



THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

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FOUNDATION

2024

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# Profile

## Mission

The Asahi Glass Foundation strives to contribute to the creation of a society that can transmit the genuine wealth of human civilization by supporting advanced research and outstanding students as well as by recognizing efforts to solve environmental problems that call for global solutions.

## History

The Asahi Glass Foundation began in 1933 as the Asahi Foundation for Chemical Industry Promotion, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary (1932) of the founding of Asahi Glass Co., Ltd. (currently, AGC Inc.). For more than half a century, the Foundation focused primarily on fostering research in the field of applied chemistry. In 1990, the Foundation undertook an overall redesign of its programs, expanding the scope of its activities and establishing the commendation program. At the same time, it was renamed the Asahi Glass Foundation. In 2018, the Foundation took over the scholarship program due to a merger with the Asahi Glass Scholarship Foundation (AGSF).

AGSF was established in 1957. Later renamed the Asahi Glass Foundation, it has been granting scholarships to Japanese and international students from Thailand, Indonesia, China, South Korea and Viet Nam.

## Milestones

1933	The Asahi Foundation for Chemical Industry Promotion is established to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.	2010	The Kondo Grant, an environmental research grant program commences. The Foundation publishes " <i>Conditions for Survival - Toward a Solar Energy-Based Society Full of Vibrant Life.</i> "
1934	The Foundation was recognized as a non-profit organization and begins providing grants to university researchers in applied chemistry.	2012	The Foundation starts research grant program for King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand. The Blue Planet Prize laureates jointly presents a paper titled " <i>Environment and Development Challenges: The Imperative to Act.</i> "
1957	Asahi Glass Scholarship Foundation (AGSF) is established to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.		AGSF begins a scholarship program for students who suffered damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake.
1958	AGSF begins the scholarship program for Japanese students.	2013	The Foundation starts a research grant program for researchers at technical colleges.
1961	The Foundation is renamed the Asahi Glass Foundation for Industrial Technology.	2018	The Foundation takes over the scholarship program due to a merger with AGSF. A new comic series, Blue Planet Prize Fun School, are started.
1982	The Foundation starts a research grant program for Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.	2020	The foundation begins a new program 'Research Grants for Sustainable Future'. The Foundation starts a research grant program for Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Viet Nam. Survey on the Awareness of Environmental Issues Among the General Public is started.
1988	The Foundation starts a research grant program for Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia.	2022	The Foundation organizes a symposium commemorating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Blue Planet Prize.
1990	The Foundation is renamed the Asahi Glass Foundation. AGSF begins a scholarship program for international students in Japan.	2023	The foundation begins a new program, Special Research Grants for "Blue Planet" Global Environment. Scholarship to support overseas research activities is started.
1991	The Foundation extends its field of the research grant program of natural sciences, in addition to applied chemistry.	2024	The foundation begins a new scholarship program that supports consecutive master's and doctoral courses(CMD). A scholarship program for students who suffered damage caused by the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake is started.
1992	The Foundation commences awarding of the Blue Planet Prize. Annual survey Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind is started. The Foundation begins a research grant program for the fields of humanities and social sciences.		
2008	'Continuation Grants for Young Researchers' and 'Continuation Grants for Outstanding Projects' are integrated into the research grant program.		
2009	The corporate status of the Foundation is converted into a Public Interest Incorporated Foundation. The Foundation publishes " <i>Our Vision: Conditions for Survival</i> " and subsequently issues English, Chinese, Korean, Arabic, and French versions of the publication.		

## Programs

### Research Grant Program

Grants are awarded to researchers in universities in Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam. To date, the Foundation has awarded ¥12.5 billion in research grants to approximately 5,870 projects.

### Scholarship Program

The scholarship program is for Japanese and international students in designated graduate schools in Japan. To date, a total of 3.6 billion yen in scholarships has benefited 4,070 Japanese students and 340 international students.

