystems and their sustainable utilization

Dr. Keith J. Sainsbury

New Zealand Born in 1951

Senior Principal Research Scientist, Division of
Marine Research,
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial
Research Organization

Dr. Sainsbury greatly contributed to the establishment of marine bio-resource management strategies for sustainable fishery production based on his basic studies on population dynamics including experimental fishery management mainly of demersal fish resources in the shelf ecosystem and consequently to the planning of the Australian marine policy. He also contributed much to the development of a paradigm for sustainable utilization of fishery resources in tropical and temperate marine areas.

Field of Science and Technology for Conservation of Biodiversity



Observational, experimental and theoretical achievements for the scientific understanding and conservation of biodiversity

Prof. John H. Lawton

UK Born in 1943

Chief Executive, Natural Environment Research
Council

Prof. Lawton is a prolific contributor to fundamental research on the ecological aspect of biodiversity. He studied various organisms, including birds, mammals, insects, and plants. He analyzed various species of these groups and the ways in which they co-exist with other species. Based on conservation, biological observation and analysis, he also contributed to the protection of bird species, actually serving as a key person in environmental NGOs.

2003 (19th)

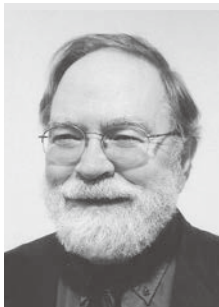
Field of Science and Technology of Complexity

Creation of universal concepts in complex systems - chaos and fractals (Joint Award)



Dr. Benoit B. Mandelbrot
USA (1924 - 2010)

Sterling Professor of Mathematical Sciences, Mathematics Department, Yale University IBM Fellow Emeritus, TJ Watson Research Center, International Business Machines Corporation



Dr. James A. Yorke
USA Born in 1941

Distinguished University Professor of Mathematics and Physics, Institute for Physical Sciences and Technology, University of Maryland

The world we live in is so complex that it is an enormous challenge to understand the fundamental nature of its complexities. Nature is filled with complex geometrical shapes. Dr. Mandelbrot discovered that "self-similarity" is the universal property that underlies such complex shapes, and he coined the expression "fractal."

Many different, variable complex patterns of behavior are found in dynamic phenomena. Dr. Yorke found the universal mechanism underlying such nonlinear dynamic phenomena and summed it up using the term "chaos."

The two concepts, chaos and fractals, have been established as universal concepts underlying such phenomena. Dr. Mandelbrot and Dr. Yorke utilized, respectively, the terms fractal and chaos and elucidated their fundamental properties. They have provided new frameworks for understanding complex phenomena, and have defined both their foundations and their applications.

Field of Visualizing Techniques in Medicine



Discovery of the principle for functional magnetic resonance imaging

Dr. Seiji Ogawa
Japan Born in 1934

Director, Ogawa Laboratories for Brain Function Research,
Hamano Life Science Research Foundation

Dr. Ogawa discovered the principle upon which the field of functional and physiological imaging of the human body, particularly the human brain, is based. He searched for physiologically dependent signals in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and found BOLD (Blood Oxygenation Level Dependent) signal contrast in MR images of the brain. This work has proved to be the fundamental basis of noninvasive functional imaging methodology that is now widely used not only in many biological and medical sciences, such as neurobiology, psychology and neurology, but also in many fields of clinical medicine as diagnostic tools.

2002 (18th)

Field of Computing and Computational Science and Engineering



Advancement of civilization through invention, implementation and deployment of the world wide web

Dr. Timothy John Berners-Lee
UK Born in 1955

Senior Research Scientist, Laboratory for Computer Science, M.I.T.

Dr. Berners-Lee is the inventor of the World Wide Web (www). Through his invention people were able to acquire information and work together by combining their knowledge in a web using hypertext documents through the Internet. He implemented the first www using HTML, Hypertext Markup Language developed by himself. The www has made revolutionary change in information exchange and communication among people, contributing to the globalization of information and communication in the world. It has created new forms of commercial and industrial activities like E-commerce, internet publications of newspapers and books, and more. The World Wide Web has made a profound and far-reaching contribution not only to science and technology but also to the advancement of the civilization.

