

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/index/index\\_e2.html](http://www.af-info.or.jp/index/index_e2.html)  
E-MAIL [post@af-info.or.jp](mailto:post@af-info.or.jp)

## 2008 Research Grant Presentation Ceremony

The Research Grant Presentation Ceremony of the Asahi Glass Foundation was held in the afternoon of June 5 at the International Conference Hall on the 11th floor of the Keidanren Kaikan.

Chairman Seya congratulated the recipients and presented them with grant certificates. On behalf of Akira Amari, the Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Deputy Director General of the Economic and Industrial Policy Bureau Hiroshi Seto delivered congratulatory remarks. On behalf of Tamotsu Tokunaga, director general of the Research Promotion Bureau of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, Yoshiyuki Sodeyama, di-

rector of the Scientific Research Aid Division of the Research Promotion Bureau, congratulated the awardees. Expressing gratitude on behalf of all the grant recipients, Professor Masashi Kawasaki gave an address, and the grant presentation ceremony was concluded. A reception for the grant recipients followed at a different location.

The Asahi Glass Foundation awarded a total of 221 million yen in support of research in Japan this year, including seventy-seven new projects this year and forty continuing research projects. Details on the Asahi Glass Foundation grant-supported research projects for 2008 are available on the Asahi Glass Foundation website.



# 2008 Asahi Glass Foundation Seminar of Grant-Supported Research Findings

The results of research from seventy-eight studies concluded as of the end of March 2008 were presented in the afternoon of July 15 at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya. The presentations included grant-supported research in chemistry, materials, and bioscience, and were well attended, including researchers in the respective fields, selection committee members of the foundation, and guests from other foundations.

After the opening address by Chairman Hiromichi Seya, Dr Takeshi Koshizuka, the chairman of the selection committee, outlined the purpose of the proceedings. The presentations this year consisted of 3-minutes oral summaries given in a classroom-style venue, after which the assembled adjourned to a nearby hall where posters outlining each research project were on display. The researchers discussed their work with persons interested referring to the posters.

As the event was attended by

specialists from different areas of expertise, the researchers were asked to explain their work in easy-to-understand terms, and many of them were very inventive in preparing their presentations. The posters, too, were attractively laid out. The poster displayed hall provided a valuable venue, where specialists from different fields of research were able to talk to each other in a relaxed atmosphere and engage in spontaneous discussion.

A party was held in the same venue following the presentations. The presenters and members of the selection committee as well as invited guests mingled for drinks and refreshments.

More than thirty presenters came from distant places to participate in the seminar. The Foundation takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to everyone who attended as well as to those whose careful arrangements made the event such a success.



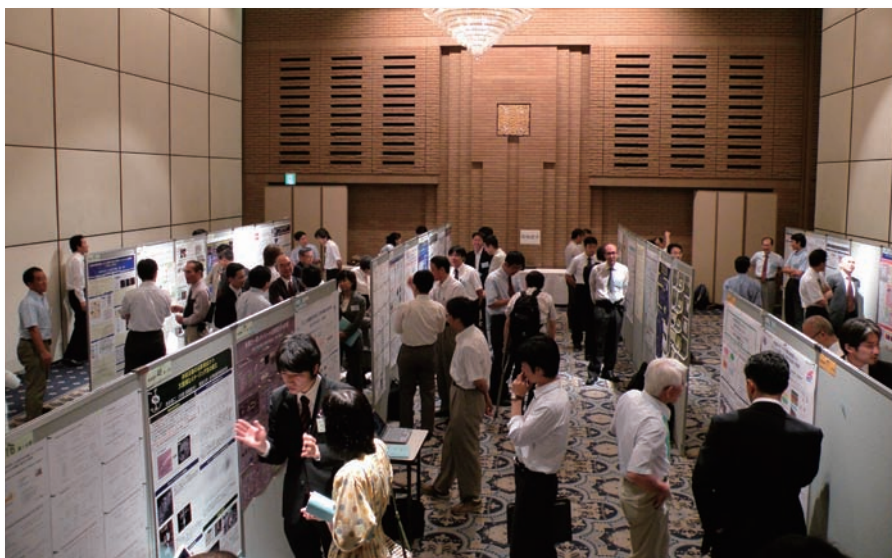
Dr Takeshi Koshizuka  
Selection Committee Chairman



Three-minute speeches in the presentation hall



Chairman Hiromichi Seya



Poster presentation venue



Party after the seminar

## 2008 Overseas Research Grant Presentation Ceremony and the Research Findings Seminar

The research grant presentation ceremonies and the presentation meetings 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

The ceremony for presentation of new research grants and the 16<sup>th</sup> Seminar of outcomes were held on July 1 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the head office in Jamjuree 4 Building. Following congratulatory remarks by Chairman Hiromichi Seya and an opening address by the university's Vice President Dr Kua Wongboonsin, Chairman Seya presented the awards to this year's sixteen grant recipients.

