

af News

THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

August 2009

No. 37

2nd Floor, Science Plaza, 5-3, Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0081, Japan
Tel.: +81 3 5275 0620 Fax: +81 3 5275 0871

URL <http://www.af-info.or.jp/en/index.html>

E-MAIL post@af-info.or.jp

2009 Research Grant Presentation Ceremony

On the afternoon of June 9, the Research Grant Presentation Ceremony of the Asahi Glass Foundation was held at the Keidanren Hall on the second floor of the newly completed Keidanren Kaikan. The ceremony commenced with an explanation of the selection process delivered by Prof Takeshi Endo, Selection Committee Chairman and Prof Takashi Miyajima, Selection Committee Chairman, before Chairman Hiromichi Seya presented the recipients with their grant certificates.

On behalf of Harufumi Mochizuki, Vice-Minister of METI, Deputy Director General of the Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau Mr Norihiko Ishiguro delivered congratulatory



remarks. On behalf of Fumio Isoda, Director general of the Research Promotion Bureau of MEXT, Mr Yasunori Yamashita, Director of the Scientific Research Aid Division of the Research Promotion Bureau, congratulated the awardees. Expressing gratitude on behalf of all the grant recipients, Prof Teruo Ono of Kyoto University gave an address, after which the ceremony was concluded. A reception was held in an adjacent room so that the grant recipients and all other participants could mingle.

This year, a total of 234 million yen was awarded domestically to 79 new research projects and to 15 carry-over research projects from the previous years.



2009 Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings

The 2009 Seminar with 100 research projects (in all fields), mainly consisting of the domestic grant awarded studies whose research period was completed in March this year, was held on July 15 at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya, located near Ichigaya Station. Numerous people, including the researchers from the projects now receiving grants, the selection committee members of the Asahi Glass Foundation and honorable guests participated throughout the day.

After the opening address by Chairman Hiromichi Seya, Prof Takashi Miyajima (Hosei University), the chairman of the selection committee briefly explained the purposes of the Seminar, which was followed by presentations of each research accomplishment made in the form of a three-minute speech and posters outlining each

research project.

This year, presentations were not only on projects whose grant period is complete, but projects receiving large grants that have progressed for more than a year also gave presentations on their interim results.

Against the backdrop of the posters on display, specialists from different fields of research exchanged opinions, making it a very meaningful occasion for them.

After the presentations, a party was held at the same venue, with all the participants mingling.

In this report, Asahi Glass Foundation would like to express its gratitude once again to the participants and everyone involved in the operations of the meeting.



Prof Takashi Miyajima,
Selection Committee
Chairman



Three-minute speeches in the presentation hall



Chairman Hiromichi Seya



Poster presentation venue



Party after the seminar

2009 Overseas Research Grant Presentation Ceremony and Research Findings Seminar

The research grant presentation ceremonies and the seminar of research outcomes were held on July 1 at Chulalongkorn University in Thailand and on July 3 at the Institut Teknologi Bandung in Indonesia.

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

On July 1, the overseas research grant presentation ceremony and the seminar of the research findings were held at Maha Chulalongkorn Building, which is the most prestigious building on the campus of Chulalongkorn University. Following congratulatory remarks by Chairman Hiromichi Seya and an opening address by University President Dr Pirom Kamolratanakul, Chairman Seya presented the awards to this year's twelve grant recipients. After the ceremony, a total of nine presentations reporting on the outcome of the research in two sessions were held at different venues.



Grant recipients with Chulalongkorn University and Asahi Glass Foundation personnel



Oral Presentation at the Seminar

Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia

The research grants presentation ceremony and the presentations of research outcomes were held in the auditorium of Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) on July 3. Following the opening remarks by Institut Vice Rector Prof Indratmo Soekarno, and Asahi Glass Foundation Senior Executive Director Shunichi Samejima, Director Samejima presented the awards to this year's eleven grant recipients. After the ceremony, presentations on the achievements of the research projects were given by the ten recipients of grants for the previous year. The research covered a wide spectrum of fields, including seismic hazards, magnetoresistance materials, development and land tenure system, and ultrasonic tomography for tree quality evaluation.



Senior Executive Director Samejima presents an award to a grant recipient



Vice Rector Prof Indratmo Soekarno



Oral Presentation at the Seminar



2009 Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced

On Thursday, June 18, the winners of the 2009 Blue Planet Prize were announced at Tokyo Kaikan by Hiromichi Seya, chairman of the Foundation; Dr. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, chairman of the Selection Committee; and Shunichi Samejima, Senior Executive Director of the Foundation. This year's prize winners are Professor Hirofumi Uzawa, Member of The Japan Academy and Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo, and Lord Nicholas Stern, Professor, The London School of Economics from the UK.

The selection process began in June 2008 with nominations forwarded from around the world. Through deliberations for the selection, the Selection Committee presented its candidates for the approval by the Presentation Committee, and the Board of Directors and Councilors made the final decision in April 2009.



Dr Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, chairman of the Selection Committee, describes the achievements of the award winners and reasons for their prizes.

Professor Hirofumi Uzawa (Japan)



Member of The Japan Academy
Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Professor Uzawa has analyzed and tackled environmental issues from an economics perspective from an extremely early stage, and as a theoretical framework for confronting problems such as the global warming issue, he has advocated the concept of Social Common Capital, which contributed to establishing pioneering and original achievements.

In addition, he has contributed to the peaceful resolution of the Minamata disease issue and the Narita Airport construction issue, and has been consistent in his work as an economist who confronts the real world with a sincere outlook. Professor Uzawa continues to sound the alarm with respect to contemporary economics and civilization and remains to a large extent on influence on both the international stage and in Japan.

Lord Nicholas Stern (U.K.)



Professor, The London School of Economics

Having analyzed the impact of global warming using scientific data and economic models, Lord Stern reported the economic and social impact of climate change and set out countermeasures in 2006 in the Stern Review, *The Economics of Climate Change*. He has shown that cooperation among countries around the world, swiftly implementing the countermeasures presented in the review, would prevent and alleviate the enormous damage that might otherwise be incurred by climate change in the future.

On the issue of global warming, he has educated not only researchers but also the general public on the basic principles of the actions required, which have been endorsed by cutting-edge natural sciences and economics. Further more, he has presented to governmental officials in a number of countries his clear-cut equity-based philosophy on global warming, making a significant impact on their commitments.

The Awards Ceremony and the Commemorative Lectures of the 2009 Blue Planet Prize
The commemorative lectures given by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on October 19 (Monday). The awards ceremony will take place on October 21, 2009 (Wednesday), at Tokyo Kaikan (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo).