



2026 International Grant Program

Project Proposal Guidelines

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



Application Period: April 1 to May 30, 2026 (until 11:59 p.m. JST)



THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

The Toyota Foundation's Guiding Principles for Grants

The Toyota Foundation targets proposals that fulfill the following points for grants.

1. Great significance for society
2. Anticipating internal and external issues
3. Future-oriented
4. Sustainable and developable
5. Expected to have a ripple effect

CONTENTS



<u>1. Program Objective</u>	1
Expectation for Projects: Four keywords	
Eligible Thematic Areas	
<u>2. Outline of the Grant</u>	3
Target Countries and Regions	
Languages	
Qualifications for Application	
Expected Activities and Outputs	
Project Budget	
Total Amount of Grants	
<u>3. Applications</u>	6
Application Period	
Steps for Application	
Prior Consultation	
Online Briefing Session	
Notes on Application	
<u>4. Selection of Projects</u>	7
Process and Criteria of Selection	
Announcement of the Result	
<u>5. Process from Application to End of Grant</u>	8
<u>6. Other</u>	9

1. Program Objective

The International Grant Program of the Toyota Foundation focuses on “**Cultivating Empathy Through Learning from Our Neighbors: Practitioners’ Exchange on Common Issues in Asia**” in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

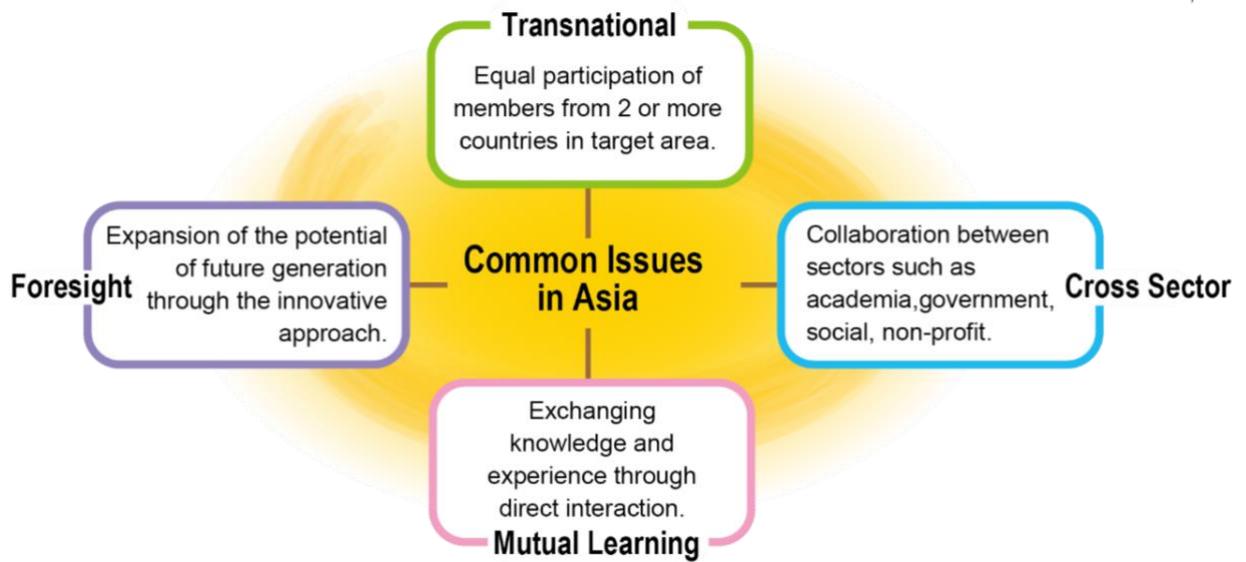
The grant program aims to acquire a new perspective that will expand the possibilities for the future of the next generation by promoting mutual understanding and knowledge-sharing among people on the ground in target countries working on common issues, through gaining deeper analysis and a multi-faceted understanding of the issue.

● Expectation for Projects: the Four keywords

Proposals are expected to include **the four keywords** indicated below.

- **Transnational**: Set issues that are common to at least two countries/regions from the target countries/regions, with members who are active in each country/region participating on an equal basis.
- **Cross Sector**: The team members consist of multiple sectors such as academia, government, social, non-profit, etc., and conduct practical activities that contribute to problem solving, in addition to researching and analyzing existing initiatives.
- **Mutual Learning**: Activities incorporate interaction among people on the ground (local supporters, concerned parties, local residents, etc.) to achieve mutual learning.
- **Foresight**: Gain insights into important issues that society is likely to face in the future, and acquire new perspectives that will lead to future development through active learning with diverse stakeholders beyond the conventional framework.

