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Nature Photonics photovoltaics conference announces key speakers and sponsors

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Nature Photonics, the world's highest impact journal in optics and photonics, will hold its second technology conference in Tokyo on 19-21 October 2010. "Future Perspectives on Photovoltaics" will include keynotes from Nobel Laureate Alan Heeger, of the University of California at Santa Barbara and Michael Grätzel, of the École Polytechnic Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. Major Japanese companies in the field and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) also recently signed up as key supporters of the event.

The conference will be held at Tokyo Fashion Town Hall on Odaiba Island. An adjoining exhibition will showcase leading-edge solar cell technologies and R & D from companies and research institutions worldwide.

Sharp and Kyocera are confirmed as founding sponsors, Mitsubishi Electric is a major sponsor and NEDO is a founder supporting organization. The conference is hosted by NPG Nature Asia-Pacific, the Asia-Pacific wing of Nature Publishing Group (NPG), publisher of Nature and 32 Nature-branded journals. The event is co-organized with Impress R & D, a company experienced in holding large-scale exhibitions.

Alan Heeger will give a keynote on the first day. Professor Heeger shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in Chemistry with Professor Hideki Shirakawa and Professor Alan McDiarmid for their work on semiconducting polymers, which are now being commercialized as a new type of flexible, plastic solar cell.

Fellow speaker Professor Michael Grätzel invented the Grätzel cell, a dye-sensitized solar cell which was described in a landmark paper in *Nature* in 1991, and is another promising technology.

Professor Konagai of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, a leading figure in photovoltaic research, heads the conference's advisory board of eminent researchers from Japanese academia and industry. Working with *Nature Photonics*, Professor Konagai and the advisory board are drawing in an impressive list of speakers from industry and academia. Plenary-style talks on the current status and future evolution of the key technologies in the field of photovoltaics will be complemented by a panel discussion.

Headquartered in Tokyo, *Nature Photonics* ranks first among all primary research journals in optics and photonics, with a 2008 Impact Factor of 24.982 (*2008 Journal Citation Reports*, Thomson Reuters).

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Links:

Nature Photonics: **www.nature.com/nphoton**
Conference website: **www.natureasia.com/en/events/photonics/**
Nature Photonics Technology Focus: **www.nature.com/nphoton/techfocus/index.html**
Exhibition and sponsorship opportunities are available (For details and an application form please see **www.natureasia.com/en/events/photonics/sponsor.php**).

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