

# af News

## 2015 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 fragile environment.

### Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta FBA FRS (UK)

Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics,  
Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge

#### [Selection Rationale]

Professor Dasgupta's pioneering work on welfare economics and environmental economics unified the concepts of intergenerational equity and sustainable development and pointed to their equivalence. He also pioneered the study of rural poverty in developing countries in the context of a deteriorating environmental resource base; and thereby brought together previously disparate fields: development economics and environmental economics. In a wide ranging book on human well-being and the natural environment he showed that the coin by which economic progress should be judged is a comprehensive measure of a nation's wealth, and not GDP or the many ad hoc indicators of well-being in common use today. He has used those findings to develop an ideal system of national economic accounts, which is being implemented in India and several other countries. His lifelong aim of bringing nature seamlessly into economic reasoning has had a huge impact on contemporary thinking.



### Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs (USA)

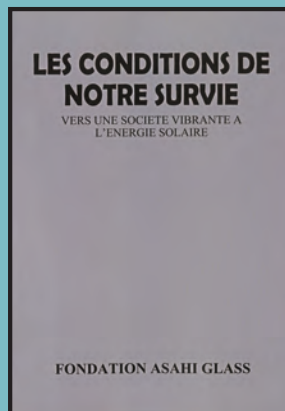
Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University

#### [Selection Rationale]

Professor Sachs has an impressive record of helping economies to overcome economic crises and achieve sustainable development. He has furthered human equality by applying his interdisciplinary and innovative "clinical economics," to resolve issues of governance, poverty, public health, education and the environment, helping to promote smallholder agriculture, social services, and economic development to overcome extreme poverty. As a scholar, practitioner and senior advisor to governments and the United Nations he continues to have an enormous impact on the world.



## Conditions for Survival now published in French



In 2010, the Asahi Glass Foundation published the book *Conditions for Survival* (in Japanese and English). The book has achieved a favorable international reputation and has been translated into a number of languages in collaboration with experts around the world. The Chinese (in simplified characters) and the Korean versions were both published in 2011, followed by Arabic in 2012. In 2015, we published the book in French.

### THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION

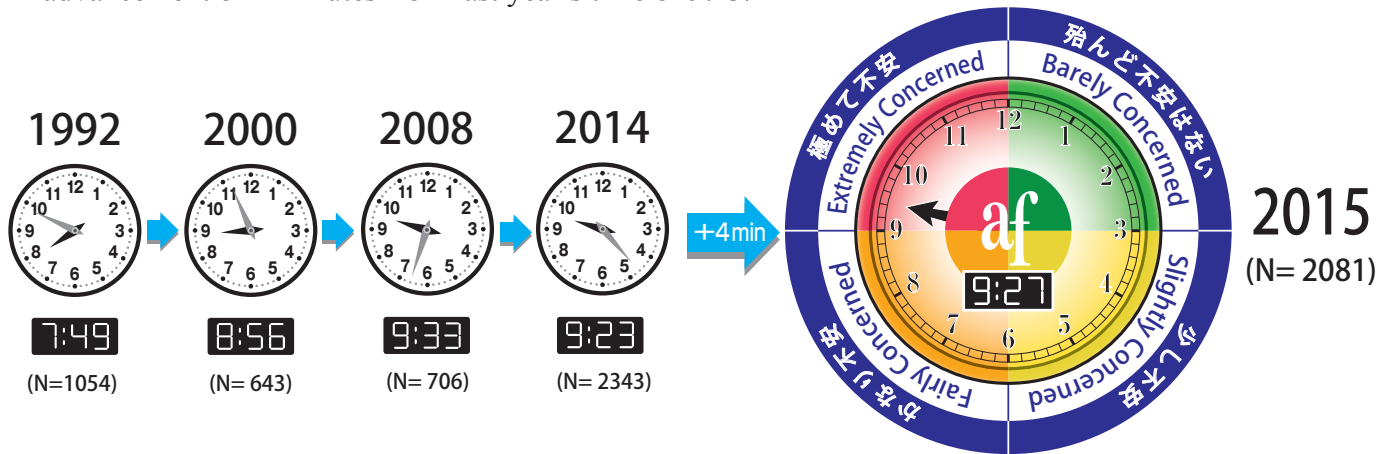
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## >>> Worldwide Survey of Environmental Practitioners <<< Results of the 24th Annual Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind

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 2015. 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 9:27, an advancement of 4 minutes from last year's time of 9:23.



