FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2006 BLUE PLANET PRIZE: ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZE WINNERS

Dr. Akira Miyawaki (Japan)

For establishing a theory to restore and to reconstruct forests based on the concept of "Potential natural vegetation" and by implementing the theory succeeded in reconstructing disaster-preventing environment-conserving forests and tropical forests, contributed in restoring the green on earth

Dr. Emil Salim (Indonesia)

For contributing in establishing the concept of sustainable development and furthering global environmental policies through various United Nations' committees especially as the chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

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This year marks the 15th awarding of the Blue Planet Prize, the international environmental award sponsored by the Asahi Glass Foundation, chaired by Hiromichi Seya. Two Blue Planet Prizes are awarded to individuals or organizations each year that make outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application, and in so doing help to solve global environmental problems. The Board of Directors and Councillors selected the following recipients for this year.

1. Dr. Akira Miyawaki (Japan)
Director, Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology (JISE)
Emeritus Professor, Yokohama National University

Dr. Miyawaki put forward the forest restoration/reconstruction theory based on the concept of "Potential natural vegetation", or restoration of the habitat's indigenous vegetation in accordance with its natural conditions. He has investigated the vegetation of whole of Japan with the cooperation of plant ecology laboratories from universities throughout Japan, and edited and published "Vegetation of Japan", a 10 volume series with both existing vegetation maps as well as potential natural vegetation maps over 6,000 pages text, which became a culmination of vegetation research in Japan. He then implemented his theory based on the investigation in more than 1500 locations in Japan and abroad. In 20 to 30 years, he restored a natural disaster prevention/environment conservation forest close to a natural forest domestically. He also succeeded in reconstructing tropical rain forests overseas. He has exhibited the possibility and results in restoring the green on earth which is the foundation of the ecosystem

2. Dr. Emil Salim (Indonesia)
Professor, Faculty of Economics and Post Graduate Course, University of Indonesia
Former Minister of Population and Environment, Republic of Indonesia

Since the early 1980s when the United Nations began in earnest to undertake the resolution of environmental problems on a global scale, Dr. Salim has contributed to the development of global environmental policies as a representative of Asia, as well as guiding environmental strategies in the developing region of Asia as a whole. He served as the Environment Minister of Indonesia for 15 years as the country followed a path of economic development. He pioneered the development of the idea of integrating environmental considerations into development plans, and presented a model for sustainable development while also dedicating his efforts to establishing environmental governance in Indonesia. Dr. Salim's innovative achievements have been highly acclaimed internationally. As a result he has not only filled significant roles in the leading environmental activities of the United Nations, including the World Commission on Environment and Development and the Johannesburg Summit, but enhanced Asian presence at global discussions about environmental problems.

Both recipients will be awarded a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy and a supplementary award of 50 million yen.
The awards ceremony will be held on November 15, 2006 (Wednesday), at the Tokyo Kaikan (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) the next day, on November 16 (Thursday).

*This press release may also be viewed on the Internet from June 22, 2006 at www.af-info.or.jp.

Report on the Selection Process (15th Annual Prize, 2006)

A total of 1,000 nominators from Japan and 1,300 nominators from other countries recommended 106 candidates. The fields represented by the candidates in order of numbers, were ecology (32), atmospheric and earth sciences (19), environmental economics and policy making (16).

The candidates were drawn from 25 countries, with those from developing countries numbering 19 persons, or 18 % of the total.

These candidates were individually evaluated by each Selection Committee member, then the committee was convened to narrow down the field. These results were examined by the Presentation Committee, which forwarded its recommendations to the Board of Directors and Councillors. The Board formally resolved to award the Prize to **Dr. Akira Miyawaki**, and **Dr. Emil Salim**.

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Attachment

Profile of the 2006 Blue Planet Prize Recipients

Dr. Akira Miyawaki (Japan)

Dr. Miyawaki specialized in weed ecology for his graduation thesis at the Department of Biology at Hiroshima University. After graduating, he conducted field research and wrote studies about weed ecology in locations throughout Japan while serving as a scientific assistant at the Yokohama National University and as a graduate school research scholar at the University of Tokyo. His paper drew the attention of Professor Reinhold Tuexen (1899 – 1980), then-director of the Federal Institute for Vegetation Mapping in Germany, who first introduced the concept of potential natural vegetation in 1956. At Professor Tuexen' request, Dr. Miyawaki studied in Germany under his tutelage in 1958. Potential natural vegetation as presented by Professor Tuexen refers to the natural vegetation of the habitat, in other words, the natural vegetation supported by the existing conditions of the location in the absence of any human intervention.