### Commendation Program

Awarding of the Blue Planet Prize, an international environmental award, and the annual survey on the global environment, have been conducted since 1992. Based on the results of the survey, the Environmental Doomsday Clock is published every year.

Since 2018, the Foundation has focused on activities in the research grant program, the scholarship program, and the commendation program.

## Financial Information

Net assets as of February 29, 2024: ¥43.3 billion

Total ordinary expenditures (Fiscal 2023): ¥1,532 million

## Directors & Councillors (as of June 1, 2024)

### Directors

#### Chairman

**Takuya Shimamura**  
Director, Chairman, AGC Inc.

#### Senior Executive Director

**Naoki Sugimoto**  
Former Executive Officer, General Manager,  
Materials Integration Laboratories, AGC Inc.

#### Trustees

**Yoshiaki Chujo**  
Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University

**Mutsuko Hatano**  
Senior Aide to the President, Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Yoshihiro Hayashi**  
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo;  
Advisor to the President, National Museum of Nature and Science

**Yoshinori Hirai**  
Representative Director, President & CEO, AGC Inc.

**Kimihiko Hirao**  
Research Director, Fukui Institute for Fundamental Chemistry, Kyoto University

**Takashi Kato**  
Professor, The University of Tokyo

**Takamitsu Kumasaka**  
Senior Adviser, THE SANKEI SHIMBUN

**Yuri Maesako**  
Vice-President, Professor, Nara Saho College;  
Former Professor, Osaka Sangyo University

**Norihiro Nakai**  
Emeritus Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Ryoji Noyori**  
University Professor, Nagoya University

**Ikuya Sato**  
Professor, Doshisha University; Professor Emeritus, Hitotsubashi University

**Katsuhiko Shirai**  
Honorary Advisor, Waseda University

**Hideji Sugiyama**  
Foundation for Promotion of Digital Economy and Community President;  
Former Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

**Taro Tsubomura**  
Former Vice President, Seikei University

**Hiroshi Yoshikawa**  
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

**Hiroyuki Yoshikawa**  
President, International Professional University of Technology in Tokyo/Osaka;  
Member of Japan Academy; Former President, Science Council of Japan;  
Former President, The University of Tokyo

### Auditors

**Kanetsugu Mike**  
Member of the Board of Directors Chairman, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc.

**Takashi Terashima**  
Former Corporate Auditor, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

**Tatsuo Wakabayashi**  
Senior Advisor, Mitsubishi UFJ Trust and Banking Corporation

### Councillors

**Masuo Aizawa**  
Professor Emeritus, Former President, Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Kenichi Iga**  
Honorary Professor, Former President, Tokyo Institute of Technology

**Michiko Imai**  
Director, Le Verseau Inc.

**Ryozo Kato**  
Former Ambassador to the United States of America

**Ken Kobayashi**  
Corporate Advisor, Mitsubishi Corporation

**Hiroshi Komiyama**  
Chairman of the Institute, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.;  
Former President, The University of Tokyo

**Hideyuki Kurata**  
Representative Director, Executive Vice President, CTO, AGC Inc.

**Kenji Matsuo**  
Honorary Advisor, Meiji Yasuda Life Insurance Company

**Shinji Miyaji**  
Representative Director, Senior Executive Vice President, CFO & COO, AGC Inc.

**Mamoru Mohri**  
Astronaut; Chief Executive Director Emeritus, The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation

**Keiko Nakamura**  
Honorary Director General, JT Biohistory Research Hall

**Shigeo Nishimura**  
Professor Emeritus, Kyushu University

**Hideaki Omiya**  
Senior Executive Adviser, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd.

**Hitoshi Osaki**  
Vice President, Institute for development of Higher Education;  
Former Commissioner for Cultural Affairs

**Niro Shimada**  
Former Chief Justice, the Supreme Court of Japan

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# Research Grant Program

The Asahi Glass Foundation supports original research in natural sciences that seeks to build the foundations for the next generation's society, as well as original research in humanities and social sciences that contributes to sustainable solutions for the critical issues that confront society.

