

FY2013 JSAI Achievement Award

Dr. Hiroshi G. Okuno (Professor, Waseda University)



Achievement for the award

With the aim of understanding the characteristics of sound in general, including music, mixed sound, and speech, Dr. Okuno has led research on the understanding of sonic environments, tirelessly continuing his research and education work in the field of robot audition, a research area first established in Japan.

In an area of robot audition first proposed by Dr. Okuno, a robot auditory function has been realized that enables a robot to listen to several things at once in the manner of Prince Shotoku, a man who legendarily could listen and respond to 10 people's petitions at the same time. One result of his work has been the release of the HARK robot audition software. Dr. Okuno is highly regarded worldwide for his achievements. For his "contribution to robot audition technologies," he was promoted to IEEE

Fellow. In addition, his work has been applied widely in various areas beyond basic research. One example is the application of robot audition in a demonstration of speech recognition of three simultaneous speakers given by Honda Motor Co., Ltd.

In the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI), Dr. Okuno established the Special Interest Group on Parallel Artificial Intelligence (SIG-PPAI). Through the group, he supported activities in expanding areas at the time, such as RoboCup, artificial life, genetic algorithms, and auditory scene analysis, and directed his energies toward advancing studies in those areas. He further contributed as the chair of the SIG on AI Challenges, the successor of the SIG-PPAI. In addition, Dr. Okuno has successively held various posts in the JSAI: editor, publication committee member for the Series on Intelligence Science, director for public relations, and chair of the committee for creating the 10-year anniversary CD-ROM. In 2013, he was awarded the JSAI Fellow for his achievements.

In tribute to Dr. Okuno's pioneering achievements and contribution to the JSAI, the JSAI presents a 2013 JSAI Achievement Award to him.

Source: JSAI notification of the FY2013 JSAI Achievement Award