

AWARDS & HONORS

International Recognition of Kyoto University's Research

INTERVIEW

Kiyoshi Kobayashi was Awarded in November 2013

by the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training.

Prof. Kiyoshi Kobayashi was awarded the Medal for the Cause of Education by the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) on November 8, 2013. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan, the medals were awarded to four Japanese professors who have made great contributions to the development of education and training in Vietnam. Prof. Kobayashi has contributed to the development of Vietnamese human resources through his research and education activities on infrastructure asset management^{*1}.



— *What made you engage in the education activities in Vietnam?*

Kobayashi: I started the activities after I visited Vietnam for the post-project evaluation of JICA's ODA Loan project in 2004. In the summer of that year, the asset management methodology course I developed commenced at the University of Transport and Communications (UTC). In the first year, I ran a small class at my own expense without any funding from the government or the university. From following next year, however, I was involved in the course as an invited organizer. I was invited by the course's two instructors, who were the most earnest students in

my course. Awareness of the course has spread by word-of-mouth, and the number of students has been increasing every year. There are now over 300 students in total. Approximately one third of the students are academic scholars, one third are government officials, and one third are business people. Last year, the asset management system I developed was implemented on a trial basis in Northern Vietnam, and the students in the course played a central role in the development of the Vietnam's own system.

— *At the 60th Annual North American Meeting of the Regional Science Association International (RSAI), you also received a Award^{*2}. What is your philosophy of research that forms the basis for such outstanding achievements?*

Kobayashi: I First, I try to do what nobody else is doing. Or alternatively, I look at things which are considered to have been completed, and try to find aspects which have not actually been accomplished or achieved. I also consistently focus on “what is the point of this.” These three elements form my philosophy.





— What is your future vision for your research?

Kobayashi: I don't have a specific plan that I can say "this is my future vision." However, I would like to go back to the concept of civil engineering which is my original specialty, and re-examine the many things that I wanted to do when I began my life as a researcher.

Prof. Kobayashi is the program leader of the Global Business Leader Program (GBL). The program seeks to create networks of government authorities and top business schools in major Asian countries, and conduct empirical studies in an effort to propose business models which can advance economic and social growth in Japan and Asia. The Asian countries participating in the program are Thailand, India, Vietnam, Indonesia, China, the Philippines and Malaysia.

WEB asia-gsm-ku.com/gbl/index.php/concept

*1 Preventive maintenance and repair help ensure the long life expectancy of infrastructure, and save maintenance costs in the long run. If preventive maintenance and repair are postponed, future generations will have to bear a huge burden in maintenance costs. To avoid such situations, the concept of asset management to position infrastructure as public assets, and implement systematic and precise preventive maintenance and repair was developed.

*2 the 2013 RSAI Fellow Award: An Award recognizes scholars who have demonstrated excellence in regional science, enduring leadership, and who have made an outstanding contribution to the association.

Dr. Kiyoshi Kobayashi

Professor of Graduate School of Management
Research Topics: planning-management theory,
asset management, infrastructure economics

WEB kyouindb.iimc.kyoto-u.ac.jp/e/hr7IU



TOPIC The Tachibana Award

Praise outstanding young female students and scientists at KU.



On March 3, on a sunny and warm day, the Tachibana Award Ceremony was held at Inamori Hall on the Yoshida Campus. At the ceremony, recipients of the Tachibana Award and the Encouragement Award were announced. Each recipient was honored with the award certificate and plaque from Dr. Matumoto, the President of Kyoto University, and an extra prize, from Mr. Yasuhara, the President of Wacoal corporations. The recipients of the Tachibana Award, Ms. Katayama and Dr. Wang also gave the presentations on their research.

The Tachibana Award was established in 2008 to acknowledge the achievements of outstanding young female students and scientists in the fields of humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences at Kyoto University. This year, 2013, twelve students and seventeen researchers were nominated and winners were as follows.

Tachibana Award Recipients 2013

- ◆ Student Division: **Yumiko Katayama**
Ph.D. Candidate, Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies
"Material design of rare earth ion doped wavelength converters and elucidation of luminescence mechanisms for green photonics"
- ◆ Scientist Division: **Wang Liulan**
Associate Professor, Hakubi Center
"Chinese Diaspora in Asia and the Search for a New Paradigm of Multi-Diversified Co-existence"



Honorable Mention Award Recipients 2013

- ◆ Student Division: **Yuko Okumura**
Ph.D. Candidate, Graduate School of Letters
"The Elucidation of Social Learning Mechanism in Early Infancy"
- ◆ Scientist Division: **Shoko Sakai**
Associate Professor, Center for Ecological Research
"Plant reproductive ecology"



HONORS

Award Winning Researchers

The following is a list of just some of the Kyoto University researchers who have received international awards — a testimony to the university's intellectually fertile environment and culture of academic freedom.

Nobel Prize *in Physics*

Hideki Yukawa (1949), Sin-Itiro Tomonaga (1965),
Makoto Kobayashi (2008), Toshihide Maskawa (2008)

in Chemistry

Kenichi Fukui (1981), Ryoji Noyori (2001)

in Physiology or Medicine

Susumu Tonegawa (1987), Shinya Yamanaka (2012)

Fields Medal Heisuke Hironaka (1970), Shigefumi Mori (1990)

Gauss Prize Kiyosi Itō (2006)

Lasker Award Susumu Tonegawa (1987), Yasutomi Nishizuka (1989),
Yoshio Masui (1998), Shinya Yamanaka (2009)

Japan Prize Makoto Nagao (2005), Masatoshi Takeichi (2005)

*Photos provided by the Japan Prize Foundation

Kyoto Prize Chushiro Hayashi (1995), Kiyosi Itō (1998),
Shinya Yamanaka (2010), Masatoshi Nei (2013)

*Photos provided by the Inamori Foundation

- Die Schaudinn-Hoffmann-Plakette ◆ Shin-ichi Matsumoto (1965)
Huxley Memorial Medal ◆ Itani Junichiro (1984)
Order of the White Elephant - 3rd Class ◆ Yoneo Ishii (1987)
Ross G. Harrison Prize ◆ Tokindo Okada (1989)
Salem Prize ◆ Shishikura Mitsuhiro (1992)
Robert Koch Prize ◆ Shigekazu Nagata (1995),
Shinya Yamanaka (2008),
Tasuku Honjo (2012)
The Keio Medical Science Prize ◆ Nakanishi Shigetada (1996),
Masatoshi Takeichi (2001),
Koichi Tanaka (2002),
Yoshinori Fujiyoshi (2005),
Shimon Sakaguchi (2008),
Kenji Kangawa (2009)
Frank Nelson Cole Prize ◆ Hiraku Nakazima (2003)
John Dawson Prize ◆ Tetsuya Sato (2005)
Yuri Gagarin Medal ◆ Hiroshi Matsumoto (2006)
Booker Gold Medal ◆ Hiroshi Matsumoto (2008)
The Ulysses Medal ◆ Shuh Narumiya (2008)
L.S.B. Leakey Prize ◆ Toshisada Nishida (2008)
Prix du Rayonnement de la langue
et de la littérature françaises ◆ Kazuyoshi Yoshikawa (2010)
de Gennes Prize ◆ Susumu Kitagawa (2013)