With multinational teams consisting of participants from diverse backgrounds, projects can form cooperative and creative alliances that consider, act on, and construct solutions to shared issues, avoiding conventional linear relationships, such as “supporter and supported” or “instructor and trainee”. The grant program anticipates that these partnerships, extended beyond such factors as nationality, age, and organizational affiliation, will lead to significant social change through fostering a process of mutual learning.



● **Eligible Thematic Areas**

This program provides grants for projects in all areas that meet the five points of the "Toyota Foundation's Guiding Principles for Grants" and focus on new common issues shared by two or more of the countries or regions in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

The Toyota Foundation finds great social significance not only in addressing current social issues, but also in identifying emerging issues before they become widely recognized.

2. Outline of the Grant

	Grant Period	Grant amount per project (maximum)
Two-Year Grant	November 1, 2026 – October 31, 2028	10,000,000 yen
One-Year Grant	November 1, 2026 – October 31, 2027	5,000,000 yen

● Target Countries and Regions

The target countries and regions for this program are East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

As the program is designed to promote mutual exchange and learning, projects must be implemented in two or more eligible countries or regions. Projects conducted in only one country or region are not eligible.

Including Japan is not mandatory (e.g., Thailand–Cambodia–Vietnam). In addition to two or more eligible countries or regions, projects may also include countries or regions outside of the eligibility scope (e.g., Japan–Taiwan–Nepal–Australia).

East Asia	Japan, China, Hong Kong, Macau, Mongolia, South Korea, Taiwan
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

● Languages

English or Japanese

● Eligibility Requirements

1. **The project representative must have a contact address (home or office) in Japan.**
2. The representative and members must have extensive experience such as conducting research, carrying out activities, producing creative works, and making policy proposals regarding the focused issues, and be capable of carrying out a project with a diverse network of participants across multiple target countries.
3. The project team must be composed of a broad range of stakeholders involved in the target fields in the eligible countries or regions, such as people directly concerned, practitioners,

researchers, policymakers, and media professionals—and must possess an extensive network (ensuring multiple perspectives through member diversity).

4. The project must be implemented in two or more target countries or regions and address a shared social issue.
5. The project must include mutual learning activities that involve two-way, in-person exchanges on an equal footing at the project sites in all participating countries.

● **Expected Activities and Outputs**

The following is an example, and it is not necessary to carry out all of these activities. You are expected to design your approach according to the current situation and needs of your target issue.

[Early stage of the project period]

Research and Analysis: Project members jointly identify common issues shared by two or more countries or regions covered by this program, and conduct research and analysis of existing initiatives addressing those issues.

If there are precedent cases or studies, please identify their strengths and weaknesses, points for improvement, and issues for the future, then reflect them in the project you are applying for. If there is no precedent, please include a perspective on why there has not been one and what the significance of addressing the issue is for society.

[Middle stage of the project]

Mutual Exchange and Learning: Members from multiple countries and sectors learn from one another and carry out practical activities that contribute to solving the issues.

Diverse activities based on flexible ideas are appreciated. They may include, for example, fieldwork in target countries or regions, workshops, symposiums, and project debriefings. When implementing exchange and mutual learning, the project is expected to explore better approaches for exchange and mutual learning at every phase such as the choice of destinations for visits and their participants, preparation prior to mutual visits, events held during the exchanges, post-visit review and dissemination of information.

[Last stage of the project]

Sharing Outputs/Outcomes: Produce deliverables such as policy recommendations, videos, websites, educational materials, and exhibitions, and share them with the wider public.

The dissemination should be based on a comprehensive consideration of its purpose, target, means for outreach, and other related issues. Even if the deliverables are not completed within the project period, the project would be positively evaluated if it is designed to have a considerable social impact based on its long-term prospects.

Expectations for the project to be expanded to other countries or regions.

It is expected that the knowledge obtained and the network of people developed through exchanges and mutual learning are spread and developed across other regions and countries in different forms during the grant period or in the near future. In addition, the knowledge and network are expected to exert an impact on society in many regions, irrespective of whether the regions are covered in the project.