Dr. Miyawaki studied the concept of potential natural vegetation in Germany under Professor Tuexen and returned to Japan in the fall of 1960. He then conducted research into the natural vegetation remaining in the forests indigenous to the region around shrines and temples called "Chinju-no-mori", as well as the vegetation of more than 10,000 locations throughout Japan affected by various types of human activity, including mountains, riverfronts, agricultural and mountain villages, and metropolitan areas, from which he created maps of existing and potential natural vegetation. The maps of existing vegetation have become bases for research studies in related scientific fields including biology and geography, as well as serving as an effective diagnostic tool for analyzing vegetation and land use. The maps of potential natural vegetation, on the other hand, are used as a blueprint for restoring the vegetative environment indigenous to the habitat.

Further, beginning in 1980, Dr. Miyawaki spent more than 10 years to research vegetation throughout Japan and author, edit, and publish the 10 volumes comprising "Vegetation of Japan," with the cooperation of plant ecology laboratories at universities across the country. The book includes both existing vegetation maps as well as potential natural vegetation maps over 6,000 pages text, and is considered the culmination of vegetation research in Japan. The collection is also highly acclaimed as the basic reference material for vegetation studies around the world for the units of plant communities it established, which can be used for global comparisons, and for its comprehensive vegetation architecture. Through his research, Dr. Miyawaki demonstrated that the primary indigenous species in the evergreen broadleaf forest region of Japan are indeed the evergreen broadleaved plants, like the chinquapin, Machilus tunbergii, and oak, like those found in the forests around shrines and temples. Plants like the Japanese cedar, cypress, larch, and pine, found in limited locales in extreme environments like ridges and steep slopes were not native to the habitat, but were planted for the purpose of producing lumber.

After returning from studying in Germany, Dr. Miyawaki continued his research of the forests of Japan, including the vegetation around the shrines and temples. The more research he conducted, he learned that the plants he used to believe were native to the area were far from the unadorned face of the forest—the potential natural vegetation indigenous to the location—and felt increasingly astonished at his findings. This astonishment served as a turning point. Dr. Miyawaki saw forests as much more than merely providing an appearance of greenery, as often is the case today. Instead, he began to believe in generating forests faithful to the natural habitat, as our ancestors had created and left behind, and as symbolized by the traditional "Chinju-no-mori." Believing these forests should be recreated based on field investigations into vegetation ecology, Dr. Miyawaki presented a plan to recreate native, indigenous forests, the equivalent of environmental protection, disaster prevention, and water source protection forests in modern terms. However, his proposals were not easily accepted at the outset.

In the early 1970s, an employee from the environmental division at Nippon Steel Corporation who had heard Dr. Miyawaki's concepts approached him, saying he wanted to create forests around the steelworks

based on Dr. Miyawaki's work. Hence, forest restoration began at the Oita Steelworks. Because the steelworks was located on a landfill, research was conducted at the nearby forests at Usa Shrine and the Yusuhara Shrine to identify potential natural vegetation. After determining which species of trees should be planted and undergoing trials and errors, it was decided potted plants should be created and utilized. Mixed and densely planting the potted plants in accordance with the system of an indigenous forest made possible the formation of a native forest using native trees. In addition to the Nippon Steel Corporation's Oita Steelworks, large forests have been created at each of the company's steelworks in the 18 years since the trees were first planted. In the years following, Dr. Miyawaki succeeded in restoring multi-layered communities of disaster prevention and environmental prevention forests in 1,300 locations. These areas represent most of the vegetation regions of the country, from landfill along the coast to artificial islands, and slopes collapsed from road construction 1,000 meters above sea level. The success can be attributed to the support of corporations with foresight and action, including utilities, construction, electrical, distribution, and many others as well as municipal organizations, and government ministries, with the Ministry of Land Infrastructure and Transport at the forefront.