## Enhancement of awareness of Blue Planet Prize and expansion of its supporter base

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.



Our exhibition at the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum (in Bangkok)

We participated in the IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum from 10-12 August 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand, where we presented an exhibition featuring

the Blue Planet Prize. There were quite a few questions raised by audience members who were interested in the Blue Planet Prize. Many of the participants also showed a keen interest in our survey on global environmental issues. In addition, the Environmental Doomsday Clock original character comic books, entitled Gring and Woodin's Adventure in Water Kingdom Vol. 1-11 (in English), attracted so much attention among visitors that we ran out of stock as soon as we began offering free copies of them at the exhibition.

Gring and Woodin's Adventure in Water Kingdom Vol. 12 was published in August this year. On the domestic front, back issues of the original character comic books were distributed by Nerima City at its Resource Recovery Center during the Environmental Week in August. The original character comic books are also offered to the public in cooperation with the Tokyo Sea Life Park every time their latest issues are published.

Gring and Woodin's Adventure in Water kingdom vol. 12



## 2015 Research Grant Awarding Ceremony

The Asahi Glass Foundation held the research grant awarding ceremony at Keidanren Hall to present the grant for the year 2015 on May 26. Chairman Kazuhiko Ishimura gave the opening remarks, followed by Prof. Kenjiro Omura, 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. Kazunari Matsuda of Kyoto University 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 81. Combined with another 23 projects carried over from the previous year, the total grant provided in Japan amounted to 246 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. Matsuda of Kyoto University





# 2015 Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings in Japan

The Seminar on Grant-Supported Research Findings was held on July 28 at Hotel Grand Hill Ichigaya. Presentations were given on 76 completed projects along with interim report on 18 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 Chairman Kazuhiko Ishimura, and then Prof. Hachiro Nakanishi (Tohoku University), the chairman of the Selection Committee, commenting on the

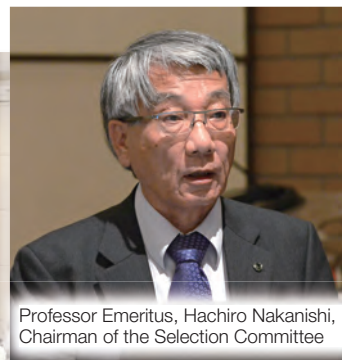
aim of the seminar. Each presenter described his/her results in a three-minute speech with more in detail in the poster session. Speeches and poster presentations were given in three separate sessions according to their field of research. The event lasted until the early evening.

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.



Kazuhiko Ishimura, Chairman of the Asahi Glass Foundation



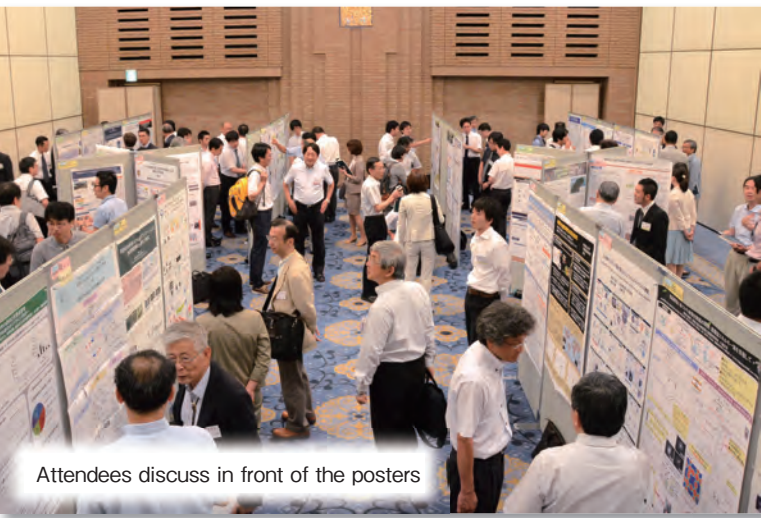
Professor Emeritus, Hachiro Nakanishi, Chairman of the Selection Committee



