

■ News

Professor Jian Feng Ma receives the 2016 Corresponding Membership Award from the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)

Professor Jian Feng Ma of the Institute of Plant Science and Resources at Okayama University was awarded the 2016 Corresponding Membership Award from ASPB. The award ceremony took place during the ASPB annual meeting, Plant Biology 2016, held in Austin, Texas, U.S.A., from July 9–13th. No more than three distinguished ASPB members from outside the United States are given the award each year, with winners receiving lifetime membership.

The award recognizes Professor Ma's pioneering work with transporters that play a central role in the uptake and translocation of mineral elements in plants, as well as for being a world leader on research on resistance mechanisms in plants for aluminum toxicity found in acid soil, which inhibits plant growth. Professor Ma said, "I am honored to have the work we have done recognized internationally this way. This award encourages me to continue to work diligently to conduct world-class research."

ASPB publishes two leading journals: *The Plant Cell* and *Plant Physiology*. In 2015, Professor Ma and his collaborator at the Institute of Plant Science and Resources, Associate Professor Naoki Yamaji, were selected as Top Authors by ASPB, based on the high citations of their papers in journals. Notably, they were two of the top nine authors located in Asia. Professor Ma was also selected as one of the World's Most Influential Scientists in 2015 by Thompson Reuters.

Further information

ASPB Awards Corresponding Membership
<http://www.aspb.org/awards-funding/aspb-awards/corresponding-membership/>

Institute of Plant Science and Resources at Okayama University
<http://www.rib.okayama-u.ac.jp/>



Professor Jian Feng Ma (right) receiving the Corresponding Membership Award from the president of the ASPB.