

UNSW Professor Martin Green awarded the Japan Prize



On 29 January, Professor Martin Green from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Sydney was named a 2021 Japan Prize Laureate in the fields of “Resources, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure” for the development of high-efficiency silicon photovoltaic devices. There were two other 2021 Laureates who were jointly awarded in the fields of Medical Science and Medicinal Science.

Professor Green pioneered the development of high-efficiency silicon photovoltaic devices and contributed significantly to the realisation of solar power that is cheaper than thermal power. Improved energy conversion efficiency reduced the costs of manufacturing solar photovoltaic devices and this has in turn enabled the construction of large-scale solar power plants.

He has worked in this field since the 1970s, making a series of inventions and achieving efficiency records. In 1999, he achieved 24.7% efficiency (25.0% by recalibration in 2008) with his Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell (PERC) solar cells. This PERC structure now dominates the photovoltaic device market. (Please see the illustrated media release for further explanation). Far more than just a name, Professor Green has made an enormous contribution to green or renewable energy technology, and as the citation for the award reads, **his achievements are most eminently deserving of the 2021 Japan Prize** in the fields of Resources, Energy, Environment, Social Infrastructure.

What is the Japan Prize?

Often referred to as Japan’s Nobel Prize, the Japan Prize is awarded annually to scientists and engineers from around the world who have made a significant contribution to the advancement of science and technology, thereby furthering the cause of peace and prosperity of humankind. Each year, two fields of scientific endeavour are honoured.

Supported by many private donations, the Prize was established with Cabinet endorsement in 1983. The motivation behind the Prize’s creation was the Government of Japan’s desire to contribute to the development of science and technology worldwide by establishing a prestigious international award.

Learn more about Professor Green’s development of PERC cells in this illustrated media release by The Japan Prize Foundation:

www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/document/english/PR_2021_Japan_Prize_E.pdf

Japan-Australia-India-US Leaders’ Conference

Late on 12 March from 10.30pm JST (12.30am 13 March, Sydney time), the first ever Japan-Australia-India-US Leaders’ Conference was held by video.

The so-called Quad meeting between Mr SUGA Yoshihide, Prime Minister of Japan, the Hon. Scott Morrison, MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, HE Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, and the Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr, President of the United States of America, lasted for approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The conference was called for and hosted by the US, and after the summit, a Joint Statement and Fact Sheet were released.

The four leaders concurred to hold an in-person summit by the end of this year.

The four leaders also published a joint opinion piece entitled “Our four nations are committed to a free, open, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region” in *The Washington Post*:

www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/03/13/biden-modi-morrison-suga-quad-nations-indo-pacific/

Learn more about the Quad meeting and find the related documents at:

www.mofa.go.jp/fp/nsp/page1e_000310.html



© Cabinet Public Relations Office