## Research Grants in Japan

Applications for research grants in Japan for 2025 are accepted for the five programs outlined below.

### Program Overview (in Japan)

#### [Eligibility]

Full-time researchers in universities in Japan, including their affiliated research laboratories and technical colleges who are playing a leading role in research. Fixed-term researchers may apply under guidelines provided by the Foundation.

#### [Program and Categories]

- ▶ **Research Encouragement Grants:** Supporting program for basic and embryonic research proposals by young researchers <Chemistry & Life Sciences, Physics & Information Sciences>
- ▶ **Research Grants for Sustainable Future:** Supporting program for research aimed at realizing a sustainable society or solving global environmental problems <Architecture & Urban Engineering, Humanity & Social Sciences, Environmental Field Research>
- ▶ **Continuation Grants for Young Researchers:** Supporting program for prospective researchers who have completed Research Encouragement Grants within the past three years
- ▶ **Continuation Grants for Outstanding Projects:** Supporting promising researchers that have completed Research Encouragement Grants or Continuation Grants for Young Researchers within the past three years
- ▶ **Special Research Grants for "Blue Planet" Global Environment:** Newly installed program for solving global environmental problems of the SDGs, from basic research to verification for social implementation <Chemistry & Life Sciences, Physics & Information Sciences, Architecture & Urban Engineering, Humanity & Social Sciences, Environmental Field Research>

#### [Information for Applicants]

Information for new applicants is announced around June. The application documents (in Japanese) are available for download from our website. The deadlines for the applications are in August-September (Deadlines vary with the program and the field).

### ① [Research Encouragement Grants]

#### Chemistry & Life Sciences

Born in 1979 or later

- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥3 million or less
- ◎ Research Term: 1-2 Years

#### Physics & Information Sciences

Born in 1979 or later

- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥3 million or less
- ◎ Research Term: 1-2 Years

※Those who are eligible will be notified

### [Continuation Grants]

For researchers who have completed our grant research program within the past three years

#### ③ Continuation Grants for Young Researchers

Born in 1978 or later

- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥8 million or less
- ◎ Research Term: 3 Years

#### ④ Continuation Grants for Outstanding Projects

No age limit for applicants

- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥8-14 million
- ◎ Research Term: 3-4 Years

### ② [Research Grants for Sustainable Future]

#### Architecture & Urban Engineering

#### Humanity & Social Sciences

#### Environmental Field Research

#### Proposed Research

To support basic and embryonic research ideas by young researchers Born in 1979 or later

- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥1-2.5 million
- ◎ Research Term: 1-2 Years
- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥1-2 million
- ◎ Research Term: 1-2 Years
- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥1-2 million
- ◎ Research Term: 1-2 Years

#### Developmental Research

To support further development based on basic research No age limit for applicants

- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥3-6 million
- ◎ Research Term: 2-4 Years
- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥2.5-4 million
- ◎ Research Term: 2-4 Years
- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥3-6 million
- ◎ Research Term: 2-4 Years

### ⑤ [Special Research Grants for "Blue Planet" Global Environment]

No age limit for applicants

- ◎ Amount granted per project: ¥10-30 million
- ◎ Research Term: 2-4 Years

## Overseas Research Grants

We support a wide field of research proposals from basic to applied stage at Chulalongkorn University (CU), King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) in Thailand, Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) in Indonesia, and Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST) in Viet Nam.

## Research Grant Presentation Ceremony & Seminar on Research Findings (Japan, Thailand, Indonesia & Vietnam)

In Japan, the presentation ceremony takes place in June each year with a seminar of findings in July. In Thailand, Indonesia, and Viet Nam both the ceremony and the seminar of findings are held in June-September.



