

af News

2013 Research Grant Awarding Ceremony

The Asahi Glass Foundation held the research grant awarding ceremony at Keidanren Hall to present the grant for the year 2013 in the morning of June 7. Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka opened the ceremony with a speech, followed by Prof. Shigeru Takahashi, the chairman of the Selection Committee, who delivered the report on this year's selection process. Chairman Tanaka then presented the certificate to each grant recipients.

Mr. Yoshiyuki Sodeyama, director of the Scientific Research Aid Division of the Research Promotion Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, then offered words of

congratulations.

Representing the grant recipients, Professor Shinobu Shinokubo of Nagoya University responded with appreciation to close the ceremony. A reception followed the ceremony.

The eligibility was broadened to include technical colleges from this year and three projects were selected from among technical college applications. The total number of research project to receive the domestic grants this year was 80. Combined with another 23 projects carried over from the previous year, the total grant provided in Japan amounted to 261 million yen.

[The Foundation's website lists the new grant-supported projects selected this year \(Research Grant Program > Grantees\)](#)



On behalf of the recipients, Assoc. Prof. Sakai received the certificate from Chairman Tanaka



Prof. Shinokubo of Nagoya University



Chairman Tanaka, and researchers from the technical colleges

2013 Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings in Japan

The Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings was held on July 29 at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya. Presentations were given by 84 completed projects along with interim report by 17 on-going projects with large grants. The seminar was attended by the presenters, other researchers who currently hold grants, Selection Committee members, guests, and numerous other relevant people.

The seminar opened with a speech by Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka, and then Prof. Shigeru Takahashi (Hitotsubashi University), the chairman of the Selection Committee, described the aim of the seminar. Each

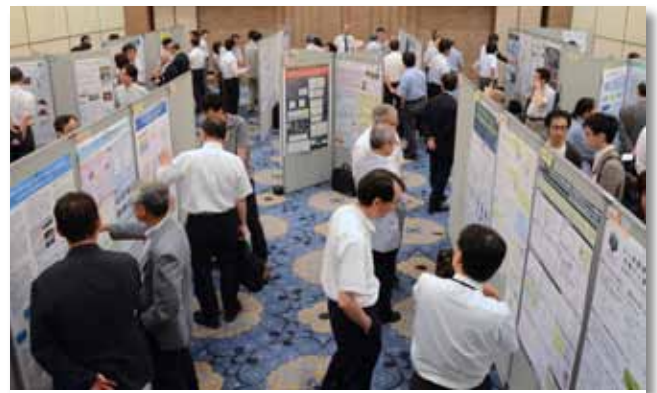


Three-minute presentation session

presenter described his/her results in a three-minute speech with more in detail in a poster presentation. Speeches and presentations were given in three separate sessions according to their field of research. The event lasted until the early evening.

Researchers from various fields gathered in front of the posters and discussions took place. The broad-ranging discussion often turned into occasions that dealt not only with the results obtained, but also future directions for the research and new academic collaborations.

After the presentations, all attendees attended the social function.



Attendees discuss in front of the posters

2013 Overseas Research Grants: Grant Awarding Ceremony and Presentation of Research Results

King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT, Thailand)

The grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi on July 3. KMUTT which became eligible for grants from last year. This year the awarding ceremony was for the second time and the seminar on research findings was their first. The awarding ceremony started with Vice President Budit Thipakorn explaining the screening process, followed by President Sakarindr Bhumiratana and Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka addressing the audience. Then the six researchers eligible for the new grants were introduced together with their planned research and were awarded the grant certificate. After that, three researchers who received the grant last year presented the findings of their research.



Address by President Dr. Sakarindr



President Dr. Sakarindr, Chairman Tanaka and Grant recipients

Chulalongkorn University (CU, Thailand)



Grant recipients and associated people from CU and the Asahi Glass Foundation

The research grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held in Chamchuri 4 Building at Chulalongkorn University on July 2. Following a speech by CU President Dr. Pirom, Chairman Tanaka presented certificates to each of the 10 grant recipients of this year. This was followed by an exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of three-year research grant program as of 2013. At the seminar, Professor Kamthorn Pruksananonda gave the memorial lecture on the topic of human stem cells produced from embryos. The attendees then separated into three rooms to listen to each session. Presentations were given on a total of 12 research projects.



President Pirom and Chairman Tanaka exchanging the MOU



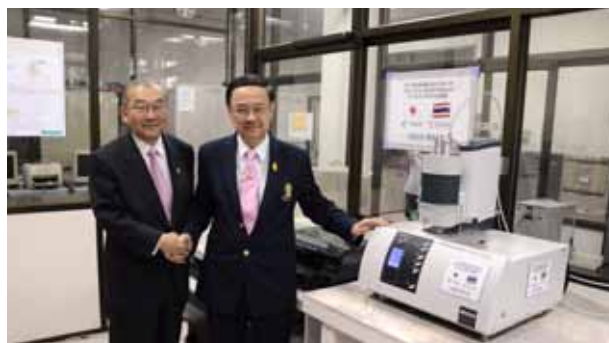
A presentation of research results given at the seminar

< The Asahi Glass Foundation presents CU with a 30th anniversary gift >

The Foundation started presenting the research grants to Chulalongkorn University in 1982, celebrating the 30th anniversary in 2012. In commemoration, the Asahi Glass Foundation presented the university with a piece of research equipment for campus-wide use, the STA 4449 F3 thermal analyzer made by the German company Netzsch. The equipment was installed in the Scientific and Technological Research Equipment Centre in March this year, and is now in operation. The university organized a presentation ceremony on the occasion of Chairman Tanaka's visit on July 2.