Field of Developmental Biology

Pioneering work on mammalian embryonic development (Joint Award)



Dr. Anne McLaren
UK (1927 - 2007)

Principal Research Associate, Wellcome Trust / CRC Institute



Dr. Andrzej K. Tarkowski
Poland (1933 - 2016)

Director of the Institute of Zoology,
Warsaw University

Drs. McLaren and Tarkowski pioneered the developmental biology of mammals using a mouse as a model and established technologies to manipulate early embryos. Taking advantage of chimeric embryos in particular, they demonstrated the enormous plasticity of early embryonic cells, and gave deep insight into fundamental questions on mammalian embryonic development, such as how sexes differentiate, how genetic information of sexually distinct parents differentially contributes to development, and how cells interact in developing tissues. This work has proved fundamental as regards major issues not only of current developmental biology which are of increasing importance, but also for the progress of basic medical and veterinary sciences.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

2001 (17th)

Field of Science and Technology of Environment Conscious Materials



Discovery of environmentally benign electrode materials for high energy density rechargeable lithium batteries

Dr. John B. Goodenough
USA Born in 1922
Professor, University of Texas

Dr. Goodenough recorded notable achievements in the field of solid-state science and made a great contribution to fundamental science. His well-known studies are on magnetism and the conductivity of transition metal compounds and on superionic conductors. Based on these research results and with profound insights, he found electrode materials for high-performance lithium batteries and used these materials to develop high-capacity portable rechargeable batteries. These batteries are not only environmentally benign but also very effective in the reduction of carbon dioxide emission.

2000 (16th)

Field of City Planning



Establishment of an ecological city planning process and proposal of a land use evaluation system

Prof. Ian L. McHarg
USA (1920 - 2001)

Professor Emeritus, Department of
Landscape Architecture and Regional
Planning, University of Pennsylvania.

Prof. McHarg introduced ecological ideas into city planning, visualized environmental ecosystems on overlay maps of factors such as physiography, hydrology, vegetation, and historical landmarks, and developed an innovative land use evaluation system, clarifying the suitability of, and restrictions on, land use. He is recognized as a founder of ecological planning, because of his distinguished achievements in the 1960s - when disorderly urban developments dominated - in ecological city planning, making the most of the abundant potential capabilities of nature. His methodology has had great influence upon city planning in an age when the global environment is of the utmost concern.

Field of Marine Biology



Contribution to the development of biological / fisheries oceanography and for conservation of fishery resources and marine environment

Dr. Timothy R. Parsons
Canada Born in 1932

Professor Emeritus, University of British
Columbia

Through his research devoted to obtaining a holistic understanding of how pelagic organisms are interconnected in the trophodynamic food-web of the sea, Dr. Parsons has made a great contribution to the development of Biological Oceanography as determined today. His goal has been to present an alternative method for the management of fisheries, based on measuring of dynamic relationships between fish and their physical, chemical and biological environments.

Field of Host Defense



Discovery of Immunoglobulin E and mechanisms of IgE-mediated allergic reactions

Dr. Kimishige Ishizaka
Japan (1925 - 2018)

President Emeritus, La Jolla Institute for Allergy
and Immunology

Dr. Ishizaka was the first to discover immunoglobulin E and to elucidate fundamental mechanisms of allergic reaction at cellular and molecular levels. His work has profoundly influenced other medical research areas and even contributed to the clinical diagnosis and treatment of allergic diseases.

1999 (15th)

Field of Information Technologies



Establishment of coding theory for reliable digital communication, broadcasting and storage

Dr. W. Wesley Peterson

USA (1924 - 2009)

Professor of Information and Computer Sciences, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Dr. Peterson authored Error-Correcting Codes, the “bible” for the coding theory, and established the fundamentals of this field. He created the conceptual framework of coding theory on the basis of modern algebra and invented practical implementation methods for error detection and correction. This led to an exceptionally important contribution in the industrial application of error-correcting codes. Current digital communication, broadcasting and storage systems owe their reliability to his research results.

Field of Molecular Recognition and Dynamics in Bioscience

Elucidation of the three-dimensional structures of class I and class II human histocompatibility antigens and their bound peptides (Joint Award)



Dr. Jack L. Strominger

USA Born in 1925

Higgins Professor of Biochemistry, Harvard University.



Dr. Don C. Wiley

USA (1944 - 2001)

John L. Loeb Professor of Biochemistry and Biophysics, Harvard University.