Beginning in 1978, Dr. Miyawaki conducted vegetation surveys in Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia. The conventional thinking assumed that once a tropical rainforest was destroyed from felling and intentional burns, restoring the vegetation was nearly impossible. But Dr. Miyawaki proposed otherwise; that it was possible to restore tropical rainforests by conducting forestation using an ecological method based on surveys of the local vegetation. The process for restoring tropical forests began by determining which tree played a leading role in the natural vegetation of the habitat. It is essential to plant a tree that can serve as the leader, in order to cultivate a forest natural to the habitat. Further, 40 to 60 types of seedlings were planted to support the primary tree. Instead of planting one type of tree at equal distances, seedlings of tall trees and semi-tall trees, mimicking the structure of the community in the indigenous habitat, were combined and planted in irregular sequences and were allowed to compete, persevere, and co-exist. From 1990, Dr. Miyawaki dedicated himself to the restoration of tropical rainforests in Bintulu, Sarawak, in Malaysia, with the active cooperation of Mitsubishi Corporation. He collected 201 types of seeds, primarily those of Dipterocarpaceae species, which were the primary trees in the potential natural vegetation. From there, he cultivated 600,000 potted plants, and has been planting them each year under various conditions. By 2005, the seedlings planted in 1991 had grown to more than 20 meters tall, and a diverse tropical rainforest, mimicking the natural version as closely as possible, has been restored in the region.

According to a theory known to as the classical succession theory developed by U.S. scientist Clements, it would take more than 150 to 200 years for an indigenous forest with a multi-layered community to restore itself on barren land in Japan, and between 300 and 500 years for a tropical rainforest to restore itself such as those found in Southeast Asia. However, Dr. Miyawaki proved that it was ecologically possible to restore disaster prevention and environmental protection forests that closely resemble indigenous forests in 20 to 30 years. He achieved this by collecting as many seeds as possible of the trees making up the forest, particularly the seeds of the primary trees in the potential natural vegetation. He then densely mixed planted the potted seedlings of the plants with fully developed root system, according to the system found in the natural forests. The forests restored in this method comprise multi-layered communities above ground, consisting of layers of tall trees, semi-tall trees, short trees, and bottom weeds. Below the ground, Dr. Miyawaki demonstrated these forests restored a level of diversity resembling natural forests, with communities of edaphon (organisms in soil) including species of bacteria and ticks.

Hence, Dr. Miyawaki established the Miyawaki Method of restoring and reconstructing forests indigenous to the habitat, "Native Forests by Native Trees," based on rigorous field vegetation surveys and ecological theory.

Dr. Miyawaki's project was introduced as a case study in "Changing Course," a 1992 report by the Business Council for Sustainable Development compiled for the 1992 Earth Summit. Further, Dr. Miyawaki has presented multi-faceted research results numerous times, including his 1991 presentation

at the University of Bonn symposium, “Restoration of Tropical Forest Ecosystems,” as well as at the International Association for Ecology, the International Society for Vegetation Science, and the International Botanical Congress, where he presented research results on the relationship between growth and development, habitat, and fixation estimates of carbon dioxide. His work has been internationally acclaimed for approaching forests not through the conventional method of commercial forestation, but with the end of restoring forest ecosystems indigenous to the habitat based on potential natural vegetation. Dr. Miyawaki’s work is also highly regarded for having achieved demonstrative results which prove his concept.

Dr. Miyawaki has applied similar concepts to the dry tropical forest in Thailand, the lowland tropical forest of the Brazilian Amazon, and the Nothofagus forest in Concepcion, Chile. In each location, there has been a demonstrable restoration of the forest that is indigenous to the habitat.

Further, since 1998 Dr. Miyawaki has served as the leader of a project supported by the Aeon Environment Foundation and the city of Beijing to restore the Quercus mongolica forest along the Great Wall of China, with the aim to have 4,000 people plant 400,000 trees. As the project leader, he began a China-Japan combined planting festival, and by 2004, those trees had surpassed three meters in height. With the exception of a portion, the trees continue to grow unswervingly. Dr. Miyawaki also participates in cooperative efforts between the government and the citizens of China to restore vegetation based on the concept of potential natural vegetation, in Shanghai’s Pudong special economic zone, Tsingtao, Ningbo, and Maanshan.

