Press Conference
President of JST

October 27, 2021

Japan Science and Technology Agency

The 3rd Brilliant Female Researchers Award (The Jun Ashida Award)

Announcement / Ceremony and Panel Discussion

Japan Science and Technology Agency

The Brilliant Female Researchers Award (The Jun Ashida Award)

Purpose

As part of our efforts to promote the active participation of female researchers, JST set up this awards program to commend: female researchers working on outstanding research that contributes to a sustainable future society; organizations supporting female researchers' activities. The Ashida Fund* will cooperate to provide a supplementary prize of 1 million yen.

*The Ashida Fund was established in 1994 by the late fashion designer Jun Ashida for the purpose of nurturing the younger generation. The Japan International Science and Technology Exchange Center (JISTEC) operates and manages the Ashida Fund by keeping the funds from Jun Ashida Co. Ltd.

Eligibility (Both self-recommendations and recommendations by others are eligible)

【The Award for a Brilliant Female Researcher】

- A female researcher aged under 40 in principle. Recognizes pauses in research due to life events.

【The Award for an Organization Supporting Female Researchers】

- A progressive organization carrying out initiatives contributing to greater involvement of female researchers, serving as a model for other organizations

2021 Schedule

- Application: April 1st – June 30th (12:00 pm)
- Selection: Early July to the end of August
- Announcement and Ceremony : November 3rd (wed) (Venue: Miraikan)

Judges

Keiko Torii, (Chair) | Chieko Asakawa | Reiko Abe | Yoshie Okusa

Hiroshi Kitagawa | Chiharu Tokoro | Hitoshi Murayama | Masashi Yanagisawa

HP:https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/about/award/index.html

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The 3rd Brilliant Female Researchers Award (The Jun Ashida Award) Announcement / Ceremony and Panel Discussion

1. **Purpose:**
   - Promotion of female researchers' activities and diversity
   - Presentation of role models, who provide intellectual stimulation for the next generation
   - Further dissemination of this award
2. **Eligible audience:** People who are interested in science and technology and the relationship between science and society would be eligible. It is also highly recommended for younger generation
3. **Outline** **Host**: Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
   Supporter: Jun Ashida Co. Ltd. and The Japan International Science and Technology Exchange Center (managing organization of the Ashida Fund)
   Cosponsor: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
   Date: November 3, 2021 (13:00 - 15:30)
   Venue: Miraikan Hall, Miraikan 7F (No audience, only staff members and press will attend.)
   * It may be switched to the video meeting system depending on the situation of the COVID-19.

Part 1: Ceremony

13:00 Opening remarks by Dr. Hamaguchi (President, JST)
13:05 Congratulatory remarks
13:10 Introduction of guests
13:15 Announcement of winners by Dr. Keiko Torii, Chair of judges
13:20 Introduction of judges
13:25 Presentation of a trophy and certificate to each winner of the Jun Ashida Awards and JST President Award by Dr. Hamaguchi
13:35 Presentation of supplementary prize to the winner of the Brilliant Female Researcher Award by Ms. Ashida Tae, a fashion designer
13:40 **Speeches by winners**
（Photo session）

Part 2: Panel Discussion

14:45 **Panel Discussion**
Science and fashion design: Is it so similar or so different?
- Panelists:
  Winners (researchers and an organization representative)
  Ms. Ashida Tae, Fashion Designer
  Dr. Hamaguchi Michinari, JST President
- Facilitator:
  Watanabe Miyoko, Executive Director of JST,
  Director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusiveness

15:15 Closing Remarks
15:30 Closing Announcement

Science Agora 2021

Science Agora 2021 Outline

- **Date: Science Agora** November 3-7
- Pre Agora (October 10 and 11)

* Contents related to digitalization are planned on the Digital Days 2021.

- **Venues and access:** Science Agora 2021 will be held online.

(Live streaming will be done via Zoom webinar, Zoom Meeting, and YouTube)

- 104 Sessions

- **Theme: Dialogue for Life**

We have been living with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) for over one year, and the crisis has forced change upon every aspect of our lives. What can science do for society at this crossroads? How can science bring safety and abundance to society? Now more than ever, we must take a fresh look at the role science should play in society. For that reason, "dialogue" will play an even greater role in Science Agora 2021. Through dialogue, let us envision the role and future of science and technology across a wide range of topics that touch every axis of our lives.