Dr. Strominger and Dr. Wiley were the first to elucidate the three-dimensional structures of the human histocompatibility complex class I and class II molecules. Their work provided a detailed understanding of how peptides derived from processed foreign antigens and self proteins are presented to T lymphocytes for the initiation of an immune response. Their work also opened a wide vista for investigation of autoimmunity, transplantation rejection, tumor immunity and the response to foreign pathogens.

1998 (14th)

Field of Generation and Design of New Materials Creating Novel Functions



For the creation and realization of the concept of man-made superlattice crystals which lead to generation of new materials with useful applications

Dr. Leo Esaki

Japan Born in 1925

Former President, University of Tsukuba

Dr. Esaki proposed the concept of “semiconductor superlattice,” realized it, and discovered its peculiar properties such as negative differential conductivity and resonant tunneling. His concept of the superlattice inspired many other scientists. It underlies the high-speed transistor HEMT, optical devices with multiple-quantum wells, and giant magneto-resistance. “Superlattice” was a great accomplishment in terms of the generation and design of new materials to create novel functions. (Dr. Esaki was awarded with a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1973 for his discovery of tunneling in semiconductor p-n junctions. Superlattice is another great accomplishment he has made.)

Field of Biotechnology in Agricultural Sciences

Establishment of the theory and method of the production of transgenic plants (Joint Award)



Prof. Dr. Jozef S. Schell

Belgium (1935 - 2003)

Director, Department of Genetic Principles of Plant Breeding, Max-Planck-Institute für Züchtungsforschung, Germany



Dr. Marc C.E. Van Montagu

Belgium Born in 1933

Professor, Department of Genetics, University of Ghent, Belgium.

Dr. Schell and Dr. Van Montagu showed that the formation of tumors in plants with *Agrobacterium* is attributable to insertion of some genes contained in the bacteria into the nuclear genomes of host plants. They utilized this system to develop methods for efficient transfer of foreign genes into plant genomes. Recent advances in the production of transgenic plants have been based on their work.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

1997 (13th)

Field of Systems Engineering for an Artifactual Environment

Establishment of the robot industry and creation of a techno-global paradigm (Joint Award)



Dr. Joseph F. Engelberger

USA (1925 - 2015)

Chairman and Director, HelpMate Robotics Inc.

Dr. Engelberger foresaw from the beginning that machines called robots would markedly improve productivity and was a key person in their development and introduction for practical purposes. He has greatly contributed to the long-term expansion and development of the world economy by innovatively improving productivity in the manufacturing industry.



Dr. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa

Japan Born in 1933

Former President, The University of Tokyo

Dr. Yoshikawa has shown that the professional disciplines associated with the production of artifacts have been too specialized with respect to the system of knowledge, which has made the solving of such problems as environmental destruction and depletion of resources difficult.

He has played a leading role in research in systematizing knowledge related to design and manufacturing and has developed a new field called general design theory. Based on this concept, he has proposed artifactual engineering in order to solve the above problems.

Field of Biotechnology in Medicine

Contribution to establishment of fundamental concept on causes of cancer (Joint Award)



Dr. Takashi Sugimura

Japan Born in 1926

President Emeritus of National Cancer Center and President of Toho University

As early as 1957, Dr. Sugimura discovered the carcinogenicity of a mutagen, 4-nitroquinoline-1-oxide. In 1967, he successfully induced stomach cancer in rats by oral administration of a mutagen, N-methyl-N'-nitro-N-nitrosoguanidine. He subsequently established the fact that many carcinogens were mutagens. He successfully isolated and identified many carcinogens with a structure of heterocyclic amine from foods cooked under ordinary conditions. He further developed his studies to analyze multiple step carcinogenesis at molecular levels. He demonstrated that many environmental carcinogens could be identified by their mutagenicity. He has made crucial contributions to the establishment of the fundamental concept on causes of cancer.



Dr. Bruce N. Ames

USA Born in 1928

Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Ames first established an efficient in vitro assay for mutagens using *Salmonella* in 1971. This "Ames test" has been used widely in research institutes, industries and regulatory agencies around the world for screening environmental carcinogens and mutagens. This test has also been used to study metabolisms of carcinogens and mutagens. He established the fact that many carcinogens were mutagens. He made further contributions to the understanding of endogenous oxygen radicals in carcinogenesis and to the understanding of the mechanisms involved in aging. He demonstrated the close relationship between mutagenicity and carcinogenicity. He has made crucial contributions to the establishment of the fundamental concept of causes of cancer.

