



# Annual Report

Report for Fiscal 2022

April 2022 - March 2023



THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

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The Akashi Kaikyo Bridge stands out in silhouette against sunset skies. The photo was taken when I walked alongside the Akashi Strait with Cambodian youths visiting Japan as their first overseas destination. It was a fleeting twilight moment between day and night, or golden hour.  
Photo taken by Hideo Tone.

# Message from the President

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**Dr. HANEDA Masashi**  
President  
The Toyota Foundation (Public Interest  
Incorporated Foundation)

As we usher in the fiscal year 2023, I would like to take this occasion to extend my greetings to you. The Covid-19 outbreak, a pandemic of historic proportions that has lasted for a little more than three years since early spring in 2020, appears to be finally coming to an end. With a number of restrictions on our everyday life being lifted gradually, we now frequently see the return of foreign visitors to Japan, whether for business or pleasure, walking down the streets. All these changes make the arrival of spring, which in the past was simply taken for granted, feel all the more meaningful this year.

We, at the Toyota Foundation, continue to maintain its basic grant-making structure -- two Special Subjects, Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies as well as Migrants and Japanese Society, along with three key programs, the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan, the Research Grant Program, and the International Grant Program -- and to provide grants accordingly. Each of these grant programs keep the same themes from the previous fiscal year because the Foundation has completed an overhaul of its grant program concepts over the past few years. Thus, it looks to focus more efforts on building networks of grant recipients and further disseminating research outcomes through holding symposiums, among other initiatives.

As a prelude to a series of such efforts, the Foundation held a symposium titled "Let's think about our mental health - a case of athletes and their lives" at Tokyo International Forum in late February. This meeting was intended to facilitate an exchange of information and opinions, with main focus on presenting outcomes of the projects supported by the Initiative Program. It was the first in-person gathering in a few years for the Toyota Foundation to hold at a physical location since the start of the pandemic. Researchers of various fields, athletes and officials people involved gathered at the venue and engaged in lively discussions, which highlighted the

need to address a number of wide-ranging issues, going forward. The Foundation seeks to play an active role in organizing events such as this and communicating socially significant outcomes to encourage dialogue with the public.

In this fiscal year, we will focus on planning and preparations for the 50th anniversary of the Toyota Foundation's inception to be marked in 2024. Internally, discussions have already begun over leading proposals for deploying several projects centering on a commemorative grant program. Over the past few years, the Foundation has gained insights and expertise from its grant making activities based on various themes: Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies, Migrants and Japanese Society, Fostering the Autonomous Society, Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies, Fostering Mutual Learning Across Cultures among Asian Countries. By leveraging a wealth of such knowledge, the Foundation looks to define a theme for the planned commemorative grant program and design an overall program framework.

Now, let's look back on 1974, the year when the Toyota Foundation was established. At the time, the main means of communication was either telephone or post mail. Communicating messages, even domestically within Japan, was both time-consuming and costly. What's more, the infrastructure for disseminating information internationally was terribly underdeveloped. Now, 50 years since then, technological advances enable us to contact anyone instantly online. Who knows you may communicate with not a real person but an artificial intelligence chatbot called ChatGPT? Societal transformation, triggered by advances in communication technologies over the past few decades, is nothing less than remarkable.

Over the past 50 years, however, our planet has seen a significant degradation in its environment. How many of us could

have been able to predict accurately 50 years ago what Japan and the rest of the world look like today? I presume no one could have done that. Likewise, it is almost but impossible to foresee what Japan and the rest of the world will be like 50 years from now. Yet, we should not be resigned to the idea that there is not much we can do. Trying to quickly determine where things are headed from now, using our foresight to deal with social issues, and disseminating future-oriented outcomes for problem-solving. Doing all of these is the very reason why the Toyota Foundation has been around to this day, i.e., its own *raison d'être*. To make yet another step in that direction, the Foundation continues to discuss and explore what needs to be done to execute its planned commemorative grant program.

Behind the scenes, we would like to cautiously overview changing of the time of the world and Japan as well, with a panoramic perspective and take a look at social issues triggered by the change. Also, we are determined to seriously and incessantly deliberate over the design of our grant-making activities to make a difference.

Lastly, as the Toyota Foundation works strenuously on its activities this fiscal year and in the lead-up to the 50th anniversary next year, I would like to solicit strict but warm-hearted guidance from all of you.

[April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023]

# The Challenges the Toyota Foundation Tackled in FY 2022

In fiscal 2022, the Toyota Foundation (the TF/the Foundation) made grants under the frameworks of the two Special Subjects: “Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies” and “Migrants and Japanese Society,” and of the three grant programs: the “Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan,” the “Research Grant Program,” and the “International Grant Program,” as well as of the “Initiative Program” – all for the sake of achieving greater happiness of people.

To overcome issues laid bare by the Covid-19 pandemic at home and abroad, our society must envision once again what people’s connection and exchanges should be like and put that into actual practice by implementing new industrial technologies including information technology (IT) in an appropriate manner. In this fiscal year, too, the Foundation made grants in all its programs, with emphasis on this viewpoint.

Below is the outline of the respective grant programs:

## Programs with a public call for proposals

### The Specific Subject Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies

The TF called for research projects dealing with changes of the times and social challenges caused by new technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). In addition, a new framework was put in place for supporting exploratory individual research projects.

### The Specific Subject Migrants and Japanese Society

The TF made grants to projects involving investigations, surveys, and practices that were expected to contribute to building an overall system for accepting foreigners.

### The Research Grant Program

The TF launched two programs designed to contribute to fostering and supporting young researchers. One was a collaboration in partnership with an outside organization (the Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI), the University of Tokyo). The other one was intended to support joint research projects conducted mainly by young researchers.

### The International Grant Program

The TF made grants to projects for exchanges and problem-solving across national boundaries by local practitioners from more than two countries,” which deal with common issues in East Asia, including Japan, Southeast Asia, and South Asia. Since real, in-person exchanges were expected to be possible to a certain extent, the TF also called for projects predicated on direct, face-to-face exchanges.

### The Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan

Under this program’s two grant categories, the TF worked to further explain the focus of autonomy-fostering activities and further clarify expected outcomes of research projects, among other things, with a view to inviting more project proposals directly linked to the theme.

## Programs with closed application process

### The Initiative Program

The TF actively sought out and made grants to projects that it found deemed worthy of its support and its voluntary, proactive engagement.. Moreover, the TF provided a grant to the project intended to disseminate and spread the outcomes and methods of the past grant-awarded projects to society in an impactful way.

## Looking Back the Toyota Foundation's FY 2022

[April 1 to June 4]  
The International Grant Program  
Call for Proposals

[April 4 to June 10]  
The Research Grant Program  
Call for Proposals

[April 4 to June 6]  
The Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan  
Call for Proposals



[September 5 to November 19]  
Migrants and Japanese Society Call for Proposals

[September 26 to November 30]  
Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies  
Call for Proposals



Mr. Osamu Saito, the representative of a grant-awarded project in fiscal 2020, working on his project "Research on Practical IoT Education Curriculum at Kosen)."

# The Special Subject Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies

## Overview

### Program Title

Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies

### Call for Proposals

September 26 to November 30, 2022

### Project Period

One to three years, beginning April 1, 2023

### Total Amount of Grants

40 million yen

"Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies" is a grant program which covers research projects that address social issues concerning cutting-edge science and technology, particularly digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, Robot, and Blockchain. As such, the program has called for high-minded projects aimed at tackling issues -- how to better use digital technologies including AI, how such technologies transform our society, and how humans and society should be like in the future.

This program was launched in fiscal 2018 as a Special Subject of the Research Grant Program. In the following year, however, the Special Subject was upgraded to a new grant program, and "Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies" has since become independent of the Research Grant Program and has been operated as such.

## Grant Results ( ) Fiscal 2021

	Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
Joint Research	19	5	35.0	35.0	26.3
Individual Research	12	5	7.0	5.0	41.7
Total	31 (22)	10 (5)	42.0 (33.0)	40.0 (40.0)	32.3 (22.7)

Since fiscal 2020, the spread of the new coronavirus has accelerated the use of digital technologies at a rapid pace in society, adding to the importance of dealing with issues relating to society and the use of these technologies, a trend seen as characteristic of the past few years.

In fiscal 2022, the framework for grant-target projects was partially revised. Specifically, a new framework was put in place for offering support to exploratory individual research projects, with the aim of discovering young researchers. As in the preceding years, application requirements were such that the representative of a project should have his/her main place of residence in Japan, regardless of their nationality and experience, and the main purpose of a project should not be about technological development per se.

The application requirements for the joint research grant were such that the project's representative must be 45 years old or younger, as specified in the previous year. Also, a joint research project should be cross-sector and cross-discipline in terms of team member composition, research purpose and content, contribute to international research and activities, and state clearly methods for disseminating research outcomes.

The application requirements for the individual research project grant were set out as follows: applicants should be 40 years old or younger and engage in an exploratory re-

search project designed to adopt a unique and ambitious approach to various issues surrounding advanced technologies. Moreover, the requirements were such that an exploratory research project should factor in research's impact on society; should not be about making an individual's achievement in terms of research purpose and content; and hold the potential for being developed into joint research.

