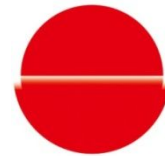


# Niigata Award News



Niigata Award

2010/12/01

No.6 Awarding ceremony issue

## Schedules

29th(Fri.) Oct.2010

Lecture at University Press Conference  
Award ceremony Banquet

30th(Sat.)Oct.2010

Commemorative Lectures by the Winners  
Lecture at University Excursion

## The First Award Ceremony of "Niigata International Food Award"



Winners with the Monument

The first Award ceremony of Niigata International Food Award were held in 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Numerous distinguished guests from all quarters attended a Japan's only food award ceremony. We convey the state of the ceremony in detail.



Picture of Award ceremony



At the press conference room

# The First Award Ceremony of "Niigata International Food Award"

The ceremony opened on stage decorated with rice plant, with performance the Japanese transverse flute by Mr. Yasukazu Kano.

The presentation was followed by remarks from Ms. Matsuda, Research Councillor of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council for Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries(MAFF), a report on the selection procedures, from Dr. Karaki, Chairman of the Selection Committee. Then, winners were presented with certificate, monument of prize and catalog of supplementary prize from Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Later, remarks made in accepting the Niigata International Food Award were given from 3 winners. Unfortunately, Prof. Yuan Longping missed the ceremony for reasons of health, but his message was read for his son, Dr. Yuan Dingyang.

Remarks from Mr. Yokoyama, Director of Food And Agriculture Organization of The United Nations(FAO) Liaison office in Japan, end with a appreciative speech from Mr. Shinoda, Vice-chairman of the Board of Directors.



Receive a certificate



Ms. Michiko Matsuda



Mr. Mitsuhiro Yokoyama

## Monument of Main Prize

This monument called "Springen" which is created by Prof. Ryohei Miyata from Sado city of Niigata. He is work in the metalworker and president of Tokyo University of the Arts. The theme of the craft work is "Leap and Hope". Two dolphins boldly jumping the air to go forward into the future.



## Remarks Made in Accepting the Niigata International Food Award



**Main Prize : Dr. Monty Patrick Jones**  
(Executive Director of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa )

Mr. Hajime Koizumi, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Mr. Akira Shinoda, Vice-chair and mayor of Niigata city, Dr. Hideaki Karaki, Chairman of the selection committee, Other protocols, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great humility and gratitude that I accept the Niigata International Food Award. I consider this award to be Niigata's recognition of the courageous efforts made by thousands of African scientists often working under difficult conditions in the war to end hunger on our continent. A war in which they have won several notable battles but which remains to be won as highlighted by statistics showing that more than 300 million Africans wake up hungry and go to bed the same way every day.

I am extremely proud to receive this award from the Niigata International Food Award Foundation, the second international food awarding system established in March 2009. Though short lived the Foundation has development in several areas including my professional domain of agriculture. The Foundation should be commended for awarding those who are fighting to reduce hunger and poverty by making quantitative and qualitative advances in the World's food supply.

As I accept this award, I realize that there are many out there who will be wondering what I did to deserve it. I concede that I have been exceptionally fortunate to have been surrounded throughout my career by outstanding research managers, scientists, administrators and support staff. Without them I would not have had the privilege of leading the ground breaking research that ultimately succeeded in producing the New Rice for Africa (NERICA), which led in 2004 to the award to me of the World Food Prize.

I have also been fortunate to work with exceptional collaborators from all over the world. I wish to specially recognize the smallholder farmers who were the first people to invest their own money and labor in growing NERICA. Without their acceptance of the risk of adopting these new varieties and without their feedback through the participatory plant selection processes, the story of NERICA would have been different. Instead of becoming the variety that is hugely transforming rice production across Africa thereby saving scarce foreign exchange that would otherwise be spent on rice imports, it would be lying on the shelves of the Africa Rice Center.

I further wish to gratefully acknowledge the contribution that my family has made towards the achievements credited to me. I specifically wish to recognize the support that my wife, Geraldine, and our children have extended to me including the sacrifices they have endured in this regard.

The recognition bestowed on me by the World Food Prize was instrumental in catapulting me to a bigger stage where as the Executive Director of Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) I am leading efforts to enhance Africa's capacity for agricultural innovation and as the Chair of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) I am leading bold transformative initiatives aimed at enhancing the developmental impact of the global agricultural research system.

It is my hope that the recognition which Niigata International Food Award Foundation has today bestowed on me for achievements in agricultural innovation will inspire students and young scientists across Africa and Asian agriculture in particular leading to victory in the war against hunger which I alluded to earlier.

I thank you very much for the great honor you have bestowed on me and the very kind reception and the exceptionally generous hospitality you have accorded to my wife and I at this magnificent setting located in the equally remarkably beautiful city of Niigata. I wish you individually and Niigata International Food Award Foundation every success in your endeavors.



