

af News

THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

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2010 Research Grant Presentation Ceremony

On the afternoon of June 9, the Asahi Glass Foundation held a research grant presentation ceremony, which was attended by relevant people. The ceremony took place at Keidanren Hall, the same location as last year. Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka opened the ceremony with a speech, followed by Prof. Terunobu Miyazaki, the chairman of the Selection Committee, who gave reports on this year's selection process. After that, the Chairman presented the certificate to each of the grant recipients.

Mr. Satoshi Yamaguchi, the director of the Scientific Research Aid Division of the Research Promotion Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, then made a

congratulatory speech.

Representing the grant recipients, Assistant Professor Osamu Matsuda of Kyushu University gave a speech to close the ceremony. After the ceremony, there was a social function for the participants to mingle.

This year, 78 research projects were selected to receive the domestic grants. Combined with another 30 projects carried over from the previous year, the total amount of grants in Japan is 279 million yen.

The Foundation's website lists the new grant-supported projects that were selected this year (the Grant Recipient list for 2010).



2010 Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings in Japan

On July 27, a seminar for the presentation of 74 domestic grant-supported research projects (all fields) was held at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya, near Ichigaya Station. In addition to the presenters, other researchers who currently hold grants, members of our Foundation's Selection Committee, guests and numerous other relevant people attended the seminar, which ran from early in the morning until late in the evening.

The seminar was opened with a speech by Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka, and then Prof. Terunobu Miyazaki (Tohoku University), the chairman of the Selection Committee, described the aim of the seminar. This was followed by three-minute oral presentations from each presenter of the respective fields, who also gave poster presentations.

As in the previous year, interim report presentations were made on projects with large grant amounts and with longer research period, in addition to presentations on completed projects. A subsequent discussion by the attendees focused on what kinds of commitments should be made for the remaining period of the research.

Researchers from various specialties gathered in front of the posters and exchanged opinions. It was a very worthwhile occasion. After the presentations, all the attendees attended the social function.

Please allow us to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the attendees and everyone who helped to organize the seminar.



Prof. Terunobu Miyazaki,
chairman of the Selection
Committee



A three-minute speech



Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka



Attendees view the posters



Social function

2010 Overseas Research Grants: Grant Presentation Ceremonies and Seminars of Research Findings

Research grant presentation ceremonies and seminars on research findings were held on August 3 at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, and on August 5 at Institut Teknologi Bandung in Indonesia.

Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

On August 3, the research grant presentation ceremony and the seminar on research findings were held at the Jamjuree Buildings in one of Chulalongkorn University's campuses. Following a speech by Chairman Tanaka and Dr. Pirom (the president of the university), certificate was presented to each of the 12 grant recipients for this year. Dr. Suwabun, an assistant professor, then gave a keynote lecture. The attendees then separated into three different sessions, with each session held in a different room. Presentations were made on a total of 14 research projects.



Grant recipients and associated people from Chulalongkorn University, Asahi Glass and the Asahi Glass Foundation



Chairman Tanaka presents a certificate



Keynote Lecture

Institut Teknologi Bandung (Indonesia)

On August 5, the grant presentation ceremony and the seminar on research findings were held in the auditorium of Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB). Following speeches by Dr. Wawan (ITB Vice Rector in charge of research-related negotiations) and Chairman Tanaka, certificates were presented to 11 grant recipients. The seminar on research findings discussed 11 grant-supported projects that had been selected the previous year. In addition to research in materials and systems, disaster prevention, research into useful plant extracts and other findings that may be connected with the natural environment of Indonesia were discussed in this year's presentations.



Chairman Tanaka presents a certificate

Vice Rector Dr. Wawan



A presentation on research findings given at the seminar



Round Table Conference on Global Environment Problems

Conditions for Survival – Toward a Solar Energy-Based Society Full of Vibrant Life

The Asahi Glass Foundation set a roundtable consisting of members of the board of directors and councillors to discuss matters associated to the rapidly worsening global environmental problems. Following the discussions, the Roundtable planned to provide information on the problems and to make a proposal to the civil society on how the current generation should deal with them.

The Roundtable Conference on Global Environmental Issues held its first meeting in December 2006. A total of eight meetings had been held by November 2009.

As the final report of the Conference, 10,000 copies of *Conditions for Survival – Toward a Solar Energy-Based Society Full of Vibrant Life* were issued in May, supplemented by a data book. They were presented to libraries around the country as well as to individuals who had requested a copy. The text can also be downloaded from the Foundation's website.

Conditions for Survival - Recovery of the Earth Full of Vibrant Life, a rewritten version of the above publication intended for the general public and the younger generation, was published by Shinzansha Publisher Co., Ltd. in August and is commercially available in bookstores at a cost of 1,000 yen per copy. Like the interim report published last year, copies of this publication were also sent to high schools around the country.