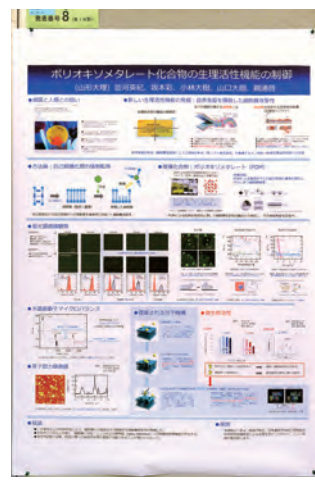
Professor Sawako Shirahase, Chairman of the Selection Committee, made the opening remarks at the buffet party



Three-minute presentation session



Attendees discuss in front of the posters



Posters at the venue

# 2015 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



Chairman Ishimura presents a certificate to Dr Boonserm



Presentation of research results



President Pirom and Chairman Ishimura exchanging the MoU

The research grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held in Maha Chulalongkorn Building on June 15. Following a speech by CU Vice President Prof. Mongkol, Chairman Ishimura presented certificates to each of the 10 grant recipients of this year.

At the beginning of the seminar, Dr Suttichai Assabumrungrat 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. A Memorandum of Understanding on renewing a three-year research grant program starting from 2016 was exchanged at the dinner.

## Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB, Indonesia)

The grant awarding ceremony and the presentation of research results were held in the auditorium of Institut Teknologi Bandung on September 2. Following speeches by ITB Rector Dr Kadarsah Suryadi and Chairman Ishimura, a Memorandum of Understanding on renewing a three-year research grant program starting from 2016 was ex-changed, and certificates were presented to 16 grant recipients. In the presentation of research results, 16 grantees adopted in previous years presented their outcomes.



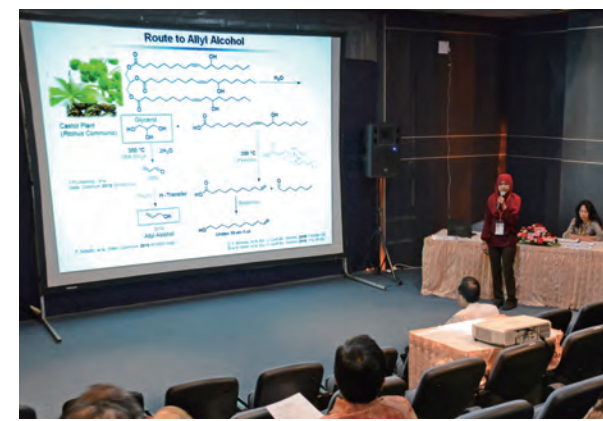
Commemorative Angklung concert



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



Chairman Ishimura presents a certificate to Dr Fenny



Presentation of research results



Rector Kadarsah and Chairman Ishimura exchanging the MoU

## 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 16. The awarding ceremony started with KMUTT Vice President Bundit Fungtammasan explaining the screening process, followed by Vice President Prasert Kanthamanon and Chairman Ishimura addressing the audience. Then the seven researchers eligible for the new grants were introduced together with their planned research and were awarded the grant certificate. After that, six researchers who received the grant last year presented the findings of their research.



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



Chairman Ishimura and new grantee Dr Triwit



A new grantee Mr Uday and his poster



Presentation of research results by Dr Thavida