1996 (12th)

**Field of Information,
Computer and Communication Systems**



**For pioneering research on
wide-band, low-loss optical fiber
communications**

Dr. Charles K. Kao

Vice-Chancellor and President,
The Chinese University of Hong Kong.
USA (1933 - 2018)

The research on optical communications, which is expected to bring forth extensive social innovation, substantially started in 1960 with the invention of the laser, followed by studies on light source, transmission line and photodetectors. Dr. Kao predicted in specific terms the possibility of realizing large capacity optical communications using optical fiber, at an earlier phase, based on his own reasoning for the applicability of optical fiber to the large capacity transmission, and estimation of possible transmission range on the basis of presupposed loss and tolerable photoelectric power level. He played pioneering and leading roles in the exploitation of optical fiber transmission lines and his works are clearly appreciated in the world as having exerted a significant impact on the subsequent development of optical communication technology.

Field of Neuroscience



**Elucidation of the functional
principles and neural
mechanisms of the cerebellum**

Dr. Masao Ito

Director-General, Frontier Research Program,
The Institute of Physical and Chemical Research
President, Science Council of Japan
Japan (1928 - 2018)

Dr. Ito has tried over 40 years to elucidate neural mechanisms of the brain by using a combination of neurophysiological, cell-biological, system-theoretical, and molecular biological approaches. In particular, he successfully revealed several basic features of cerebellar function, such as inhibitory output of the Purkinje cells which is mediated γ -aminobutyric acid. He also found that the flocculus of the cerebellum plays a key role in adaptive control of the vestibulo-ocular reflex, a basic reflex circuit, by way of a synaptic plasticity, the long-term depression, which is the basic of the learning capability of cerebellar cortical neural circuits. Furthermore, he and his collaborators elucidated molecular processes underlying long-term depression. They succeeded in inducing a reversible learning deficit by temporally inactivating long-term depression. The recent model he proposed aims at explaining a certain category of mental function, implicit memory, as function of the newest part of the cerebellum. His success gave a great impetus to researches in the neuroscience discipline.

1995 (11th)

Field of Materials Processing Technologies



**Outstanding contributions to research and
practical applications of light emitting diodes
and lasers through pioneering achievements
in the understanding of physical principles
and in the process technology of intermetallic
compound semiconductors**

Dr. Nick Holonyak, Jr.

Professor, Center for Advanced Study, John
Bardeen Chair Professor, University of Illinois
USA Born in 1928

Dr. Holonyak, focused his research on intermetallic compound semiconductors, which led him to the invention of the first practical light emitting diode (LED) by the use of GaAsP crystals. In 1962, he made the first visible light semiconductor laser.

He extended his research to develop ternary and quaternary compound semiconductors, and was the first to succeed in independent control of the energy gap and lattice constant for preparing devices.

He was the first (1978) to achieve continuous room temperature operation of a laser with quantum-well-structure.

Dr. Holonyak's achievements ranging from research to practical developments on light-emitting diodes and lasers gave continuous stimulus and remarkable enrichment both to physics and technology.

**Field of Science and Technology for Agriculture,
Forestry and Fishery which conserves the Environment**



**Pioneer contributions in the
development of integrated pest
management by the sterile
insect release method and other
biological approaches**

Dr. Edward F. Knipling

Retired Director, Entomology Research Division,
Agricultural Research Service
USA (1909 - 2000)

Dr. Knipling has devoted himself to the research on insect pest as an agricultural entomologist since 1931. He proposed the truly original idea of environmentally friendly pest control by suppressing the insect population in agricultural crops and domestic animals. Accordingly, he made outstanding contributions to the improvement of food production. He developed a new concept of insect pest control known as the sterile insect release method. In 1931 he attained great success in eradicating the screwworm fly, a serious and sometimes fatal pest of livestock in the Southwest region of the United States. From 1953, he made important contributions to the development of an environmentally sound method of insect pest control. He proposed and played a key role in promoting Integrated Pest Management. He played a leading role in scientific research and in application of his findings in terms of pest control without harming the environment.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

1994 (10th)

Field of Aerospace Technologies



Inspirational leadership in unmanned lunar and planetary exploration, and for pioneering achievements in the development of spacecraft and deep space communications

Dr. William Hayward Pickering

Professor Emeritus of the California Institute of Technology
USA (1910 - 2004)

Dr. Pickering, as a Director of the JPL, the California Institute of Technology, had made many pioneering contributions to space technologies such as the development of spacecraft as a means for space exploration, and the development of deep space communications network for data acquisition for 32 years. Owing to his command and guidance technologies, the USA's first artificial satellite "Explorer 1" was launched in 1958. And "Pioneer 4", the design of which was led by him, succeeded in becoming the first U.S. man made object to escape from the Earth's gravitational field in 1959. He developed new technologies for digital communications and high definition television. His achievements have made significant contributions to the "expansion of mankind's active domain to outer space". His technologies have been applied in many fields and have contributed to the welfare of mankind.

