



The AONSA Prize 2011

The Selection Committee (SC) for the AONSA Prize 2011 received multiple nominees by the deadline (February 28, 2011) and spent a few months to seriously review them. All of them are highly qualified, reflecting the quality in our Asia-Oceania Region. Finally SC nominated Prof. Noboru Watanabe as a recipient to the Executive Committee of AONSA held at Bandung, Indonesia on May 19, 2011 and SC's nomination was officially approved. A recipient will be awarded a certificate, monetary prize (\$5,000) and a plaque at the Prize Ceremony to be held on November 23, 2011 during the 1st AOCNS at Tsukuba, Japan where his Prize Lecture is also planned.



Noboru Watanabe

Scientific Consultant of JAEA, Emeritus Professor of KEK

Citation: "For his pioneering development of accelerator-based neutron sources and instrumentations, and his great contribution to the establishment of neutron science community and finally to the realization of one of the most powerful pulsed neutron scattering facility at J-PARC."

Noboru Watanabe received his B.Sc. degree from Tohoku University in 1958 and became Research Associate of School of Engineering in 1961 and of Laboratory of Nuclear Science in 1969, Tohoku University in Sendai. In 1971 he was promoted to Associate Professor and during his stay at Laboratory of Nuclear Science he built one of the world first pulsed neutron sources by employing pulsed electron beams impinging on a production target based on the electron linac. In 1979 he became Professor of Booster Synchrotron Utilization Facility, High Energy Physics Laboratory (KEK; the present High Energy Accelerator Research Organization) in Tsukuba and built the world first user-dedicated pulsed neutron facility KENS based on a spallation source combined with the proton synchrotron.



As Director of KENS he conducted users program of this facility open to a wide variety of research fields and trained many young scientists who are now core members of major facilities and universities.

Such his pioneering development of pulsed neutron sources and instrumentations made profound impact on the following worldwide facilities such as IPNS and ISIS. After his retirement from KEK in 1995, he moved to Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute (the present Japan Atomic Energy Agency JAEA) where a new joint project of research complex based on a high intensity proton accelerator was planned between JAEA and KEK. This project was funded in 2001 and then he devoted himself to the construction and R&D of accelerators, neutron target/moderator and neutron instruments by fully utilizing his expertise, leading to the successful completion of Japan Spallation Neutron Source at J-PARC in 2008.

He served as member/chair of many major international committees such as ICANS, and ICNS as well as members of international advisory committees for major projects/facilities worldwide. He also promoted the bilateral UK-Japan Collaboration Program between ISIS and KENS with which a large number of Japanese students/scientists have been trained and then they are now actively involved in the front lines of the community.

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