

Press information

Inamori Foundation Announces Three Laureates of 2016 Kyoto Prize

The Inamori Foundation announced on June 17 three laureates of the 2016 Kyoto Prize for their contributions in the fields of Advanced Technology, Basic Sciences, and Arts and Philosophy. The laureates are Dr. Takeo Kanade, a roboticist and U.A. and Helen Whitaker University Professor, Carnegie Mellon University in the United States, Dr. Tasuku Honjo, a medical scientist and professor at Kyoto University, and Dr. Martha Craven Nussbaum, a philosopher and Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics, The University of Chicago.

Kyoto, Japan / Neuss, Germany, June 17, 2016 – 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 2016. The three laureates will each receive a diploma, the 20-karat gold Kyoto Prize medal and prize money of 50 million yen.

Dr. Takeo Kanade (Japan)

Dr. Takeo Kanade has made groundbreaking theoretical and practical contributions to the basic theory of computer vision and developed various innovative applied technologies in robotics, including pioneering achievements in the field of automated driving.

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Press information

His research on computer-based image recognition resulted in a method for developing face detection technologies using neural networks and subsequently commercial face-detection applications in many fields. He also came up with a theory for modeling three-dimensional structures from two-dimensional images. The epoch-making developer of an artificial intelligence system capable of self-driving, he conducted a 4,500-kilometer demonstration “No Hands Across America” project. A native of Hyogo Prefecture, Dr. Kanade, 70, is a recipient of various awards and honors, including the Azriel Rosenfeld Lifetime Achievement Award and Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science.

Dr. Tasuku Honjo (Japan)

Dr. Tasuku Honjo has discovered the mechanism responsible for the functional diversification of antibodies, immunoregulatory molecules and clinical applications of PD-1, whose function has led to the development of effective cancer immunotherapy. His discoveries and their clinical applications have greatly influenced research in the life sciences and medicine, making far-reaching contributions to human welfare. He proposed the class switch recombination (CSR) model of antibody diversification and cloned activation-induced cytidine deaminase (AID), responsible for the CSR. Furthermore, he identified several important immune-regulatory molecules, including PD-1. Clinical trials, employing the humanized anti-PD-1 antibody, showed marked efficacy against many kinds of cancer, and the antibody is now applied to the patients. Dr. Honjo, 74, from Kyoto, has received many prizes and honors including the Robert-Koch-Preis and the Order of Culture from the Japanese government. He is a member of Leopoldina, the

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National Academy of Sciences, the American Association of Immunologists and the Japan Academy.

Dr. Martha Craven Nussbaum (USA)

Dr. Martha Craven Nussbaum has established herself as the developer of a new theory of justice by introducing the notion of incorporating human capabilities into the criteria for social justice, criticizing the conventional theory of equality. Her initial encounter with ancient Greek tragedy and Aristotelian philosophy led her to question the rational individualism in modern Western society. She proposed a list of capabilities as central requirements of a life with dignity. She taught philosophy and classics at Harvard University, her alma mater, and Brown University and served as a research adviser at the World Institute for Development Economics Research of the United Nations University. She has been a professor of law and ethics at the University of Chicago since 1995. Dr. Nussbaum, 69, is a recipient of the Prince of Asturias Award for Social Sciences and the Order of the White Rose of Finland, First Class Knight, and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Inamori Foundation was established in 1984 by Kazuo Inamori, founder and now chairman emeritus of Kyocera Corp., a widely diversified ceramic, semiconductor and office equipment company based in Kyoto. The foundation awards the Kyoto Prize annually to people who have made significant contributions in the categories of advanced technology, basic sciences, and arts and philosophy.

For more information about Kyocera: www.kyocera.eu

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About the Kyoto-Prize

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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 235 subsidiaries (as of March 31, 2016), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the oldest producers of solar energy systems worldwide, with more than 40 years of experience in the industry.

The company is ranked #531 on Forbes magazine's 2016 "Global 2000" listing of the world's largest publicly traded companies.

With a global workforce of over 69,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €11.59 billion in fiscal year 2015/2016. The products marketed by the company in Europe include printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, and fine ceramic products. 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 approximately €430,000 per prize category*).

*Exchange rate from 15 June 2016

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