

The MIDORI Press Special Issue: 2014

Questions and Answers about The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity



Photo by Jean Lemire



The MIDORI Prize supports the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.



AEON Environmental Foundation

The AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1990 based on a vision involving a quest for peace, respect for humans, and support to regions. Since its establishment, the foundation has made diverse efforts in planting trees in Japan and abroad, supporting environmental NGOs and NPOs, and organizing international congresses. The foundation, along with citizen volunteers, has planted more than 2 million trees around the world, including about 1 million trees around the Great Wall of China. In 2009, the foundation established and organized "The Japan Awards for Biodiversity", a domestic prize that, like the MIDORI Prize, is awarded biennially. The two prizes are awarded in alternate years. In order to sustain our green planet for future generations, through its various activities the AEON Environmental Foundation will make further efforts toward supporting biodiversity.

AEON Environmental Foundation

1-5-1 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture, 261-8515, Japan

Website: www.aeon.info/ef/



Takuya Okada

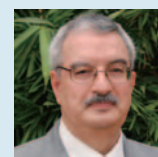
Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation

"Today, the prevention of global warming and conservation of biodiversity are recognized as two challenging issues at the global level. In order to resolve such issues, we would like to contribute to promotion of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, approved at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, which started in 2011, through making diverse efforts."

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 contracting Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 166 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. Another subsidiary agreement, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, will enter into force after fifty States have provided their formal commitment to the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal.

For more information visit: www.cbd.int.



Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The MIDORI Prize, which can be called the "Nobel Prize for Biodiversity," supports the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity by honoring individuals who have made outstanding contributions and, by showcasing their great works, hopes to inspire others. I have no doubt that this prize will become more and more influential and contribute to raising awareness on biodiversity throughout the decade.



In 2010, the United Nations declared the International Year of Biodiversity, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was held in Nagoya, Japan, and the AEON Environmental Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary. To commemorate this important year, the AEON Environmental Foundation established the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity.

What is the MIDORI Prize?

The MIDORI Prize is an international prize co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The MIDORI Prize is awarded every two years to three individuals who are each honoured at a special award ceremony and who each receive a monetary prize of 100,000 US dollars.

Why is it awarded?

The Prize aims to encourage action for biodiversity and inspire others by honoring individuals who have made outstanding contributions and showcasing their great work.

When will the next judging be conducted?

The MIDORI Prize has been conducted in 2010 and 2012, and the third Prize will be conducted in 2014.

How does the selection process take place?

Nominations are invited from members of the public worldwide. In addition, the organizers solicit nominations from a select group of invited MIDORI Prize Nominators, who are academics, scientists and other experts working on biodiversity from around the world. The Secretariat of the Prize oversees the selection process and a Selection Committee conducts a first screening of the nominated candidates. Based on a list of candidates provided by the Selection Committee, a Judging Committee conducts further documentary examination. The winners are finally selected from the shortlisted candidates at the Judging Committee Meeting.

To make a nomination

Nominations are made through the MIDORI Prize website. The nomination form will be available from 1 March 2014 on the MIDORI Press, an on-line magazine of biodiversity. The form should be filled out in English and submitted through the website. The closing date for nominations for the MIDORI Prize 2014 will be 31 May 2014.

The MIDORI Press <http://www.midoripress-aeon.net/>

Former prize winners

2012 Prize Winners

Juan Carlos Castilla (Chile)
 Professor, Marine Ecology, Department of Ecology, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile

As "the pioneer of South American marine ecology," Dr. Castilla (b. 1940) has been involved in national strategies promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. He worked with governments, coastal and more marginalized artisanal fisher communities, and proved that the small scale Marine Protected Area is effective for sustainably developing the community as well as growing a green economy.

Rodrigo G3mez-Lobo (Costa Rica)
 President, Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)

Dr. G3mez (b. 1936) founded and initiated the INBio in Costa Rica, a country of mega-diversity. He provided a successful model for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to the world in various fields including the inventorying of biodiversity, environmental education, bioprospecting, policy and legislation, land use management/technical assistance, capacity building and eco-tourism.

Vo Quy (Viet nam)
 Honorary President, Center for Natural Resources Management and Environmental Studies (CRES), Vietnam National University, Hanoi

Dr. Quy (b. 1929), who took the initiative to involve rural communities as the main proponents of the country's nature conservation and reforestation program, is rightly called the father of Vietnam's environmental conservation movement. He showed a model of the conservation and rehabilitation of nature, offering hope that lands devastated by urbanization or warfare can be regenerated.

2010 Prize Winners

Jean Lemire (Canada)
 Biologist, Explorer, Filmmaker

Mr. Jean Lemire (b. 1962) has been contributing to raising awareness and supporting child and youth education in recognizing the importance of biodiversity and becoming involved in action to preserve life on Earth by taking advantage of his unique background as both a biologist and filmmaker.

Gretchen C. Daily (USA)
 Professor, Stanford University

Dr. Daily (b. 1964) is a scholarly researcher in the Department of Biological Sciences at Stanford University. She has discovered the economic costs of environmental destructions, caused by human societies and their economic activities, and has contributed to the preservation of the ecosystem utilizing the concept of "ecosystem services."

Emil Salim (Indonesia)
 Chairman of the Advisory Council to the President of Indonesia
 Former Minister of State for Population and the Environment

Dr. Salim (b. 1930) has been taking a leadership role not only in Indonesian environmental policy formation and its implementation and the promotion of activities for environmental NGOs but also in international conferences on the simultaneous pursuit of environmental conservation and economic development.

Special Prize for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010

Angela Merkel (Germany)
 Chancellor of Germany

Angela Merkel (b. 1954) has demonstrated strong leadership of global environmental issues including climate change and biodiversity conservation policy at national, EU and international levels as the Chancellor of Germany.

2012 Award Ceremony in Hyderabad, India

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2012 was awarded on 17 October 2012 in Hyderabad, India, at a ministerial luncheon hosted by the Government of India during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP11).

In her remarks to the distinguished guests, Her Excellency Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan, the Minister of Environment and Forests of the Government of India and COP 11 President, said: "As COP11 President, I am very honoured to host this award ceremony and happy to have these distinguished winners at COP11, who have made outstanding contributions to implementation of CBD. I believe their inspiring works will help attract people's attention to biodiversity issues through this MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity."