

af News

2011 Blue Planet Prize Awards Ceremony and Congratulatory Party

The Asahi Glass Foundation awarded the 20th annual Blue Planet Prize at the ceremony held at Tokyo Kaikan on November 9, 2011. The recipients of the award this year were Dr. Jane Lubchenco of the United States and Barefoot College of India. Dr. Lubchenco has made substantial contributions to the understanding of biodiversity and marine ecology and clearly demonstrated to the world the importance of the social responsibility of scientists. Barefoot College has supported the rural villagers in developing nations and created a model for autonomous regional social development through unique educational programs that emphasize traditional knowledge with new technologies such as a solar cell.

The ceremony was graced by Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino, along with numerous distinguished guests, including ambassadors and representatives from government, academia, and business.

The ceremony began with a film showing an image, created based on the wishes that we all take part in listening to the melodies of prayer which is filled with

sentiments of all the lives on Earth, the planet of life. Mr. Tetsuji Tanaka, Chairman of the Foundation, presented the introductory remarks, followed by a report on the selection procedures and an introduction of the award winners by Dr. Yoshihiro Hayashi, Chairman of the Selection Committee.

After the remarks from Prince Akishino, a congratulatory message from Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda was read by Mr. Kenyu Adachi, Vice-Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry. As representatives of the countries of the recipients, Ambassador John Victor Roos of the United States of America, and Ambassador Alok Prasad of India, read by Dr. Chadaram Sivaji, Counsellor of Indian Embassy also complimented the laureates on their dedication to environmental issues and their many accomplishments.

The Awards Ceremony was followed by a Congratulatory Party. Well-wishers surrounded Dr. Lubchenco and Mr. Bunker Roy, founder of Barefoot College throughout the evening, helping them celebrate the occasion, while toasts were proposed in recognition of their tremendous achievements.



Prince Akishino offers remarks at the Blue Planet Prize Awards Ceremony



Dr. Jane Lubchenco



Barefoot College

Learn from nature, grow nature's blessings and make Here we introduce scientists who have set an example, and

Remarks Made in Accepting the Blue Planet Prize

Dr. Jane Lubchenco



Misled by their vastness and blinded by their murky depths, humanity has taken the beauty and bounty of oceans for granted, failing to safeguard its future and ours.

Those who work on and live near the water witness firsthand the often dramatic changes along specific shores; but make no mistake, the scale of change is global. Overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, climate change, and ocean acidification interact to disrupt ocean ecosystems. The results are depleted fisheries, endangered wildlife, tainted seafood, bleached corals, vulnerable coastal communities, and blooms of jellyfish, harmful algae, and pathogens, which are becoming routine in far too many places.

This depletion and disruption undermines or prevents the delivery of numerous benefits that healthy ocean ecosystems provide to people: food security, jobs, vibrant communities and economies, abundant wildlife, healthy citizens, clean beaches, recreational opportunities, and protection of shores from storms and tsunamis. Too few people appreciate the seriousness of the problem -- or that viable options exist for more sustainable practices and policies.

Fortunately, awareness is increasing, and solutions are readily available; however, the will to implement change lags behind. Proven solutions, building on advances in natural and social sciences, emphasize local engagement and empowerment and align conservation and economic incentives. These solutions include ecosystem-based planning and management, no-take marine reserves, science- and rights-based fisheries management, and habitat protection. First and foremost, however, people must recognize that the bounty of oceans is finite, that oceans are not endlessly resilient, and that people do not control nature -- only their own activities. A commitment to stewardship is urgently needed.

As a public servant, I work to implement solutions, raise awareness, and provide people with information to make smart decisions -- all grounded in science. As a grandmother, I passionately want to leave a healthy blue planet for future generations. But only by working together as a global community, with a sense of purpose, urgency, and hope, can we achieve the goal of a more sustainable future for our blue planet.

Barefoot College



On behalf of the Barefoot College we are honoured and humbled by the extraordinary recognition of being the recipient of the 2011 Blue Planet Prize. We are indebted to the Asahi Glass Foundation for selecting the College

for the oldest and most prestigious Environment Prize awarded in Japan and being only the second organization to receive it in India.

We believe the rural poor globally have found all the answers to the serious environment problems facing the world today. By recognizing the work of the College the Foundation has shown that the application of traditional knowledge, village skills and the wisdom of the Elders so powerfully demonstrated by Mahatma Gandhi nearly half a century ago is still universally relevant and indeed urgently required to be revisited again. More than what we learn in formal education there is another powerful informal form of education that can be found in remote inaccessible villages all around the world we can learn from. They have shown how to live simple and sustainably and how the time has come now to apply real life low cost solutions that we can all re-learn from. The Planet can still be saved if we listen with patience and humility to the rural poor and how simple solutions are the need of the hour.

Why have we stopped listening to the voices of the poor? They teach us so much if only we had the time they show us how to respect the earth and the water and the air and not to abuse the limited resources we still have.

I recall what Mahatma Gandhi said, "Live simply so others may simply live."

It is time to hand back the control of the planet's resources to the simple women of the world who have so much knowledge and skill that have remained unutilized till today. It is said they hold up Half the Sky.

On behalf of the men, women and children of the world who live on less than \$ 1/day we humbly and gratefully accept this award from the Asahi Glass Foundation.

The Blue Planet Prize has given this vast repository of practical wisdom the respect and dignity it deserves. We are enormously grateful.



Selection Rationale

Dr. Yoshihiro Hayashi, Chairman of the Selection Committee



Dr. Jane Lubchenco

In *Sustainable Biosphere Initiative*, published in 1991, Dr. Lubchenco strongly encouraged the governments worldwide to make efforts toward saving endangered species and to maintain and to promote biodiversity. In a 1997 paper, she called for a “social contract for scientists,” which made a strong public impact. She asserted that, as their social responsibility, “scientists should make a commitment to exert all the power of science to discover new knowledge, to communicate existing and new understanding to the public and policy makers, and to help society transition to a more sustainable biosphere”. In the conviction that solutions for environmental issues are common, critical challenges for human beings and should not be discussed based on narrow, partisan thinking, Dr. Lubchenco focuses on the conversion of ecological theories and findings into social policies for environmental preservation and constant contribution to society. She actively serves as a key player bridging the gap between scientists and society.

Barefoot College

Emphasizing traditional knowledge to solve problems in rural communities, Barefoot College provides remedial measures to improve living based on actions taken by community members. Such measures have contributed to a wide range of improvements; spanning solar energy, water, education, health care, rural handicrafts, communications, women’s empowerment and wasteland development. Actions are taken on the concepts of pursuing simplicity and learning/unlearning. This helped create a learning environment that enables people to easily and flexibly acquire knowledge and skills necessary for improving lifestyles, recognizing the value of relearning many times and not fearing mistakes. The college’s system has gradually and assuredly formed into a widespread trend in countries including India (17 states), Africa (15 countries), Asia (2 countries) and South America (1 country).

Dr. Jane Lubchenco



Enters Colorado College
Majors in biology



1988: Conducts research at Oregon State University on environmental adaptation of marine wildlife



1992: Appointed as president of the Ecological Society of America and calls for establishment of marine reserves



2009: Appointed as first female Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

1991: Presents *Sustainable Biosphere Initiative*



Dr. Lubchenco and her husband



Barefoot College



1972: Sets up Social Work Research Center by renting the abandoned tuberculosis sanatorium from the government

Trains pump workers in order to make securement of water the most important challenge; sets up thousands of pumps

1986: Completes building of a new campus after the six-year construction; renames the organization Barefoot College



Constructs approximately 1,500 rainwater storage tanks and dams for irrigation in 17 states in India



Trains solar engineers who assemble, repair and manage solar power generation equipment