1993 (9th)

Field of Safety Engineering and Disaster Mitigation



Development of modern seismology and advancement of international cooperation in disaster science

Dr. Frank Press

President of U.S. National Academy of Sciences
USA (1924 - 2020)

Dr. Press was the first to propose that the dispersion of long period earthquake surface wave motion could be used as a tool for studying the structure of the earth's crust and upper mantle. Analyzing surfaces waves, Dr. Press verified that the occurrence of an earthquake is fault motion itself. It was the beginning of modern seismology and the forerunner for studies on earthquake mechanisms.

Dr. Press was the leader in the promotion of scientific research and development in the area of disaster mitigation. As demonstrated by his efforts for International Geophysical Year (IGY) and Worldwide Standardized Seismograph Network (WWSSN), he recognized the importance of international cooperation in disaster sciences. He conceived and has been a leader in promoting the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), a UN program in which the international community, under the auspices of the UN, will pay special attention during the last decade of the century to fostering international disaster (such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, volcanos, landslides, windstorms and wildfires) reduction.

Field of Psychology and Psychiatry



Discovery of dopamine as a neurotransmitter and clarification of its role in mental and motor functions and their disorders

Dr. Arvid Carlsson

Professor Emeritus, Gothenburg University
Sweden (1923 - 2018)

Dr. Carlsson has made substantial contributions towards the clarification of the functions of dopamine in the brain. This has promoted causal treatment of Parkinson's disease. In 1988, he presented a modified hypothesis on schizophrenia. This showed a direction to understand schizophrenia as a putative transmitter imbalance syndrome and opened up new therapeutic strategies for Parkinson's disease. He has been an international leader in the field of neuropsychopharmacology for three decades. His original and unique discoveries in dopamine research have led to a new understanding and new effective treatments for Schizophrenia and Parkinson's disease. He has made a great contribution to the development of psychology and psychiatry from the field of neuropsychopharmacology.

Field of Molecular and Cellular Technology in Medicine



Development of the polymerase chain reaction

Dr. Kary B. Mullis

Founder and Vice President Research,
Atomic Tags, Inc.
USA (1994 - 2019)

The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) which was devised by Dr. Mullis, has revolutionized molecular genetics, molecular biology, medicine and many other related scientific fields. The PCR is a way of amplifying specific DNA sequences from small amounts of a complex template. Thus, in medicine the PCR has had a major impact on the diagnosis and screening of genetic diseases and cancer, the rapid detection of fatiduous or slow growing microorganisms and viruses, the detection of minimal residual disease in leukemia. The method has also been applied to studies on molecular evolution. Analysis of DNAs from different human populations allowed the construction of phylogenetic trees. Samples of historic or ancient DNA from extinct species have successfully been subjected to PCR amplification. This capability of analyzing minute quantities of degraded DNA makes it possible to apply PCR for forensic purposes.

1992 (8th)

Field of Science and Technology of Material Interfaces



Contributions to the new development of the chemistry and physics of solid surfaces

Prof. Dr. Gerhard Ertl

Germany Born in 1936

Director of Fritz-Haber Institute of Max Planck Society, Honorary Professor at the Free University Berlin and at the Technical University Berlin

Since the 1960s, Professor Ertl has developed extensive studies on the chemisorption phenomena of atoms or molecules of representative chemicals on metal surfaces, and has explained a number of important phenomena such as phase transitions in chemisorbed layers and the surface reconstruction induced by adsorption.

He has also pioneered and developed the study of the dynamical aspects of chemical processes on metal surfaces in atomic and molecular level.

By a series of outstanding scientific achievements in this area, he has opened up a new area of surface science, and made invaluable contributions to the development of this important and new research area in science and technology of material interfaces.

