

Press information

Kyoto Prize honours outstanding achievements in science and culture

Director of the Max-Planck-Institute in Munich receives 2011 Kyoto Prize

Kyoto / Neuss, 10 November 2011 - Astrophysicist Dr. Rashid Alievich Sunyaev, scientist Dr. John Werner Cahn and Kabuki actor Tamasaburo Bando V today received the Kyoto Prize. Together with the Nobel Prize, the award is one of the world's highest honours in science and culture. Every year the Inamori Foundation, established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori, honours laureates in three categories for their lifetime achievements. The honour comes with 50 million Yen (approximately €470,000*) in prize money for each category.

In a festive ceremony held today at the Kyoto International Conference Center in the old Japanese imperial capital, the three laureates in the categories of "Advanced Technology," "Basic Sciences," and "Arts and Philosophy" received a diploma, the Kyoto Prize medal and prize money. The presentation ceremony took place in the presence of members of the imperial family and over a thousand guests from business, political and cultural circles from around the world.

2011 laureates

The German-Russian astrophysicist and director of the Max-Planck-Institute for Astrophysics, Dr. Rashid Alievich Sunyaev, was honoured in the category of Basic Sciences. The Foundation

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honoured Sunyaev for his significant contributions to observational cosmology and high energy astronomy, in particular for his theory of fluctuations in cosmic microwave background radiation.

The laureate in the category of Advanced Technology is the scientist Dr. John Werner Cahn. The Inamori Foundation awarded the 83-year-old Cologne-born U.S. citizen for his outstanding contributions to research in the fields of material science and material industrial applications — not least in the field of alloy material technology, for developing the theory of spinodal decomposition.

Tamasaburo Bando V, from Japan, received the Kyoto Prize in the Arts and Philosophy category for his life's work as a Kabuki actor. Kabuki is a classical Japanese theatre art that combines dance, pantomime and singing. Tamasaburo Bando V was honoured by the Inamori Foundation for his outstanding representation of female Kabuki roles and for connecting various Kabuki genres in his performances, as well as for his achievements in the field of international performing arts.

Kyoto Prize: an award with tradition

With its Kyoto Prize, the Inamori Foundation honours the outstanding lifetime achievements of individuals and groups who have excelled in the further development of the sciences and arts. The prize was initiated in 1984 by Kazuo Inamori, founder of the Japanese technology company Kyocera, which is headquartered in Kyoto. Kyoto Prize awards are presented annually in November by the Inamori Foundation, also established by Kazuo Inamori, in three

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categories:, "Advanced Technology," "Basic Sciences" and "Arts and Philosophy."

Among the many distinguished laureates over the past 27 years are the late German choreographer Pina Bausch, German philosopher Jürgen Habermas, Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake, French composer Pierre Boulez and English primatologist Jane Goodall.

For additional information on the Kyoto Prize and the Inamori Foundation, please visit www.inamori-f.or.jp

• * At October 2011 exchange rate.

Caption: Kyoto Prize 2011 laureates: scientist Dr. John Werner Cahn, Astrophysicist Dr. Rashid Alievich Sunyaev and Kabuki actor Tamasaburo Bando V

Photos: © Inamori Foundation 2011

Copies: Free of charge; please provide specimen copies to Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH
Further photo material available upon request

About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, 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 is comprised of 208 subsidiaries (as of March 31, 2011), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide.

With a global workforce of about 66.000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.74 billion in fiscal year 2010/2011. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, fineceramic products and complete solar power systems. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and Kyocera Mita Deutschland GmbH in Meerbusch.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals and groups worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (converted at present €470.000 per prize category).

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