At the time of public calling for proposals, the Foundation held online briefing sessions, paid visits to key universities and research institutions, posted notices on relevant NPO/NGO portal websites, and notified to groups of interested researchers on social network, in order to inform and explain the purpose of the new individual research project grant. As such, the TF made efforts to widely disseminate information about public calling for this grant program.

In the end, the number of applications totaled 31, and the number of grant-awarded projects was 10 – five out of 19 applications for the joint research grant and five out of 12 applications for the individual research project grant. This time, too, many of the selected projects showed a tendency to focus on the use of and application of cutting-edge technologies to meet the demands of the times. In the individual research category, projects, including those challenging ones in which researchers themselves attempted to go beyond their own disciplines, were selected.

## Comments

### Comments by Selection Committee Chair

Yasuo Kuniyoshi

This year marks the sixth call for proposals on "Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies," a Special Subject launched in 2018. Over this period, digital technologies have increasingly penetrated our lives. Needless to say, this penetration accelerated rapidly through the COVID-19 pandemic, and it seems awareness of the issues surrounding the question of what advanced technologies and society

ought to be like has advanced into another realm.

Given this remarkable social change, the program called for individual research project proposals as a new initiative starting from this year. While in the past we have awarded to grants to joint research proposals led by young researchers, we have added support for individual research projects be-

cause we considered there may also be a need to support budding research based on even greater free thinking in order to address the use of rapidly diversifying advanced technologies and the new issues that accompany these technologies. Partly because it is the first year, there were a total of 12 individual research applications, which is not very high. However, the proposals came from diverse fields, and also included some ambitious proposals which went beyond the researcher's own field of expertise to tackle ideological issues around the use of advanced technologies.

The Special Subject received 19 joint research project applications, and selected five projects. Five projects were also selected from among the 12 individual research project applications. The number of applications tended to be somewhat lower than in previous years. However, the research projects that were selected were all characterized by an awareness of the problems arising from the current situation.

Below, I will introduce two joint research and two individual research projects from among the selected projects.

#### Joint Research

**D22-ST-0013 Fumiya Akasaka**  
(Researcher, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology)

**Project Title: Infrastructuring Living Labs: Building Infrastructure to Support Living Lab Practices**

The "living lab" approach in which diverse stakeholders try to solve issues facing local communities through "co-creation" is gradually increasing in Japan. As an approach that does not focus solely on corporate and technical perspectives, it is expected to be particularly effective in the provision of social services using digital technology. However, the process of discussion by small numbers of people, which forms the core of the Living Lab, is not a familiar approach in Japanese society. This research project will focus on this point and is a pioneering attempt to clarify the Living Lab practices that suit Japanese society and to build Living Lab infrastructure with the aim of using digital technologies. The project will refer to democratic processes in Northern Europe, which is considered the birthplace of the Living Lab approach.

**D22-ST-0019 Kenji Nakamura**  
(Associate Professor, Center for Mathematics and Data Science, Gunma University)

**Project Title: Basic Research on a Medication Assis-**

**tance System Using Metaverse Space and NFC to Establish a Relationship of Mutual Assistance**

This project aims to use advanced technologies to create a mechanism for medication management based on mutual assistance among the elderly. The combination of the elderly with the metaverse and NFC is very surprising. However, a demonstration involving 100 people is already underway, making it a unique and effective initiative. The advantage of metaverse space is that it is possible for people to interact without revealing their identities. In the future, this project is expected to contribute to important discussions, such as the fields in which this advantage can be applied.

#### Individual Research

**D22-ST-0006 Keita Kusunose**

(Visiting Researcher, Research Organization for Regional Alliances, Kochi University of Technology)

**Project Title: Construction of a Local Cultural Resource Inheritance Support Model Using a Digital Platform: Through Practical Activities Using Public Participatory GIS**

This is an ambitious project which aims to construct a support model for cultural resource inheritance in a local area using an open-sourced GIS. It is a unique project that will try to address an important challenge faced in the study of history in the past, namely citizen collaboration in cultural resource inheritance, by utilizing low-budget data that can be easily accessed by anyone.

**D22-ST-0007 Masanori Kobayashi**  
(Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Yamagata University)

**Project Title: Cost and Benefit of Technology Use on Human Cognition**

It is no longer unusual for technology to replace human cognitive functions, such as saving a photograph instead of making a memo or automated driving. Therefore, this project will attempt to identify the impact that the use of digital technologies has on human cognitive functions, both in terms of merits and demerits. The project is unique in examining how cognitive functions change depending on the amount of trust placed in assistive technologies such as computers and in studying more comprehensive cognitive functions such as memory, attention, and thought. It is hoped this study will develop into a larger research project aimed at the creative utilization of technology based on the knowledge obtained.

This year, as in previous years, there tended to be many

projects involved in specific utilization of advanced technologies. On the other hand, there were also several projects questioning the relationship between advanced technologies and society and the new changes. With regards to the latter type of project, ideally, I would have preferred more persuasive explanations about how the involvement of ad-

vanced technology is inevitable in the issues set out. As the relationship between advanced technologies and human beings deepens, I hope there will be more and more ambitious projects that rock the very framework of the existing social system in the future.

### List of Grants

\*Note: The project titles among other things on this list are those at the time of grant approval.

#### Joint Research

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D22-ST-0013	Infrastructuring Living Labs: Building Infrastructure to Support Living Lab Practices Fumiya Akasaka, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, Researcher	8,000,000
D22-ST-0016	Building a New Giving Economy: Through Verification of the Social Utility of Blockchain Technology Kenji Daikoku, DAIKOKU Co., Ltd., CEO	8,300,000
D22-ST-0019	Basic Research on a Medication Assistance System Using Metaverse Space and NFC to Establish a Relationship of Mutual Assistance Kenji Nakamura, Center for Mathematics and Data Science, Gunma University, Lecturer	7,700,000
D22-ST-0028	New Concepts of Free Will and Responsibility in the Near Future Society Kiichi Inarimori, Graduate School of Humanities and Human Sciences, Hokkaido University, Phd Student	3,000,000
D22-ST-0030	Science for Artificial Intelligence and Fiction: Extending the Imagination for Future Society with AI Hiroataka Osawa, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Faculty of Science and Technology, Keio University, Associate Professor	7,700,000

#### Individual Research

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D22-ST-0006	Construction of a Local Cultural Resource Inheritance Support Model Using a Digital Platform: Through Practical Activities Using Public Participatory GIS Keita Kusunose, Research Organization for Regional Alliances, Kochi University of Technology, Visiting Researcher	1,300,000
D22-ST-0007	Cost and Benefit of Technology Use on Human Cognition Masanori Kobayashi, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, Yamagata University, Associate Professor	1,700,000
D22-ST-0009	Investigation of Problems for Patients and Medical Workers Regarding the Diffusion, Continuation and Utilization of PHR Applications in Diabetes Care Hisato Tatsuoka, General Incorporated Association Kansai Healthcare Science Informatics, Representative Director / Medical Corporation Hajime-kai Yuki Naika Clinic, Medical Doctor	1,200,000
D22-ST-0012	Can Science and Technology Solve Poverty? : GIS (Geographical Information System) - based Spatial Analysis for Poverty and Public Assistance in Okinawa Keita Sakurai, College of Social Sciences Department of Social Sciences, Ritsumeikan University, Associate Professor	1,800,000
D22-ST-0023	An Eastern Perspective on Co-creating Human and Life Views with Technology Taeka Matsubara, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, The University of Tokyo, Project Assistant Professor	1,000,000



Participants are seen talking to each other in the grant-awarded project by the representative Ms. Yu Shinagawa, "Research and Analysis of Changes in Mindset and Behavior of International Students and Human Resources in Companies through Mutual Mentoring and Systematization of Training Model."

## The Special Subject Migrants and Japanese Society

### Overview

#### Program Title

Migrants and Japanese Society

#### Call for Proposals

September 5 to November 19, 2021

#### Project Period

Two or three years beginning May 1, 2023

#### Total Amount of Grants

50 million yen

The Special Subject "Migrants and Japanese Society," a grant program launched in fiscal 2019, entered its fourth year in fiscal 2022.

The Japanese government formulated a policy in the spring of 2019 to accept approximately 340,000 foreigners over a five-year period. With discussions about accepting more foreigners to make up for a labor shortage in certain areas, particularly nursing care and construction, the policy quickly shifted the focus of discussions from whether or not to accept them to how to accept them. Following this government's decision, the Toyota Foundation recognized that creating an environment enabling everyone to demonstrate their abilities to the fullest would lead to the well-being of all people living in Japan, including foreign migrants. Based on this recognition, the TF defined five challenges including the creation of an environment allowing foreign migrants to fully utilize their abilities.

This program is thus designed to make grants to surveys,

Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
44(50)	5(7)	47.5(50.0)	50.0(50.0)	11(14)

research, or practices that are expected to contribute to building a comprehensive system for accepting foreigners. The program also aims to achieve the following three targets through the implementation of the selected projects.