Mr. Bunker Roy, founder, and staff of Barefoot College

Blue Planet Prize Commemorative Lectures

On November 10, the award recipients delivered commemorative lectures at U Thant International Conference Hall at the United Nations University in Tokyo. More than 320 people attended, filling the auditorium to capacity. Dr. Lubchenco gave her lecture in the first section of the program, which was followed by a question-and-answer period coordinated by Prof. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, Director-General, Center for Research and Development Strategy, JST. Mr. Roy, founder of Barefoot College presented his lecture in the second half, with a question-



and-answer period coordinated by Prof. Katsunori Suzuki of Kanazawa University. The coordinators' skill in engaging participants in dialogue and advancing the discussion



elicited many questions from the audience, resulting in a lively and content-rich question-and-answer session. The four-hour event was fruitful and productive, deepening the understanding in respect of the accomplishments of the award recipients as well as providing a valuable opportunity to learn guiding principles for our actions. Materials distributed at the lecture itself can be viewed on our website.

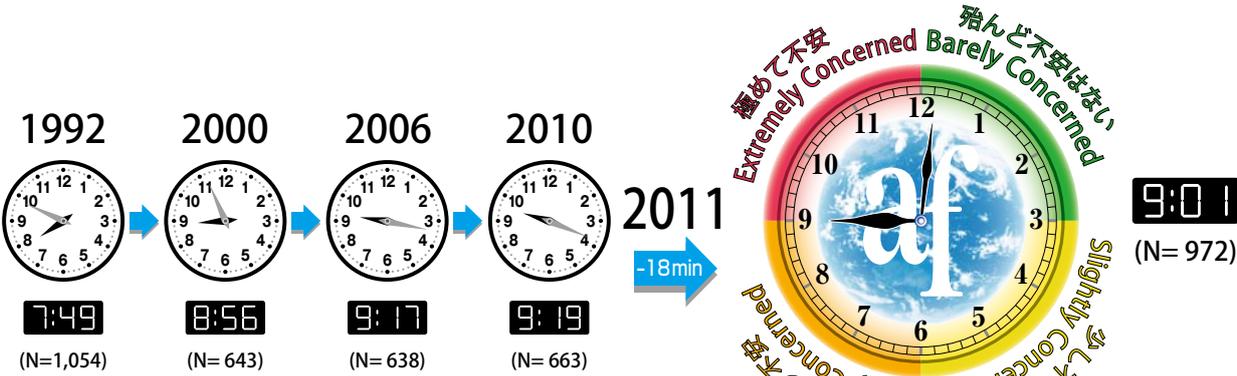
Worldwide Poll of Environmental Practitioners

Results of the 20th Annual Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind

It is imperative for people worldwide to have a global measure to conserve the global environment. The Asahi Glass Foundation has surveyed experts in environmental issues across the world since 1992, with a questionnaire intended to establish a common understanding and cooperative relationship to solve environmental problems. We report on the Environmental Doomsday Clock from the questionnaire conducted between April and June 2011. Please refer to the results of the questionnaire on the web site (<http://www.af-info.or.jp/>). We are indebted once again to Professor Akio Morishima, Special Research Advisor of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies and a director of the Asahi Glass Foundation, for his assistance in formulating and compiling the survey. (Questionnaires returned 1000 [Japan 468, Overseas 532]), Response rate 14%)

❖ Environmental Doomsday Clock (Perception of the Crisis Facing Human Survival) ❖

The average time on the environmental doomsday clock for all respondents retreated by 18 minutes from last year, representing the largest reversal of the time. This is the third consecutive year in which the time retreated since 2008, when the doomsday clock had advanced the most since the inception of the survey. While the time for Japanese respondents retreated 23 minutes, reading 8:46 a.m. (the lowest sense of crisis in the world), the time for overseas respondents retreated 13 minutes, reading 9:14 a.m.