1991 (7th)

Field of Applied Mathematics



Contributions to analysis and control of distributed systems, and to promotion of applied analysis

Dr. Jacques-Louis Lions

France (1928 - 2001)

The Chairman of Analysis and Systems Control at the Collège de France and the President of National Center of Space Studies

Dr. Lions led the world to establish the new field of applied mathematics which makes good use of expertise inherited inside the traditional discipline of analysis and which can fully benefit from the powerful functions of modern computers.

His research and achievements have covered exceedingly wide areas, including establishment and development of the control theory of distributed systems which are governed by partial differential equations.

The method is expected to be the most promising among existing mathematical approaches to global and environmental problems.

As for applications in industry, Dr. Lions made considerable contributions to computational aerodynamics for the aerospace industry, simulation for the petroleum industry and mathematical analysis for the French Energy Agency.

Field of Science and Technology for Biological Production



Discovery of method of the cryopreservation of semen and embryos in farm animals

Prof. Ernest John Christopher Polge

UK (1926 - 2006)

The Scientific Director of Animal Biotechnology Cambridge Ltd.

Prof. Polge developed a new method for preservation of spermatozoa whereby bull semen in glycerol-containing media withstood freezing at a very low temperature (-79°C). This has promoted the growth of what has become a new science of cryobiology with practical applications in various spheres in medicine and agriculture. There is no doubt that the largest application has been in the deepfreezing of semen for artificial insemination, particularly in cattle; in which the impact on breeding and livestock improvement has been great. The development of techniques for the preservation of embryos at low temperatures is now being applied in a number of farm animal species.

Field of Imaging Techniques in Medicine



Development of ultrasound imaging in medicine

Dr. John Julian Wild

USA (1914 - 2009)

M.D., Ph.D., FAIUM, Head, Physicomedical Institute, Minneapolis

In 1949, Dr. Wild manufactured prototype equipment for A-mode ultrasonography and with this equipment, he succeeded in measuring the thickness of the human colon. This was the first attempt to use ultrasound for biomedical application.

Subsequently, he developed a two-dimensional ultrasound image employing B-mode equipment, for which he has been also recognized as being the first pioneer of medical ultrasonic imaging. The method today is widely used on a variety of occasions including detection and diagnosis of brain tumors and breast cancer. In particular, the breast imaging by this equipment brought about the successful imaging of a tiny 7mm diameter nipple cancer.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

1990 (6th)

Field of Technology of Integration- Design, Production and Control Technologies



Establishment of an academic field named Artificial Intelligence and the proposal of fundamental theories in that field

Dr. Marvin Minsky

USA (1927 - 2016)

Professor of Electrical Engineering, MIT

Dr. Minsky published his paper "Steps Toward Artificial Intelligence" in 1961 and this gave Artificial Intelligence (AI) world wide exposure and has earned Dr. Minsky the title of "Father of AI". Artificial Intelligence became increasingly complex by the 1970s, involving vast amounts of knowledge and the need to use specially appropriate pieces of knowledge at particular times. Dr. Minsky proposed a theory of frames for the effective representation and utilization of knowledge in computers. In the 1980s, AI has produced many more practical application systems and many researchers have turned toward the question of how to make machines learn more by themselves. In addition to the development of the theory and practical application systems, he emphasized the necessity of study on the human mind including emotion and self consciousness. In his book "Society of Mind," he proposed a model of the human mind which consists of many small agents (computers) working together by communicating with each other. His proposal is expected to further expand the AI technology to other fields of science and help promote AI applications.

Field of Earth Science

Initiation of the theory of plate tectonics and contributions to its development (Joint Award)



Dr. William Jason Morgan

USA Born in 1935

Professor at Princeton University

Dr. Morgan began his revolutionary work by dividing Earth's outer shell into some 20 plates, analyzing their movements as rigid, rotating segments of the shell, and measuring absolute velocities of plate motion. Mid-oceanic ridges, subduction zones and transform faults all came to be interpreted as results of the movements of these plates. The great significance of Dr. Morgan's theory became widely recognized and his work subsequently triggered numerous studies in a variety of fields.