The 6th meeting of the Round Table Conference on Global Environment Problems (held on December 25, 2008)



The commercially-available edition



Environmental Doomsday Clock Attracts Worldwide Attention

Montenegro

Climate Change AGF is an environmental NPO in Montenegro. In April this year, Mr. Miroslav Raicevic, the representative of the NPO, participated in the 16th Ecology Fair that was held in Budva, a city located on the Adriatic Sea. In cooperation with the Association of Montenegrin-Japanese Friendship, Mr. Raicevic gave a presentation on the activities of the Asahi Glass Foundation and also held an exhibition on the Environmental Doomsday Clock. The environmental minister of Montenegro attended and Mr. Raicevic won the excellence prize.



Mr. Raicevic



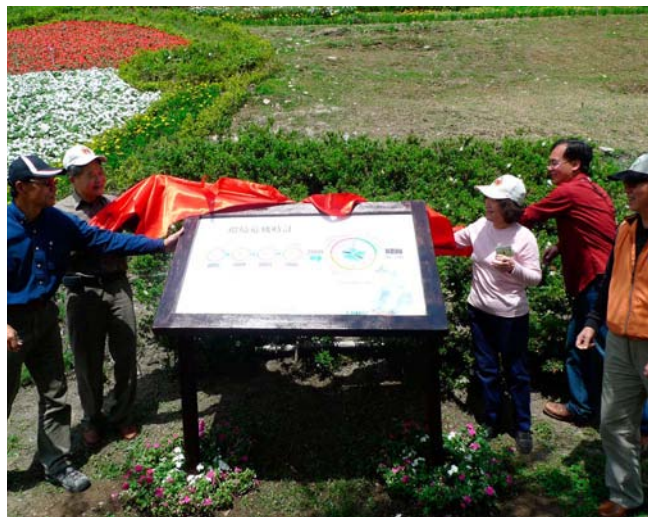
Excellence prize certificate



Environmental Minister Gvozdenovic and students who participated in the fair

Taiwan

On April 17 of this year, the President Chain Store Corporation (Taiwan 7-eleven) planted trees in a highland area of Nantou County, Taiwan in cooperation with groups including the Good Neighbor Foundation Taiwan, which is run by Taiwan 7-eleven. As part of the tree-planting program, an Environmental Doomsday Clock was made out of flowers and grass. A notice board was installed next to the clock to inform the Taiwanese people of the importance of environmental issues.



The Environmental Doomsday Clock and notice board installed in the Small Swiss Garden of Cingjing Farm (Nantou County, Taiwan)



2010 Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced

On Thursday, June 17, the press conference to announce the winners of the 19th Blue Planet Prize, an international environment award, was held at Keidanren Kaikan, with Chairman Tanaka, Dr. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa (the chairman of the Selection Committee) and Senior Executive Director Samejima in attendance. The winners of this year's Blue Planet Prize were Dr. James Hansen, Director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA) and Dr. Robert Watson, Chief Scientific Adviser of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

The process of selecting the winners commenced in June last year. Nominators from around the world nominated candidates, and the Selection Committee carefully screened the candidates. The Presentation Committee held frequent discussions. The winners were subsequently decided at the board of directors and councillors meeting held in April this year.



Dr. James Hansen (USA)



Director at Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA)

Adjunct professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University

Selection Rationale

Based on the concept of radiative forcing representing atmospheric radiant energy, Dr. Hansen pioneered the analysis of climate change issues and climate predictions. In the 1950s and 1960s, when a temperature drop resulting from solar and volcanic activity was evident, Dr. Hansen predicted the onset of global warming in accordance with a climate model and emphasized the need to take action to prevent it. Dr. Hansen gave testimony at a US congressional meeting and pioneered efforts to raise awareness of the risk of global warming. He warned that even a one-degree increase in the average temperature of the Earth could result in irreversible climate change and would be likely to have a destructive effect on life on Earth. Dr. Hansen encourages national governments and people to immediately take action to minimize and reduce the effects of climate change. He also emphasizes the need for developing international cooperation to an unprecedented level.

Dr. Robert Watson (UK)



Chief Scientific Adviser of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Chair of Environmental Science and Science Director at the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, University of East Anglia

Selection Rationale

While at NASA, Dr. Watson played a pioneering role in preserving the global environment, primarily with regard to the ozone layer. He then chaired the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and demonstrated his skills by creating the third report and acting as a bridge between scientists and policymakers. In this way, he made a significant contribution toward facilitating international agreements such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. After serving as the first chairman of the Global Environment Facility's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel and holding important positions at the World Bank and other organizations, Dr. Watson was appointed as Associate Director for the Environment in the US Office of Science and Technology Policy under the Clinton Administration, and gave dozens of testimonies to US Congress in an effort to raise international awareness of the importance of environmental issues. He strives to take action against climate change and global environmental issues by facilitating cooperation between scientists and governments around the world.

The Awards Ceremony and the Commemorative Lectures of the 2010 Blue Planet Prize

The awards ceremony will take place on October 26, 2010 (Tuesday), at Tokyo Kaikan (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures will be given by the prize recipients at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on October 27 (Wednesday).