Sano Touzaburo Special Prize :

Prof. Yuan Longping

(Chief Researcher of China National Hybrid Rice Research & Dev. Center, China)

Read for Dr. Yuan Dingyang (research worker of same as above center, son of Prof. Yuan)

It is the great honor that I can receive the 1st Niigata International Food Award. And I am deeply grateful to the members of the selecting committee who evaluate the increase of the rice production caused by the popularization of the hybrid rice and my years of effort to improve the hybrid rice.

The success of the hybrid rice is the great step in growing rice seeds, and increases the production of rice. Not only China, but also the actual result of other countries, indicates its remarkable high production. I believe that the worldwide popularization of the hybrid rice will contribute to the food security and the peace of the world.

The success of the hybrid rice is the result of the effort of many agricultural scientists and the strong support of the Chinese Government. I only took the part to set the ball rolling.

We are going to continue our research with the encouragement of this honorable award.

There are no borders in the field of science. Hybrid technology is not only for China but for all over the world. We are going to promote the hybrid rice especially in developing countries to improve the life of people. We wish the greater contribution of the hybrid rice for the human kinds of the world. Thank you very much.



21st Century Hope Prize :

Dr. Fumihiko Fujimori

(Associate Professor of Tokyo Kasei University Domestic Science Dept. Environmental Education Course )

I'm very happy to receive the 1st Niigata International Food Award. And at this opportunity, I'd like to thank the foundation chairman Mr. Koizumi and the selection committee chairman Mr. Karaki, and all of the people involved plus everyone here participating in this room.

Thinking about the "Food" of 50 or 100 years from now, I believe it would be important not to stop the research at the basic level but to continue it to the application level. In that meaning, I'm going to do all I can to my best effort into the research with the new motivation which is given to me by this award. From now on, I'd like to devote myself with my team and all partners to our research. Thank you very much.

## Award Banquet



Ms. Makiko Kikuta



Mr. Kenzo Oshima



Mr. Kenji Iiyama



Mr. Kiyoshi Hayashi



Mr. Mutsuo Iwamoto



Mr. Yasushi Yoshida



Performance by Mr. Kano

Award Banquet started with performance the Japanese transverse flute by Mr. Yasukazu Kano.

Congratulatory speeches by guests of honor

- Ms. Makiko Kikuta, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan
- Mr. Kazuo Jinbo, Vice-governor of Niigata prefecture
- Mr. Yeon Sang-mo, Consul general of Korean Consulate General in Niigata
- Mr. Sergey Butin, Consul general of Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Niigata
- Mr. WANG Hua, Consul General of Consulate of the People's Republic of China in Niigata (Read for Ms. GONG Xiaodong, Vice Consul General)
- Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Senior Vice-President of Japan International Cooperation Agency(JICA)
- Mr. Mutsuo Iwamoto, Board of Trustees of International Rice Research Institute(IRRI)
- Mr. Kenji Iiyama, President of Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences(JIRCAS)
- Mr. Kiyoshi Hayashi, Vice President of National Agriculture and Food Research Organization, Director General of National Food Research Institute (random order)

And on behalf of the supporting member, Mr. Yasushi Yoshida, Director of the Board of Directors thanked all of guests.

# Commemorative Lectures by the Winners

Valuable speech sessions were held by the prizes winners on 31st Oct. from 10 am as the commemorate lectures.

## Summary of Lectures

Billions of people suffers from hunger in the world now. Most serious place is Africa, 25,000 persons are dead by malnutrition every day. This is the vicious circle of poverty and starvation. On the other hand, the population of Africa keeps increasing and it would be doubled after 40 years. Facilities, technologies and the investments for the research are required. NERICA rice increased the production of food and reduced the cost of importing food. But our battle against the hunger and poverty continues. This award will give the courage to thousands of scientists and many students in Africa.

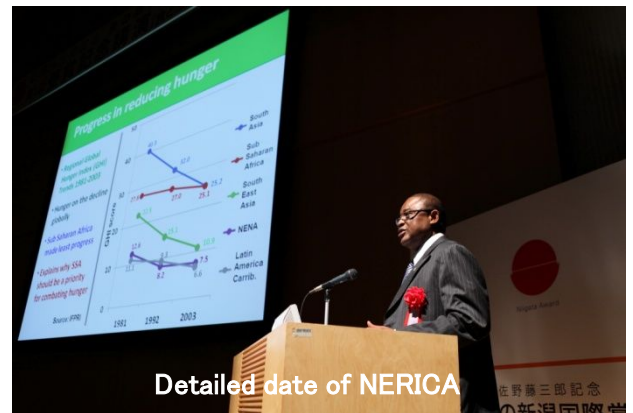
(Main Prize: Dr. Monty P. Jones)

57% of the acreage of rice planting in China is the hybrid rice I developed. Now we are rapidly developing "super hybrid rice" that has more harvest and higher quality. In 2030, it will be necessary to increase the harvest 60% compare to the one in 1995 because the world population would be 8 billion at that time. Hybrid rice grows not only in China but also in various areas in the world. There is no borders for technology, I want to help to stabilize the food supply of 21st Century and to drive for the peace in the world.