Presentation ceremony
(President Pirom and Chairman Tanaka, and other parties)



The thermal analyzer

Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB, Indonesia)

The grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held in the auditorium of Institut Teknologi Bandung on June 28. Following speeches by ITB Rector Dr. Akhmaloka and Chairman Tanaka, certificates were presented to 16 grant recipients. This was followed by an exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation of three-year research grant program as of 2013. In the presentation of research results, 15 grantees adopted in previous years presented their results.



Chairman Tanaka presents a certificate



Grant recipients, Rector Dr. Akhmaloka and Chairman Tanaka



Presentation of research results



Rector Dr. Akhmaloka and Chairman Tanaka exchanging the MOU



Address by Rector Dr. Akhmaloka

< Receiving the Ganesa Widya Jasa Adiutama Award >

To commemorate 25 years of research grant provision to the ITB, Rector Dr. Akhmaloka presented the Asahi Foundation with the Ganesa Widya Jasa Adiutama Award. On July 3, Mr. Kogawa, Vice Secretary General, accepted the certificate and a commemorative gift from Rector Dr. Akhmaloka.





2013 Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced

On June 18, the press conference to announce the winners of the 22nd Blue Planet Prize, an international environment award, was held at Keidanren Kaikan, with Chairman Tanaka, Dr. Yoshihiro Hayashi (the chairman of the Selection Committee) and Senior Executive Director Samejima in attendance. The winners of this year's Blue Planet Prize were Dr. Taroh Matsuno, Principal Scientist, Research Institute for Global Change, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, and Dr. Daniel Sperling, Professor, University of California, Davis of USA. Please refer to the last page of this newsletter, or the Foundation's website for more information about the award winners.

Nominators from around the world nominated candidates, who were carefully screened by the Selection

Committee. The Presentation Committee held discussions on the candidates and the winners were subsequently decided at the Board of Directors and Councillors Meeting held in April this year.



PR ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS

This year, we continued to develop the PR activities same as last year by exhibiting at booths, showing poster presentations, and distributing material at international conferences overseas in order to spread the word about the Blue Planet Prize, the Asahi Glass Foundation and its activities.

In March, we distributed joint papers by past laureates at the 2nd International Convention of Environmental Laureates (ICEL) in Freiburg, Germany. In April, we gave a poster presentation about the global environment questionnaire and distributed questionnaire reports at the South Asian Cities Summit (SACS) in India in an effort to increase the number of questionnaire respondents. In June, we had a booth at the 10th annual meeting of the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS) in Brisbane, Australia. At AOGS, we introduced the Blue Planet Prize to participants from Europe and North America, in addition to Asia and Oceania, and solicited nominators for the prize.

March: ICEL



April: SACS



June: The Foundation booth at AOGS

< Yomiuri Junior Press Covers the Environmental Doomsday Clock >



The Yomiuri Junior Press reporters listening to the explanation of the questionnaire by Secretary General Yasuda

On June 6, two high school reporters and one junior high school reporter from the Yomiuri Junior Press visited the Foundation to collect information about the Environmental Doomsday Clock. The young reporters listened with enthusiasm, taking notes and asking many questions as Mr. Tetsuro Yasuda, Secretary General, explained the global environment questionnaire.

The article was published in the evening edition of the Yomiuri Shimbun on June 15. The article concluded by stating "There are limitations on what one person can do for the environment, but if many people take action, we can turn back the hand on the clock. We would like to do as much as we can in terms of eco activities, for example, sprinkling water on the sidewalk in the summer, or increasing the temperature on the thermostat for the cooler."

2013 Blue Planet Prize Winners

Dr. Taroh Matsuno (Japan)

Principal Scientist,
Research Institute for
Global Change, Japan
Agency for Marine-
Earth Science and
Technology



Selection Rationale

Demonstrating his leadership in achievements in climate science research, particularly in research on climate change predictions using the Earth Simulator, Dr. Matsuno has helped shed light on the issues of global warming and climate change. He also helped increase awareness of governments and society toward the serious impact of climate change on the world through his international activities in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Dr. Daniel Sperling (USA)

Professor, University of
California, Davis



Selection Rationale

Dr. Sperling has conducted research on the impact of transportation on the environment, addressing vehicle technology, fuels, and human behaviour, and has been a pioneer in opening up new fields of study to create more efficient, low-carbon, and environmentally beneficial transportation systems. Dr. Sperling is also a policy leader, playing a key role in designing California's climate change and air pollution policies, which have influenced technologies offered by automobile manufacturers and other businesses in Japan and around the world, and are a model for creating sustainable urban transport and land use systems.

✿ The Awards Ceremony and the Commemorative Lectures of the 2013 Blue Planet Prize ✿

The awards ceremony will take place on October 30, 2013 (Wednesday), at Palace Hotel Tokyo (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures will be given by the winners at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on October 31 (Thursday).

If you would like to attend the commemorative lectures, please submit your application via the form on the Foundation's website. Successful applicants drawn by lottery will be notified by postcard (to be mailed on October 18).

A Better Future for the Planet Earth Vol. IV published

"A Better Future for the Planet Earth" has been published in English every five years since the establishment of the Blue Planet Prize, and its Vol. IV was published in August. The publication contains essays by the winners, transcripts of the memorial lectures, and a list of published works by the authors. (Not published in Japanese). This time a

DVD version of the publication was produced. The DVD contains all the contents of all the volumes from I to IV. The DVD also contains video of the commemorative lectures given by the winners (from 2009).



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