

Dear friend of Japan,

I hope this e-mail finds you well.

I would like to open by mentioning the Japanese Rugby Team's achievements in the 2015 Rugby World Cup. The Japanese Team won three of their four games, but unfortunately were still eliminated. I believe that this is the first time that a team has ever been eliminated despite winning three pool matches. I have thoroughly enjoyed watching the Japanese team play, and be led to victory by their coach, Australia's Eddie Jones. From here on I will endeavour to watch and cheer on the Wallabies in their games.

In some very happy news from this past week, I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. William C. Campbell, Research Fellow Emeritus at Drew University, Dr. Satoshi Ōmura, Professor Emeritus at Kitasato University and Dr. Youyou Tu, Chief Professor at China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine for being awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2015.

Dr. Campbell and Dr. Ōmura were awarded the prize for their discoveries concerning a novel therapy against infections caused by roundworm parasites, and Dr. Tu for her discoveries concerning a novel therapy against Malaria.

The Nobel Committee stated in their press release below;

“William C. Campbell and Satoshi Ōmura discovered a new drug, Avermectin, the derivatives of which have radically lowered the incidence of River Blindness and Lymphatic Filariasis, as well as showing efficacy against an expanding number of other parasitic diseases. Youyou Tu discovered Artemisinin, a drug that has significantly reduced the mortality rates for patients suffering from Malaria.

These two discoveries have provided humankind with powerful new means to combat these debilitating diseases that affect hundreds of millions of people annually.

The consequences in terms of improved human health and reduced suffering are immeasurable.”

Likewise I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. Takaaki Kajita, Director of the Institute for Cosmic Ray Research and Professor at the University of Tokyo, and Dr. Arthur B. McDonald, Professor Emeritus at Queen’s University for being awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2015.

Dr. Kajita and Dr. McDonald were awarded the prize for the discovery of neutrino oscillations, which shows that neutrinos have mass. The Nobel Committee stated in their press release below;

“Around the turn of the millennium, Takaaki Kajita presented the discovery that neutrinos from the atmosphere switch between two identities on their way to the Super-Kamiokande detector in Japan.

Meanwhile, the research group in Canada led by Arthur B. McDonald could demonstrate that the neutrinos from the Sun were not disappearing on their way to Earth. Instead they were captured with a different identity when arriving to the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory.

A neutrino puzzle that physicists had wrestled with for decades had been resolved. Compared to theoretical calculations of the number of neutrinos, up to two thirds of the neutrinos were missing in measurements performed on Earth. Now, the two experiments discovered that the neutrinos had changed identities.”

Dr. Ōmura is the 23rd, and Dr. Kajita is the 24th person from Japan to be awarded a Nobel Prize. Dr. Ōmura started his career as a teacher at a Japanese part-time high school. While working as a high school teacher, he continued to study science at graduate school. Dr. Kajita is a student of Dr. Masatoshi Koshihara from Japan, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2002. When Dr. Koshihara heard Dr. Kajita was awarded the Nobel Prize, Dr. Koshihara said “I am relieved because he should be awarded.” I am sure that all Japanese people are very proud of their achievements.

The fact that two Japanese scientists have won the Nobel Prize this year, following Dr. Shinya Yamanaka’s Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2012, and Dr. Isamu

Akasaki, Dr. Hiroshi Amano and Dr. Shuji Nakamura's Nobel Prize in Physics 2014, bears witness to the fact that Japanese basic research leads the world in a wide range of fields.

I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. Ōmura and Dr. Kajita again for being awarded the Nobel Prize 2015. The Government of Japan promises to further strengthen its effort to contribute to the advancement of science and technology in Japan.

Yours sincerely,

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Sumio Kusaka

Ambassador of Japan to Australia