Afterwards, a total of eleven presentations reporting on the outcome of the previous year's research were held in three separate groups for medical science, science and technology, and material science.



Chairman Seya, presenting award



Grant recipients with Chulalongkorn University and Asahi Glass Foundation personnel

### Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia



Senior Executive Director Uchida presents awards to grant recipients

The research grants presentation ceremony and the presentations of research outcomes were held on July 3 in the Institut's auditorium. Following remarks by Institut Vice Rector Emmy Suparka, and Asahi Glass Foundation Senior Executive Director Keiichi Uchida, Director Uchida presented the awards to this year's ten grant recipients. The ten recipients of grants for the previous year then presented the results of their research, including various research fields, such as optical and magnetic materials, synthesis of biodegradable polymers, and musculoskeletal problems at the automotive industry.



Professor Dr Emmy Suparka

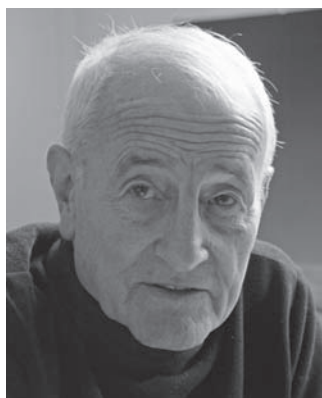
## 2008 Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced

On Thursday, June 19, the winners of the 2008 Blue Planet Prize were announced at the Keidanren Kaikan in Tokyo by Hiromichi Seya, chairman of the Foundation; Dr. Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, chairman of the Selection Committee; and Keiichi Uchida, Senior Executive Director of the Foundation. This year's prize winners are Dr. Claude Lorius, Director Emeritus of Research, CNRS and Member of the French Academy of Sciences, and Professor José Goldemberg, Professor, Institute of Electrotechnics and Energy,

University of São Paulo and Former Rector, University of São Paulo.

The selection process began in June 2007 with nominations forwarded from around the world that were deliberated by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee then presented its candidates for approval by the Presentation Committee and the Board of Directors and Councillors made the final decision in April 2008.

### Dr. Claude Lorius (France)



Director Emeritus of  
Research, CNRS  
Member of the French  
Academy of Sciences

Dr. Lorius began his research on Antarctic glaciers and ice sheet from the mid-1950s and made a total of 22 polar expeditions mostly to Antarctica. Through those expeditions together with various teams of international experts, he drilled ice cores, analyzed them and disclosed the global climate change which took place in the last 400,000 years. Comprehensive studies on the ice cores allowed to obtain both past temperatures and composition of the atmosphere. Among those achievements, the relation he discovered between climate change during glacial and interglacial periods and atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane through ice sheet cores drilled at Vostok station, the coldest place on earth, was exceptional. Based on these results, Dr. Lorius has indicated that current atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide is unprecedentedly high and that this high level may possibly be due to human activity and warned of a consequent global warming of the planet.

### Professor José Goldemberg (Brazil)



Professor, Institute of  
Electrotechnics and  
Energy, University of São  
Paulo  
Former Rector, University  
of São Paulo

Professor Goldemberg began making a thorough study on energy problems from the late 1960's, and in 1973 after the oil crisis he served a major role in the adoption of bio-ethanol program, thus had made major contributions in formulating and promoting energy policies in Brazil. In the 1980's he designed an energy strategy which contributed to global sustainable development in which he devised a pioneering concept of "technological leapfrogging" for the developing countries where they could develop through strategies by introducing innovative technologies and with this concept he made a significant contribution in promoting renewable energy for a sustainable development. In 1992 as the Environment Minister of Brazil, he was active in preparing for the Rio Earth Summit and afterwards he exhibited strong leadership on environmental issues including energy, global warming, ethics, policies and deforestation, not only in Brazil domestically but also internationally including United Nations and other organizations, and in particular, he contributed in the implementation of many policies associated with improvements on energy use and conservation.

### The Awards Ceremony and the Commemorative Lectures of the 2008 Blue Planet Prize

The awards ceremony will take place on November 12, 2008 (Wednesday), at Tokyo Kaikan (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on November 13 (Thursday).