

## Press information

### **Kyoto Prize 2014: Inamori Foundation announces this year's laureates**

**Kyoto/Neuss, 20 June 2014 – The Kyoto Prize, alongside the Nobel Prize one of the world's highest honors for the lifetime achievement of outstanding personalities in the fields of culture and science, is being awarded this year to biomedical engineer Dr. Robert Samuel Langer, theoretical physicist Dr. Edward Witten and dyeing and weaving artist Fukumi Shimura. Each worth 50 million yen (around €362,000/£292,000\*), the prizes are awarded each year by the Inamori Foundation, which was initiated in 1984 by Dr. Kazuo Inamori, founder of the Japanese technology corporation Kyocera.**

With its Kyoto Prize, the Inamori Foundation pays tribute to the lifetime achievement of personalities who have excelled in their fields through outstanding accomplishments. In accordance with tradition, the presentation ceremony will be traditionally held in Kyoto on 10 November 2014.

#### **Kyoto Prize Laureates 2014**

The Committee awards the Kyoto Prize in the categories "Advanced Technology", "Basic Sciences" and "Arts and Philosophy". This year the laureates are being honored in the related prize categories "Biotechnology and Medical Technology", "Mathematical Sciences" and "Arts".

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### **Dr. Robert Samuel Langer (b. 29 August 1948, USA)**

Dr. Langer founded the tissue engineering which is indispensable for the implementation of regenerative medicine, by applying biodegradable polymer technologies to construct “scaffolds” for cells, thereby succeeding in the regeneration of various organs. He has also developed drug delivery system technologies for the controlled release of proteins, nucleic acids, and other macromolecular drugs, and has actively promoted their practical applications. Dr. Langer is a pioneer to take the lead in the interdisciplinary field of medicine and engineering.

### **Dr. Edward Witten (b. 26 August 1951, USA)**

Dr. Witten has made significant contributions to theoretical physics for more than 30 years as a leader in the dramatic evolution of superstring theory. Moreover, by applying his physical intuition and mathematical skills, he has advanced mathematics, and prompted the cutting-edge research of many mathematicians. His achievements are both unique and outstanding.

### **Fukumi Shimura (b. 30 September 1924, JAP)**

Ms. Shimura has developed her original style of art, commanding an extraordinarily colorful range of plant-dyed yarns as her visual vocabulary and unleashing her imagination to improvise an infinite resonance of colors over canvases of tsumugi kimono. Through a constant communication with nature and deep meditation, she has cultivated a “tender and flexible thought that advances to weave human existence into nature.”

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## Press information

The official press conference with the announcement of the laureates is available on the Inamori Foundation's website:

<http://www.kyotoprize.org/en/>

## About the Kyoto-Prize

With this year's 30<sup>th</sup> Kyoto Prize, the Inamori Foundation will award personalities who have significantly contributed to the further development of the arts and sciences. Among those who have received the prize in past were the French composer Pierre Boulez, the German choreographer Pina Bausch, the philosopher Jürgen Habermas, the Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake, the musician and conductor Nikolaus Harnoncourt, the artists Maurice Béjart and Roy Lichtenstein as well as the primatologist Jane Goodall.

\*Exchange rate from 18 June 2014

## More pictures are available under:

[http://178.63.214.116/~Kyoto\\_Preis/](http://178.63.214.116/~Kyoto_Preis/)

For more information about Kyocera: [www.kyocera.eu](http://www.kyocera.eu)

## 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 230 subsidiaries (as of April 1, 2014), 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 more than 4 gigawatts of solar power having been installed around the world to date.

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The company is ranked #531 on *Forbes* magazine's 2014 "Global 2000" listing of the world's largest publicly traded companies.

With a global workforce of about 70,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.19 billion in fiscal year 2013/2014. 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 Document Solutions 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 €362,000 per prize category).

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