More than 30 years ago, Dr. Miyawaki felt threatened by various environmental problems including the destruction of the environment on a global scale and biodiversity, which had not been adequately projected at the time. He upheld the present-day value of the importance of indigenous forests as a basis for human survival, and developed what is known as the “Miyawaki Method” to restore and reconstruct forests indigenous to the habitat based on rigorous field investigations of the local vegetation and ecological theories. Based on his method, Dr. Miyawaki has achieved demonstrable results in experiments and in the field, inside Japan and abroad

Biographical Summary

1928	Born on January 29, in Okayama, Japan
1952	Graduated from the Department of Biology, Hiroshima University
1958 – 1960	Visiting Researcher, Federal Institute for Vegetation Mapping, West Germany
1961	Doctor of Science, Hiroshima University
1961 – 1962	Lecturer, Yokohama National University
1962 – 1973	Associate Professor, Yokohama National University
1973 – 1993	Professor, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Yokohama National University
1985 – 1993	Director, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Yokohama National University
1993 – present	Professor Emeritus, Yokohama National University
1993 – present	Director, Japanese Center for International Studies in Ecology

Awards

1970	Mainichi Publication Cultural Prize for “Plants and Human”
1990	Asahi Shimbun Prize
1990	Goldene Blume von Rheydt Prize, Germany
1992	Purple Ribbon Medal, Japanese Government
1995	Reinhold Tüxen Prize, Germany
1996	Nikkei Global Environmental Technology Awards
2000	Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star, Japanese Government

2002 Japan Culture Life Award
2003 Distinguished Service Award, Ecological Society of Japan

Dr. Emil Salim (Indonesia)

Dr. Salim was born in Southern Sumatra in Indonesia in 1930. He was educated in European Primary School during his early childhood when the country was under Dutch rule, and in a Japanese secondary school during his boyhood years when Indonesia was under Japanese occupation. He lived in dormitory, had to speak Japanese all the time, and was drilled Japanese style. “Those three and a half years of Japanese education were quite an experience for me” reminisced Dr. Salim. He learned the importance of logic from his father, who worked as an engineer, and a deep sense of faith from his mother, who was a devout Muslim. Eventually, Dr. Salim developed a keen interest in the economy, and specialized in economics at the University of Indonesia.

After graduating from the university and serving as a teaching assistant in its economics department, Dr. Salim was sent to the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a PhD. in economics. After returning to the country in 1964, Dr. Salim continued to teach at the University of Indonesia. At the same time, with a few of those studied at Berkeley he participated in the “Team of Economics Experts of the President” when President Soeharto took office in March 1966. They dealt with the issues in building the nation with a sound management based on macroeconomics with emphasis on market principles and began to have influence on the management of the economy and earned the nickname “Berkeley Mafia”.

In 1971, Dr. Salim was appointed the State Minister for State Apparatus Reform at the age of 41. For 22 years afterwards, until 1993, he served as a cabinet minister over four terms, responsible for transportation, communication and tourism, development supervision and the environment, and for population and the environment. In 1978, he became the first Environment Minister in Indonesia. During his tenure, he implemented an environmental strategy based on balancing economic development and environmental preservation, at the strong request of President Soeharto, who feared environmental destruction amidst the country’s economic growth. Further, he made an appeal about the importance of the media and nongovernmental organizations as the watchdogs of society, and contributed greatly in extending environmental consciousness among Indonesian society at large. Through his efforts, numerous centers for environmental studies were established at universities and nongovernmental organizations throughout the country.

Five years later in 1982, Dr. Salim enacted the National Law for Environmental Management, Indonesia’s first general and comprehensive fundamental law on managing development with environmental considerations. He further contributed to the development of environmental governance by drafting measures for environmental conservation and creating the Environmental Impact Management Agency. In 1984, he wrote a book titled “The Environment and Development,” followed by “Environmentally friendly Development” in 1986, leading the world in integrating environmental considerations into economic development plans, and ensuring the inclusion of environmental perspectives in development.

