

(English translation)

Statement by the President of Science Council of Japan

In Celebration of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine awarded to Dr. SAKAGUCHI Shimon, and the Nobel Prize in Chemistry awarded to Professor KITAGAWA Susumu

October 10, 2025

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Dr. SAKAGUCHI Shimon, Specially Appointed Professor at the University of Osaka and Associate Member of the Science Council of Japan, on his receipt of the award of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine together with Dr. Mary E. Brunkow of the Institute for Systems Biology and Dr. Fred Ramsdell of Sonoma Biotherapeutics, and to Professor KITAGAWA Susumu, Executive Vice President and Distinguished Professor at Kyoto University, who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry together with Professor Richard Robson of the University of Melbourne and Professor Omar M. Yaghi of the University of California, Berkeley.

As President of the Science Council of Japan, I take immense pride that Dr. SAKAGUCHI, an incumbent Associate Member, and Professor KITAGAWA, who has long contributed to the Council as a Member and Associate Member up to the 25th term, have both been honored with these prestigious awards.

Dr. SAKAGUCHI's award recognizes his highly esteemed achievements in the discovery of regulatory T cells, which suppress excessive immune responses, and acknowledges his foundational contribution in establishing a new field of research. His work is expected to lead to a variety of medical applications, including the prevention and treatment of autoimmune diseases, advances in cancer immunotherapy, and safer organ transplantation.

As a result of many years of steady and painstaking basic research, these groundbreaking achievements have come to fruition, contributing to the development of new treatments for cancer and autoimmune diseases. This accomplishment is of great significance not only in the field of medicine but also for the academic community as a whole.

Professor KITAGAWA's award recognizes his highly esteemed achievements in the development of metal–organic frameworks (MOFs), which has led to the creation of entirely new porous materials, unprecedented until now, and has

demonstrated their ability to incorporate large amounts of gas. This work is highly valued for its potential applications in removing pollutants from the atmosphere and in the safe storage and transport of hazardous gases, thereby contributing to new solutions to contemporary challenges in energy, environment, and medicine.

Dr. SAKAGUCHI and Professor KITAGAWA have once again shown society the importance of pursuing research that is unconstrained by conventional thinking and of taking on novel challenges that were once considered impossible. Their works have also demonstrated that such original research holds great potential for solving a wide range of societal issues.

I sincerely hope that both Dr. SAKAGUCHI and Professor KITAGAWA will continue to play leading roles at the forefront of scientific research, while devoting their wisdom and experience to nurturing younger generations and engaging with both the academic community and society at large.

These awards once again demonstrate to the world the outstanding caliber of Japan's scientific research. As the representative organization of Japanese scientists, the Science Council of Japan continues to be firmly committed to fostering a broad and lasting understanding of the value of diverse scientific endeavors in broader society, strenuously devoting its utmost efforts to the further advancement of science.

MITSUISHI Mamoru
President
Science Council of Japan