

## Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize for Gerhard Erker and Kazuyuki Tatsumi

The German Research Council (DFG) has recognized exemplary cooperation in chemistry by awarding the 2011 Seibold Prize to the German/Japanese research team of Gerhard Erker (University of Münster, Germany) and Kazuyuki Tatsumi (Nagoya University, Japan)—a collaboration that has existed since 2006. This inaugural prize is valued at €10,000 and is sponsored by former DFG President Eugen Seibold and his wife.

Erker studied chemistry at the Universities of Cologne and Bochum, completed his doctorate in 1973 under W. R. Roth at Bochum, and then worked as a postdoctoral fellow with M. Jones, Jr. at Princeton University (USA). In 1981, he completed his habilitation at the University of Bochum, carried out research in the years 1984 and 1985 at the Max Planck Institute for Coal Research in Mülheim an der Ruhr, and then took up a professorship at the University of Würzburg in 1985. Since 1990, he has been located at the University of Münster. Erker served as President of the German Chemical Society (GDCh; 2000–2001) and earlier this year the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation awarded him the 2011 Werner Heisenberg Medal “in recognition of outstanding achievements in promoting international scientific cooperation”. His research group develops new catalysts, such as for polymerization and metal-free activation of molecular hydrogen as well as for applications in organic chemistry. He recently reported in *Angewandte Chemie* on the use of frustrated Lewis pairs in hydrogenation.<sup>[1a]</sup>

Tatsumi earned his PhD in theoretical inorganic chemistry from Osaka University in 1976 under T. Fueno. He then did postdoctoral studies in the USA and with M. Tsutsui at Texas A&M University and R. Hoffmann (Nobel Prize 1981) at Cornell University. In 1982, he returned to Osaka to work in the School of Science and then the School of Engineering Science before moving to Nagoya University in 1994 as a full professor. Earlier this year, Tatsumi received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Münster. His research interests include the coordination chemistry of transition-metal chalcogenides and clusters, organometallic chemistry, and bioinorganic chemistry of reductases. He recently published on models of [NiFe] hydrogenase.<sup>[1b]</sup> He currently serves IUPAC as Vice President (2010–2011) and President-elect. Tatsumi is a member of the editorial board of *Chemistry—An Asian Journal* and the international advisory board of *The Chemical Record*.

## Humboldt Research Award for Takao Ikariya

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation selects renowned foreign researchers who have had a lasting impact in their fields of specialization to receive the much-coveted Humboldt Research Award. As the award winner, Takao Ikariya is invited to Germany to conduct his own research projects.

Ikariya received his PhD in 1976 from the Tokyo Institute of Technology under A. Yamamoto. He worked as assistant professorship at the University of Tokyo, where he developed asymmetric hydrogenation with Ru–binap complexes, and remained there until 1985. Meanwhile he spent one and a half years as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of R. H. Grubbs (Nobel Prize 2005) at Caltech. In 1985, he moved to the central research center of NKK Corporation, where he developed a carbonylation reaction of nitrobenzene leading to aromatic urethanes. In 1991, he joined the ERATO Molecular Catalysis Project of Japan Science and Technology Corporation, which was directed by R. Noyori (Nobel Prize 2001). Ikariya was then promoted to professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 1997. His current interests include molecular catalysis and in particular the application of bifunctional catalysts to develop chemical fixation of H<sub>2</sub>O, H<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>. He also works in the field of organometallic chemistry<sup>[2a]</sup> and synthetic organic chemistry.<sup>[2b]</sup>

## And also in the news ...

... Peter H. Seeberger (Max Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces, Golm/Postdam and the Free University of Berlin, Germany) will receive the 2012 Roy L. Whistler International Award at the International Carbohydrate Symposium in Spain next year. The prize is valued at US\$10,000 and is awarded biannually by the International Carbohydrate Organization and recognizes excellence in carbohydrate chemistry and biochemistry. Seeberger's achievements have been recently reported in our News section.<sup>[3a]</sup>

- [1] a) B.-H. Xu, G. Kehr, R. Fröhlich, B. Wibbeling, B. Schirmer, S. Grimme, G. Erker, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 7321; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 7183; b) Y. Ohki, K. Tatsumi, *Eur. J. Inorg. Chem.* **2011**, 973.
- [2] a) S. Kuwata, T. Ikariya, *Chem. Eur. J.* **2011**, 17, 3542; b) Y. Hasegawa, I. D. Gridnev, T. Ikariya, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, 122, 8333; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, 49, 8157.
- [3] a) *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, 123, 7873; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, 50, 7729.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201105453

## Awarded ...



G. Erker



K. Tatsumi



T. Ikariya



P. H. Seeberger