Dr. Salim’s innovative thinking, which aimed to establish a sustainable society, received high acclaim internationally, which led him to fulfill important roles on the international stage. From 1984 to 1987, he served as a member of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, representing Asia together with Mr. Saburo Okita of Japan. At the commission, also known as the Brundtland Commission for being chaired by former Prime Minister Brundtland of Norway, Dr. Salim contributed greatly to the creation of the concept of sustainable development. He also organized the commission’s public hearing in Indonesia, which was the first and became a standard pattern of public

consultations by the committee in other parts of the world. After the Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992, Dr. Salim coordinated discussions on sustainable development carried out by the United Nations as Deputy Chairperson of the United Nations High level Advisory Council for Sustainable Development. In 1994, he became the co-chair of the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development, modeled after the Brundtland Commission, and in 1999 published "Our Forests Our Future," a report based on worldwide grassroots consultation, which emphasizes the need for conserving forestry facing crises. Dr. Salim served as the chairperson of the 10th United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, billed as the preparation for the Johannesburg Summit, to be held a decade after the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Salim was also elected as the chairperson of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit, where he made significant contributions in authoring and gaining consensus to prepare the draft implementation plan, leading difficult international negotiations to a successful conclusion through skillful international diplomacy.

Dr. Salim has addressed the environmental problems of the developing nations in Asia from an early stage. As the chair of the Third ASEAN Environment Ministerial Conference in 1987 he launched the ASEAN Environmental Program III, which established targets, programs, and action plans for which the ASEAN nations would cooperate for a five-year period beginning 1988. Further, Dr. Salim participated in all of the meetings of the Asia Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED). There, he drew attention to the issues that eventually comprised the core of APFED's recommendations to the Johannesburg Summit and became embedded in its final report, including the importance of spreading to the world the values unique to Asia, and promoting better understanding between the different Asian cultures. Dr. Salim consistently led discussions at the annual conferences of the environment ministers of the ASEAN nations and high-ranking official meetings. It is of great significance that the opinions of the developing nations of Asia began to be voiced through Dr. Salim acting as a pioneer, at a time when little was raised in international arenas about the environmental problems of those countries.

After completing his term as the Environment Minister, Dr. Salim taught at the University of Indonesia while dedicating himself to promoting the activities of various environmental nongovernmental organizations. In addition to starting organizations like the Foundation for Sustainable Development and the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation, he continues to serve an indispensable educational role. The Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation, where Dr. Salim serves on the governing board, was founded in 1994 to preserve biodiversity in Indonesia through promoting cooperation between the governments of Indonesia, Japan, and the United States. Further, Dr. Salim guides the environmental strategies of African countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Dr. Salim has taken the initiative ahead of the world in integrating environmental considerations into development plans. He has steadfastly demonstrated great leadership to bring sustainable development to fruition in Indonesia, the developing nations of Asia, the Asia Pacific region, and the world at large, and made enormous contributions for the betterment and preservation of the global environment

Biographical Summary

1930	Born on June 8 in South Sumatra, Indonesia
1958	Graduated University of Indonesia, Faculty of Economics
1959-1964	University of California at Berkeley, USA, PhD in Economics
1970-1972	Vice Chairperson of the National Development Planning Agency, and concurrently State Minister for State Apparatus Reform
1972-	Professor, Faculty of Economics, University of Indonesia
1973-1978	Minister of Transportation, Communication and Tourism
1978-1983	Minister of Development Monitoring and Environment
1983-1993	Minister of Population and Environment
1983-1987	Member of the World Commission on Environment and Development
1992-	Founder and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Sustainable Development Foundation

1993-2003	Founder and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute
1994-2003	Founder and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Indonesian Biodiversity Foundation
1994-1999	Co-chair the World Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development
1995-1999	Deputy Chairperson of UN High Level Advisory Council for Sustainable Development
2000-2002	Chairperson of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development
2001-2002	Chairperson of the National Economic Council
2001-2002	Chairperson of the Preparatory Committee of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
2001-2002	Member of Advisory Group for the President of the Republic of Indonesia

Awards

1973	Bintang Mahaputera Adiprandana from the Government of Indonesia
1982	Golden ARK (Commandeur) of the Netherlands
1990	Paul Getty Award, USA
2005	Zayed Prize Winner for Environmental Action Leading to Positive Change in Society

Remarks from the Award Recipients upon Notification of their Selection

Dr. Akira Miyawaki

It is a tremendous honor to be awarded the Blue Planet Prize, an award highly acclaimed internationally. I would like to express my deepest gratitude towards the governmental agencies, corporations, and the citizens who involved themselves in creating forests, for their guidance and support over many years to my humble field research.

