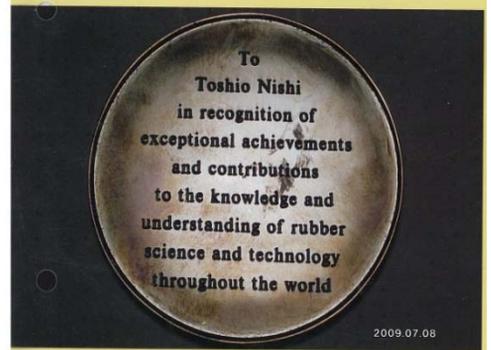


## Prof T. Nishi was awarded The International Rubber Conference Organization (IRCO) Medal



The Medal was presented by The International Rubber Conference Organization (IRCO) and in the medal “To Toshio Nishi in recognition of exceptional achievements and contributions to the knowledge and understanding of rubber science and technology throughout the world” is inscribed. The medal was given by Dr. Thomas Barth, Chairman of Deutsche Kautschuk-Gesellschaft after the introduction by Prof. Jack W. M. Noordermeer of The University of Twente, Netherland at the opening ceremony of IRC2009Nurnberg, Germany on June 29 at Hall Paris, International Congress Center, Nürnberg, Germany.

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IRCO Medal is given to one person a year or less and Prof. Nishi is the second Japanese or orientals to receive the medal. Prof. Noboru Yamazaki, Emeritus Professor of Tokyo Institute of Technology got the Medal in 1998 at IRC1998Paris. The candidate for the medal must be recommended by the other country and this time Prof. Nishi was recommended by Netherland.

In the introduction by Prof. Noordermeer it was explained that Prof. Nishi has published more than 200 original papers, more than 100 review articles, more than 80 books (Mostly co-authored), and presented more than 90 invited lectures at international conferences concerning structure and properties of polymer alloys, blends, composites, elastomer systems, and polymer nanotechnology. He has been the member of IRC Committee since IRC1993, Orland, USA representing Japan. He was the Program Chairman of IRC1995 Kobe, Japan and Organizer of IRC2005 Yokohama, Japan. Both IRCs were very successful with many participants and large-scale exhibitions. He mentioned that the IRC1995 was remarkable since it was only after a half year after the major earthquake in Kobe and Prof. Nishi managed the IRC1995 Kobe to a success as the President of The Society of Rubber Industry, Japan and Program Chairman.

He was the President of The Society of Rubber Industry, Japan from 1995 to 1997, Vice President of The Society of Polymer Science, Japan from 2000 to 2002, Vice President of The Society of Rheology, Japan from 2002 to 2004, Convenor of ISO/TC45/SC4/WG9 Elastomeric Isolators from 2000 which is very important to protect buildings and bridges from earthquakes. Recently, he is nominated as an associate member of the Science Council, Japan.

The memorial lecture was presented by Prof. Nishi on July 1 at Hall Paris with more than 300 attendants with standing audience. The title of the lecture was "From Nano-to Mega-technology of Elastomers" co-authored with Associate Professor Ken Nakajima of WPI-AIMR and Prof. Hiroshi Jinnai of Adjunct Professor of WPI-AIMR. The lecture was first on polymer nanotechnology developed by his group like three dimensional electron microscope (3D-TEM) and nano-mechanical mapping system applied to elastomeric materials. Then, he talked about seismic-elastomeric isolators with many examples and basic studies related to polymer nanotechnology. The lecture was highly appreciated and he was asked to give at least three invited lectures at another international conferences in Germany, India, and Indonesia in the near future.

The International Rubber Conference Organization (IRCO) is an association of rubber societies around the world, which plan the calendar for the main international rubber conferences. The head quarter is in Institute of Materials (IOM) in London. IRC has started in 1938 in London and now there are 19 member countries and societies like American Chemical Society, Rubber Division, Deutsche Kautschuk-Gesellschaft, Society of Rubber Industry, Japan and so on. IRC includes scientific and technical papers and large scale technical exhibition. It is held only once in a year somewhere in the world. IRC is so important and popular in this field that the schedule is filled until 2018. This time there were 84 oral papers and 51 posters from 22 countries with more than 650 participants. The papers were not only given by the academia but also from industries like Michelin, Bridgestone, Goodyear, Continental, DuPont, CIBA, Volkswagen, BMW, Mercedes-Benz and so on. There were 168 exhibitors from 23 countries using 10000m<sup>2</sup> and there were more than 2700 visitors from all over the world. The main exhibitors were like Cabot, Evonik Degussa, ExxonMobil Petroleum, Lanxess Deutschland, Polimeri Europa, Solvay Solexis, Zeon Europe and so on. However, the presence of Japan was weak in the paper presentation and exhibition. The details are at [www.irc2009.de](http://www.irc2009.de) and <http://www.internationalrubberconference.org/society.html>.

The next IRC2010 is scheduled to take place in November in India.