

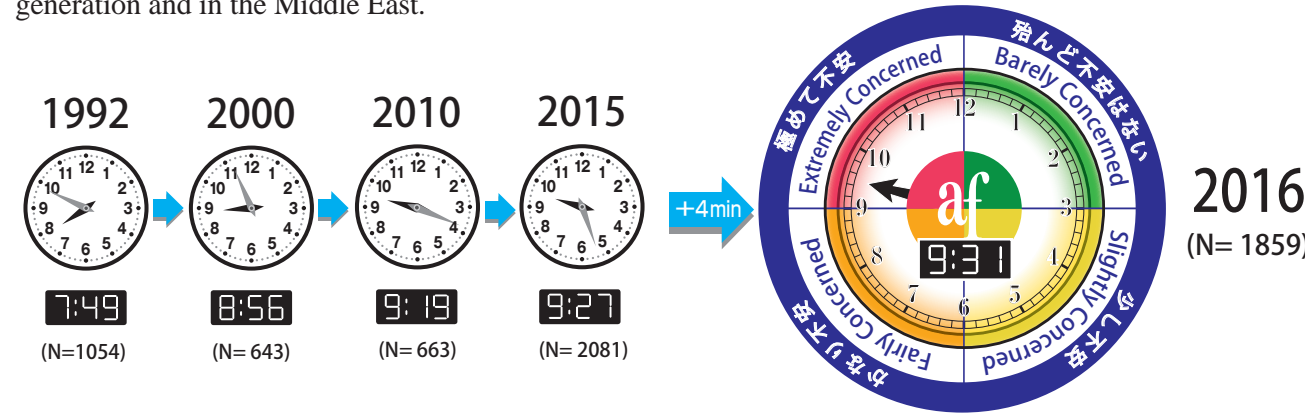
# af News

## >>> Worldwide Survey of Environmental Experts <<< Results of the 25th Annual Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind

The Asahi Glass Foundation has surveyed experts on 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 2016. Please refer to the results of the questionnaire on the web site (<http://www.af-info.or.jp/>).

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

The average time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock for all respondents was 9:31, an advancement of 4 minutes from last year's time of 9:27. Overall, the perception of the crisis has grown among the younger generation and in the Middle East.



## Activities to promote public understanding of the commendation programs and to increase supporters

We strive to promote public awareness of the Asahi Glass Foundation and its commendation program and deepen general awareness of environmental issues while seeking to attract a wider array of nominators for the Blue Planet Prize and respondents to Annual Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind.

On March, we exhibited the Environment Doomsday Clock at Symposium on Business Activities and Biodiversity hosted by the Japanese Ministry of the Environment.

We also participated in the 6th IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC6) in Hawaii from September 2 to 10. The venue was accessible to the general public and exhibited our booth, which presented explanations about the Blue Planet Prize, the joint paper by the laureates, questionnaires about the global environment, and the Environmental Doomsday clock. It also introduced a number of the Foundation's activities to many visitors, including *Gring and Woodin's Adventure in the Water Kingdom*. In particular, visitors associated with the field of education showed a strong interest in comics as educational materials for children. The comics were so popular that they were all taken as soon as they were displayed.

On September 9, during the Congress, the Foundation held a press conference on the results of the 25th Annual Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind. At the conference, Secretary-General Yasuda presented an explanation of the results and the time on the Environmental Doomsday Clock for 2016. During the question-and-answer session following his presentation, participants from the conference asked a number of questions and engaged in active discussions with him.



March: At the Symposium on Business Activities and Biodiversity



Press Announcenet

Q & A

September: At the 6th World Conservation Congress

## 2016 Blue Planet Prize Winners

In 1992, the Asahi Glass Foundation established the Blue Planet Prize, an award presented to individuals or organizations worldwide in recognition of outstanding achievements in contributing toward resolving global environmental issues. The Prize is offered in the hopes of encouraging efforts to bring about the healing of the Earth's endangered environment.

### Mr. Pavan Sukhdev (India)

UNEP Goodwill Ambassador, Founding Trustee of Green Indian States Trust (GIST), Founder & CEO of GIST Advisory, Associate Fellow of Davenport College, Yale University

#### [Selection Rationale]

Mr. Sukhdev is a pioneer in developing economic rationale and practical metrics for transition towards an inclusive green economy. He has drawn attention to the critical role of the Corporation in this transition. His work has shown how to mainstream the values of ecosystem services into improved public policies and business practises. By developing sustainability metrics for the corporate, provincial and national levels, he has driven momentum and capacity building to hasten the evolution to an inclusive green economy.



### Prof. Markus Borner (Switzerland)

Former Director of Frankfurt Zoological Society Africa Program, Honorary Professor of University of Glasgow, Adjunct Professor of The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, Tanzania

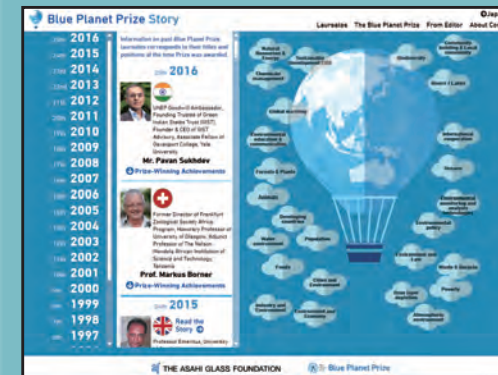
#### [Selection Rationale]

Prof. Borner has been at the forefront of conservation and management initiatives to protect endangered wildlife and ecosystems in Africa over the past 40 years. He was among the first to recognize that the conservation of individual species requires comprehensive conservation of entire ecosystems and the contributions and commitment of the local Tanzania people to the conservation of their ecosystems. A guiding principle has been that wilderness, biodiversity and beauty are essential for the survival and health of our planet.



