

# ABOUT AGU

## New Award Recognizes Exemplary Research Made Possible by Ocean Drilling

PAGE 281

AGU announces the establishment of a new award, the Asahiko Taira International Scientific Ocean Drilling Research Prize, which will be given “in recognition of outstanding transdisciplinary research accomplishment in ocean drilling.” The honoree must be within 15 years of having earned a Ph.D.

The prize will be given in honor of Asahiko Taira of the Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology and is made possible through a generous donation from the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program Management International (IODP-MI).

The award will be presented annually in an alternating cycle. The inaugural presentation will occur at AGU’s 2015 Fall Meeting in San Francisco, and the following year, the prize will be presented at the Japan Geoscience Union’s meeting. The winner will receive

\$18,000 and the opportunity to present a lecture on his or her work at the meeting where the prize is presented.

Scientific ocean drilling began in 1968 as the Deep Sea Drilling Project funded by National Science Foundation. Over the decades, it evolved into an international initiative. From 2004 until 2013, it was managed by the IODP-MI, a collaboration of more than 30 international oceanographic institutions. Now run under the International Ocean Discovery Program, the program explores the Earth through ocean sediments using multiple drilling platforms, and collects biogeoscientific data from the ocean floor in an effort to enhance our understanding of Earth’s composition and history.

Taira, for whom the prize is named, has an extensive background of more than 40 years in geological research. His areas of focus include tectonics, paleoceanography, and, of

course, ocean drilling science. A graduate of Tohoku University in Japan, he obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Dallas. Subsequently, he taught for several years as a professor at Kochi University and the University of Tokyo. He has published in more than 200 U.S. and Japanese journals, textbooks, and other publications. He has also been honored for his research numerous times, including receiving the Geological Society of Japan Award and being selected as a fellow of the Geological Society of America.

“Experts like Dr. Taira have made it clear that ocean drilling can be used to achieve fundamental advances in our understanding of the Earth,” said Carol Finn, AGU president. “By recognizing an individual’s outstanding achievements in this field, AGU and IODP hope to honor Dr. Taira’s impressive achievements and to encourage others to follow in his footsteps. Through research such as this, we can continue to work to further international and transdisciplinary collaboration that will advance our science and benefit the communities we serve.”

Additional information on the prize will be posted on the AGU website in the coming weeks.

—PAMELA KATZ, Marketing, Communications, and Engagement Intern, AGU; email: pkatz@agu.org