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2007 Research Grant Presentation Ceremony

The Research Grant Presentation Ceremony of the Asahi Glass Foundation was held on the afternoon of June 1 at the International Conference Hall on the 11th floor of the Keidanren Kaikan.

Chairman Seya congratulated the recipients and presented them with grant certificates. On behalf of Akira Amari, the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Deputy Director General of the Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau Tsuneyoshi Tatsuoka delivered congratulatory remarks. On behalf of Tamotsu Tokunaga, director general of the Research Promotion Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Yoshiyuki Sodeyama, director

of the Scientific Research Aid Division of the Research Promotion Bureau, congratulated the awardees. Expressing gratitude on behalf of all the grant recipients,

Professor Shinichi Ohkoshi gave an address, and the grant presentation ceremony was concluded. A reception for the grant recipients followed at a different location.

The Asahi Glass Foundation awarded a total of 220.4 million yen in support of research in Japan this year, including eighty-two new projects this year and seventy-four continuing research projects. Details about the Asahi Glass Foundation grant-supported research projects for 2007 are available on the Asahi Glass Foundation website.



2007 Asahi Glass Foundation Seminar of Grant-Supported Research Findings

The results of research from sixty-nine studies concluded as of the end of March 2007 were presented the afternoon of July 10 at Square Kojimachi in Yotsuya. The presentations included grant-supported research in chemistry, materials, and bioscience, and were well attended, including researchers in the respective fields, selection committee members of the foundation, and guests from other foundations.

After an opening address by Chairman Hiromichi Seya, Professor Emeritus Ryoichi Ito, the chairman of the selection committee, outlined the purpose of the proceedings. The presentations this year consisted of 3-minute oral summaries given in a classroom-style venue, after which the assembled adjourned to a nearby hall where posters outlining each research project were on display. The researchers discussed their work with interested persons referring to the posters.

As an event attended by specialists from different areas of expertise, the researchers were asked to explain their work in easy-to-understand terms, and many of them were very inventive in preparing their presentations. The posters, too, were attractively laid out. The poster hall provided a valuable venue, where specialists from different fields of research were able to talk to each other in a relaxed atmosphere and engage in spontaneous discussion.

A party was held in the same venue following the presentations. The presenters and members of the selection committee as well as invited guests mingled for drinks and refreshments.

More than twenty presenters came from distant places to participate in the seminar. The Foundation takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to everyone who attended as well as those whose careful arrangements made for such a successful event.



Chairman Hiromichi Seya



Three-minute speeches in the presentation hall



Professor Ryoichi Ito
Selection Committee Chairman



Poster presentation venue



Party after the seminar

2007 Overseas Research Grant Presentation Ceremony and the Research Findings Seminar

The research grant presentation ceremony and the presentation meeting of research outcomes were held on July 24 at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and on July 26 at the Institut Teknologi Bandung in Indonesia.

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

The ceremony for presentation of new research grants and presentations of outcomes of research for the previous year were held on July 24 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the historic Maha Chulalongkorn building. Following congratulatory remarks by Chairman Hiromichi Seya and an opening address by the university's Vice President Sootiporn Chittmittrapap, Chairman Seya presented the awards to this year's eight grant recipients.



Maha Chulalongkorn Building

Afterwards, a total of nine seminars reporting on the outcome of the previous year's research were held in two lecture halls, one for medical and general science and the other for environmental management and waste research.



Grant recipients with Chulalongkorn University and Asahi Glass Foundation personnel

Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia



Senior Executive Director Uchida presents awards to grant recipients at the Institut Teknologi Bandung

The research grants presentation ceremony and the presentations of research outcomes were held on July 26 in the Institut auditorium. Following remarks by Institut Professor Emmy Suparka, Asahi Glass Foundation Senior Executive Director Keiichi Uchida, and Institut Teknologi Bandung Rector Djoko Santoso, Director Uchida presented the awards to this year's ten grant recipients. The ten recipients of grants for the previous year then presented the results of their research. Their work focused on tasks faced by a sprawling archipelago nation such as education programs for remote areas and coastal area preservation programs using advanced communications technology. Other projects featured development of synthetic resources made from organic materials, mechanical engineering, and algorithms.



ITB Rector Dr Djoko

2007 Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced

On Thursday, June 21, the winners of the 2007 Blue Planet Prize were announced at the Keidanren Kaikan in Tokyo by Hiromichi Seya, chairman of the Foundation; Dr. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, chairman of the Selection Committee; and Keiichi Uchida, Senior Executive Director of the Foundation. This year's prize winners are Professor Joseph L. Sax, Professor emeritus, University of California, Berkeley, and Dr. Amory B. Lovins, Chairman and Chief Scientist,

Rocky Mountain Institute, both from the United States of America.

The selection process began in June 2006 with nominations forwarded from around the world that were deliberated by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee then presented its candidates for approval by the Presentation Committee and the Board of Directors and Councillors made the final decision in April 2007.

Professor Joseph L. Sax (U.S.A.)



Professor Emeritus,
University of California,
Berkeley

Professor Sax has been and still is the leading environmental law scholar in the United States and the world, and is a pioneer of various environmental laws in the U.S. such as the law on water rights, the development of citizens' rights litigation strategies, and environmental impact assessment laws. In particular, he is famous for the Michigan Environment Protection Act, popularly known as the "Sax Act," the world's first modern environmental law drafted on the basis of public trust doctrine. And not only in the United States, but also internationally, he has supported many governments and multi-national organizations such as the United Nations, has been influential in the development of theory on environmental protection for international law and has articulated many ideas on issues in international environmental law. Recently, he is serving important roles and making active contributions not only to protection of the environment but also of cultural properties, arguing the need for implementation of public trust doctrine in protection of cultural treasures and historical and archaeological resources.

Dr. Amory B. Lovins (U.S.A.)



Chairman and Chief
Scientist,
Rocky Mountain Institute

For the last forty years and through work in more than fifty countries, Dr. Lovins has contributed to the efficient use of energy and the transition to renewable energy sources in order to protect the global environment. Since the 1970s, when he first advocated the concept of the "soft energy path" that forms the basis of these objectives, he has consistently advocated and implemented pioneering ideas in energy and other fields. Among his achievements is the invention of the ultralight, ultra-energy-efficient Hypercar devised for significant reduction of the burden on the natural environment and the design of buildings with little or no net use of energy. In co-authored works *Factor Four: Doubling Wealth—Halving Resource Use* (1997) and *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution* (1999), he showed how to double wealth and halve resource use by quadrupling resource productivity (production of goods and services per unit of resource input), and the importance of natural resources and the ecosystem. The broad reach of his activities shows the way towards resolving today's intricately intertwined issues of energy, environment, resources, development, and security.

The Awards Ceremony and the Commemorative Lectures of the 2007 Blue Planet Prize

The awards ceremony will take place on October 17, 2007 (Wednesday), at Tokyo Kaikan (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on October 18 (Thursday).