



Postponement of the Kyoto Prize Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic

In consideration of the continuing spread of the novel coronavirus infection, the Inamori Foundation (President: Shinobu Inamori-Kanazawa) has decided to delay the annual celebration of the Kyoto Prize one entire year. The new laureates will be officially decided and announced in June 2021 instead of June 2020, and related events including the Prize Presentation Ceremony will take place in November 2021. Annual celebrations originally scheduled for 2021 and onward will also be delayed a year respectively.

President Shinobu Inamori-Kanazawa made a comment as follows:

“Our decision of twelve months’ postponement was made in response to the declaration of a state of emergency by the Japanese government. It had become extremely difficult to continue with our standard process of laureates’ selection, and we could no longer be optimistic about hosting the laureates and distinguished guests without causing concern. We are sorry, thinking of those who were waiting to find out the names of this year’s laureates and those who look forward to the festivities including Presentation Ceremony and Commemorative Lectures each year. We sincerely hope they understand and stay connected with us.”

Schedule Change

Original Schedule			Postponed Schedule (Tentative)	
Jun. 2020	Announcement of laureates	One year postponement ➔	Jun. 2021	Announcement of laureates
Nov. 2020	Prize Presentation Ceremony		Nov. 2021	Prize Presentation Ceremony
Mar. 2021	Kyoto Prize Symposium (US)		Mar. 2022	Kyoto Prize Symposium (US)
May 2021	Kyoto Prize at Oxford (UK)		May 2022	Kyoto Prize at Oxford (UK)

Annual celebrations originally scheduled for 2021 and onward will also be delayed a year respectively.

Kyoto Prize

The Kyoto Prize is an international award of Japanese origin, presented to individuals who have made significant contributions in the fields of science and technology, as well as the arts and philosophy. This internationally renowned award was born out of the sincere wish of Kazuo Inamori to “contribute to the progress of the future of humanity while maintaining a balance between the development of science and civilization and the enrichment of the human spirit.” The Prize is awarded in the three categories of Advanced Technology, Basic Sciences, and Arts and Philosophy, each of which comprises four fields, making a total of 12 fields. Every year, one Prize is awarded in each of the three categories with prize money of 100 million yen per category. Each laureate is presented with a diploma, a Kyoto Prize medal as well as the prize money.

Kyoto Prize Week

In November, a weeklong series of events arranged around the prize presentation ceremony takes place in Kyoto. It comprises Welcome Reception, Prize Presentation Ceremony, Banquet, Commemorative Lectures, and other related events. Many citizens enjoy the opportunity of learning directly from the laureates who share their professional achievements, personal philosophies and world views.

Kyoto Prize Symposium

The Kyoto Prize Symposium (KPS) in San Diego began in 2002. The local people there, inspired by the underlying philosophy of the Kyoto Prize of serving the greater good of humankind and society, suggested that the laureates give lectures in San Diego. The KPS aims to provide the opportunity for citizens of San Diego to listen and be alongside these world-class artists and intellectuals, and at the same time to give a boost to the cultural vitality of the community. Along with the co-host universities, a great number of local businesses also support this one of the most exciting annual events of San Diego.

Kyoto Prize at Oxford

The partnership between the University of Oxford and the Inamori Foundation was launched in 2016 inspired by a sense of shared purpose. The Kyoto Prize at Oxford is held over two days each May since 2017, involving graduate students from around 70 countries and regions around the globe as well as the general public. The laureates deliver lectures, and participate in interactive seminars and panel discussions. A truly impressive program designed to engage the whole of the University and its community will continue to amplify awareness of and appreciation for the underlying philosophy of the Kyoto Prize in the United Kingdom and Europe.

For further information, please contact

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