



January 6, 2005

## Mitsui Chemicals Announces the Winners of “2005 Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award”

Mitsui Chemicals, Inc. (MCI) of Japan announced today as follows the winners of “2005 Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award” and “2005 Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award of Encouragement” designed to give special recognition to researchers who have made distinguished achievements in catalysis science in the world.

### Winners of “2005 Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award”

<p><b>Professor Eric N. Jacobsen (Age: 44)</b> <b>Harvard University</b></p> <p>“General Asymmetric Catalysts for Oxidation, Hydrolysis and C-C Bond-forming Reactions”</p>	<p><b>Professor Shu Kobayashi (Age: 45)</b> <b>The University of Tokyo</b></p> <p>“Development of Novel Catalysts Directed toward Environmentally Benign Organic Synthesis”</p>
<p>Professor Jacobsen has formulated several key principles in asymmetric catalysis; these principles can be applied in industrially important target molecules.</p>	<p>Professor Kobayashi has developed new organic reactions using water as a solvent, by inventing the water-stable Lewis acid, which indicates a new direction for environmentally benign research for processes.</p>

### Winners of “2005 Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award of Encouragement”

<p><b>Associate Professor</b> <b>Ryoichi Kuwano (Age: 34)</b> <b>Kyushu University</b></p> <p>“Development of New Asymmetric Catalysis and Transition Metal-Catalyzed Reactions”</p>	<p><b>Assistant Professor</b> <b>Kenichiro Itami (Age: 32)</b> <b>Kyoto University</b></p> <p>“Removable Directing Group Strategy in Metal Catalysis”</p>
<p>Professor Kuwano has developed a new chiral phosphine ligand whose trans-chelation property was essential for the high degree of chirality.</p>	<p>Professor Itami has developed removable directing groups, particularly in palladium catalyzed reaction and has succeeded in enhancing the efficiency of organic synthesis.</p>

MCI established the two awards in 2004 based on its corporate vision to “contribute broadly to society through innovations and creations of materials and products, while keeping in harmony with the global environment.” The company hopes to make its contributions to society through such activities founded on a sustainable development of chemistry and the chemical industry.

Those eligible for the award this time, from both Japan and abroad, were researchers belonging to institutions of higher learning and public research institutions, who were aged forty-five or younger as of April 1, 2004, and pursuing catalysis science research in such fields as polymerization catalysts, fine synthesis catalysts and other catalysts contributing to environmental protection.

The main “Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award” consisting of a commemorative plaque and a cash prize of five million yen, is given biennially to up to one researcher showing a particularly outstanding achievement.

The junior “Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award of Encouragement”, with a commemorative plaque and a cash prize of one million yen, is presented once every two years to up to two up-and-coming researchers, aged 35 or younger, who have shown particularly creative achievements but were not selected for the “Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award”.

During the entry period starting in June of 2004, MCI received a large number of applications with distinguished contributions from researchers in Japan and overseas. After going through a rigorous selection process, the Award Selection Committee mainly consisting of five world-class academic experts in catalysis science selected the winners.

MCI is particularly pleased to note the selection of two winners for the main award this time despite the company’s original intention to select only one winner, owing to the extremely high level of the research results submitted by the entrants.

The Award Ceremony and the commemorative lectures by the winners of “Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award” this time will be held on March 22 and 23 at Kazusa Akademia Hall in Kisarazu, Chiba Prefecture on occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mitsui Chemicals International Symposium on Catalysis Science.

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