
Nominations open for The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2016

Tokyo/Montreal, 15 February 2016– With the aim to encourage positive action for biodiversity and inspire others by showcasing the notable work of those it honours, nominations are now invited for the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2016. The call for nominations remains open from 15 February to 30 June 2016.

The MIDORI Prize, a biennial international prize co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), honours three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Established by the AEON Environmental Foundation during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, this year marks the fourth time that the MIDORI Prize is being awarded.

Takuya Okada, Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation and Honorary Chairman of AEON Co., Ltd., said: “The conservation of biodiversity and the prevention of climate change are two of the greatest challenges of our time. We hope that the MIDORI Prize will contribute to meeting this global challenge, to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.”

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, said: “The MIDORI Prize, the unique international prize dedicated to biodiversity, by honouring the notable work of talented individuals, will contribute to raising public awareness on the essential role of biodiversity to humanity and to the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.”

The Prize will be awarded at a special ceremony organized in conjunction with the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Cancún, Mexico, in December 2016.

Nominations are invited from members of the public through the MIDORI Prize website, www.midoripress-aeon.net/.

Notes for editors

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

Organized by: The AEON Environmental Foundation, co-organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

Establishment: The Prize was established by the AEON Environmental Foundation in 2010 to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Nagoya, Japan, and the Foundation's 20th anniversary.

The Prize: The MIDORI Prize is awarded to three individuals who will each be honoured at an award ceremony held in conjunction with the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Cancún, Mexico, in December 2016, and who will each receive a monetary prize of US\$100,000. The prize winners will be announced in October 2016.

Nominations: Accepted through the official award website: www.midoripress-aeon.net/ (The MIDORI Press)

Nomination period: 15 February – June 30 2016

Judging Committee (honorifics omitted, as of 15 February 2016)

Chairman

Takuya Okada, Chairman, AEON Environmental Foundation

Members (alphabetical order)

Representative Co-organizer of the MIDORI Prize

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Mariana Bellot, National Coordinator, Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN-Mexico), United Nations Development Program

Jae Chun Choe, Founding President, National Institute of Ecology, Distinguished Professor of EcoScience, Ewha Womans University

Kunio Iwatsuki, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Daizaburo Kuroda, Senior Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Anne McDonald, Professor, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Sophia University

Takako Takano, Professor, Center for International Education, Waseda University

Shiro Wakui, Professor, Tokyo City University and Vice Chairman, Japan Committee of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Former Prize Winners (honorifics omitted)

The MIDORI Prize 2010

Jean Lemire (Canada), Biologist, Explorer, Filmmaker

Gretchen C. Daily (USA), Professor, Stanford University

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

Special Prize for the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Angela Merkel (Germany), Chancellor of Germany

The MIDORI Prize 2012

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

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

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

The MIDORI Prize 2014

Kamal Bawa (India), President, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), India and Distinguished Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana), Chair, Ghana National Biodiversity Committee

Bibiana Vilá (Argentina), Director, Vicuñas, Camelids and Environment (VICAM) and Principal Researcher, National Research Council (CONICET) Argentina

AEON Environmental Foundation

The AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1990 based on our principles of pursuing peace, respecting humanity, and contributing to local communities.

Since its establishment, the Foundation has made diverse efforts supporting environmental NGOs and NPOs, undertaking tree planting in Japan and abroad, and in order to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, awarding domestic and international prizes, and developing human resources in the environmental field. In 2015, the Foundation organized the fourth “Japan-China International Symposium on Environmental Issues” in Beijing, China in commemoration of its 25th anniversary. It also presented the “AEON Beijing Environmental Proposal” with the aim of resolving global environmental issues beyond generations and borders.

The conservation of biodiversity and the prevention of climate change are two of the greatest challenges of our time. We hope the MIDORI Prize will provide opportunities to meet this global challenge, contributing to further advancement toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted in 2010 and the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.

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Website: www.aeon.info/ef/en

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 196 contracting Parties up to now, 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 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 70 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

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For more information, visit “The MIDORI Press”: www.midoripress-aeon.net/
