

WORLD CULTURAL COUNCIL

AWARD CEREMONY 2019

Opening speech
Dr. NAGATA Kyosuke
President
University of Tsukuba

It is my great privilege as the President of the University of Tsukuba, as well as the Chair of the Tsukuba Conference Organising Council, to welcome you all to the 36th Award Ceremony of the World Cultural Council.

It is a memorable highlight of the very first Tsukuba Conference.

The World Cultural Council, so called WCC, is a non-profit international organisation based in Mexico.

Founded in the early 80's, it seeks to promote culture, goodwill and philanthropy among individuals worldwide.

Since 1984 WCC has held a yearly Award Ceremony granting the Albert Einstein World Award for Science every year, the Jose Vasconcelos World Award of Education and Leonardo da Vinci World Award of Arts in alternate years, to outstanding scientist, educators and artists who's breakthroughs have contributed positively to the cultural enrichment of mankind.

These three pillars of the WCC named in science, education and arts, are actually, what the University of Tsukuba is all about.

The University of Tsukuba's forerunner was the Tokyo University of Education which was originally founded in 1872 as a Normal School, the first higher education institute established by the Meiji government in Japan.

In 1973 it was relocated to the Tsukuba Science City the of science and technology city in Japan, and was renamed the University of Tsukuba.

This new university is a comprehensive research university, and unique in many aspects.

One characteristic is that it has departments devoted to Art and Design and Sport Sciences.

Since its establishment, the University of Tsukuba has always been a center of transdisciplinary research and education and a field of so-called STEAM, which makes our university a perfect setting for the WCC Award Ceremony.

I believe that it was not without reason that WCC has chosen the University of Tsukuba as a very first of the new for their award ceremony in Japan.

We are truly grateful and deeply honored for WCC's insight and decision.

Today we are going to honor two outstanding individuals.

Dr Zhong Lin Wang from Georgia Institute of Technology, USA and Mr Paulo Branco, a film producer from Portugal.

These two individuals who are selected for their excellence in their respective fields, as well as their contributing to the well-being of humanity, and their inspiration of future generations.

We are also obliged to recognize ten highly promising young Japanese researchers, who have achieved outstanding performance in the field of science.

They were chosen specifically from institutions contributing to the Tsukuba Conference with the intention of giving visibility, not only to these brilliant future shapers, but also to the growing synergy within and beyond Tsukuba Science City.

So, ladies and gentlemen, once again, I welcome you all to the 36th WCC Award Ceremony.

I wish you all an engaging and inspiring afternoon.

Thank you very much for your attention.