- To study any changes and impacts on various aspects of Japanese society due to an increase in foreign migrants, and consider what kind of response measures are possible.
- To identify factors behind various issues facing foreign migrants, and present and implement improvement measures.
- To create a common platform for solving problems by connecting those grassroots supporters of foreign migrants with other stakeholders such as researchers, government workers, local community members, and other parties concerned.

In fiscal 2022, the Foundation started accepting applications in September, and held online briefing sessions twice and conducted prior consultations more than 20 times. As a result, the TF received 44 proposals from around Japan by the deadline in mid-November, and five projects were selected and approved for grants through deliberations by the Selection Committee and the Board of Directors.

Moreover, the Foundation organized two-part debriefing

sessions online by the grantees of the grant-awarded projects in September and October in 2022. On each occasion, the grantee presenters from two grant-awarded projects provided an overview of their projects in line with these two key concepts – "Financial Inclusion and Changing Awareness" and "Employment Support and Human Resource Development" – and they talked about some challenges facing them along the way and engaged in discussions with comments from the commentators. These presenters also received comments and questions from online viewers during the live streaming sessions. The TF also created about 10-minute-long digest versions of each online session, and ones dubbed in English with English subtitles. Furthermore, the Foundation published a report in Japanese and English for the sake of disseminating information globally about lesser-known situations in Japan.

In fiscal 2023, the fifth year of this program's operation, the TF will continue to accept applications under the same theme. While continuing to monitor the progress of the already-granted projects individually, the TF plans to share insights and effects generated from these projects as well as expectations for future outcomes, among other things, through compiling them all into a report for public release.

### Comments

#### Comments by Selection Committee Chair Shigeto Sonoda

This fiscal year, Mr. Akihiko Tanaka, who has been Chair of the Selection Committee for this Special Subject since fiscal 2019, has stepped down and I have been appointed, taking over this very important job. I have been the International Grant Program Selection Committee Chair since fiscal 2018. Thus I hold two concurrent jobs this fiscal year.

In the International Grant Program, we have been receiving proposals on the theme of migrants and foreign human resources. Proposals in the program need to identify social issues that involve at least two countries in Asia. Japan may

not be included in the countries. In the Special Subject, on the other hand, it is required that projects focus on foreign residents in Japan. This is a major difference from the International Grant Program. The key point for the application is how to interpret the "Japanese society" as in the subject title, "Migrants and Japanese Society" and envision the future.

As in previous years, we issued a call for proposals on any of the five themes below.

- (1) Creation of an environment for maximizing the skills and potential of foreign talent
- (2) Minimizing gaps among foreign residents in their access to information
- (3) Examination of human and other resources in support of the care and support systems for foreign residents
- (4) Attracting skilled human resources from abroad
- (5) Lessons from insights and experiences gained through Japanese companies' overseas operations

### Overview of the Situation and Details of Application

The proposal submission period was from September 5 to November 19, 2022. During this period, we held two online briefing sessions, and nearly 50 people participated in the sessions. About 20 project representatives consulted us before applying, compared with about 30 project representatives in the previous year.

There were a total of 68 registrations and 44 of them applied in the end. This number is six lower than the previous year, when we received applications for 50 projects.

The 44 grant requests were for a median of 9.22 million yen (the minimum amount was 4.00 million yen, and the maximum amount was 10.00 million yen). Only ten projects requested a grant of 7.00 million yen or less, and it was difficult to increase the number of the grantees, even if we had adjusted the total amount of the grants.

Looking at the attributes of the representatives, 12 university researchers and 11 NPO/NGO staff members stood out. There were 26 respondents to a survey of the project representatives that indicated that more than half of the respondents, 14 representatives, had applied previously. Assuming that all 18 representatives who did not respond to the survey had not applied for a grant, the representatives who had previously applied were 31.8% of applicants. We assume that many representatives have repeatedly applied for grants.

Many of the 20 projects which were awarded the grants in the previous years are related to themes (1) and (2). Only a small number of projects were related to themes (4) and (5). The applications this fiscal year showed a similar trend.

### Selection process and results

First, program officers (POs) reviewed submitted documents and removed those that had deficiencies or were judged as

not meeting the application requirements. Three Selection Committee members then reviewed primarily the applications that had not been removed, reading all of the applications partly because the number was low. The Selection Committee members carefully selected the projects which would be awarded grants. The committee members asked the representatives of projects that could possibly be selected questions and took their answers into consideration.

A meeting of the Selection Committee was held on February 1, 2023. The committee's discussion lasted almost three hours and it selected the five projects below as grantees. Let me concisely describe the projects. The descriptions below include comments about their selection.

#### D22-MG-0015 Yukiko Furuya, Board Chair, CSO Network Japan

##### “Survey for improving labor and human rights issues of foreign workers through dialogue and development of guidebook for utilizing dialogue”

This proposal is related to themes (1) and (5). It pays attention to the fact that some Japanese companies that have supply chains overseas (affiliates engaging in processes from the procurement of raw materials to the sale of products) have successfully solved labor issues and human rights issues related to foreign workers through dialogue with local workers. The project aims to contribute to solving a range of labor and human rights issues impacting foreign workers by creating a guidebook based on interviews with people involved. The project will have bases in Hiroshima and Hamamatsu and plans to cooperate with private-sector companies. It plans to hold workshops in Tokyo. In the workshops, a guidebook that will be edited based on interviews in Thailand will be used. The project will collaborate primarily with CSO Network Japan and also with lawyers and ILO in Japan. Practical activities are expected.

#### D22-MG-0017 Hisano Hori, Representative of a board of directors, Global Human Resources Hamamatsu

##### “Survey and research on the audit and evaluation system for employment of foreign workers and development of model projects”

This project is related to theme (1) and is based on an awareness of problems that are similar to those addressed in the project above in that the issue of foreign workers' human rights is a theme in both projects. Specifically, the project aims to set up a council consisting of people from business, experts and other members, and evaluate the protection of foreign workers' human rights leveraging the audit and evaluation systems of employers. The project will carry out

awareness-raising activities, including the presentation of best practices at companies to the public, and it will offer to help companies be selected by foreign workers. There is a trend of emphasizing the negative aspects of the issue of foreign workers' human rights, including criticism of companies that do not protect the foreign employees' human rights. However, the project plans to highlight the consistent good practices of companies and carry out awareness-raising activities, which was highly evaluated by the committee members.

#### D22-MG-0018 Hirotake Mori, Associate Professor, Department of General Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Juntendo University

##### “Development of a platform to support overseas doctors with various backgrounds work in Japan”

This proposal is related to themes (3) and (4) and it plans to create a platform that will help foreign medical doctors become qualified in Japan and overcome the difficulty of practicing medicine over the long term. Specifically, the project plans to (i) post information about national exams for medical practitioners and life in Japan on its website, (ii) interview foreign doctors, (iii) hold seminars on national exams for medical practitioners and create a platform to exchange information regularly, and (iv) do consulting related to training hospitals, post-training work, and careers as doctors. It is expected that doctors from different countries working and conducting research at Juntendo University, where the project's representative is working as an associate professor, will participate in the project. The project is expected to contribute to the creation of an environment where foreign doctors can live without worries despite strict regulations on doctor licensing in Japan.

#### D22-MG-0032 Keiko Ikeda, Professor, Kansai University

##### “Establishment of an innovative employability enhancement support scheme for science and engineering international students in post-graduate English track programs in Japan”

The project is related to theme (4) and focuses on science and engineering students who aim to earn a degree in English after coming to Japan leveraging the Global 30 Project: Establishing University Network for Internationalization or the Super Global University (SGU) Creation Support Project, which are internationalization support projects of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). This project is an industry-academia collaboration to help more students be hired by and continue to work for Japanese corporations. The number of science and engineering students who are hired by Japanese corporations is

lower than expected because of constraints on the time for earning a degree and their insufficient Japanese language proficiency. The goal of the project is to improve the situation through online support for students and cooperation with companies. The project is carefully planned to involve not only university teachers, but also NGOs, businesses, government agencies and foreign embassies in Japan to support international students.

#### D22-MG-0039 Tamotsu Nakasa, Chair, SHARE (Services for the Health in Asian & African Regions)

##### “Supporting migrant workers in accessing health information, developing pathways to health services, and strengthening partnership”

The proposal is related to themes (2) and (3). The project will strive to disseminate the health handbook for Vietnamese workers working in Japan which is a deliverable of the project “Supporting migrant communities in accessing information and developing pathways for testing, diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19,” which received a grant under this program in 2020. The handbooks will be distributed first to the Vietnamese communities and then to people from other Asian countries, including Myanmar, Nepal and Indonesia, in Japan. The handbook was published during the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only the dissemination within the Vietnamese communities, the project also plans to disseminate information to people who have come to Japan from parts of Southeast Asia other than Vietnam. This sustained effort was highly evaluated by the Selection Committee.