## Establishment of a Blue Planet Prize Story

A Blue Planet Prize Story (<http://www.blueplanetprize.org>) has been established. It will introduce stories about the thoughts of the Blue Planet Prize laureates and what measures they are taking to protect the global environment for the next generation.



### THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

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## 2016 Research Grant Awarding Ceremony

The Asahi Glass Foundation held the research grant awarding ceremony at Keidanren Hall to present the grant for the year 2016 on June 9. Chairman Kazuhiko Ishimura gave the opening remarks, followed by Prof. Sawako Shirahase, the chairman of the Selection Committee, delivering the report on this year's selection process. Chairman Ishimura then presented the certificate to each grant recipients.

Mr. Toshiyuki Suzuki, Director for 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, Prof. Hirokazu Tsukaya of The University of Tokyo responded with appreciation to close the ceremony. A reception followed the ceremony.

The total number of research project to receive the domestic grants this year was 83. Combined with another 23 projects carried over from the previous year, the total grant provided in Japan amounted to 238 million yen.

The Foundation's website lists the new grant-supported projects selected this year ([Research Grant Program > Grantees](#))



Chairman Ishimura presents a certificate



Prof. Tsukaya of The University of Tokyo



## 2016 Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings in Japan

The Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings was held on July 29 at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya. Presentations were given on 73 completed projects along with interim report on 13 on-going projects with large grants. The seminar was attended by the presenters, Selection Committee members, guests, researchers who currently hold grants, and numerous other relevant people.

The seminar opened with a speech by Senior Executive Director Kunihiro Adachi, and then Prof. Sawako Shirahase (The University of Tokyo), the chairman of the Selection Committee, commenting on the aim of the seminar. Each

presenter described his/her results in a three-minute speech with more in detail in the poster session. Speeches and poster presentations were given in three separate sessions according to their field of research. The event lasted until the early evening.

Researchers from various fields gathered in front of the posters and discussions took place. The broad-ranging discussion often turned into occasions that dealt not only with the results obtained, but also future directions for the research and new academic collaborations.

After the presentations, all attendees attended the social function.



Kunihiro Adachi, Senior Executive Director of the Asahi Glass Foundation



Kazuhiko Ishimura, Chairman of the Asahi Glass Foundation, made the opening remarks at the buffet party



Three-minute presentation session



Professor Sawako Shirahase, Chairman of the Selection Committee



Attendees discuss in front of the posters



Attendees at the buffet party

## 2016 Overseas Research Grant Program: Grant Awarding Ceremonies and Seminars on Research Findings

### Chulalongkorn University (CU, Thailand)



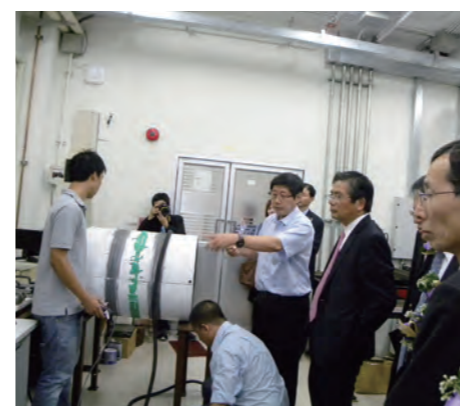
Grant recipients and associated people from CU and the Asahi Glass Foundation

The grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held in Maha Chulalongkorn Building on June 21. Following a speech by CU Vice President Kiat Ruxrungham, Chairman Ishimura presented certificates to each of the 10 grant recipients of this year.

At the beginning of the seminar, Prof. Dr. Sanong Ekgasit gave a keynote lecture. The attendees then separated into two rooms to listen to each session. Presentations were given on a total of 10 research projects.



Presentation of research results



Visit to a laboratory



Chairman Ishimura presents a certificate

### Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB, Indonesia)

The grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held at the auditorium of the Institut Teknologi Bandung on August 23. The results from 16 projects whose research periods had ended were presented at the event. Following speeches by Rector Kadarsah Suryadi and Chairman Kazuhiko Ishimura, Mr. Ishimura presented certificates to each of the 14 grant recipients.



Presentation of research results



Rector Kadarsah, Mr. Ishimura, and all of the grant recipients



Rector Kadarsah, a grant recipient, and Mr. Ishimura



Mr. Ishimura presenting a certificate

### King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT, Thailand)

The grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi on June 22. The awarding ceremony started with KMUTT Vice President Bundit Fungtammasan explaining the screening process, followed by President Sakarindr Bhumiratana and Chairman Ishimura addressing the audience. Then the five researchers eligible for the new grants were introduced together with their planned research and were awarded the grant certificate. After that, seven researchers who received the grant last year presented the findings of their research.



Presentation of research results



Mr. Ishimura and a grant recipient



Grant recipients and associated people from KMUTT and the Asahi Glass Foundation