JST hosted session

Role of Universities? For revitalizing the Innovation System

November 6 10:00-12:00

Role of Universities? For revitalizing the Innovation System

AMANO Hiroshi	Professor, Institute of Materials and System for Sustainability, Nagoya University 2014 Nobel Laureate in Physics
KISHI Akiko	Project Research Associate, Graduate School of Engineering, The University of Tokyo
TODOME Masanobu	CEO, SUNDRED Corporation
NAKAGAWA Masato	Fellow, DENSO Corporation, Former President & CEO of DENSO Europe
HAMAGUCHI Michinari	President, Japan Science and Technology Agency
YOSHINO Masanori	Senior Project Manager, the Research and Development Group, Hitachi Ltd

There have been concerns about a decline in Japan's research capabilities and industrial competitiveness over the years. What kind of research environment does our country have to provide to create a source of innovation again? What is required for us to nurture the outcomes produced by universities and other institutions in cooperation with industry?
In this session, we will introduce the Center of Innovation (COI), good practices in Europe, and new trends of the industry aiming to create new businesses through co-creation. Then, we will discuss the path to revitalization of the innovation system that will support "**Life**" in the future.

https://www.jst.go.jp/sis/scienceagora/2021/session/06-e10.html

JST hosted session

'STI for SDGs' Award

Solving social issues through science, technology, and innovation (STI)

November 3 19:00 - 21:00 (Online, Registration required)

Introduction of the practices of the 2021 'STI for SDGs' Award and holding a discussion session with the award winners

Exhibitors: KANIE Norichika (Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University and Chair of the selection committee) and representatives of winning organizations, etc.

Awards	Winners	Practice
MEXT Minister Award	The COI Site, Tokyo University of the Arts	Development of 'Daredemo Piano® (The Auto-Accompanied Piano)' -Universal piano to all including people with disabilities and the elderly
JST President Award	Smolt Co. Ltd University of Miyazaki	Development of resilient species to global warming and sustainable production of salmon roes by circular aquafarming of cherry salmon
Excellent Practice Awards	National Agriculture and Food Research Organization	Optimizing local water use through ICT-based rice field management
	Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)	Protecting artificial satellites that support daily life from space debris and realizing a sustainable society
	General Incorporated Association Pine Grace	Utilization of unused local resources by veterinary medicine and forestry
	Kochi University, Shizuoka Institute of Science and Technology, University of Miyazaki	Cross-institutional efforts to promote the use of Jakago (gabion) technology that combines disaster prevention and the environmental conservation
Next Generation Awards	Robot Science Club, Otemon Gakuin Otemae Junior & Senior High School	Robot development based on design thinking aiming at resolving SDGs-related issues
	Fukushima Prefectural Fukushima High School	Development of rechargeable batteries using magnesium and iodine

MEXT Minister Award

- **Organization: The COI Site, Tokyo University of the Arts**
- **Practice:** Development of 'Daredemo Piano® (The Auto-Accompanied Piano)' -Universal piano to all including people with disabilities and the elderly
- **Outline:** They have developed a piano with an automatic accompaniment function, in which the accompaniment and pedals follow automatically when a melody is pressed with one finger. This system has realized the desire of playing music for people with disabilities, the elderly, and contributed to feelings of self-efficacy, happiness, and improvement of QOL.
- Remote online performance using the MIDI standard has been realized. They try to expand the application field including medical area by collecting various data.

A splendid accompaniment automatically follows the touching keys of the melody.

Everybody can enjoy playing the Daredemo Piano®.

JST President Award

- **Organization: Smolt Co. Ltd and University of Miyazaki**
- **Practice:** Development of species to resilient to global warming and sustainable production of salmon roes by circular aquafarming of cherry salmon.
- **Outline:** In anticipation of the effects of global warming, they have cultivated cherry salmon which generally live in cool regions, in a temperate region called Miyazaki, by utilizing the seeds of research conducted at the University of Miyazaki.
- For sustainable production of cherry salmon, which are rare even in Japan, and for supply of its meat and roes, they have realized complete aquaculture of them in both fresh water and seawater through developing a selective breeding of varieties that are resistant to warm environments.
- They have contributed the revitalization of local economies through the effective use of surplus equipment in existing aquaculture, especially in areas where depopulation is increasing.