### Conclusion

The Selection Committee discussed whether it would award grants to five projects or seven projects. In the end, the committee has decided to award grants to the five projects above. This decision was based on the following reasons: 1) If grants had been awarded to seven projects, the grant amount per project would have been reduced and the initial plans would have had to be changed significantly, 2) The evaluation of the five projects was higher than the remaining two projects, and 3) It was difficult to select one of the remaining two projects since they were considered equally valuable. It is a pity that the total amount of the grants is lower than initially planned.

However, the fact that all five themes are related to at least one of the five projects which received grants should be highly regarded. In the past, the number of applications related to themes (4) or (5) have been small, therefore, few grants were awarded to projects related to them. However,



this time, I am glad to see that grants have been awarded to projects related to them. There are many elements where selected projects can learn from each other. I hope that they will collaborate with each other.

All of the representatives of the projects which received the grant have a wealth of experience at universities, NGOs and NPOs. In that sense, I think that the selection results are reasonable. However, I wish I could have seen proposals not

only from people who support them, but also from foreign residents themselves. The children of the Asian immigrants who came to Japan in the 1990s have already become old enough to apply for this program to change Japanese society.

How will we change Japanese society to accept foreign nationals? Going forward, I hope many people will make specific proposals to make changes.

### List of Grants

\*Note: The project titles among other things on this list are those at the time of grant approval.

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D22-MG-0015	Survey for improving labor and human rights issues of foreign workers through dialogue and development of guidebook for utilizing dialogue Yukiko Furuya, CSO Network Japan, Board Chair	8,500,000
D22-MG-0017	Survey and research on the audit and evaluation system for employment of foreign workers and development of model projects Hisano Hori, Global Human Resources Hamamatsu, Representative of a board of directors	10,000,000
D22-MG-0018	Development of a platform to support overseas doctors with various backgrounds work in Japan Hirotake Mori, Medical Doctor, researcher, NGO staf, Associate Professor	10,000,000
D22-MG-0032	Establishment of an innovative employability enhancement support scheme for science and engineering international students in post-graduate English track programs in Japan Keiko Ikeda, Kansai University, Professor	9,000,000
D22-MG-0039	Supporting migrant workers in accessing health information, developing pathways to health services, and strengthening partnership Tamotsu Nakasa, SHARE (Services for the Health in Asian & African Regions), Chair	10,000,000



A photo shows the process of digitally archiving photographs in November 2022 at Bukkyo University as part of the fiscal 2019 grant-awarded project headed by the representative Mr. Tatsushi Nemoto, "Toward Heterogeneous Solidarity with Minorities: Reevaluating the Dalit Liberation Movement in Contemporary India and Digitally Archiving Shurei Sasai's Collection."

## The Research Grant Program

### Overview

**Program Title**  
Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies:  
Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in  
the New Normal Era

**Call for Proposals**  
April 4 to June 10, 2022

**Project Period**  
Two years beginning October 1, 2023

**Total Amount of Grants**  
50 million yen

As in the previous fiscal year, under the overall theme of "Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies," the Research Grant Program provided two frameworks that help nurture and support young researchers engaged in research for transforming social systems. The first one is intended to provide a stable research environment enabling promising young researchers, who are expected to become next-generation leaders, to work on their research topics for five years. This is a collaboration in partnership with the Institute of Future Initiatives (IFI), the University of Tokyo. The other one is designed to support two-year joint research projects conducted mainly by young researchers. In addition to the main theme, this second framework comes with the sub-theme of "Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in the New Normal Era" and is also developed to meet the demands of the times.

**[The New Partnership Program for Nurturing Professionals]**  
Under this new partnership program, two young researchers started their own research projects in April. It was orig-

Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
82 (130)	9 (9)	50.0 (48.0)	50.0 (40.0)	10.9 (6.9)

inally intended to select three researchers, and thus publicly called for another researcher. Just as in the previous fiscal year, application requirements were as follows: (1) holding a doctoral degree in a relevant field or expected to obtain such a degree by the time of assuming the researcher post; (2) having a record of achievements in science and technology; (3) having a clear awareness of issues in transforming social systems and having the will and ability to tackle those issues; (4) being capable of doing research with a broad perspective based on academic expertise and being willing to disseminate research outcomes widely to society and to make social and political proposals, among other things.

Ideal candidates are expected to be Japan's future leaders who have a broad perspective and backgrounds in science and technology and can play an active role not just in university and research institutions but also in other sectors ranging from business and industry to central and municipal governments to international organizations. This time, the job title of Project Lecturer was also included as part of the application requirements, along with Project Researcher and Project Assistant Professor. This was intended to invite applications from people with professional working experiences. Of 17 applicants, one additional candidate was selected.

#### [Joint Research Program]

For the joint research program, the Foundation called for research projects addressing issues highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic from a wide range of fields and without limiting the scope of research area or domain, under the theme, continued from the previous year, of "Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies" with the sub-theme

"Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in the New Normal Era."

As in the previous fiscal year, application requirements were such that a joint research project should be conducted by a team of two persons or more and that a project representative must be 45 years old or younger with his/her residential address in Japan. Moreover, the requirements also stated that selected researchers would be required to disseminate their research outcomes to society and beyond the boundaries of academia and to take practical measures including through drawing up policy papers.

As for public calling for proposals, the Foundation held online briefing sessions to publicize the new grant programs widely, organized an online roundtable discussion with three grantees and the Selection Committee Chair, and published on its website a report about the roundtable discussion as a reference material. There was a total of 82 applications, and nine proposals were selected. Although the total number of applications declined slightly from that in the previous year, these selected projects were proposed by researchers from various organizations including research institutions, companies, and non-profit and non-governmental organizations.

In August, a mid-term report-back meeting for fiscal 2021 grantees was also held to check on the progress of the selected projects, and there was an active exchange of opinions with input from the Selection Committee members. The Foundation held "café meetings" online since 2020, but it was the first time to hold café meetings in person. These "café meetings" served to facilitate interaction among grant recipients across different grant programs.

#### Comments

### Comments by Selection Committee Chair Hiroshi Nakanishi

This year, we selected the applications for the second year of the Research Grant Program based on the theme of "Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies: Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in the New Normal Era."

The networks underpinning society were suddenly and

forcibly shutdown by COVID-19, which swept across the world at the beginning of the year before last. As a result, people could no longer engage in interactions and activities like they did in their daily lives before, creating problems of division and isolation right across society. However, it seems that in many cases these were not new problems brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic but

preexisting social trends that suddenly came to the surface. Two years after the pandemic began, COVID-19 has not abated completely, but I believe society has been settling down gradually. However, this does not mean we are returning to the pre-pandemic world. After going through the experience of COVID-19, a new normal seems to be taking hold. For example, doing things online as and when necessary has become a routine option, even for holding meetings. Of course, we have learned that there are limitations to online communication and that direct, face-to-face conversations have a value that cannot be replaced. Nevertheless, the fact that online communication, which was previously unthinkable, has become a routine option is perhaps the most striking example of the new connections.

This year, nine projects were adopted from among the 82 applications. The number of applications was down from 130 last year, but we felt that the quality of the applications was comparable to the previous year, and there was a greater variety in the fields of study. This can be understood as reflecting a growing awareness about seeking new "connections" compared with the previous year when our attention was focused on responding to the situation under COVID-19. We believe another positive change is the fact that the ratio of male and female project representatives is now almost fifty-fifty. We hope these trends will continue in the future, and, at the same time, we would also like to see proposals that lead to solutions not only for issues that are closely related to our immediate society but also for global-scale problems. Below we introduce several of the selected research projects.

#### The following is an outline of the candidate projects.

**D22-R-0005 Eiichiro Watamura (Associate Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University)**

#### "Constructing a Social System to Undertake the Logistical Support of Child Guidance Centers"

Criticism of child guidance centers (CGCs) is not uncommon whenever child abuse is widely reported in the media. However, as CGCs themselves face the problems of staffing and budget shortages, child protection requires cooperation between CGCs and the public. This research will

explore ways to gain trust in CGCs through a study of appropriate methods of communication and mechanisms for diffusion of criticism through the media.

**D22-R-0036 Tohru Nakajima (Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo)**

#### "The Practical Fusion of the Physical and Cyber Worlds by Combining Field-based Measurements with a Large-Scale Computing Network in the Post-Covid Word"

This project will connect logging and other data from the shrine forest to a supercomputer at the University of Tokyo via a communications network and manage forest conditions in the cloud to continuously improve the efficiency of timber production for Ise Jingu shrine, which has been maintained through the shikinen sengu every 20 years. This is an innovative study, which is a fusion of humanities and science, combining the maintenance of traditional culture with forest management and digital technology.

**D22-R-0046 Haruka Ono (Associate Professor/Advisor to the President, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Toyohashi University of Technology)**

#### "Designing Community Self-governance in the New Normal Era: Conducting a DX Social Experiment for Neighborhood Associations"

The dysfunction of neighborhood associations, which had been progressing in tandem with changes in social structure, was exacerbated by the cancellation of events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, accelerating the decline in local autonomy. This study seeks to address this by exploring the potential for new neighborhood associations and community self-governance activities using ICT tools. Researchers, public-private partnership organizations and companies will work together on a social experiment in the Higashi-Mikawa region in what is expected to be a thought-provoking study.

