

Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Award for K. Nozaki and J. F. Hartwig

With the Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Award, which has been awarded every second year since 2005, Mitsui Chemicals recognizes exceptional contributions to the field of catalysis. Recipients are academic researchers under 45 years of age. In 2009, they are Kyoko Nozaki (University of Tokyo) and John F. Hartwig (University of Illinois).

Kyoko Nozaki studied chemistry at the University of Kyoto and received her Ph.D. there in 1991 with K. Utimoto. She remained in Kyoto as an instructor and associate professor before moving to the University of Tokyo in 2002, where she became full professor in 2003. Her research interests include homogeneously catalyzed polymer synthesis and organic synthesis. She recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the synthesis, structure, and reactivity of boryl copper and boryl zinc compounds^[1a] and in *Chemistry—an Asian Journal* on a tandem hydroformylation–hydrogenation of 1-decene with rhodium complexes of bis(trialkylphosphines).^[1b]

John F. Hartwig studied at Princeton and received his Ph.D. at the University of California Berkeley under the supervision of R. G. Bergman and R. A. Andersen. He then worked as an American Cancer Society Postdoctoral Fellow with S. J. Lippard at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge). In 1992 he became professor at Yale University (New Haven). In 2006, he moved to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where his group develops transition-metal-catalyzed reactions and investigates their mechanisms. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the iridium-catalyzed H–D exchange at vinyl groups without isomerization of the double bond,^[2a] and on the palladium-catalyzed α -arylation of aldehydes with bromo- and chloroarenes in the presence of ferrocenylphosphine ligands.^[2b] Hartwig also recently received the Mack Award 2009 from Ohio State University.

Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award of Encouragement to S. Matsunaga and Y. Nakao

Mitsui Chemicals also awards the Mitsui Chemicals Catalysis Science Award of Encouragement, which is given as an early career award to researchers under 35 years of age. This year, the honor is shared by Shigeki Matsunaga (University of Tokyo) and Yoshiaki Nakao (University of Kyoto).

Shigeki Matsunaga received his Ph.D. in 2003 in the group of M. Shibasaki at the University of Tokyo. He remained in the same group as assistant professor (from 2001). In 2008, he was promoted to

lecturer. His research concentrates on catalytic processes at multiple centers, and he develops chiral ligands for multinuclear complexes that can be used as difunctional cooperative catalysts. In *Angewandte Chemie* he recently described a dicobalt Schiff base catalyst for asymmetric 1,4-additions.^[3]

Yoshiaki Nakao studied chemistry at the University of Kyoto and received his Ph.D. in 2005 under T. Hiyama. He has been assistant professor at the University of Kyoto since 2002. He is interested in new organometallic reagents and reactions for selective organic synthesis. In *Angewandte Chemie*, he recently described the efficient nickel/BPh₃-catalyzed alkynylcyanation of alkynes and 1,2-dienes to give highly functionalized conjugated enynes.^[4]

- [1] a) T. Kajiwar, T. Terabayashi, M. Yamashita, K. Nozaki, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 6708; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 6606; b) T. Ichihara, K. Nakano, M. Katayama, K. Nozaki, *Chem. Asian J.* **2008**, *3*, 1722.
- [2] a) J. Zhou, J. F. Hartwig, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 5867; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 5783; b) G. D. Vo, J. F. Hartwig, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 2157; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 2127.
- [3] Z. Chen, M. Furutachi, Y. Kato, S. Matsunaga, M. Shibasaki, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 2252; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 2218.
- [4] Y. Nakao, Y. Hirata, M. Tanaka, T. Hiyama, *Angew. Chem.* **2008**, *120*, 391; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, *47*, 385.

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Awarded...



K. Nozaki



J. F. Hartwig



S. Matsunaga



Y. Nakao