

# af News

THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

September 2011

No. 41

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## 2011 Research Grant Presentation Ceremony

On the morning of June 7, the Asahi Glass Foundation held the ceremony at Keidanren Hall to present research grants for the year 2011. Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka opened the ceremony with a speech, followed by Prof. Kenjiro Omura, the chairman of the Selection Committee, who delivered the report on this year's selection process. The Chairman then presented the certificate to each grant recipients.

Mr. Junpei Watanabe, 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, Assistant Professor Kazuya Ando of Tohoku University responded with appreciation to close the ceremony. A reception followed the ceremony.

This year, 79 research projects were selected to receive the domestic grants. Combined with another 29 projects carried over from the previous year, the total grant provided in Japan amounted to 269 million yen.

The Foundation's website lists the new grant-supported projects that were selected this year (the Grant Recipient list for 2011).



# 2011 Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings in Japan

On July 26, the titled seminar for the presentation of 73 domestic grant-supported research projects (all fields) was held at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya, near Ichigaya Station. In addition to the presenters, other researchers who currently hold grants, Selection Committee members, guests, and numerous other relevant people attended the seminar, which ran from early in the morning until late in the evening.

The seminar opened with a speech by Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka, and then Prof. Kenjiro Omura (University of Tsukuba), the chairman of the Selection Committee, described the aim of the seminar. This was followed by three-minute speech from each presenter on their respective fields, accompanied by poster presentations.

Although the seminar on grant-supported research findings in Japan was originally

structured to have presentations on projects completed, ten interim report presentations on projects with large grant amounts and longer research periods were also included this year.

Researchers from various fields gathered in front of the posters and exchanged opinions. It was a very valuable occasion, as researchers discussed their accomplishments to date, as well as other matters such as in what direction they should develop their studies in the future.

After the presentations, all attendees attended the social function.

Please allow us to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all the attendees and everyone who helped to organize the seminar.



Prof. Kenjiro Omura, chairman of the Selection Committee



A three-minute speech



Chairman Tetsuji Tanaka



Attendees view the posters



Social function

# 2011 Overseas Research Grants: Grant Presentation Ceremonies and Seminars of Research Findings

Research grant presentation ceremonies and seminars on research findings were held on August 2 at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, and on August 5 at Institut Teknologi Bandung in Indonesia.

## Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)

On August 2, the research grant presentation ceremony and the seminar on research findings were held in the Maha Chulalongkorn Building of Chulalongkorn University.

Following a speech by Dr. Pirom (the president of the university) and Chairman Tanaka, certificates were presented to each of the 12 grant recipients of this year. Prof. Lkkunaprasit

then delivered a keynote lecture. The attendees then separated into three different sessions, with each session held in a different room. Presentations were made on a total of 14 research projects.



Chairman Tanaka presents a certificate



Grant recipients and associated people from Chulalongkorn University, Asahi Glass Company and the Asahi Glass Foundation

## Institut Teknologi Bandung (Indonesia)

On August 5, the grant presentation ceremony and the seminar on research findings were held in the auditorium of Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB). Following speeches by ITB Rector Dr. Akhmaloka and Senior Executive Director Samejima, certificates were presented to 16 grant recipients. In the seminar on research findings, 11 grant-supported projects were presented that had been selected the previous year. In addition to research into materials and systems, the determination of the causes of land sinking and the use of wildlife resources that may be connected with the natural environment of Indonesia were discussed.

Senior Executive Director Samejima receives a plate of appreciation from Rector Dr. Akhmaloka.



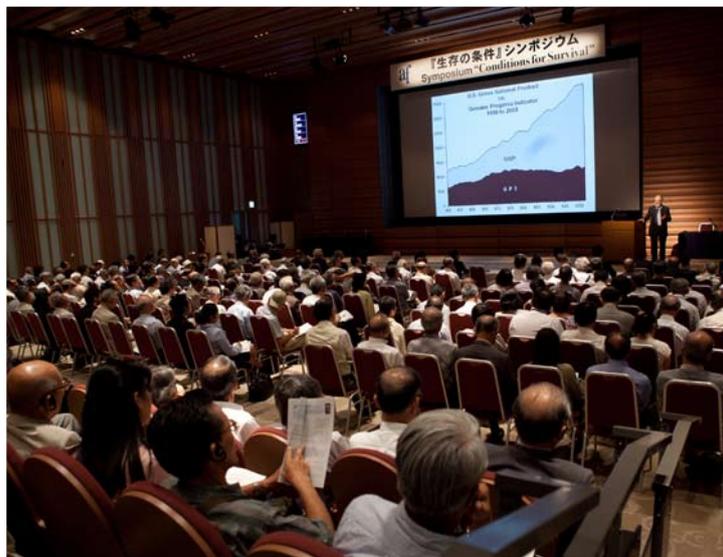
Grant recipients, Rector Dr. Akhmaloka and Senior Executive Director Samejima



A presentation on research findings given at the seminar

# 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.



## 2011 Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced

On Wednesday, July 27, the press conference to announce the winners of the 20<sup>th</sup> Blue Planet Prize, an international environment award, was held at Keidanren Kaikan, with Chairman Tanaka, Dr. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa (the chairman of the Presentation Committee), 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. Jane Lubchenco, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of USA, and Barefoot College in India.

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.

### Dr. Jane Lubchenco (USA)

Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)



#### Selection Rationale

Dr. Jane Lubchenco has accomplished brilliant academic research in marine ecology, expanding the field into new areas by combining the physical and biological sciences. As one of the most frequently quoted ecologists in the world, she has had a profound impact on the fields of marine biology and environmental sciences. Her work demonstrates the close relationships between the environment, biodiversity, human health, economics, and national security, and therefore between the environment and human well-being. She has provided a powerful approach for scientists to address environmental issues based on her seminal concept, a "social contract for scientists", which links scientists with society.

### Barefoot College (Founded in India)



#### Selection Rationale

In its 40 years of grassroots educational programs to eradicate poverty and support the living standards of rural villages in developing countries, this organization has made great strides in assisting residents to resolve numerous issues on their own. The Barefoot College has been expanding its operations from India to other developing nations with problems common to rural farming villages. While it respects the traditional knowledge of the region, it has provided expertise for small-scale solar power generation and other new ideas, and implemented educational programs to provide opportunities and systems for learning to allow local residents to improve their own situation. Thus, the Barefoot College has a long track record of success in the autonomous and sustainable development of ecologically sound farming communities.

### ✿ The Awards Ceremony and the Commemorative Lectures of the 2011 Blue Planet Prize ✿

The awards ceremony will take place on November 9, 2011 (Wednesday), at Tokyo Kaikan (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures will be given by the prize recipients at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on November 10 (Thursday).