## List of Grants

\*Note: The project titles among other things on this list are those at the time of grant approval.

### Partnership Program

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D22-RC-0001	"Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies" Research Project Kensuke Fukushi, Director, Institute for Future Initiatives, the University of Tokyo	20,000,000

### Joint Research Program

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D22-R-0005	Constructing a Social System to Undertake the Logistical Support of Child Guidance Centers Eiichiro Watamura, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University	6,500,000
D22-R-0022	The Possibilities of Consumption Spaces and the Relationship with Leisure Activities: A Multi-Perspective Approach to the Media Environment and Urban Industrial Organization of the Anime Fan Experience Shintaro Matsunaga, Associate Professor, Faculty of Business and Informatics, Nagano University	5,800,000
D22-R-0031	Constructing an Urban Community Utilizing Vacant Houses and Shops: A Place for Creative Labor and Cooperation among Young Self-Employed People Kyoko Tominaga, Associate Professor, College of Social Science, Ritsumeikan University	1,600,000
D22-R-0036	The Practical Fusion of the Physical and Cyber Worlds by Combining Field-Based Measurements with a Large-Scale Computing Network in the Post-Covid World Tohru Nakajima, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo	7,200,000
D22-R-0038	From Maldistribution to Ubiquity: Development of a Training Platform for Sharing Medical Procedures Across Hospitals Using AR and ICT Yuri Nagayo, Graduate Student, Doctoral Course, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo	5,200,000
D22-R-0046	Designing Community Self-governance in the New Normal Era: Conducting a DX Social Experiment for Neighborhood Associations Haruka Ono, Associate Professor/Advisor to the President, Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering, Toyohashi University of Technology	7,000,000
D22-R-0063	Support for Caregivers of Children with Developmental Disabilities: Development, Social Implementation, and Effectiveness Testing of Self-Help Eri Ishikawa, Project Lecturer, Comprehensive Research Organization, Institute for Global Health, Waseda University	6,200,000
D22-R-0079	Research on the Causes and Amount of Food Loss in Major Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Markets in Tokyo, and Research on How to Effectively Utilize These Losses Koji Shimoya, Representative, Food Loss 0 Project	3,500,000
D22-R-0083	Carbon Offsets for Conservation of Semi-natural Grasslands through Mainstreaming Carbon Sequestration : Verification in Aso, the Largest Burning Grassland in a Temperate Zone Reiko Machida, Professor, Department of Regional Regeneration Science, Tokyo University of Agriculture	4,000,000



An aerial view of the city of Phnom Penh

# The International Grant Program

## Overview

### Program Title

Cultivating Empathy Through Learning from Our Neighbors: Practitioners' Exchange on Common Issues in Asia

### Total Amount of Grants

70 million yen in total  
One-year project: JPY 5,000,000  
Two-year project: JPY 10,000,000

### Required elements for Project

Transnational, Cross Sector, Mutual Learning, Foresight

### Target Countries

East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia<sup>\*1</sup>

### Call for Proposals

April 1 to June 4, 2022

### Project Period

One-Year Grant (Nov 2022 – Oct 2023)  
Two-Year Grant (Nov 2022 – Oct 2024)

\*1 · East Asia: Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, South Korea, Mongolia  
· Southeast Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam  
· South Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

	Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
One-Year Grant	17(23)	0(3)	70.0	70.0	0(13)
Two-Year Grant	81(93)	9(7)			11.1(7.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>98(116)</b>	<b>9(10)</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>9.2(8.6)</b>

In fiscal 2022, the International Grant Program continued with its basic theme from the previous year, “Cultivating Empathy Through Learning from Our Neighbors: Practitioners’ Exchange on Common Issues in Asia,” and made grants to projects aimed at “cross-border exchanges among on-the-ground practitioners from more than two countries and finding solutions to common challenges facing East Asia.” As in the previous fiscal year, the program’s grant amount totaled 70 million yen.

There were two changes made to this grant program: South Asia was added to the program’s target area regions, along with East Asia and Southeast Asia. Meanwhile, the Foundation did not conduct grant-making for a new “online exchange” category (one-year grant period with a grant amount of up to three million yen per project) for projects focused on online mutual learning, which was introduced in fiscal 2021 due to the pandemic’s travel restrictions.

In fiscal 2022, mutual learning through actual site visits were made as mandatory requirement, as before, and the grant amount per project was capped at five million yen for that of a one-year period and 10 million yen for a two-year period. The Foundation accepted applications for two months from April to June, and received a total of 98 applications and selected nine proposals in the end.

As in the previous fiscal year, the Foundation held a series of dialogue sessions between grantees for mutual learning and sharing insights from grant-awarded projects, and released those videos for the public. Under the title “Let’s Talk about Empathy -- Conversations Between the Grantees,” the grantees from two grant-awarded projects talked about the outline of their projects in each of this three-part series: Session 1 on Education, Session 2 on the Power of Design, and Session 3 on Health and Care. These grantees discussed their views on empathy through their projects and how to use it to solve social issues and improve the situation, among other topics. Some 15-minute digest versions of these 90-minute discussion sessions each were created and their English-dubbed versions were also available for viewing on the Toyota Foundation’s YouTube channel. In ad-

dition, a report about these discussions was compiled in Japanese and in English and is available on the Foundation’s website.

Although the pandemic significantly affected many of the grant-awarded projects, people were beginning to move around domestically and internationally in the second half of fiscal 2022 and grantees have since resumed mutual on-site visits to each other’s country. While higher fuel prices and other factors continue to have an impact, the Foundation will continue to use online tools for exchanges among grantees and support mutual learning through mutual visits and exchanges about common issues facing Asia in this dynamically-changing world.

## Comments

### Comments by Selection Committee Chair Shigeto Sonoda

This is the fourth time for me to provide commentary on the selection results, which I started to do in fiscal 2019. Each year, we made minor changes in calling for applications for the International Grant Program.

The category of prioritized area, which was introduced in fiscal 2019, was abolished in fiscal 2020, making the program completely open to applications on various issues. In fiscal 2021, we introduced the One-Year Grant to call for innovative proposals focusing on online activities, which can be carried out without cross-border movement of people. In fiscal 2022, we called for applications for the One-Year Grant in the conventional way, without treating it as a separate category, and newly added South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) to the targeted countries.

However, the key points of the International Grant Program remain unchanged. Its purpose is to support proposed projects that are aimed at solving common issues in Asia through learning from each other and which include the following Four Elements.

(1) Transnationality: The project must cover at least two countries in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia, and the project members must also be from at least two countries. In addition, any achievement made through the project or an effect produced by it must cover multiple countries.

(2) Cross Sectoral Approach: A sufficient number of experts from multiple sectors (such as researchers, NPO staff, businesspersons, and government officials), who are to solve the problem, must be participating in the project under an organic relationship.

(3) Mutual Learning: Project participants must have built a relationship of mutual learning to carry out the project.

(4) Foresight: The project must have a clear vision of its outcomes and must consider the impact it will have after the end of the grant and the possibility of its future development. It must also cover problems that could occur in the future and reflect a new perspective beyond conventional frameworks.

#### Overview of the Situation and Details of Application

The open call for proposals started on April 1, 2022, and applications were accepted until June 4. Forty-five applicants, 25 of whom used Zoom, consulted with program officers (POs) online before submission. Of the 242 projects that registered in advance, 98 (40.5%) of them applied for a grant.

Seventeen of the 98 applications (17.3%) were for the One-Year Grant. In fiscal 2021, there were 23 applications for the One-Year Grant, accounting for 19.8% of the total number of applications, so applications decreased slightly both in absolute number and percentage of the total.

The distribution of nationalities of applicants is shown in Table 1. The number of Japanese applicants drastically increased in 2019 when we added the condition that the representative must be a resident of Japan. In fiscal 2022, however, slightly above 62% of applicants were Japanese, having declined from the previous ratios of around 70%. This time, the number of applicants of US nationality increased, and so did the number of applicants from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal because the South Asian countries were added to the targeted countries. On the other hand, there was a decline in the overall number of applicants of East Asian nationalities.

Fig. 1 shows the distribution of countries/regions stated in the proposed projects and Fig. 2 shows the number of the countries/regions covered by the project. Because the total number of applications decreased, the numbers declined in almost all the categories. It is good news, however, that 15, 13, and 11 applications were from India, Bangladesh, and Nepal, respectively, as these numbers are comparable to those for the East Asian and Southeast Asian countries/regions.

#### Selection process and results

The selection committee was made up of four members including the committee chair, half of whom are new members who joined the committee this fiscal year.

