

Prof. Toshio Obi, GSAPS, will receive the MIC Minister's Award

Prof. Dr. Toshio Obi, Graduate School of Asia and Pacific Studies and Director of the Institute of e-Government, Waseda University, will receive the MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) Minister's Distinguished Award for ITU

May 15 marks the anniversary of the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which is the oldest UN Agency with about 200 member governments located in Geneva.

This year, ITU will celebrate its 150th anniversary and the ITU Association of Japan marked the occasion by holding the 47th Celebration for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day at the Keio Plaza Hotel in Tokyo, Japan.

At the celebration, the ITU-AJ, sponsored by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication (MIC), holds an award ceremony to recognize individuals who have made distinguished achievements in ITU-related activities. This is a historic award ceremony, spanning many years since it was first held in 1968.

The highest honor, the "Minister's Award," will be presented to Prof. Dr. Toshio Obi, Waseda University.

The main reasons for his award are as follows:

- As a participant in ITU activities spanning 30 years, Prof. Obi was appointed and actively contributed as Special Envoy for Academia to the ITU Secretary-General in order to implement a trial academic membership system aimed at strengthening ITU's collaboration with business, government and academia.
- After exchanging a comprehensive MOU facilitating the first-ever collaborative relations between the three ITU sectors and Waseda University, he contributed to the establishment of the ITU-Waseda Research Center in 2002 and was for many years its first director
- Took leadership in support of ITU activities, such as holding seminars for developing countries through the Center.
- Contributed to the ITU Telecom World event from 1985, serving as speaker and moderator eight times. Assumed Chairmanship of the ITU CoE (Center of Excellence) Steering Committee in the AP region for 11 years from 1996, and nurtured capacity-building in state members including developing countries while serving as a Japanese delegate for numerous international meetings, thereby strengthening Japan's presence abroad.

This is his 2nd Award from the Ministry after receiving the Minister's Award on e-Government research in 2013.