



THE AWARDS CEREMONY Thirty black-suited security men, a bomb sniffing dog, ten "minders" each one a charming and beautiful young woman whose job was to lead us to and from various locations, four translators, scores of tech folks manning cameras, cords and microphones, a string quartet plus harp, various distinguished Japanese scientists, the president of the Japanese parliament, the chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the minister of science and technology, and their majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan.

The ballroom was lush with yellow and white roses bordering the dais, a red carpet runway and two of the largest flower arrangements I've ever seen.



The rehearsal, which started at noon, lasted an hour and an half—long enough time to make sure that the westerners were capable of following the exacting protocol which included down-to-the-second timing of each laureate walking up the runway and the precise number of times to turn and show the award to the audience. Then it was "show time".

By 4:30 we were back in our room having enjoyed a 20 minute private conversation with the Emperor and Empress as the final formality of the day, ending with a short photo-shoot in the hotel lobby..

A day like no other; we are still in a state of semi shock.





Our acceptance speeches were followed by remarks by the Emperor. Naruhito, born in 1960, who acceded to the throne in 2019.



Our private conversatoni with the Emperor and Empress was deeply moving. Talking with them personally brought home to us what big personal sacrifices they've both made to play their roles in history.

I spent more more time preparing my **JAPAN PRIZE LECTURE** than any other lecture I have ever given. During the month prior to our trip, I worked on a script that I planned to read from the Presenter Notes in Powerpoint as I showed my slides and animations. This was in sharp contrast to my characteristic ad lib lecturing style, in which my only advance preparation was to compile an ordered list of slides and to decide on the points that I wanted to make when I showed them. I had always believed that that too much preparation detracts from the spontaneity, which is important in maintaining contact with the audience. But I slowly and painfully came to the realization that this time it would have to be different. At my advanced age I'm not as good at thinking on my feet as I was a decade ago, and I'm much more prone to going off on unintended tangents.

To rehearse my lecture I gave a version of it at the University of Tokyo just two days earlier. Looking out upon the friendly assembled group of colleagues and students, I couldn't resist the temptation to forego the script and start speaking extemporaneously so as to maintain that reaffirming eye contact with the audience. It wasn't long before I found myself drifting away from the script, going into much more detail that I could afford to if I wanted to finish my lecture in the appointed time. It was not a comfortable feeling. I continued working on my lecture until just a few hours before it was time to deliver it, and when the time came, I paid the price and kept to the script.



I would not have spent as much time preparing for this lecture as I did simply out of performance anxiety. I was genuinely excited about having had the opportunity to provide my perspective on how much the field of atmospheric sciences has advanced over the 60 years since I was in graduate school. Awards like the Japan Prize recognize the scientific contributions of individuals, but the credit for the advances that I described in my talk belongs to the collective contributions of hundreds of scientists and engineers in the atmospheric science community. Were it not for them, my career trajectory would have been entirely different.

THE PRESS CONFERENCES for the two sections were conducted separately. Brian's and mine lasted about 45 minutes. About 25 reporters were in attendance, and about a third of them asked questions. In contrast to the questions fielded by the biomedical laureate, Ronald Evans, most of the questions addressed to us were relatively benign, focusing on science and on our professional connections that led to us being chosen as co-recipients Prize, I was a bit worried about whether they would ask us for a prediction of this summer's weather, but the only prognostication that asked was what would happen what would happen to our efforts to limit human induced global warming if Trump were elected president.. My favorite question was one to the effect, "How would you advise a young person who is considering a career as a scientist." Brian and I passed the microphone back-and-forth, each putting in her two cents worth. Hopefully, the whole of our responses to the questions was greater than the sum of our individual responses. Amid the barrage of photos at the end of the session, the Foundation photographer snapped this one.



COURTESY CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER On Monday, April 11, Japan's Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida addressed the US Congress. His speech included the words,

The United States policy was based on the premise that humanity does not want to live oppressed by an authoritarian state, where you are tracked and surveilled and denied from expressing what is in your heart and on your mind.

You believed that freedom is the oxygen of humanity. The world needs the United States to continue playing this pivotal role in the affairs of nations. And yet, as we meet here today, I detect an undercurrent of self-doubt among some Americans about what your role in the world should be.

This self-doubt is arising at a time when our world is at history's turning point. The post-Cold War era is already behind us, and we are now at an inflection point that will define the next stage of human history.



On Friday morning we made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister. As the eldest, I was invited to give a short speech thanking the Japanese people and their government for their unwavering support of science. Mr. Kishida graciously responded by saying how much he appreciated our work. As we said goodbye to him on our way out, Sue thanked him for his much more important speech the previous week to the US Congress and he seemed pleased that she was aware of it.



RECEPTION AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY, Friday afternoon, the last of the week's. formal events. The Ambassador, Julia Longbottom (front row, left) welcomed us and we met staff from the American Embassy as well. . We had something of a primer for this event the previous Saturday when we had tea at the British Embassy Villa Museum on the shore of Lake Chuzenji in Nikko National Park, adjacent to embassies of other European counties, For about a century interrupted only briefly the tumult of two world wars, the Villa served as a comfortable getaway from the summer heat and humidity.