Japan



CU(Thailand)



KMUTT(Thailand)



ITB(Indonesia)



HUST(Viet Nam)

## Selection Committee (April, 2024)

### Chemistry & Life Sciences

<u>Takashi Kato</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Hiroyuki Asanuma</u>	Professor, Nagoya University
<u>Yukiko Gotoh</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Akitoshi Hayashi</u>	Professor, Osaka Metropolitan University
<u>Seijiro Matsubara</u>	Professor, Kyoto University
<u>Jun Ogawa</u>	Professor, Kyoto University
<u>Shin-ichi Ohkoshi</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Masateru Taniguchi</u>	Professor, Osaka University

### Physics & Information Sciences

<u>Mutsuko Hatano</u>	Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology
<u>Kazuhiko Hirakawa</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Toshihiro Itoh</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Hiroshi Nakamura</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Shinji Yuasa</u>	Director, Research Center for Emerging Computing Technologies, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology

(Underlining denotes committee chairs)

### Architecture & Urban Engineering

<u>Norihiro Nakai</u>	Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Institute of Technology
<u>Kaori Fujita</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Hirotō Takaguchi</u>	Professor, Waseda University

### Humanity and Social Sciences

<u>Ikuya Sato</u>	Professor, Doshisha University; Professor Emeritus, Hitotsubashi University
<u>Chieko Umetsu</u>	Professor, Tohoku University of Community Service and Science; Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University
<u>Takahiro Yamada</u>	Professor, Kinjo Gakuin University; Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University; Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Metropolitan University
<u>Kenichiro Yanagi</u>	Professor Emeritus, Meiji University

### Environmental Field Research

<u>Yuri Maesako</u>	Vice-President, Professor, Nara Saho College; Former Professor, Osaka Sangyo University
<u>Atsushi Kawakita</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo
<u>Toshiya Okuro</u>	Professor, The University of Tokyo

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## Scholarship Program

The Asahi Glass Foundation provides scholarships to outstanding students to foster superior human resources who are responsible for advancing and improving industries, economics and society.

### Program Overview

#### [Applying for Scholarship]

Entries are accepted only through recommendation from the designated graduate schools from January to May every year. Direct application from a student is not accepted.

#### [Scholarship Program for Japanese Students] (30 students per year)

Scholarship for Japanese students in the master's and doctoral course in designated graduate schools in Japan. Master's Students: 100,000 yen / month, Master's Students-CMD Students: 100,000 yen / month (250,000 yen / month after entering the doctoral course), Doctoral Students: 120,000 yen / month.

#### [Scholarship Program for International Students in Japan] (18 students per year)

Scholarship for international students from the Kingdom of Thailand, Republic of Indonesia, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam who are enrolled in the master's and doctoral courses in designated graduate schools in Japan. All the students: 150,000 yen / month.

※ Each program also supports to overseas research activities(up to 200,000 yen)



Presentation Ceremony

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## Commendation Program: The Blue Planet Prize



The Blue Planet Prize is an annual award given in recognition of individuals and organizations that have made major contributions towards the resolution of global environmental problems. The Foundation wishes to express its appreciation for the achievements of the laureates, as well as to encourage the search for solutions to environmental issues throughout the world.

*The Blue Planet Prize logo symbolizes energetic human activity to protect the Earth. The blue and white wavy background around the figure represents the water and atmosphere on Earth. Earth, human, and space are combined into this symbol using light blue, expressing glittering water and flowing air.*



### Outline

Nominations are solicited between August and October of each year from nominators in Japan and overseas. As a general rule, two recipients are chosen each year. We will announce the prize recipients in June of the following year, and in the autumn, we will hold an award ceremony in Tokyo to welcome the laureates and hold commemorative lectures in Tokyo and Kyoto. Each recipient is presented with a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy and 500,000 USD in prize money.

### Fields for Recognition

With the view of furthering the vision of a sustainable society, the Blue Planet Prize recognizes outstanding individuals or organizations that have contributed significantly to building new ideas, scientific understanding or countermeasures and practical activities related to environmental conservation and restoration of the Earth's environment.

