

Press Release

**Kyoto Prize Award Ceremony 2010**

## **William Kentridge received the Kyoto Prize**

**Kyoto/Neuss, November 10, 2010 – This year's Kyoto Prize has been awarded today to the artist William Kentridge, the mathematician Dr László Lovász and Dr Shinya Yamanaka, physician and stem cell researcher. The Kyoto Prize is one of the world's highest honours for the lifetime work of outstanding personalities in culture and science. The prize, each of which carries a 50 million Yen value (at present approx. 435,000 EUR) is awarded on an annual basis by the Inamori Foundation, which was created in 1984 by Dr Kazuo Inamori, the founder of the Japanese Kyocera technology group of companies.**

With the Kyoto Prize the Inamori Foundation is honouring the life work of personalities who have made a significant contribution in their respective fields.

The South African artist William Kentridge is receiving the award in the category of Arts and Philosophy for creating his own original art of mixing traditional drawings with animation and other media. In the late 1980s he started production of his special animation films in which he reflected the history and social circumstances of South Africa.

The award-winner in the category of Basic Sciences is the Hungarian mathematician Dr László Lovász, who is being honoured for his successes in the field of the discrete optimization algorithm. He has been able to make outstanding contributions to promoting both the academic and technological possibilities of the

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mathematical sciences.

In the category of Advanced Technology, the Inamori Foundation is honouring the Japanese physician Dr Shinya Yamanaka. He is receiving the Kyoto Prize for his stem cell research. Dr Shinya Yamanaka and his team reprogrammed cells so that they resembled embryonic stem cells in the way they behave.

This year's Kyoto Prize is already the 26th time that personalities who have made special contributions to the further development of sciences and arts are honoured in this way. Other recipients of the prize in previous years include the German choreographer Pina Bausch, philosopher Jürgen Habermas, Japanese designer Issey Miyake, musician and conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt, artists Maurice Béjart and Roy Lichtenstein as well as primate researcher Jane Goodall.

### **Caption:**

This year's Kyoto Prize laureate in the category of Art and Philosophy: Artist William Kentridge

Images: © Inamori Foundation 2010

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### **About Kyocera**

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, the Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which comprises 213 subsidiaries (April 1st, 2010), are information and communications technologies, products to increase the quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide.

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With a workforce of about 63.000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €3.59 billion in fiscal year 2009/2010. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, fineceramic products and complete solar systems. The corporation has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: the Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and the Kyocera Mita Deutschland GmbH in Meerbusch.

The company also takes a lively interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, one of the most prominent international awards, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation, once established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori, to individuals and groups worldwide for their outstanding human achievement (converted at present €435.000 per prize category).

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