

## 2015 C&C Prize Ceremony

On the midwinter afternoon of December 21, 2015, the 2015 C&C Prize Ceremony was held at ANA InterContinental Hotel Tokyo with around 140 attendees (**Photo 1**).

The day's program began with a welcoming speech by the President of NEC C&C Foundation, Mr. Kaoru Yano. He announced that the C&C Prize this year was the thirty-first one to be awarded so far and that 61 groups and 100 prize recipients including the Order of Culture 2015 laureate, Dr. Yasuharu Suematsu had been involved.

The speech was followed by the recognition of the 2015 prizes to the Group A and Group B recipients, by Dr. Tomonori Aoyama, the chairman of the awards committee. The Group A recipient was Prof. Masaru Kitsuregawa, Professor of the Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo, and Director General of the National Institute of Informatics. The award acknowledged "Outstanding Leadership and Pioneering Contributions to Leading the Research and Development of Advanced Information Technologies for the Era of Large-scale Digital Data". The Group B recipients were Dr. Martin Casado, Fellow and SVP of VMware Inc., Prof. Nick McKeown, Professor of Stanford University and Prof. Scott Shenker, Professor of University of California, Berkeley, for "Pioneering Research in Advancing Networking Technology and Outstanding Contributions Promoting the Development of Software-Defined Networking". Research details and citations were announced and the plaques and C&C medals were then presented to the prize recipients by the President Kaoru Yano (Professor Shenker was unfortunately unable to attend) (**Photo 2**).



Photo 1 2015 C&C Prize ceremony.



Photo 2 From the left: Prof. Masaru Kitsuregawa (of the Group A recipient), Mr. Kaoru Yano (President of NEC C&C Foundation), Dr. Martin Casado and Prof. Nick McKeown (of the Group B recipients).

Mr. Hisayoshi Ando, Director-General, Commerce and Information Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), and Dr. Masanori Koshiba, President, the Institute of Electronics, Information and Communication Engineers, then delivered congratulatory speeches. Mr. Hisayoshi Ando spoke of the significant advances and prospects of their achievements, which will potentially contribute to improving human life in the future. He also stated that METI has established The IoT Acceleration Laboratory in order to collaborate in and contribute to developing the future ICT society.

Dr. Masanori Koshiba expressed his gratitude for the innovative viewpoints of these two groups and their continuous efforts in undertaking such disruptive technologies, which was equally as impressive as generating "1" from "0". He expressed his respect for Prof. Kitsuregawa who through his long involvement in Data Engineering research was able to predict the advent of the big data society. Prof. Kitsuregawa was also the inventor of an ultra-high speed search engine technology that was designed to cope with the approaching big data society. Dr. Koshiba also praised the other three prize recipients for their continuous efforts in promoting the adoption of SDN by leading the standardization movement, and growing it into one of the fundamental technologies among the current telecom-

munications research projects.

Acceptance speeches followed and Prof. Kitsuregawa spoke of his long time efforts and challenges in the field of data engineering research, while focusing on the field of hash functions, and related achievements. Then by introducing a humorous note, he explained how he had discovered the possibility of value creation that is generated from the enormous range of available information and how he had progressed his many R&D projects in his long career as a researcher.

It was then the turn of Prof. McKeown and, Dr. Casado to take the podium in order to introduce how they had conceived SDN that had launched a paradigm shift in the current telecommunication technologies and how they had attempted to overcome the technological barriers for its adoption. They also described their challenges in developing technologies for realizing network virtualization, and the related community activities that brought their research to a successful conclusion. They then demonstrated future networks associated with the SDN concept.

Both of these speeches demonstrated to us the significance of technology and the potential that it has for solving the issues that our society is facing, in a timely manner.

After the acceptance speeches, a cocktail party was held that offered a sociable atmosphere, in which attendees could enjoy meeting each other and participating in friendly conversation. The dinner party began with greetings and a toast by Dr. Tatsuo Tomita, President, Information Processing Society of Japan. As the dinner ended, a congratulatory speech was presented by a representative of the guests, and the prize recipients expressed their thanks for this contribution. The ceremony was closed amidst enthusiastic applause.

The two themes that received prizes on this occasion are both key technologies featuring innovative methods that offer suggestions for solving the issues that occur in realizing future ICT social infrastructure, and which create another research field for the information telecommunications industry. This year's prize commended these technologies and the researchers' efforts in achieving widely applied practicality, as well as their challenging contributions in helping to define the next-generation society via C&C technology.

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The details about this paper can be seen at the following.

**Related URL:**

**For more information about the recipients of the C&C Prizes please visit the NEC C&C Foundation homepage.**  
[http://www.candc.or.jp/en/2015/2015\\_prize\\_cc.html](http://www.candc.or.jp/en/2015/2015_prize_cc.html)

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**NEC C&C Foundation**

The Foundation presents prizes and grants to researchers in the fields of computers, telecommunications, electronics devices and integrated technologies of these fields (C&C). Through such actions, we aim to develop further advancement of the electronics industry worldwide and to contribute to economic progress and to an improved social life. The foundation was established in March, 1985 and it is managed by a fund donated by NEC Corporation.

In order to help in achieving our aims, the Foundation promotes awards and grants.

Besides the C&C Prizes, the Foundation presents the award, "Outstanding Paper Award for Young C&C Researchers", for outstanding paper(s) (three papers at most per annual) to be announced at an international conference held overseas with the support of a grant from the Foundation. Each recipient is also given a cash prize.

The Foundation also provides two kinds of grants. One of these aims to help with conference attendance expenses for the researchers of graduate schools who reside in Japan and to support presentation of their papers at international conferences. The other one is to help with the research expenses of non-Japanese researchers, who are engaged in research at graduate schools.

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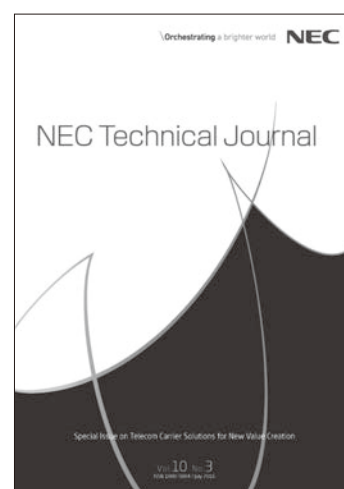
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