



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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International Environment Award

Interview Videos of 2020 Blue Planet Prize Winners Released

The Asahi Glass Foundation, chaired by Takuya Shimamura and located in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, has released, on its special website, interview videos of the winners of the 2020 Blue Planet Prize, an international award to recognize contribution in the resolution of global environmental problems (<https://www.af-info.or.jp/en/blueplanet/special2020/>).

This year's winners are Prof. David Tilman of the USA and Dr. Simon Stuart of the UK.

Prof. David Tilman has demonstrated that plant-based foods are beneficial to human health and the environment while red meats negatively affect both of these, thus has advocated shifts towards diets and agricultural practices that are better for human health and the global environment. Dr. Simon Stuart of the UK has led the development of the categories and quantitative criteria for the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species and contributed significantly to the expansion of the number of species assessed as well as to global amphibian conservation efforts.

In 1992, the year of the Earth Summit, the Asahi Glass Foundation established the Blue Planet Prize, an award presented to individuals or organizations from around the world in recognition of outstanding achievements in social and natural sciences and technology, as well as their application toward solving global environmental problems. The Prize is offered in the hope of encouraging efforts to bring about the healing of the Earth's fragile environment. As a general rule, two recipients are chosen annually, and each recipient is presented with a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy, and 50 million Japanese yen in prize money.

The interview videos have been created in place of inviting the winners to Japan to attend the award ceremony and give commemorative lectures, which were cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The special website has been designed to simulate the flow of the annual award ceremony, with such content as congratulatory messages from the Asahi Glass Foundation's Chairman Shimamura, introduction of the Blue Planet Prize by Presentation Committee Chairman Dr. Yoshikawa and His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino. Prof. David Tilman, among other topics, spoke to interviewer Hikaru Kobayashi, Adviser of the University of Tokyo's Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology, about the importance of biodiversity, how people's diets are linked with environmental issues and agriculture, and the contributions that people can make through their lifestyles. Dr. Simon Stuart spoke to interviewer Tsunao Watanabe, Chair of the Japan Committee for IUCN, on such topics as the background to the IUCN Red List's development and the role of the first Red List of each country, as well as the challenges encountered in developing new categories and criteria.

Please visit the special website to view the interviews, which reflect the earnest desire of the two winners to resolve the increasingly severe global environmental issues.



Prof. David Tilman



Dr. Simon Stuart

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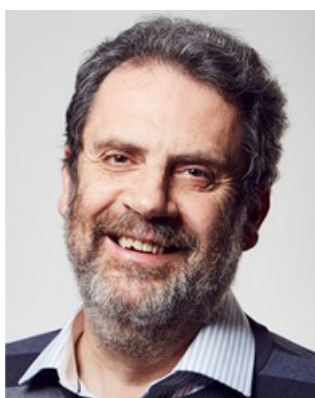
E-mail: post@af-info.or.jp URL: <https://www.af-info.or.jp>



1. Prof. David Tilman (USA), Date of Birth: 22 July, 1949

Regents Professor, University of Minnesota
Distinguished Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara

He has studied health and environmental impacts of agriculture and of dietary choices and demonstrated that while plant-based foods are beneficial to human health and the environment, red meats negatively affect both human health and the environment. Recognizing the tightly-linked diet-health-environment trilemma as a global challenge, he has advocated shifts towards diets and agricultural practices that are better for human health and the global environment.



2. Dr. Simon Stuart (UK), Date of Birth: 14 July, 1956

Director of Strategic Conservation at Synchronicity Earth
Former Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission

He led the development of the categories and quantitative criteria for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and contributed significantly to the expansion of the number of species assessed. This strong scientific basis has established the Red List as the most reliable, widely used data on species extinction risk. Also, conceiving and leading the Global Amphibian Assessment, he warned that the decline in the number of amphibians indicates that not only their habitats but also the surrounding ecosystems are deteriorating.

Report on the Selection Process (2020 Blue Planet Prize)

A total of 488 nominators from Japan and 795 nominators from other countries recommended a total of 127 candidates. The top three fields represented by the candidates, in order of number, were environmental economics and policy making (33), ecology (25), atmospheric and earth sciences (18). The candidates represented 34 countries; 21 nominations, 17 percent of the total, were from developing countries.

After individual evaluation of the 127 candidates by each Selection Committee member, the committee was convened to narrow down the field. The results of their deliberation were examined by the Presentation Committee. The Board of Directors formally decided to award the Prize to **Prof. Tilman**, and to **Dr. Stuart**.

About the Blue Planet Prize

Environmental conservation is one of the most pressing of the global issues humankind faces. Global warming, acid rain, ozone depletion, tropical rainforest destruction, and river and ocean pollution are just some of the results of human activity that is having an adverse effect on the Earth.

In 1992, the year of the Earth Summit, the Asahi Glass Foundation established the Blue Planet Prize, an award presented to individuals or organizations from around the world in recognition of outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application that have helped provide solutions to global environmental problems. The Prize is offered in the hope of encouraging efforts to bring about the healing of the Earth's fragile environment.

The award's name was inspired by the remark "the Earth is blue," uttered by the first human in space, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, upon viewing our planet. The Blue Planet Prize was so named in the hope that our blue planet will be a shared asset capable of sustaining human life far into the future.

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