### 2024 Blue Planet Prize Laureates

**Professor Robert Costanza (USA & Australia)**  
Ecological Economics at the Institute for Global Prosperity,  
University College London



In a groundbreaking 1997 paper, Professor Costanza and colleagues demonstrated, for the first time, that the ecosystem services provided by nature to humans far exceed the economic value of the world's GDP at that time. This work brought global attention to the previously understated importance of ecosystem services. As a co-founder of ecological economics, a new field of study that recognizes that the economy is embedded in society and a finite biosphere, Professor Costanza actively advocates for an ecologically sustainable, wellbeing society.

**Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**  
Established on April 21, 2012, IPBES secretariat: Bonn (Germany)



IPBES is the leading global authority on the state of knowledge and science about biodiversity, ecosystem services and nature's contributions to people.

Their landmark reports facilitate better science-informed policy and action across scales, sectors, and knowledge systems. As growing numbers of companies also start to evaluate, disclose and improve their impact on the environment, businesses are also using the IPBES Reports to help shape their corporate sustainability strategies and ESG (environmental, social, and governance) activities.

## Award Ceremony

The laureates are invited to Tokyo for the award ceremony and commemorative lectures in the autumn.



## Commemorative Lectures (Tokyo/Kyoto)

Each recipient gives a lecture, followed by a question and answer session with the audience.



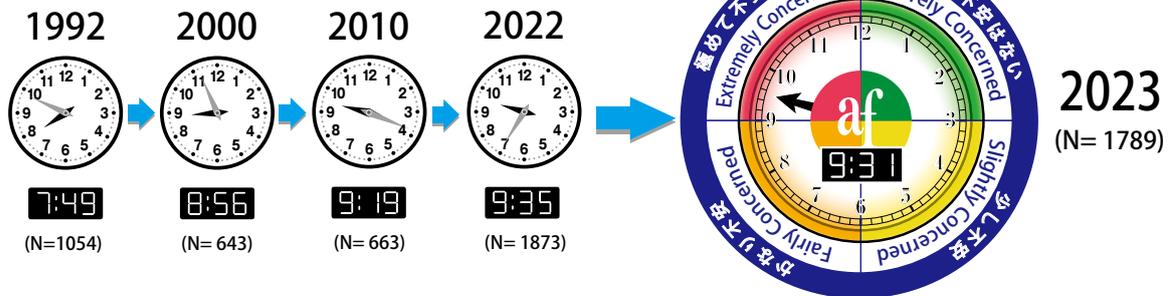
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## Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind

Global measures are essential for the preservation of the Earth's natural environment. These measures require global understanding of the need to resolve environmental problems and the fostering of cooperative relationships among people. With this purpose in mind, since 1992 the Foundation has annually conducted a survey "Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind," directed at global experts on environmental issues. The views and comments of the experts who respond are published in September.

### The Environmental Doomsday Clock

Each year the Foundation conducts a survey of the sense of crisis felt by environmental experts around the world about the continuance of the human race as the global environment continues to change, showing the time using the hands on the Environmental Doomsday Clock, created by the Foundation. In 2023, the time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock is 9:31, 4 minutes earlier than last year.



### Facts about the Survey

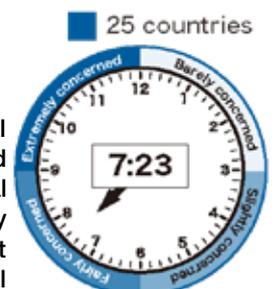
Survey period: Each year, the survey is conducted April through June.