**Table 1: Distribution of the nationalities of project representatives for fiscal 2019-2022**

Nationality	2019	2020	2021	2022
Japan	105	103	70	61
United States	1	1	3	6
Indonesia	8	6	5	5
Malaysia	9	4	12	4
Vietnam	0	0	3	4
India	0	2	0	3
United Kingdom	2	1	2	2
Bangladesh	1	1	1	2
Nepal	0	1	0	2
Singapore	1	0	0	2
Thailand	1	2	5	1
Taiwan	4	3	2	1
China	0	5	1	1
South Korea	6	4	1	1
Czech Republic	0	1	1	1
Italy	0	0	0	1
Iran	0	0	0	1
The Philippines	2	1	2	0
Canada	1	0	2	0
Tajikistan	0	0	1	0
Belgium	0	0	1	0
Egypt	0	0	1	0
Australia	0	0	1	0
Germany	0	0	1	0
Bolivia	0	0	1	0
Unknown	0	2	0	0
Sudan	0	1	0	0
Myanmar	2	1	0	0
Mongolia	1	1	0	0
Sri Lanka	2	0	0	0
Chile	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>98</b>

Note: Countries/regions are listed in descending order of number of project representatives by nationality for fiscal 2022.

First, three POs closely reviewed the 98 applications. They eliminated incomplete application forms and applications that were judged not to include the Four Elements described above, before they asked each committee member to evaluate the remaining applications. (For example, as Fig. 2 shows, one application in fiscal 2022 covered only one country, which was eliminated from subjects of the evaluation.)

The four committee members read the applications carefully, selected the applications that they could recommend, weighing the evaluations of some of the projects. If a member of the selection committee had any question about the content, schedule, budget plan, or other matters, or found room for improvement in the dissemination of the achievements and their outcomes, he or she informed the POs to that effect. The POs communicated the questions/concerns to the applicants, received their replies and communicated the replies to the committee members. Then, the results of the reviews by the four committee members were merged before a selection committee meeting was held.

At the beginning of the meeting, the committee eliminated applications that had not been recommended by anyone. All members commented on applications that at least one of the members had recommended, and examined the replies from the applicants before deciding whether to accept each application or not. They made the final decision on the winning projects by checking for overlap in the countries/regions covered and project themes, adjusting the amounts of grants so that the total amount would not exceed 70,000,000 yen.

The nine projects selected for this fiscal year have the following characteristics.

First, all nine of the winning projects are for Two-Year Grant, and none were selected from applications for One-Year Grant. In my commentary on the selection results for fiscal 2021, I pointed out that “There were many applications filled with enthusiasm among those for the Two-Year Grant. Many conveyed a strong message, such as ‘A project like this is all the more necessary for the COVID-19 pandemic.’” A similar trend was seen again this fiscal year.

Second, the number of countries/regions covered by the winning projects increased. As Fig. 3 shows, 44.9% of all proposed projects covered two countries, while only 22.2% of the selected winning projects covered two countries. Among successful applications, those covering many coun-

tries were the majority. We can tell by information given in the application forms that many of the applicants already have good relationships for specific collaborations in those regions and have maintained these relationships through online communication even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Third, many successful applicants had received grants from the Toyota Foundation before, which was also pointed out in preceding years. Specifically, 19.4% of all applications submitted this year were from applicants who had received grants from the Toyota Foundation before, and this number will go up to 33.3% when confined to the successful applications. Furthermore, many successful applicants received suggestions and advice from POs in their prior consultation. We may safely say that projects planned meticulously by those applicants who can write applications skillfully were more likely to be selected.

The common issues in Asia to be addressed by the selected projects include issues in the same areas as the projects selected last fiscal year, such as climate change, cancer protection, and international migration. They also include issues in areas where proposals have rarely gone, such as the promotion of the integrity of research and the development of remote education programs online. Such new proposals are enormously welcome.

Funds granted per project is smaller than in previous years because of the large number of winners receiving a Two-Year Grant. I hope that successful applicants will effectively use their grant.

#### Introducing Adopted Projects

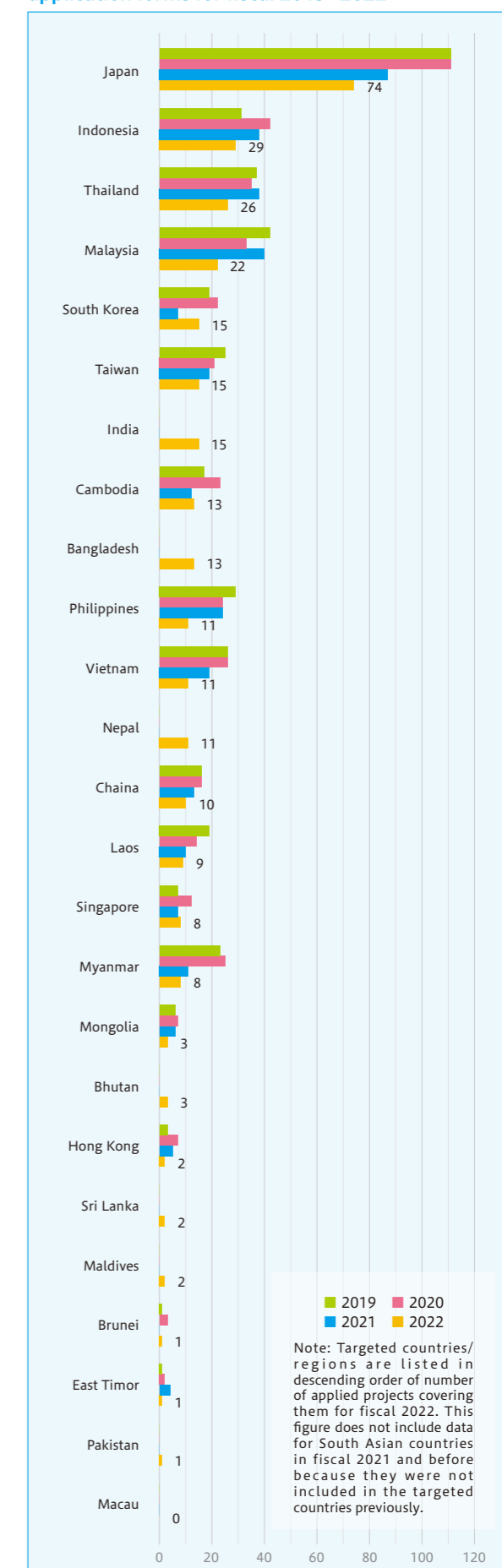
The following introduces one of this fiscal year’s winning projects, which was highly evaluated by the selection committee members.

Masako Tanaka, “Mother tongue and national language education for transnational migrant children: Roles of the host country for Non-Formal Education Classes run by migrant communities in Japan”

Countries: Japan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the United States

This project helps Nepalis, Bangladeshis, and Burmese living in Japan. It focuses on classrooms teaching remedial classes where their children learn their first languages, and increases the visibility of the classrooms in local communities. Specifically, the goal of the project is to create an environment that facilitates the involvement of local govern-

**Fig. 1: Targeted countries/regions that were stated in application forms for fiscal 2019- 2022**



Note: Targeted countries/regions are listed in descending order of number of applied projects covering them for fiscal 2022. This figure does not include data for South Asian countries in fiscal 2021 and before because they were not included in the targeted countries previously.

Fig. 2: Number of targeted countries/regions that were stated in application forms in 2019-2022

