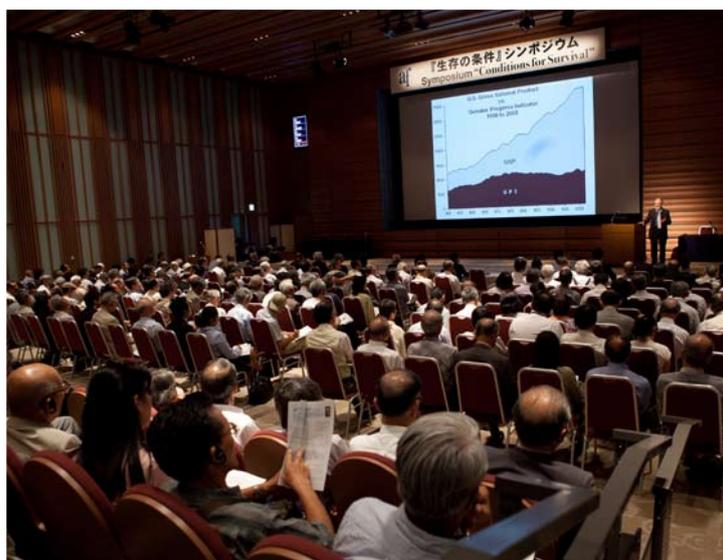


Symposium Conditions

The Asahi Glass Foundation established the Roundtable Conference on Global Environmental Issues in December 2006 and had held discussions for more than three years on issues confronting the human race, bringing together the expertise of the members of the Board of Directors and Councillors of the Foundation representing different fields. As the final report of the Conference and presenting a new vision for society in the 21st century, 10,000 copies of the book titled **Conditions for Survival - Toward a Solar Energy-Based Society Full of Vibrant Life** were published in May 2010. They were presented to libraries across the country as well as to individuals who had requested a copy. The text can now be downloaded from the Foundation's website. The report was then translated into English and Chinese and there are plans to be translated into other languages.



Receiving considerable domestic and international support for the report, the Foundation held the Symposium "Conditions for Survival" to provide an opportunity for even more people to think about the new vision for society. Three Blue Planet Prize winners

who contributed articles in the report were invited to give a talk and they shared their views on global environmental issues.

During the panel discussion, Prof. Ma Xiaojun of the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, who played a leading role in publishing the Chinese version of **Conditions for Survival**, participated with the coordination of Professor Emeritus Akio Morishima of Nagoya University and discussed "New Ideas for a New Age" with the three winners.

The following are summaries of the statements made by the panelists in their talks and in the panel discussion.



Lester R. Brown
(USA)
President and Senior
Researcher, Earth
Policy Institute
(BPP laureate for 1994)

The food supply is the most vulnerable among the global systems the human race has built. According to a detailed analysis on the impact of the heat wave that hit Russia last year on the global food supply, the yield of cereal crops declined 10% with an average temperature rise of one degree Celsius. We can therefore predict a potential critical food shortage caused by climate change in the future. At the same time, the land rush currently involving certain countries will also contribute to serious food shortages.

The investment needed to implement the Plan B that we propose as a solution to these problems is 200 billion dollars. This amount in fact represents just one eighth of global arms spending. To create a sustainable society, strong leadership is required.

The 21st century needs an economy that differs from that of the 20th century. Focusing on cities, we must have the ability to imagine a world in which we have never lived, so to speak, with unprecedented designs and means of mobility.

It must be said that the global environmental issues we raised are unfortunately becoming more acute. At the same time, however, it is important to maximize our efforts, thinking positively that we still have time left.

While the calculation of GNP includes negative factors for society, such as accidents, disasters, and deforestation, because they involve economic activities, it does not consider volunteer activities. Going forward, we should emphasize the genuine progress indicator (GPI), which shows the degree to which genuine affluence is attained.

It is also necessary to understand that "perverse" subsidies have a negative impact on global environmental issues, as demonstrated by the fact that subsidies for the forest industry can cause deforestation.

The problem is that we are not using intellectual resources such as scientific and technological studies and recommendations, even though they already exist.



Dr. Norman Myers (UK)
Fellow, Green College and
Saïd Business School,
Oxford University
(BPP laureate for 2001)

for Survival

July 7, 2011, 14:00-17:30
Keidanren Kaikan (Otemachi,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)



Dr. Emil Salim
(Indonesia)
Chairman of the Advisory
Council to the President
Member of the Senate
Board of the University of
Indonesia
(BPP laureate for 2006)

The issues we have seen in society since the Industrial Revolution can be summed up by the word “gesellschaft” (a society based on mutual self-interest). For example, Islamic society was once a community where faith, nature, and society coexisted in harmony, but since the Industrial Revolution it has been transformed into a gesellschaft, guided by economic rationality. While humans have been thriving by conquering and using nature, nonrenewable resources such as oils are drying up, and environment degradation has been taking place.

Society in the 21st century has to be guided by the idea of well-being. Growth in Asia will continue toward 2050. Although Asia has been balancing economic growth and the abundance of nature to a certain extent, it should explore ways to revitalize the link between life and livelihoods through nature by increasing the added value of nature, as a means of solving social issues.

Let's change the world through multifaceted efforts by transforming our value judgment indicators.



Prof. Ma Xiaojun
(China)
Professor at Institute of
International Strategic
Studies, Party School of
the Central Committee of
the Communist Party of
China

Coal provides 70% of China's energy needs, which is extremely high compared with 20% for the world as a whole. Environmental problems such as acid rain affect nearly half of China's land area.

Although a number of nuclear power generation projects are being developed in China to reduce the dependency on coal, we would like to advance them carefully, learning many lessons from the Japanese experience, including the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

China has now become the world's largest producer of greenhouse gases, but it is also the workshop of the world. Although production activities in China are accompanied by the emission of greenhouse gases, exported products are enriching people's lives around the world. I would also like you to know that China is focusing on the development of a green economy.

In China, a demographic shift from farming villages to cities is proceeding every year. Urban lifestyles are rapidly westernized, and this movement cannot be turned back. We have to resolve environmental issues, taking these historic trends into consideration.



The video of the symposium is posted on the website of the Asahi Glass Foundation. (Voices are original without oral translation)



Prof. Akio
Morishima
Professor Emeritus,
Nagoya University
(Coordinator)

I have realized that what underlies the views of the panelists is the same. Although we have little time left, I have come to think that facing the challenge of combating the environmental issues for the human race to continue to survive is indeed an honor for me.