Dr. Dan Peter McKenzie

UK Born in 1942

Professor at Cambridge University

Dr. McKenzie has analyzed earthquake systems in the circum-Pacific region and has demonstrated independently that the floor of the Pacific Ocean moves as a single plate, rotating against North America and East Asia. In collaboration with Dr. Morgan, Dr. McKenzie has also carried out a geometrical analysis of triple junctions where three plates meet. This work has contributed greatly to understanding the relative motion of plates and the energetics of plate movements. He has also proposed the highly original model that large sedimentary basins, important in the formation of oil and natural gas deposits, are formed by thinning of the crust due to plate motion.



Dr. Xavier Le Pichon

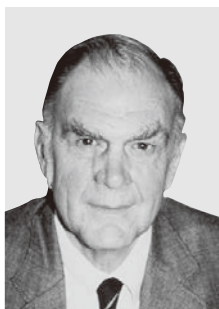
France Born in 1937

Directeur du Département de Géologie, Ecole Normale Supérieure

Dr. Le Pichon, inspired by the work of Dr. Morgan has independently determined plate movements over the entire surface of Earth, using ocean floor spreading velocities estimated from paleomagnetic patterns and the directions of transform faults. He has also published a book on plate tectonics which has had a great influence on Earth scientists throughout the world, and has played a major role in seafloor investigation at plate boundaries. Through these works, he has contributed greatly to the understanding of the geological nature of plate boundaries under the ocean.

1989 (5th)

Field of Environmental Science and Technology



Studies on the mechanisms of stratospheric ozone depletion by chlorofluorocarbons

Dr. Frank Sherwood Rowland
USA (1927 - 2012)

Professor at University of California, Irvine

In 1974, Dr. Rowland, who studied physical chemistry, was the world's first scientist to point out the mechanisms by which chlorofluorocarbons could destroy the ozone layer which protects life on earth from harmful ultraviolet solar radiation.

He also predicted that if emission of chlorofluorocarbons continues at its current rate, it would eventually result in a 7-13% loss of the total ozone.

Dr. Rowland's theoretical insights and predictions have been verified by scientists throughout the world, and have done much to strengthen international efforts for the preservation of stratospheric ozone.

Field of Medicinal Science



Pioneering contributions to the syntheses of prostaglandins and their related compounds which are of great therapeutic value

Dr. Elias James Corey
USA Born in 1928

Professor at Harvard University

Dr. Corey's study covered almost all fields of organic chemistry. He became the first researcher to synthesize pure prostaglandins in natural, optically active form. This allowed the large scale production of all natural prostaglandins to provide a stable supply for other researchers, thus contributing considerably to the development of biochemistry and medicine.

His synthesis had three major advantages over other methods in terms of efficiency, versatility, and economy.

Dr. Corey's achievement in the synthesis of eicosanoids is a monumental work in modern medicinal science. It is broadly expected that this synthesis will facilitate development of medicines for such diseases as cerebral thromboisis, arteriosclerosis and gastric and intestinal ulcers.

1988 (4th)

Field of Energy Technology



Establishment of fast breeder reactor technology

Dr. Georges Vendryes
France (1920 - 2014)

Scientific advisor to the president of the Commissariat l'Energie Atomique

Following his contribution to the establishment of the fundamentals of nuclear power design and the promotion of fast breeder reactor development, Dr. Vendryes' work led to the successful completion of "Super Phoenix," the world's first large-scale test breeder, establishing practical technologies for a solution to mankind's energy problem in the future.

Field of Preventative Medicine

The eradication of smallpox (Joint Award)



Dr. Donald A. Henderson
USA (1928 - 2016)

Dean, Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health

As the first chief medical officer of the WHO World Smallpox Eradication Office, Dr. Henderson dedicated his efforts to the development of group vaccination programs and contributed to its historic success through the worldwide eradication of smallpox.



Dr. Isao Arita
Japan Born in 1926

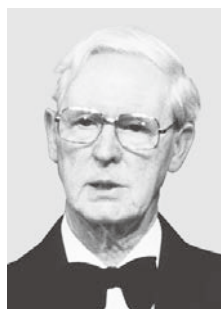
Director, Kumamoto National Hospital

As the second chief medical officer of the WHO World Smallpox Eradication Office, Dr. Arita established basic disease control knowledge and performed epidemiological analysis as well as surveys and research into vaccine quality improvement.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

1987 (3rd)

Field of Electro-Optics



Dr. Frank Fenner

Australia (1914 - 2010)

Professor Emeritus, Visiting Fellow, The John Curtin School of Medical Research, The Australian National University

Dr. Fenner, as the chairman of the WHO Smallpox Eradication Surveillance Committee, supervised implementation of the global smallpox eradication program and his consistent efforts greatly contributed to its success.