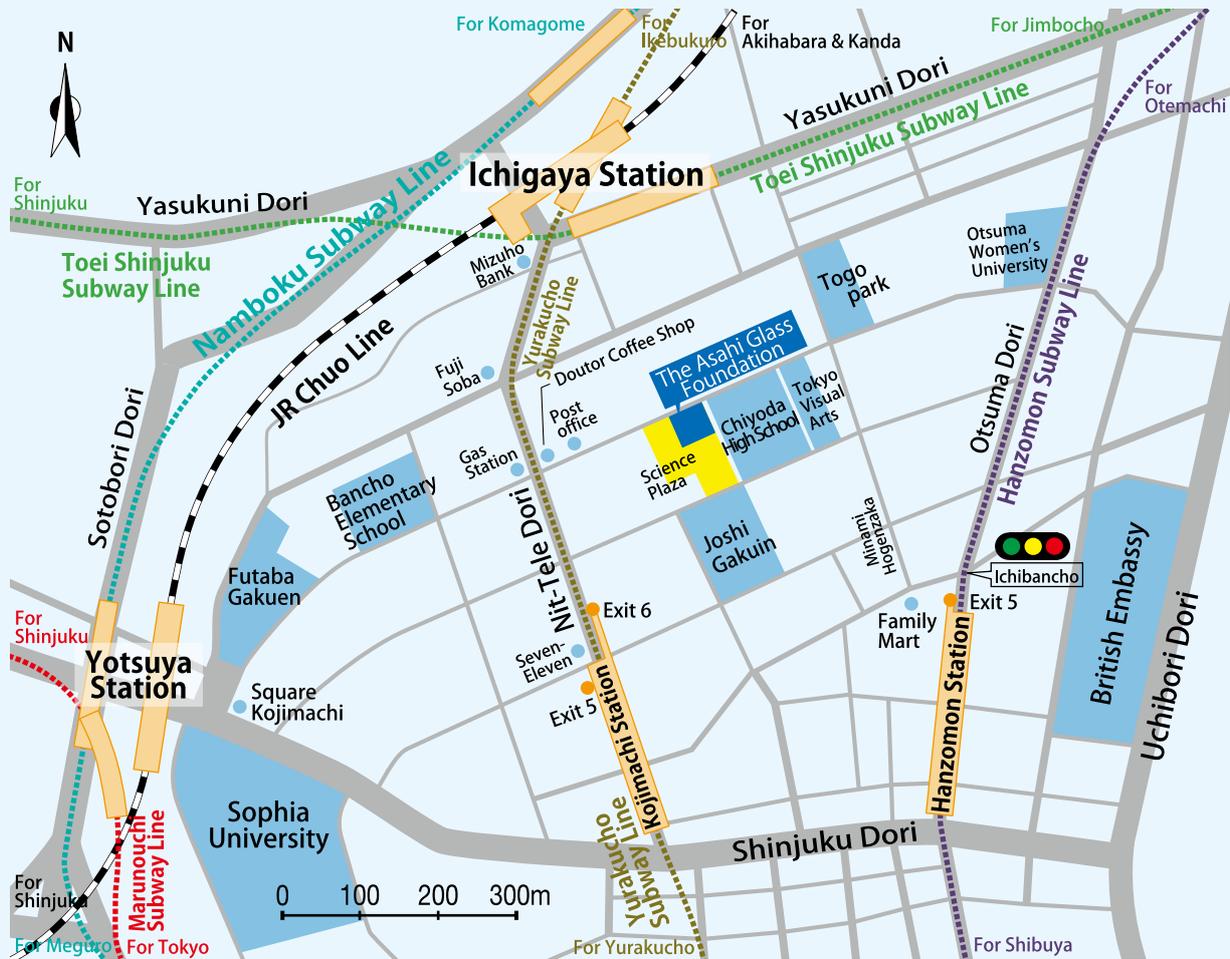
Respondents: Respondents are environmental experts, including members of governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, NGOs, and corporations registered in the Asahi Glass Foundation database.

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## Survey on the Awareness of Environmental Issues Among the General Public

In 2023, the Asahi Glass Foundation conducted a "Survey on the Awareness of Environmental Issues Among the General Public" in Japan and 24 other countries, with over ten thousand participants aged 18-69. As a result, climate change ranked first as the most critical environmental issue in their respective countries, aligning with expert survey results. When using a clock analogy to express the sense of crisis towards environmental issues, the general public averaged out at 7:23, meaning "fairly concerned." In contrast, the average time given by global environmental experts was more than two hours ahead of the general public, at 9:31, "extremely concerned."





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