My university professor once said, “Your research is important, but no one is likely to notice it. It’s likely your research will never see the light of day. But if you’re willing to give it your lifetime, you ought to continue with it.” Since then, I have devoted myself to the research of weed ecology, using my own body as a scale in the field. Later, I studied under Professor Reinhold Tuexen in Germany, who became my mentor of a lifetime. He was uncompromising in teaching me about the theory of potential natural vegetation, saying, “Weeds reemerge when weeded. But what is important is what kind potential the particular location has in growing vegetation.” After returning to Japan, I walked throughout the country to conduct field research of every possible plant community from weeds to forests, systematizing them on a global scale. The more field research I conducted, the more astonished I felt in learning how few forests there were indigenous to the land. In order to restore the lifesaving, disaster-prevention and environmental preservation forests—the true forests, which realize the locale’s potential natural vegetation—I have continued to research the traditional groves in Japan of the village shrines, organism populations, the comprehensive science of an environment, and the potential natural vegetation supported by vegetation science. From there, I have planted trees, with the principal trees of the forests in the center surrounded by other trees according to the natural rules of the forest. Before I knew it, more than 30 million seedlings I have planted with the citizens of this country and abroad in more than 1,500 locations have steadfastly grown into lifesaving forests to last a thousand years.

I would like to take this opportunity in receiving this honorable prize to renew my commitment to spread indigenous forests, which protect lives, hearts, and genes. These forests will grow in accordance with nature’s script from the grassroots level throughout Japan, Asia, and the world at large.

Dr. Emil Salim

Development is usually considered as managing human, societal and man-made capital to exploit planet’s natural resources and ecosystems. The value of these capitals is cleared through the market. But planet’s natural resources and ecosystems have no markets and no prices. They are considered as elements outside the economy to be treated as objects of development. With as consequences that development degrades the environment. And the world has witnessed a rise of economic goods and income accompanied by the destruction of life supporting ecosystems.

I am grateful to accept the 2006 Blue Planet Prize as a confirmation that this outlook of conventional development must change. Development must take place without environmental destruction. This change calls for mainstreaming economic, social and environmental considerations into one force of sustainable development that raise the welfare of the people in economic quantitative term and humane qualitative term as well. It requires interventions to correct market failures. It needs people’s participation in transparent decision-making. It demands a broader vision on development goals beyond the short term economic horizon. It is aimed at the humane task to uplift the poor, the weak and the vulnerable to a descent quality of life in an Almighty God given serene natural environment.

Message to the Japanese public

Dr. Akira Miyawaki

To protect the environment is to protect lives. As long as human beings live on earth, we can only live in a sustainable and healthy manner by assuming a parasitic position to indigenous forests, which span an area of vegetation 30 times that of a lawn. But those true forests have become all too few. I have joined forces with visionary governments, corporations, and most of all countless citizens to create the forest of life, and thus far have planted more than 30 million trees in more than 1,300 locations throughout Japan, as well as in Borneo, the Amazon, and in China.

We must protect our own lives. As long as I am alive, I will invite you to create true forests with me, which protect your lives and hearts and those of your loved ones and neighbors, as well as providing shelter to irreplaceable genes.

To plant a tree is to plant a tree in the heart, a philosophy for life in the 21st century. I would like to take this glorious award as an opportunity to continue creating true disaster-prevention and environmental preservation forests, starting from the grassroots to the world at large, forests which nurture a deep sensibility and enhance the intelligence of all people.

Let us devote ourselves side by side to the creation of true and indigenous forests with diverse functions for a marvelous tomorrow. Let us plant trees based on ecological knowledge, touching the earth with our hands and with perspiration on our foreheads.

Dr. Emil Salim

The image of Japan to the world is the majestic mountain of Fujiyama surrounded by a serene natural environment and the ever bustling dynamic city of Tokyo. These two images symbolize the need for dynamic economic development in harmony with the peaceful well kept natural environment.

The world is getting smaller and the people are getting bigger. Under these circumstances it becomes imperative that Japan shows the globe that it is possible to combine economic development with environmental enhancement by moving on the path of sustainable development.