Realization of the world's first laser

Dr. Theodore H. Maiman

USA (1927 - 2007)

Former chief of research at Hughes Research Laboratories
President of Maiman Associates Inc.

This pioneer in electro-optics became in 1960 the first scientist to succeed in generating radiation with a ruby laser, greatly aiding subsequent research on lasers. Dr. Maiman has also made a major contribution towards the advancement of the fields of natural science and engineering technology.

Discovery of the AIDS causing virus and development of diagnostic methods (Joint Award)



Dr. Luc Montagnier

France Born in 1932

Chief, Department of Virus Tumours, Pasteur Institute

Leading the joint research staff at the Pasteur Institute in 1983, Dr. Montagnier became the first researcher in the world to discover HIV, the pathogen behind AIDS, thus launching the start of genuine HIV research. He has also developed practical blood serum diagnostic methods for the establishment of basic preventative countermeasures.



Dr. Robert C. Gallo

USA Born in 1937

Chief, Laboratory of Tumour Cell Biology, National Institute of Health

Leading his own independent research group, Dr. Gallo established a method of culturing human T cells and succeeded in isolating the HIV virus, making a major contribution to analysis of its relationship with AIDS. He is also a pioneer in the research and development of AZT, the most effective AIDS treatment thus far, as well as in the effort to manifest a virus gene and realized an AIDS vaccine.

Field of Improvement of Biological Functions

Development of the IR8 and IR36 strains for rice breeding strategies geared to the tropical and subtropical zones (Joint Award)



Dr. Henry M. Beachell

USA (1906 - 2006)

Former head of the Plant Breeding Department at the International Rice Research Institute
Advisor to the Farms of Texas Company

Dr. Beachell has taken part in the IRRI's rice strain improvement projects since the institute's establishment. In 1966 he developed the IR8 strain that helped pave the way for the "green revolution" in developing nations.



Dr. Gurdev S. Khush

India Born In 1935

Head of the Plant Breeding Department at the International Rice Research Institute

Carrying on the work begun by Dr. Beachell, Dr. Khush further improved IR8 and in 1976 developed IR36, a strain highly tolerant of poor environmental conditions. IR36 contributed immensely to the attainment of production stability and self-sufficiency in rice in tropical and subtropical countries.

Profiles of Japan Prize Laureates

1986 (2nd)

Field of Materials Science and Technology



Pioneering contributions to materials science with impact on new materials technology such as amorphous solids

Dr. David Turnbull

USA (1915 - 2007)

Professor at Harvard University

Dr. Turnbull, who formulated the guiding principles of new materials development, predicted what kinds of alloys will, like glass, tend to assume an amorphous character with an irregular alignment of atoms in rapid cooling from a molten state. In addition, this prominent scientist cleared the way for the production of high-density ceramics and perfect crystals for use in ICs.

Field of Medical Technology



Research and development of artificial organs and their relevant technology

Dr. Willem J. Kolff

USA (1911 - 2009)

Professor at the University of Utah. Head of the Institute for Biomedical Engineering.

As father of artificial organ technology, Dr. Kolff achieved clinical success in the development of a rotating drum-type kidney device in 1943. He then continued to work to popularize disposable-type artificial kidneys while playing a leading role in the development of artificial lungs and hearts.

1985 (1st)

Field of Information and Communications



Outstanding achievement in the field of electronics and communications technologies

Dr. John R. Pierce

USA (1910 - 2002)

Professor Emeritus at Stanford University

Dr. Pierce's achievements in the field of information and telecommunication engineering represent the highest scientific caliber in the United States. His work has resulted in the theoretical development of the possibilities of communications satellites and of broad-band digital transmissions via pulse code modulations and multivalent signals.

Field of Biotechnology



Outstanding achievement in basic theory in the field of immobilized enzymes and their practical applications

Dr. Ephraim Katchalski-Katzir

Israel (1916 - 2009)

Professor at Tel Aviv University and at Weizmann Institute of Science.

Dr. Katzir, the fourth President of the State of Israel from 1973 to 1978, is credited with the invention and development of the bioanalyzer and bioreactor, two devices employing immobilized enzymes and cells which form part of the foundation of biotechnology.

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(alphabetical order, titles as of April 1, 2020)

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