International Rubber Conference Organisation

IRCO Student Prize 2026

International Rubber Conference 2026 (IRC2026 AICHI), Aichi Sky Expo, Tokoname, Japan, 2 to 6 November 2026

Thirteen young researchers received the IRCO Student Prize at the closing ceremony on 6 November 2026: six for poster presentations and seven for oral presentations. The prizes were presented by Professor Mikihito Takenaka, Congress Chair of IRC2026 AICHI.

IRC2026 AICHI was hosted by **The Society of Rubber Science and Technology, Japan**, which organised the prize and the judging.

The prize was funded by **IRCO** and the **Suga Weathering Technology Foundation**.

International Rubber Conference Organisation

POSTER PRIZE

Barkat Aziz

India

“A Vitrimer-Integrated Circular TPV from Biobased EPDM and Recycled Polypropylene”

International Rubber Conference Organisation

POSTER PRIZE

Biying Ye

China

“Dynamic/Static Hybrid Network Enabling Elastomeric Vitrimers with Accelerated Network Relaxation and Superior Creep Resistance”

International Rubber Conference Organisation

POSTER PRIZE

Woojin Seo

South Korea

“Inorganic Fillers filled Polyurethane Foams for Enhanced High-Frequency Sound Absorption”

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POSTER PRIZE

Maytawee Malineerat

Japan

“Study on Mechanical Behavior of Silica-filled Styrene-butadiene Rubber under Large Deformation using AFM-based In-situ Stretching Measurement”

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POSTER PRIZE

Hirotaka Akiyama

Japan

“Mechanical Behavior Analysis of PP / EPDM Thermoplastic Vulcanizates Using AFM Nanomechanics and Finite Element Method”

Lynn Bekki

Japan

“Surface Free Energy Change of Poly(dimethylsiloxane) under Tensile Deformation”

Dr Daniil Nosov

Luxembourg

“Novel Fully Sustainable Elastomers via Controlled Catalytic Copolymerization”

Anh Viet Ta

Vietnam

“Buoyancy-driven latex purification of natural rubber latex for the production of protein-free natural rubber”

Dr Kakeru Obayashi

Japan

“The Behaviors of Molecular Chain Structure and Strain-Induced Crystallization of Polyurethane Elastomers under Nonuniform Deformation”

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ORAL PRESENTATION PRIZE

Yusei Ando

Japan

“Modeling and Finite Element Analysis of Nonreciprocal Gels Using an Anisotropic Hyperelastic Model”

Hexuan Mao

Japan

“Temperature-dependent Polyisoprene-carbon Interfacial Interactions Investigated by AFM Measurements”

International Rubber Conference Organisation

ORAL PRESENTATION PRIZE

Max Dixey

United Kingdom

“Assessment of Dihydrazide Carbon Black Coupling Agents in Model Tyre Tread Compounds”

Omar Dilery

United Kingdom

“The effect of smear wear formation on the friction and heat build up of a tyre tread surface”

The awards ceremony

Closing ceremony, IRC2026 AICHI, 6 November 2026



Professor Mikihito Takenaka, Congress Chair of IRC2026 AICHI, presents the IRCO Student Prize to winners. Photographs courtesy of IRCO.