To introduce Professor Akihiko Yamagishi as the recipient of the 2012 Marilyn and Sturges W. Bailey Distinguished Member Award of The Clay Minerals Society is a distinct honor. The Bailey Award is the highest award bestowed by the Society and is based on scientific eminence in clay mineralogy in the broadest sense as shown by published original research papers and their impact on clays and clay-mineral sciences.

Professor Yamagishi obtained his PhD at the University of Tokyo in 1975. He was a postdoc with Prof. M. Szwarc at the State University of New York in Syracuse in 1976–1978 and a research associate at Hokkaido University from 1978 until 1985. He then became associate professor at the University of Tokyo (1985–1991) and full professor at Hokkaido University in 1991. In 2001 he was appointed full professor at the University of Tokyo, from where he retired in 2006. He remains active in clay mineral research as a visiting professor at Ochanomizu University (2006–2009) and at Toho University (2009–present).

Professor Yamagishi (born in 1943) is a brilliant scientist with research activities in eight research fields, ranging from clay-mineral science to chiral metal complexes, liquid crystals, and chiral gels to biological chemistry. He has published 213 papers and five patents in these fields, supervised 20 PhD students and 30 postdocs, and had several collaborations both in Japan and abroad. However, clay minerals and chirality have been the leading themes throughout his scientific career.

His successful research activities are based on creativity and multidisciplinarity. Professor Yamagishi has combined synthesis of chiral amphiphilic transition-metal ion complexes, such as bipyridine and phenanthro-