AEON Environmental Foundation

The AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1998 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 2003, 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
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Website: www.aeoninfo.jp

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

The MIDORI Press Special Issue: 2014
Questions and Answers about The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

Takaya Okada
Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation

"Today, the preservation 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 holding diverse efforts.”

Brazilia Ferreira de Souza Briz
Director Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The MIDORI Prize, which can be called the "MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity," supports the initiatives 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 world.

The MIDORI Prize supports the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.
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 AECI Environmental Foundation celebrated its 20th anniversary. To commemorate this important year, the AECI Environmental Foundation established the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity.

What is the MIDORI Prize?

The MIDORI Prize is an international prize co-organized by the AECI 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 honouring 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 nominees, 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 a 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 online 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.

2012 Prize Winners


dr. Juan Carlos Castilla (Chile)
Professor, Marine Ecology, Department of Biology, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, Chile.

In his pioneering work on marine ecology, Dr. Castilla has been one of the leading proponents of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. He has worked on the management of marine coastal resources by developing new management strategies, by undertaking research in marine protected areas, and by promoting ocean conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

Rodrigo Gaitana (Costa Rica)
President, National Commission on Biodiversity, Minister of Environment.

Dr. Gaitana is widely recognized as a leader in biodiversity conservation in Costa Rica. He has implemented innovative policies and programs to promote the conservation of biodiversity and to ensure its sustainable use. He has also worked on the development of integrated environmental policies and on the promotion of environmental education and awareness.

Dr. Qia (China)
Director of the National Forestry Commission of China.

Dr. Qia is widely recognized as a leader in biodiversity conservation in China. He has been a key figure in the development and implementation of national policies and programs to promote the conservation of biodiversity and to ensure its sustainable use. He has also worked on the development of integrated environmental policies and on the promotion of environmental education and awareness.

2010 Prize Winners


dr. Jean Lombeir (Canada)
Professor, Biodiversity, Simon Fraser University.

Dr. Lombeir is widely recognized as a leader in biodiversity conservation in Canada. He has been a key figure in the development and implementation of national policies and programs to promote the conservation of biodiversity and to ensure its sustainable use. He has also worked on the development of integrated environmental policies and on the promotion of environmental education and awareness.

Gerrit V. C. Def (Netherlands)
Professor, Vrije University.

Dr. Def is widely recognized as a leader in biodiversity conservation in the Netherlands. He has been a key figure in the development and implementation of national policies and programs to promote the conservation of biodiversity and to ensure its sustainable use. He has also worked on the development of integrated environmental policies and on the promotion of environmental education and awareness.

Emile Sultan (Factor)
Chairman, Factor's Committee (France).

Mr. Sultan is widely recognized as a leader in biodiversity conservation in France. He has been a key figure in the development and implementation of national policies and programs to promote the conservation of biodiversity and to ensure its sustainable use. He has also worked on the development of integrated environmental policies and on the promotion of environmental education and awareness.

Special Prize for the International Year of Biodiversity 2010

Angela Dress (Germany)
Chair of Germany.

Angela Dress is widely recognized as a leader in biodiversity conservation in Germany. He has been a key figure in the development and implementation of national policies and programs to promote the conservation of biodiversity and to ensure its sustainable use. He has also worked on the development of integrated environmental policies and on the promotion of environmental education and awareness.