● **Project budget**

Please refer to the “List of Expenses” on the Project Proposal Form, confirm the range of expenditures for the project, and plan the budget necessary to carry out the project within the maximum funding amount (10 million yen for a 2-year grant and 5 million yen for a 1-year grant). Please estimate only the necessary expenses in planning your budget. The appropriateness of the budget will form a key element in the selection of projects. Administrative costs of key organizations and groups responsible for project management may also be included.

Please note that there are limits on the following expenses as a percentage of the total project budget.

- The sum of personal expenses and honorarium cannot exceed 30% of the total budget.
- Administrative expenses cannot exceed 10% of the total budget.

● **Total Amount of Grants**

80 million yen

*For reference, **8 projects** were approved out of **238 applications** in 2025. For details, please see the comments by the Selection Committee Chair.

<https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/grant/international/2025comment.html>

3. Applications

● Application Period

From April 1 until May 30, 2026 (until 11:59 p.m. Japan Standard Time)

Note: We will not respond to any inquiries regarding the application process after **May 29, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Japan Standard Time.**

● Steps for Application

Applicants are expected to register and download the grant program application form via the Toyota Foundation website (<https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/grant/international/>), fill in the relevant sections, and submit it by uploading it to the website.

● Prior Consultation (not compulsory)

Prior to submitting a full proposal, applicants may consult with the program officer in charge. Please apply by email, attaching a **concept note**.

- Prior Consultation Period: April 1 to May 22, 2026
(Applications for prior consultation must be received no later than May 15)
- The concept note should include the following items: (1) tentative project title, (2) grant period (either a two-year or one-year grant), (3) issues to be addressed and project objectives, (4) main participants, (5) main activities, (6) expected outputs, and (7) main budget, among others. The length should not exceed 2 pages in A4 size.

We will respond via email within five business days as a general rule. However, please understand that delays may occur depending on the volume of applications.

● Online Briefing Sessions (not compulsory)

Online Briefing sessions in Japanese will be held during the application period. The details will be updated on the website.

● Notes on Application

1. Please carefully follow the instructions provided on the Toyota Foundation website or in these guidelines when submitting the application.
2. Applicants must choose either English or Japanese for applying. This means that if registered from the English page of our website, you must use the English Application Form. Likewise, if registered from the Japanese page, use Japanese Application Form. **Please do not change**

languages during the application process. If you fail to follow this instruction, you may not be able to submit (upload) application forms via the web system.

3. Applications must be submitted before the deadline. Please be aware that as the deadline approaches traffic on the Toyota Foundation website is likely to intensify, potentially making it difficult to upload applications. For this reason, applicants are asked to submit applications as early as possible. The Toyota Foundation will not take any responsibility for failure to upload application forms.
4. Applicants must only use the space provided and submit the form without any page extension. In addition, no additional documents should be included with or attached to the application.
5. Applications cannot be replaced or re-submitted.
6. If any aspect of an application is found to be untrue or misleading, the application will be automatically rejected. In cases where such a proposal has been approved, the grant will be cancelled.

4. Selection of Projects

● Process and Criteria of Selection

- Final selection will be made in late September 2026 at the meeting of the Toyota Foundation's Board of Directors from among the candidates presented by the Selection Committee, which is comprised of external experts and chaired by Ms. Mari Suzuki, Vice President and Executive Secretary of the Asian Community Center 21 (ACC21).
- The selection committee will review proposals from the perspective of consistency with the "Toyota Foundation's Guiding Principles" and the program purpose, as well as the significance of the issue, appropriateness of the members, feasibility of the implementation plan and budget, expected results and ripple effects, etc.
- As part of the selection process, the Selection Committee may contact applicants to obtain additional information. The Selection Committee may also suggest that proposals be modified with regard to methods, budget, or outputs, etc.