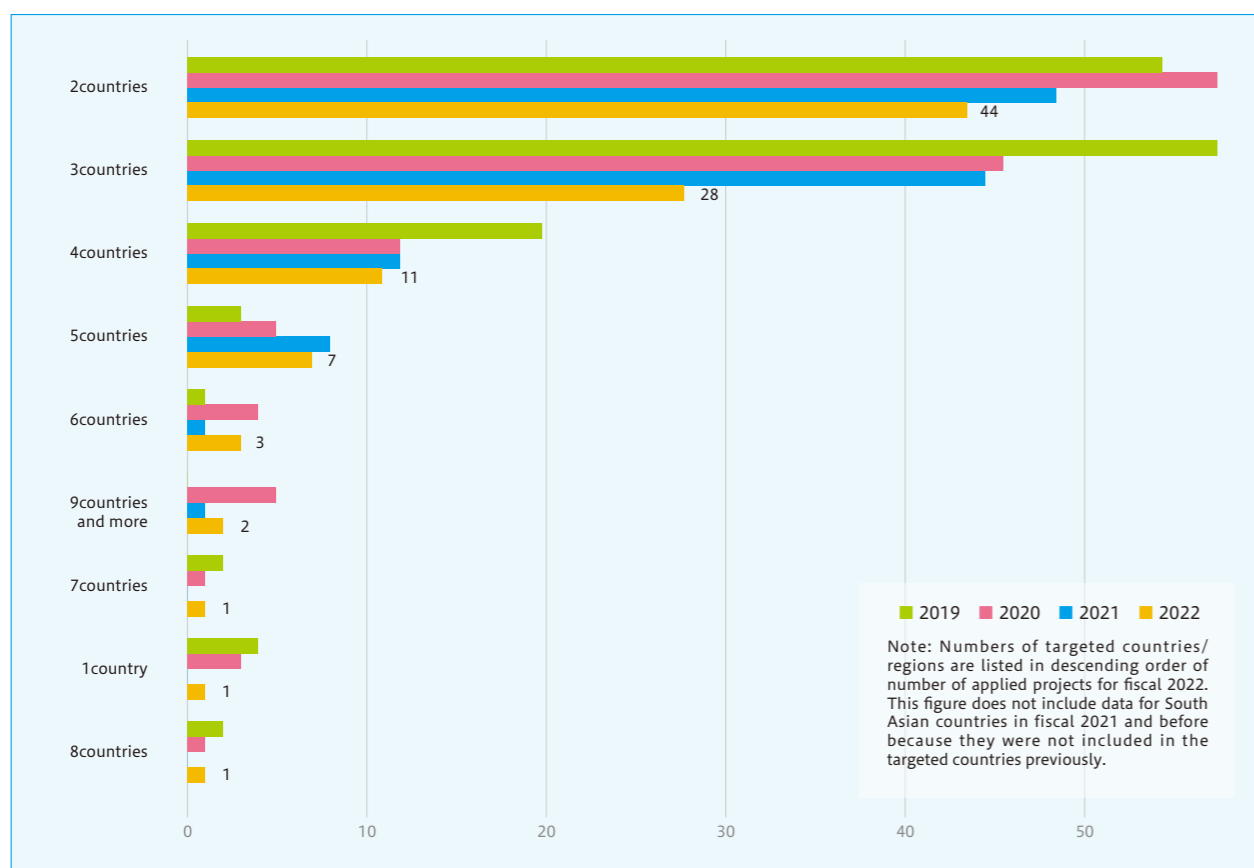
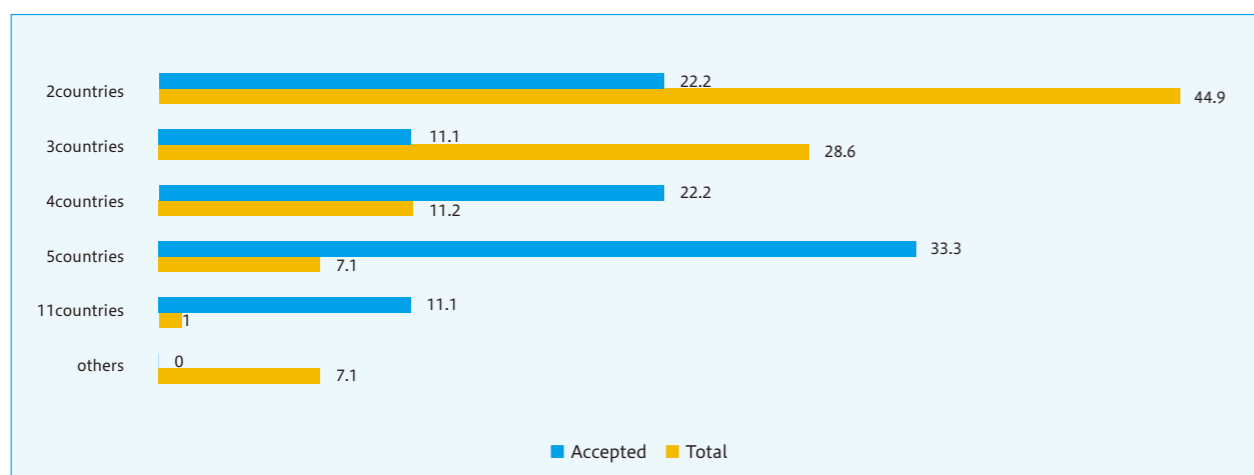


Fig. 3: Numbers of targeted countries/regions that were stated in the applications: Ratios to the number of selected projects and the total number of applications (%)



ments, NPOs and volunteers through interactions with teachers from the classrooms and local children and through the provision of open classes. The project also includes research exclusively for Nepalis, as there are many Nepali children residing in Japan. In this research, these children's re-integration into Nepali society will be investigated and some policy recommendations for the Nepalese government will be explored. The project also intends to summarize the achievements of the activities in the form of a documentary video and release it on YouTube with Japanese and English subtitles to attract a broader audience.

This project was highly evaluated for its novel idea of viewing immigration not as a one-way flow of people but as a two-way flow of people who come and go between two countries, and for its targeting both the sending countries and the recipient country. This proposal could also be a good candidate project for the Migrants and Japanese Society Special Subject program. We look forward to the future development of this project.

### Conclusion

Since 2019, when I became the selection committee chair, the total number of applications has been gradually decreasing. Applications targeting South Asia began to be accepted this fiscal year, but this change has yet to stop the gradual decline in the total number of applications. To increase the number of applications, we need to take some measures to encourage those who pre-registered to submit their applications as well as our ongoing efforts to advertise our program. In fact, the number of those who pre-registered is slightly more than 2.4 times the number of applicants.

I strongly encourage those who have some ideas to contact the POs of Toyota Foundation, because it is a good time to start a new project when we are recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. As I have already pointed out, applications written by applicants who have been able to receive suggestions and advice from the POs are more likely to be accepted.

You can also get some suggestions and inspiration through the reading of published reports by the Toyota Foundation. For example, you can obtain some concrete advice for the preparation of the application from the report "Ethics and Logics of International Collaborative Projects" (June 2022), pp. 21-25. I strongly recommend that those who are seriously considering lodging an application for the grant read it.

([https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/international/2022/toyotafound/data/ihs\\_report\\_en.pdf](https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/international/2022/toyotafound/data/ihs_report_en.pdf)).

## List of Grants

\*Note: The project titles among other things on this list are those at the time of grant approval.

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D22-N-0008	Project for Developing Human Resource Capacity in Pathology for Breast Cancer Diagnosis in Cambodia and Laos Yurie Soejima, Junior Associate Professor, Graduate School of Medical and Dental Sciences, Tokyo Medical and Dental University	7,000,000
D22-N-0010	Development of Joint Distance Education Program to Prepare for International Cross-border Telework Dissemination Through Mutual Learning among Japan and Asian Countries Takashi Sekiyama, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Advanced Integrated Studies in Human Survivability, Kyoto University	7,000,000
D22-N-0011	Mother tongue and national language education for transnational migrant children: Roles of the host country for Non-Formal Education Classes run by migrant communities in Japan Masako Tanaka, Professor, Faculty of Global Studies, Sophia University	10,000,000
D22-N-0021	Construction of an International Framework for Promoting Research Integrity in Asia and Development of Expert Human Resources Jun Fudano, Member, Board of Directors, Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (APRIN)	7,000,000
D22-N-0034	Promoting International Exchange and Building Education Platforms to Train Asian University Students to become Changemakers Miki Inui, Professor/Assistant to the President, School of Human Science and Environment, University of Hyogo	7,000,000
D22-N-0038	Establishing countermeasures for climate change adaptive agriculture in the Bengal region Tetsuo Tsutsui, Chairperson, Share the Planet Association	8,000,000
D22-N-0042	Rediscovery and Effective Reuse of Hidden Regional Assets by Holding Citizens' Workshops in Asian Historical Cities – For Restoration and Strengthening of Social Ties Masafumi Fujino, Chairperson, Public Interest Incorporated Association Nara Machizukuri Center	8,000,000
D22-N-0047	Survey on the psychological burden of children with difficulties in accessing social protection and an empirical study of cross-border care methods in Bangladesh and Japan Ryosuke Sugaya, CEO and Founder, Certified Non Profit Organization very50	8,000,000
D22-N-0087	Advancing indigenous wild gardens for healthy and biodiverse food systems in Asia: A transboundary and transdisciplinary platform for science and ethnic minority collaboration Hart N., FEUER, Associate Professor, Faculty/Graduate School of Agriculture, Kyoto University	8,000,000



Participants were seen attending the second social gathering on March 18, 2023, organized by the alumni of the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan.

# The Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan

## Overview

### Program Title

Fostering the Autonomous Society under “New Normal” Based upon the Inventive Ideas

\*This program is limited to activities in Japan.

### Grant Category

- 1) Inventing Systems and Development of Human Resources Conducive to Foster Autonomous Society in Japan
- 2) Building the Base to Foster Autonomy in Local Neighborhoods

### Call for Proposals

April 4 to June 6, 2021

### Project Period

- 1) Three years, beginning November 1, 2022
- 2) Two years, beginning November 1, 2022

### Total Amount of Grants

- 1) Up to 10 to 20 million yen per project
- 2) Up to around six million yen

In fiscal 2022, the Foundation made grants in the framework consisting of “(1) Creating a System that Can Contribute to Greater Promotion of Autonomous Society in Japan and Developing Human Resources” (hereinafter (1) Japan) and “(2) Building a Capacity for Promoting Autonomy in Local Neighborhoods” (hereinafter (2) Local Neighborhoods) under the theme of “Fostering the Autonomous Society under ‘New Normal’ Based upon the Inventive Idea,” a new theme introduced in fiscal 2021.

To invite more applications of project proposals directly related to the theme of “Fostering the Autonomous Society Based upon the Inventive Idea,” the Foundation further clarified what were considered as important points and what were expected outcomes concerning “autonomy” building initiatives. At the same time, the TF kept emphasis on practices in various places facing the need to shift from

Grant Results

	Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
1)	30	3	57.27	70.0	10.0
2)	107	8	39.49	40.0	7.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>96.76</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>

conventional methods and values as well as on an approach to an effective use of digital technology and information communication technologies (ICT).

