Press Release
Tokyo, Japan, May 15, 2015

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) 150 Awards recognize Ken Sakamura, Director of YRP Ubiquitous Networking Laboratory (Professor of Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, The University of Tokyo)

Ken Sakamura, Director of YRP Ubiquitous Networking Laboratory (Professor of Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies, The University of Tokyo) will be honored with ITU's 150th Anniversary Award at the commemorative event that will be held at the headquarters of ITU in Geneva on 17 May 2015.

Sakamura has contributed to the research and education of computer science for a long time, has conducted the research and development of the computer system of open architecture with high real-time performance named TRON (The Real-time Operating system Nucleus). As the result, he has released and promoted an open software platform (operating system) to the world for free. He has proposed the concept of ubiquitous computing environment or the Internet of Things (IoT) in which many objects in our surroundings are embedded with small computer nodes with sensors and actuators that are connected to the network, communicate with each other and operate in a cooperative manner to offer sophisticated services to human users since the 1980s and has contributed to the achievement.

(Comment of the winner)
I am honored to be recognized for the results of years of my research activities, and would like to express my most heartfelt gratitude for the award on the occasion of ITU's 150th Anniversary. I would like to thank people who have helped and supported us for a long time. I wish to make contributions to the ICT to enhance our living environment as much as I can in the future.

(ITU 150 Award)
On the occasion of ITU's 150 anniversary, ITU 150 Awards recognize individuals who have contributed to improving lives of world citizens through ICT innovations developed, promoted or implemented by ITU. Total six people in the world including Ken Sakamura will be honored with ITU's 150th Anniversary Award. The other winners are Bill Gates, Robert E. Kahn, Thomas Wiegand, Mark I. Krivocheev and Martin Cooper.
  http://www.itu.int/en/150/Pages/awards.aspx

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Ken Sakamura (63 years old), Japan

Born in Tokyo in 1951, Ken Sakamura received a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Keio University, Japan in 1979, and subsequently became a research associate at the University of Tokyo, where he has stayed ever since. Currently, he is a professor of the Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies at the Graduate School of the University of Tokyo, the director of the YRP Ubiquitous Networking Laboratory (UNL for short), and the chair of TRON Forum and uID Centre. He has been the leader of TRON Project since 1984, and has designed the TRON open computer system architecture which will be useful for ubiquitous computing of the future. Today, the real-time operating systems based on the TRON specifications are used for engine control on automobiles, mobile phones, digital cameras, and many other appliances, and are believed to be the among most popular operating systems for embedded computers around world. The R&D results from TRON Project are useful for ubiquitous computing. For example, UNL joined the standardization efforts at ITU-T and helped produce a series of Recommendations, including H.642 "Multimedia information access triggered by tag-based identification". The idea behind H.642 series is based on de facto "ucode" standard developed by UNL for communication in the age of the Internet of Things. For his achievements, Sakamura has won many awards: Takeda Award, the Medal with Purple Ribbon from Japanese government, Okawa Prize, Prime Minister Award, and Japan Academy Prize. He is a fellow and the golden core member of the IEEE Computer Society.

For the full citation of other laureates, please visit the following URL: http://itu150.org/awards/