Grantees Report

Introducing some of the unique supported research projects currently active

Task-Oriented Research Grants Adopted in FY2010

Title: On-site plant identification system based on biometric measurement of leaf phenotypes

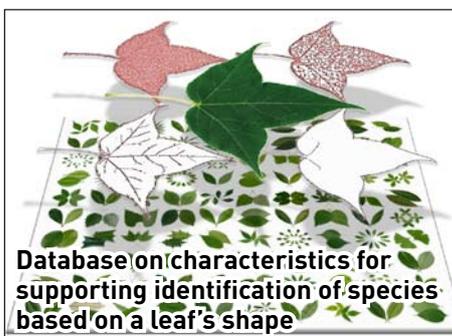
Recipient: Assistant Professor Osamu Matsuda, Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Kyushu University, and two other parties (Total amount of grant: 23 million yen, Grant period: 3 years)



As environmental change such as global warming become more apparent in global scale, there is a strong appeal for the importance in maintaining a diversified biosphere that supports rich life for human beings. Yet it is not always easy for everyday citizens to contribute practically to conservation activities. First of all, there is no efficient and arranged system that widely collects information on biodiversity from citizens and converts this information into knowledge. Secondly, advanced knowledge and sufficient experience is necessary to accurately identify living species in order to provide useful information. The study aims at establishing a system substantively linking citizens' voluntary will to treasure the nature around them with the preservation of biodiversity. Specifically, utilizing rapidly proliferating mobile terminals and high-speed data communications networks, we will provide a system that allows quick searching using images as clues for finding names of species. Users' search results are archived along with data on dates and locations for



System for collecting information on biodiversity using a smartphone



Database on characteristics for supporting identification of species based on a leaf's shape

use in understanding the current state of biodiversity; i.e., when and where what kind of species existed, in chronological order. We hope to make efforts that contribute to realization of a society in which humans and nature actually coexist.

Continuation Grants for Young Researchers Adopted in FY2011

Title: Development of an environmental information visualization system for cohousing

Recipient: Associate Professor Yusuke Nakajima, Department of Urban Design and Planning, School of Architecture, Kogakuin University (Total amount of grant: 6.0 million yen, Grant period: 3 years)



As a measure to cope with global warming, general households these days are requested to save energy and electricity. In such an environment, attention is focused on tools to visualize power consumption which tell electric power wastage and actual power consumption of each electric appliance, and automated control of home appliances are introduced. Conversely, rather than controlling home appliances, I think it is more important to build comfortable and energy-saving houses and have residents use them effectively. In the prior study, I clearly presented the environment surrounding the house and its energy consumption and prototyped and installed a system in a rental apartment to provide proper advice on energy saving. The experiment indicated that there were limits to people's awareness building and energy-saving so long as the system is only used in a single household, although it achieved some energy saving. However, community reconstruction has been reviewed from safety and security standpoints, and co-housing (residential complexes equipped with shared equipment and spaces such as living rooms and kitchens, also called collective houses or share houses), which has track



EcoLIVES environmental data display system produced in a prior study



Co-housing, introducing a system for sharing of visualization of environment

record in Europe and the United States, is gaining popularity. In this study, I would like to combine these ideas, introduce a system which enables sharing visualization of the environment in co-housing, and construct a mechanism for creating more effective energy saving and improved comfort by exchanging, sharing and comparing information among residents, rather than making efforts in individual houses.

Donation to Support the Recovery from the Earthquake to Tohoku University and University of Tsukuba



Scanning electron microscope



A computer and a series of software for CAD design and operation of a modeling device

The Asahi Glass Foundation donated 28 million yen in total to researchers engaged in studies supported by the foundation and to Tohoku University whose facilities were seriously damaged, to support the recovery from the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 (payment completed from June to September).

The donation consisted of 7.5 million yen for 18 researchers at Tohoku University (of the amount, 200,000 yen donated to Juntendo University, where one researcher moved), 500,000 yen for three researchers at the University of Tsukuba, and 20 million yen to the Creative Engineering Center at Tohoku University (see photos).

The Korean version of *Conditions for Survival* published



The Asahi Glass Foundation published the Japanese and English versions of *Conditions for Survival* in 2010. The book has widely been applauded in various countries around the world. Overseas collaborators are now translating the work into other languages. In 2011, the simplified Chinese version was published in March, followed by the Korean version in September. Details are as follows:

- ◆ Publisher
Environment & Landscape Architecture of Korea
- ◆ Translator
Dr. Yung-Hee Rho, Seoul National University

The Arabic and French versions are planned for future publication.

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