Citation

For pioneering contributions to society in building and gaining wide adoption of the technological foundation of the Internet in Japan, and in promoting its globalization

Dr. Jun Murai

Position and Organization :
  Professor / Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University

Doctorate : Ph.D. (Keio Univ., 1987)

Date of Birth : March 29, 1955

Brief Biography :
  1979   Graduated Keio Univ. Dept. of Math, Faculty of Science and Technology.
  1981   M.S. for Computer Science, Keio Univ.
  1987   received Ph.D. in Computer Science, Keio Univ.
  1884   Assistant, Computer Center, Tokyo Institute of Technology
  1987   Assistant, Computer Center, The Univ. of Tokyo
  1990   Associate Prof., Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio Univ.
  1997   Prof., Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio Univ.
  1999-2005   Executive Director, Keio Research Institute at SFC, Keio Univ.
  2005-2009   Vice-President, Keio Univ.
  2009-   Dean, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio Univ.

  Other Positions Held
  Past president (currently board of trustees member), Japan Network Information Center (JPNIC)
  Advisory Member, Information Security Policy Council, Cabinet Secretariat Information Security Center, Cabinet Secretariat of Japan
  Fellow, Information Processing Society of Japan (IPSJ)
  Member (20th term), Science Council of Japan
  Advisory Member, IT Strategy Headquarters, Cabinet Secretariat of Japan

  Dr. Murai chairs or serves on many other governmental committees and is also active in international scientific associations.

Main Awards and Honors :
  1986   1st Motooka Award
  1999   Okawa Publications Prize
  2001   Personal Award from Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications
  2002   Personal Award from Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry
  2005   Jonathan B. Postel Service Award, Internet Society
  2007   Funai Achievement Award
  2011   IEEE Internet Award

Main Achievements :

Dr. Jun Murai has made major contributions to the research, development, and deployment of the technological foundations of the Internet in Japan from its earliest days, together with multilingual localization and other aspects of Internet globalization. He has come to be known as Japan's "Mr. Internet" for his wide-ranging achievements, which include the following:

Infrastructure and Deployment of the Internet :
In 1984, he established the Japanese University Network (JUNET), an academic network connecting Japanese universities. This served as the cornerstone of Japan's Internet development. In 1988, he founded the Widely Integrated Distributed Environment (WIDE) Project, a consortium of academia, industry, and government which would become the basis of Internet-related research, development, and industrial innovation in Japan. Dr. Murai headed the WIDE Project until 2010; as its founder, he continues to provide leadership and vision for the most advanced research and development in Internet-related areas.

Further, he played a role in the creation, operation, and governance of the Internet system on behalf of not only Japan but all of Asia. Since the 1980s he has worked tirelessly for the internationalization and Japanese language localization of Internet mail systems and the operation and deployment of domain name servers (DNS), the backbone of the Internet. Thus, he helped to build the infrastructure of the Internet as we know it today. This work was supported in part by research grants from the Okawa Foundation.

Standardization of Internet Technology and Japan's Contribution :
During the 1990s, Dr. Murai was particularly active in the standardization of Internet technology. As a member of the Internet Architecture Board, he served on the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as it developed IPv6 standardization. He continues to help maintain and evolve the global Internet, serving in positions such as chair of the Root Server System Advisory Committee, which oversees the root name servers that continue to be the basis of the Internet's operation. He has been instrumental in bringing to Japan many Internet-related international conferences sponsored by organizations of which he was a board member or president. Thus he accelerated Japan's adoption of the technologies and created opportunities for Japan to play its part on the world stage.

Global Internet Governance :
Dr. Murai was intimately involved in the creation of many of the organizations that promote the global development of the Internet, such as Internet Society (ISOC) and Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), and he continues to be active on many of their boards.

Japan's IT Strategy and the Fusion of Communications and Broadcasting :
From 2000 to 2009, as an advisory member of the IT Strategy Headquarters within the Cabinet Secretariat of Japan, Dr. Murai contributed to the proposal and promotion of measures to achieve the "e-Japan Strategy." He has also chaired or served on many governmental committees at the ministry level.

Initiatives in Professional Education :
From 2005 to 2009, as Keio's Vice-President in charge of research, he worked to strengthen the university's research structure. Since being appointed Dean of the Faculty of Environment and Information Studies in 2009, he has encouraged the SFC Global Campus initiative, which makes classes accessible to off-campus learners.

Through the WIDE Project, Dr. Murai has mentored young researchers beyond the borders of any one university, and this support has led to the completion of many doctorates in Internet-related fields both in Japan and overseas. In particular, through the creation of the satellite-based Asian Internet Interconnection Initiatives (AI3), he has encouraged the training of IT professionals in Asian nations; in parallel, in the School on Internet (SOI) Asia, he has established a framework for educational cooperation among universities across Asia using the Internet. He currently chairs both the AI3 Project and the SOI Asia Project.

The Internet and Society :
Throughout his career, Dr. Murai's research has focused on how to best to facilitate the adoption of the Internet by individuals by society or humanity overall. In 2010, he founded the Internet and Society Laboratory as part of the Keio Research Institute at SFC. He has formed partnerships with the world's major research centers and is currently pursuing solutions, from both technological and social perspectives, to the issues involved in building a global Internet society.

For pioneering contributions to society in building and gaining wide adoption of the technological foundation of the Internet in Japan, and in promoting its globalization, Dr. Jun Murai is hereby awarded the Okawa Prize.