

The SGL Carbon Award George Skakel Memorial Award



Professor Michio Inagaki
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Professor Michio Inagaki of the Aichi Institute of Technology, Japan, is the recipient of the SGL Carbon Award to be given at Carbon2004 (International Conference on Carbon), which will be held in Providence, Rhode Island, on July 11-16, 2004. The SGL Carbon Award, sponsored by SGL Carbon Group and the American Carbon Society, is an international award given triennially to an individual whose overall contributions and achievements have significantly influenced the progress of the science and/or technology of carbon materials.

In a career spanning over 40 years, Prof. Inagaki has made many significant contributions to our understanding of how structures in carbon materials develop during carbonization and graphitization, and the relationships between the structures and the electrical, mechanical, and chemical properties of the materials. In his early work, Prof. Inagaki focused on the use of XRD, TEM, and SEM techniques to characterize microstructures in carbon materials at the nanoscale. He observed a strong dependence of the d_{002} interlayer spacing and the degree to which the carbon structure is graphitized. His research demonstrated how high pressure carbonization and graphitization could be used to control the development of nanotexture in carbon materials, including fibers and composites. His detailed studies on the carbonization of aromatic polyimide films lead to the production of high quality graphite films. "Prof. Inagaki has the great merit to give a systematic view of the relations between carbon textures at all scales and the properties (electrical, crystallographic, mechanical, and chemical) so that his work is an outstanding contribution to carbon knowledge and also industrial applications," said Prof. A. Oberlin of Commissariat a l'energie atomique in France.

Professor Inagaki has also worked on the intercalation of graphite with various compounds. “Notable achievements are the preparation of intercalation compounds from molten salts, the use of relatively small temperature differences at moderate temperatures for the generation of electrical power by use of graphite intercalation compounds in electrochemical cells, and the compounds with FeCl_3 and co-intercalated chloroform,” said Prof. H. P. Boehm of the University of Munich in Germany.

Professor Inagaki earned his Ph.D. in Applied Chemistry from Nagoya University in 1963 working under the supervision of Prof. Noda, who also received the SGL Carbon Award in 1979. He has published over 400 papers in refereed journals, numerous review articles, and has authored three books. He has received awards from the Chemical Society of Japan, the American Ceramic Society, and the Ceramic Society of Japan. Prof. Inagaki is an active participant in the Carbon Society of Japan and served as its president during 1996-2000. He has organized numerous symposiums on carbon materials, including the Japan-France Cooperation Program on Carbon Science. He was an Associate Editor of the Carbon Journal during 1994-2001.

Professor Inagaki will present the SGL Carbon Award Lecture titled “Nanotexture in Carbon Materials” at the Carbon 2004 conference.