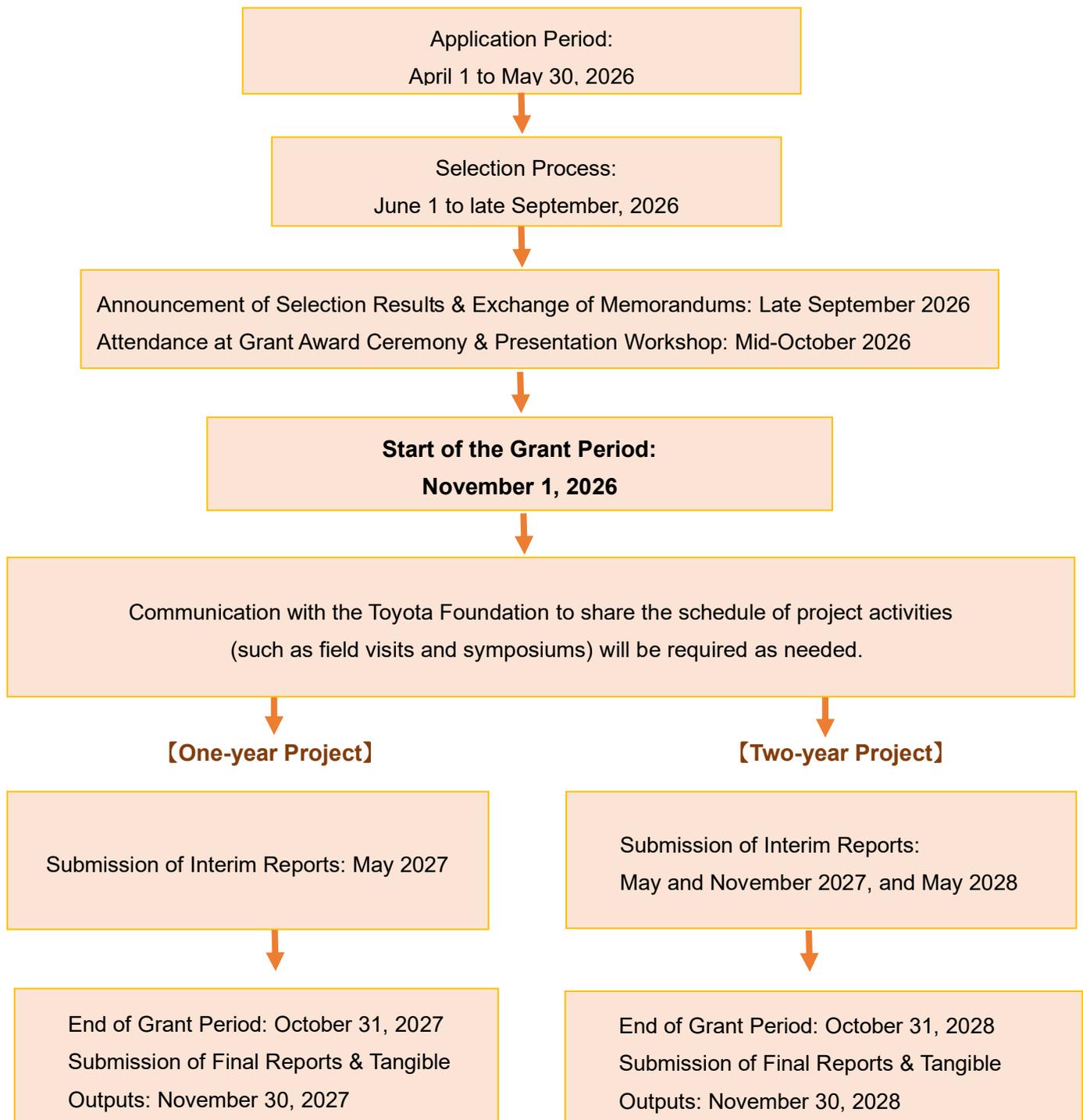
● Announcement of the Result

- Applicants will be informed of the selection results via email by the end of September 2026, following the Board of Directors meeting. The Toyota Foundation will not respond to inquiries regarding the selection process.

5. Process from Application to the End of the Grant

The project representatives are expected to communicate with the program officers of the Toyota Foundation throughout the grant period for share information about the project.

Please note that the Foundation may ask for your cooperation in reporting the results of the grant project as well as in efforts to improve the grant program, even after the project period.



6. Other

● Privacy Notice

Personal information provided will be used by the Toyota Foundation solely for project selection, statistical analysis, and administrative purposes such as contacting applicants. It will not be used for any other purpose without consent, except as required by law.

● Copyright

All copyrights of outputs produced through the project belong to the grant recipients. With the consent of the project representative, the Toyota Foundation may quote the report or parts of it in its publications or other outputs.

[Reference] Other Grant Programs of the Toyota Foundation (FY2026)

- Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan
- Research Grant Program
- Special Subject: Migrants and Japanese Society
- Special Subject: Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies

* For details, please visit our website.

<https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/>

Contact Details

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