Moreover, in the category of (1) Japan, the Foundation continued its identify-potential-project approach, made prior consultation a mandatory requirement, and introduced making a presentation at the Selection Committee as part of the final selection process. Through these initiatives, the TF sought to enhance the quality of proposed projects and selection process itself.

As for a public call for proposals, online briefing sessions were held three to four times for each of (1) Japan and (2) Local Neighborhoods categories. Information sessions for (2) Local Neighborhoods were held in collaboration with NPO support intermediary organizations in Tokyo, Osaka, and five prefectures of the Chugoku region, with two target groups: (1) applicants and (2) intermediary organizations offering support and follow-ups to on-site groups.

Upon closing the application, a total of 137 proposals were received: 30 proposals for (1) Japan and 107 proposals for (2) Local Neighborhoods. Although the total number decreased by 65 from that in fiscal 2021, the quality of proposals improved overall because of a considerable decline in the number of applications deemed unqualified or irrelevant particularly in the (1) Japan category.

After deliberations by the Selection Committee, the Foundation decided to make grants worth a total of 96.76 million yen (or about 639,366 dollars) to a total of 11 projects – three projects for (1) Japan (including a grant provided to one project through the identify-potential-project category) and eight projects for (2) Local Neighborhoods.

Fortunately, the Foundation was able to hold various gatherings -- Selection Committee meetings, grant-awarding ceremony and Kick-Off training sessions for grantees, and mid-term training and report-back meetings -- face-to-face for the first time in three years. With everyone present in person, these meetings helped to deepen discussions

and dialogue between the participants and to prompt exchanges and networking among them, which in turn served as yet another reminder of how positive such face-to-face meetings were. On top of that, alumni-related meetings were held twice in person for launching a Toyota Foundation grantee alumni network (which aims at sharing the outcomes and insights of the projects among the past grantees and facilitating exchanges and collaboration among them), a new initiative starting this fiscal year, adding to enthusiasm among all stakeholders of this grant program.

Follow-up operations for grantees were conducted with the support of outside lecturers and/or advisors in this fiscal year, too. At the same time, the Foundation started to assess grant programs conducted between fiscal 2014 and fiscal 2020, and designed a questionnaire in collaboration with outside experts and conducted a survey of target grantees from the first year of that period. By employing effective methods and tools for a given occasion, the TF would like to continue with various initiatives in in-person and/or online settings as well as either on the Foundation secretariat's own initiative or through collaboration and co-operation with outside experts.

# The Initiative Program

## Overview

As a private grant-making organization, the Toyota Foundation makes grants to projects deemed worthy of support and/or to projects aimed at disseminating and spreading the outcomes of the past grant-awarded projects to society.

With this in mind, the Foundation decided to host in this fiscal year a joint symposium by Dr. Yasutaka Ojio (grantee in fiscal 2022) and Dr. Shinichi Yamashita (grantee in fiscal 2019), titled “Let’s Discuss Our Mental Health – A Case of Athletes and Their Lives,” at Tokyo International Forum on February 22, 2023. There were about 130 people in attendance at the venue, including current athletes, former professional athletes, people engaged in sports-related work, students, researchers, and medical experts. Moreover, approximately 150 people watched this webinar event from at home and abroad.



## List of Grants

\*Note: The project titles among other things on this list are those at the time of grant approval.

Grant Number	Project Title Representative Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D22-PI-0001	The Project to Develop and Disseminate the “Technology of Cooperation” (the second phase) Akira Matsubara, Kyoryoku Sekai(Cooperation World)	13,340,000
D22-PI-0002	Project on Mental Health Awareness of the Athletes by the Athletes for All of the People Yasutaka Ojio, National Center of Neurology and Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health , Department of Community Mental Health & Law	9,000,000
D22-PI-0003	Mutual Learning of Science Technology Innovation Coordination to Bridge Different Countries and Sectors in Cambodia, Thailand, and Japan towards Capacity Development Program and Policy Recommendations Hideaki Ohgaki, Institute of Advanced Energy (Graduate School of Energy Science), Kyoto University	9,000,000
D22-PI-0004	Examination and Application of Intermediary Support Organization Functions to Build Sustainable Local Communities Tsuneya Sakurai, TCUE Faculty of Regional Policy Professor	9,800,000



# Accounting Report

## Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2023

(Unit: Thousand Yen)

Account	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020
<b>I Assets</b>			
1. Current assets			
Cash and deposits	470,822	446,736	489,417
Accounts receivable	63,248	68,183	67,629
Other	-4,754	5,726	4,754
Total current assets	538,824	520,645	561,800
2. Fixed assets			
Basic funds	24,122,031	25,167,457	25,143,378
Specified assets	18,354,569	20,859,206	17,865,256
Other fixed assets	51,984	53,027	49,860
Total fixed assets	42,528,584	46,079,690	43,058,494
Total assets	43,067,408	46,600,335	43,620,294
<b>II Liabilities</b>			
1. Total current liabilities	430,170	386,232	400,121
2. Total fixed liabilities	74,826	66,869	75,687
Total liabilities	504,996	453,101	475,808
<b>III Net assets</b>			
1. Designated net assets	21,201,448	23,715,084	20,729,569
(Amount from above allocated to basic funds)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)
(Amount from above allocated to specified assets)	(18,201,448)	(20,715,084)	(17,729,569)
2. General net assets	21,360,964	22,432,150	22,414,917
(Amount from above allocated to basic funds)	(21,360,964)	(22,167,457)	(22,143,378)
(Amount from above allocated to specified assets)	(80,000)	(80,000)	(60,000)
Total net assets	42,562,412	46,147,234	43,144,486
Total liabilities and net assets	43,067,408	46,600,335	43,620,294

# Accounting Report

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets

April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023

(Unit: Thousand Yen)

Account	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020
<b>I Changes in general net assets</b>			
1. Changes in ordinary profit			
(1) Ordinary profit	693,080	688,769	643,379
(2) Ordinary expenses	719,182	695,870	609,253
Current changes in ordinary profit prior to profit/loss appraisal	▲26,102	▲7,101	34,126
Profit and loss appraisal	▲1,045,083	24,334	392,907
Current changes in ordinary profit	▲1,071,186	17,233	427,033
2. Changes in extraordinary profit			
(1) Extraordinary profit	0	0	0
(2) Extraordinary expenses	0	0	0
Current changes in extraordinary profit	0	0	0
Current changes in general net assets	▲1,071,186	17,233	427,033
Balance at beginning of the fiscal year in general net assets	22,432,150	22,414,917	21,987,884
Balance at end of the fiscal year in general net assets	21,360,964	22,432,150	22,414,917
<b>II Changes in designated net assets</b>			
Current changes in designated net assets	▲2,513,635	2,985,515	2,794,773
Balance at beginning of the fiscal year in designated net assets	23,715,084	20,729,569	17,934,796
Balance at end of the fiscal year in designated net assets	21,201,448	23,715,084	20,729,569
<b>III Balance at end of the fiscal year in net assets</b>	42,562,412	46,147,234	43,144,486

# Officers and Trustees

## Directors and Auditors

As of March 31, 2023

Name	Occupation
<b>Chairman</b> Nobuyori Kodaira	Former Executive Vice President, Toyota Motor Corp.
<b>President</b> Masashi Haneda	Director, Tokyo College, The University of Tokyo
<b>Managing Director (full-time)</b> Akihiro Yamamoto	
<b>Director</b> Jyunichi Sato	Adviser, The Japan Federation of Engineering Societies
<b>Director</b> Atsushi Seike	President, Japanese Red Cross Society Adviser for Educational Affairs, Keio University
<b>Director</b> Kumiko Bando	Former Commissioner, Consumer Affairs Agency
<b>Director</b> Kanetaka Hisatsune	Former Chairman, Toyota Dealers Association
<b>Director</b> Hiroshi Yoshikawa	Honorary President, Policy Research Institute, Ministry of Finance, Japan
<b>Auditor</b> Masahide Yasuda	Audit and Supervisory Board Members, Toyota Motor Corp.
<b>Auditor</b> Fusahiro Yamamoto	Certified Public Accountant

## Trustees

As of March 31, 2023

Name	Occupation
Yuko Arimori	Chairman, Special Olympics Nippon
Kyota Omori	Special Advisor, Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.
Shinichi Kitaoka	Special Advisor, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Nobuyuki Koga	Chairman, Nomura Holdings, Inc.
Hiroyuki Sakaki	Managing Director, Toyota Technological Institute
Kenichiro Sasae	President, The Japan Institute of International Affairs
Michinari Hamaguchi	Director General, Strategic Center of Biomedical Advanced Vaccine Research and Development for Preparedness and Response (SCARDA), Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
Shigeru Hayakawa	Vice Chairman, Toyota Motor Corp.
Kayoko Hayashi	President, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Naoko Munakata	Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo



Chairman: Nobuyori Kodaira  
 President: Haneda Masashi  
 Founded: October 15, 1974

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