Realizing the circular aquafarming of cherry salmon in both seawater and fresh water

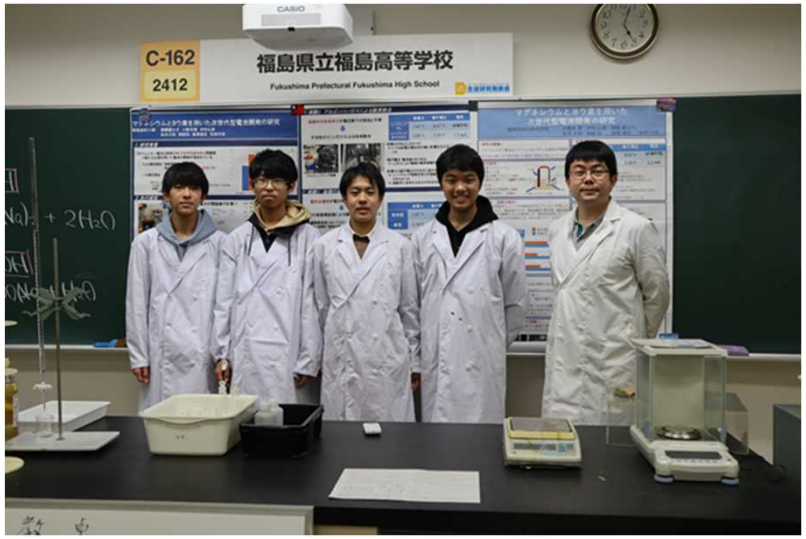
Branding salmon roes harnessing rareness and sustainability

Next Generation Awards

Organization: Robot Science Club, Otemon Gakuin Otemae Junior & Senior High School
Practice: Robot development based on design thinking aiming at resolving SDGs-related issues
Outline: Junior high and high school students have proactively studied the causes and solutions of social issues, such as SDGs, and collaboratively developed robots toward solving these issues as the next generation that is responsible for the future.

Members of Robot Science Club

Organization: Fukushima Prefectural Fukushima High School
Practice: Development of rechargeable batteries using magnesium and iodine
Outline: High school students in Fukushima Prefecture perceived energy issues as common to all and created inexpensive and safe rechargeable batteries using magnesium and iodine, which are produced by utilizing seawater.



Members of Science Club

Today's Lecture

Dr. Nonoyama

Dr. Nonoyama Takayuki

Associate Professor, Faculty of Advanced Life Science, Hokkaido University

Dr. Nonoyama has developed polymer materials possessing rubbery-to-glassy transition with increasing temperature, beyond the traditional polymeric materials.

【Degree】

Department of Frontier Materials, Graduate School of Engineering, Nagoya Institute of Technology (2008-2013)

Doctor of Engineering, Nagoya Institute of Technology (2013)

Assistant Professor (2013), Associate Professor (2020), Faculty of Advanced Life Science, Hokkaido University

Research Theme: Soft ceramics consisting of bioceramics and robust gel, thermo-active hydrogel

Today's Lecture

Dr. Hidema

Dr. Hidema Ruri

Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Science and Engineering, Kobe University

【Degrees and Education】
BA. Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology (TUAT) (2004), MA. The Graduate School of Agriculture, TUAT (2006), Exchange PhD Student, PPSM, Ecole Normale Superieure Cachan (currently ENS-Paris-Saclay), France (2007-2008), PhD in Biochemistry and Biotechnology, The United Graduate School of Agricultural Science, TUAT (2010), Postdoctoral Fellow, Graduate School of Science and Engineering, Yamagata University (2010), Assistant Professor, Organization of Advanced Science and Technology, Kobe University (2012), Visiting Scholar, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of California, Berkeley (2015), Assistant Professor, Department of Chemical Science and Engineering, Kobe University (2016), and Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Science and Engineering, Kobe University (2019-)
【Awards】
Incentive Award by the Society of Chemical Engineers (2014), Incentive Award, The Society of Rheology (2017), Shiseido Female Researcher Science Grant (2017), The Young Scientists' Prize by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, and Science and Technology (2018)
Research Theme: rheology, non-Newtonian fluid mechanics, chemical engineering