

大阪大学から名誉学位を授与されて



特別寄稿

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Appreciation to the Honorary Degree of Osaka University

Key Words : Honorary degree of Osaka University, RWTH Aachen University, Catalysis, Biotechnology

2005年に大阪大学とアーヘン工科大学の間で交流協定が締結されたことを受け、アーヘン工科大学の奥田教授と Büchs 教授、大阪大学工学研究科の大竹教授（現名誉教授）と基礎工学研究科の真島教授が協力し、化学と生物の境界領域の共同大学院プログラムである「環境調和を指向した生物および化学プロセスに関する共同大学院教育プログラム」をJSPSとDFGの日独共同大学院プログラム（Japanese-German Graduate Externship International Research Training Group）に応募し採択され、2010から9年間継続して両大学間の学術交流を行ってきました。これらの交流活動を通じた大阪大学への貢献を顕彰し、2018年9月13日に大阪大学総長から奥田教授と Büchs 教授に名誉学位が授与されました。また、同日引き続き、工学研究科のサントリーメモリアルホールにおいて、記念講演会が開催されました。この機会に、奥田先生から特別寄稿をいただきました。

Since the signing of a university-wide collaboration agreement in 2005, Osaka University and RWTH Aachen University have been partners, in particular in the fields of science and engineering. On 13. September 2018, Osaka University has bestowed

honorary doctorates on RWTH Aachen professors Jun Okuda and Jochen Büchs for their outstanding achievements in research and teaching.

In their acceptance speech, Okuda and Büchs pointed out the immensely productive scientific collaboration between both institutions for research and education despite a distance of 9500 km and 7-8 time zones. This collaboration is exemplified, among other activities, by the international research training group “Selectivity in Chemo- and Biocatalysis”, which was established, in parallel to the Japanese-German Graduate Externship Program by JSPS, in 2010. The research training program is funded by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) coordinated by Professor Okuda, who serves as its spokesperson, and Professor Büchs as deputy spokesperson. On the Osaka side, first Prof. Hisao Ohtake and then Prof. Kazushi Mashima have acted as coordinators. As part of this close transnational cooperation, about 40 doctoral candidates from RWTH Aachen stayed at Osaka University to participate in the activities of the research training group program. Activities include annual joint symposia, workshops, lecture courses and short term stay up to one year in a laboratory at Osaka University to conduct research.



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Jun Okuda, is a native Japanese from Osaka, holds the Chair of Organometallic Chemistry at the Institute for Inorganic Chemistry. His research is concerned with synthetic organometallic chemistry and catalysis mechanisms that do not require precious metals. A core focus of his research is the

synthesis, precise structural determination and application of extremely sensitive catalyst precursors for polymerization and hydrogen storage. After completing his doctorate at RWTH Aachen University in 1984, he joined the team of Nobel laureate Richard R. Schrock at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In 1991, he completed his habilitation (post-doctoral lecturing qualification) at the Technical University of Munich under Wolfgang A. Herrmann. Before his appointment as chair of Organometallic Chemistry at RWTH Aachen University, he held professorships at the State University of New York at Albany, the Philipps University of Marburg, and the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz.

Jochen Büchs is Chair of Biochemical Engineering at RWTH Aachen University. His key research interests include the characterization of process engineering parameters of shaken bioreactors and the development of new methods for online process

monitoring and control at all (bioreactor) scales. Furthermore, he conducts research on high-pressure fermentation and biorefinery processes. Several of the department's developments have been successfully commercialized worldwide. After completing his degree in process engineering at the Technical University of Munich and research stays at the Institute of Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN) and Tokyo University, Japan, he obtained his doctoral degree from Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany. After nine years in industry at BASF company, Jochen Büchs was appointed Chair of Biochemical Engineering at RWTH in 1996.

With this fiscal year, the IRTG and JGGE will terminate. However, several research partners will continue their cooperation in the area of catalysis and synthesis and it is hope that the well-established and trustful relationship will last for many more years.



From right to left:
Shojiro Nishio, President of Osaka University,
RWTH professors Jochen Büchs and Jun Okuda,
and Vice-President Genta Kawahara.



BIOTECHNOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY FOR
GREEN GROWTH

**Special Lectures to celebrate Professors Okuda and Büchs
for awarding their Honorary Degrees by Osaka University**

September 13th, 2018
Suntory Memorial Hall
in Suita Campus, Osaka University

13:30—13:40 Opening Remarks
13:40—14:30
Professor Dr. Jun OKUDA
Organometallics and Proteins

14:40—15:30
Professor Dr. Jochen Büchs
*Bioprocess engineering meets
chemistry and microbiology -
rewiring the Ames mutagenicity test*


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