



Nominations open for The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2020

- *MIDORI Prize awarded biennially to three individuals making outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity*
- *Unique prize contributes to raising public awareness of essential role biodiversity plays for human well-being and to global challenges like climate change*
- *Prize to be awarded in Tokyo on 18 September 2020.*

27 November 2019 – Nominations are now invited for The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2020. The call for nominations remains open until 30 March 2020.

The MIDORI Prize is a biennial international prize co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that honours three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It aims to encourage positive action for biodiversity and inspire others by showcasing the notable work of those it honours.

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

Takuya Okada, Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation and Honorary Chairman of AEON Co., Ltd., said: “Safeguarding the Earth’s biodiversity and tackling climate change are two of the greatest challenges of our time. We hope that the MIDORI Prize will help to inspire action to meet the global challenge, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.”

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Officer-in-Charge of the CBD Secretariat, said: “The MIDORI Prize gives the world a unique opportunity to shine a spotlight on the work of individuals dedicated to protecting biodiversity around the world. While we all move to agree on a new global biodiversity framework, the Prize will continue to raise public awareness not only on the essential role of biodiversity to assuring human well-being but also the nature-based solutions that biodiversity provides to global challenges like climate change.”

The Prize will be awarded at a special ceremony organized in Tokyo on 18 September 2020, prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the CBD. On the same day, The AEON Environmental Foundation will hold an event to mark the 30th Anniversary of its establishment, with all past MIDORI Prize winners invited for a panel discussion.

Nominations are invited from members of the public through the website of the AEON Environmental Foundation, www.aeon.info/ef/en/prize/

NOTES TO EDITORS

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity is awarded every two years, coinciding with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). 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 CBD held in Nagoya, Japan, and the Foundation's 20th anniversary. The MIDORI Prize 2020 will be awarded to three individuals who will each be honoured at an award ceremony held in Tokyo, on 18 September 2020 prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and who will each receive a monetary prize of US\$100,000. Previous Winners of the Midori Prize include (alphabetical order, honorifics omitted): Alfonso Aguirre-Muñoz (Mexico), Kamal Bawa (India), Juan Carlos Castilla (Chile), Gretchen Daily (USA), Yury Darman (Russia), Rodrigo Gámez-Lobo (Costa Rica), Jean Lemire (Canada), Alfred Oteng-Yeboah (Ghana), Vo Quy (Vietnam), Emil Salim (Indonesia), Vandana Shiva (India), Bibiana Vilá (Argentina), Kathy MacKinnon (U.K.), Assad Serhal (Lebanon), and Abdul Hamid Zakri (Malaysia). Further information on the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity is available on the website: www.aeon.info/ef/en/prize/. Nominations will be accepted through the website www.aeon.info/ef/en/ between 27 November 2019 and 30 March 2020.

AEON Environmental Foundation

The AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1990 based on 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 and the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. Address: 1-5-1 Nakase, Mihama-ku, Chiba City, Chiba Prefecture, 261-8515, Japan. 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 Parties so far, 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, 172 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 123 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.