(Sano Touzaburo Special Prize: Prof. Yuan Longping Read for Dr. Deng Qiyun)

The factory manufacturing of the plants and the edible fungus increased. But the damage caused by illness is increasing too. I focused on the mutation and the genetic function. I developed the large-scale genetic database of the edible fungus which area had been untapped. By this research, the dream story such as the artificial cultivation of precious edible fungus would come true. And also it can apply to the speedy breeding of vegetables and for the preventive medicine. I'll try harder to establish the food security.

(21st Century Hope Prize: Dr. Fumihiro Fujimori)



## Lecture at University



Dr. Jones speak to students

On 29th Oct., Dr. Monty P. Jones has given the special lecture for all grades at Niigata University.

The title was “ World food problem and the NERICA rice” and about 600 students joined there. The subject about the hunger in Africa and the NERICA rice that took the important part to improve the situation would be very meaningful for the students who live in affluent Japan.

We wish that they would start to have some interests about the food problem by this lecture.

(About 500 participants)



Packed lecture room

On 30th Oct. Dr. Fumihiro Fujimori (21st Century Hope prize) has given the special lecture at Niigata University of Pharmacy and Applied Life Science.

The title was “ The transcript variation of mushrooms “ and about 300 student joined there.

He talked about the development of large scale database of mushrooms’ genetic code and the possibility of his accomplishment that would be apply to many fields of human health and welfare. We wish the lecture opened up new horizons for the students.

(About 300 participants)



Give a full account with slide



Many students participated

# Excursion

In the afternoon of 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. the excursion took place with the 18 participants of Mr. & Mrs. Jones, embassy staffs, members of international research organizations and universities and journalists.

At first, we had the Niigata traditional lunch at the 100 years old farmer's house of "Yajiro Farm" that was registered as the heritage in Niigata.

Then we visited "Kameda Seika" that's the largest rice cracker factory in Japan and joined the manufacturing process tour. The participants enjoyed the world top level rice processing technology and the taste of various rice-made snacks.

At last, we visited "Kamedagou Land Reforming Area" where Mr. Tozaburo Sano had been the first president. There, with diorama and photographs, we could see the desperate effort to reform the marshes to one of the best rice field in Japan.

## 【Schedule】

Morohashi Yajiro Farm(Lunch at farmer's restaurant) → Kameda Seika Co.,Ltd(Factory tour) → Kamedagou Land Improvement District (Exhibition hall visit)



Have a newly Koshihikari rice



Take a picture at Kameda Seika



Receive an explanation about factory



Visited a diorama of Kamedagou area



The bust of Mr. Touzaburo Sano

# The World Forum on Food and Flowers in Niigata 2010

The 5th International Conference on Food & The 5th International Niigata Symposium on Diet and Health

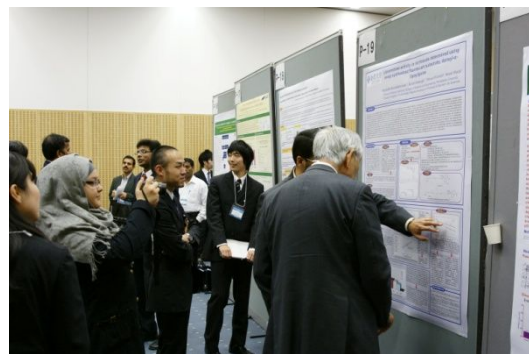


Many listeners participated

On 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>th</sup> Oct., “ Food and Flower World Forum in Niigata 2010 ”, “ International Food Conference ” and “ International Symposium on Food and Health ” were held at TOKI MESSE Niigata International Convention Center. There were many researchers and specialists as the speakers from all over the world and lectured about various themes on food and health including the exhibition of emergency or in case of disaster food.



Exhibits of emergency and disaster food



At the poster session room

## APEC Japan 2010 Ministerial Meeting on Food Security in Niigata

“Niigata International Food Award Foundation” set the exhibition booth at the hall where APEC Conference of Ministers in charge of Food Security was held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2010. Where we exhibited the actual “Nerica rice”, “Hybrid rice” and “Koshihikari rice of Niigata” for comparison with the panels about our award.

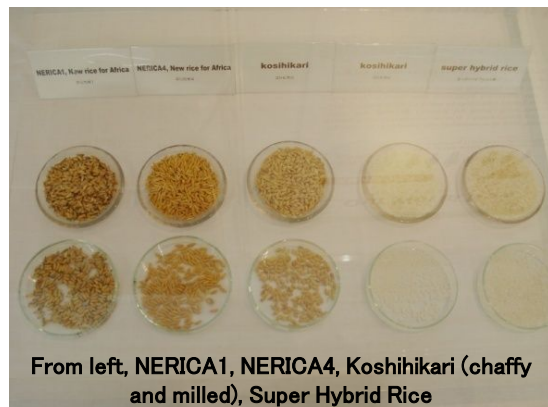
For the period, many people visited our booth, we believe that we could inform about our activity to various people.



Receive an explanation about Niigata Award



A picture of the exhibition booth of Niigata Award



From left, NERICA1, NERICA4, Koshihikari (chaffy and milled), Super Hybrid Rice

## **Niigata Award News**

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