



Annual Report

Report for Fiscal 2021

April 2021 - March 2022

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A field of sunflowers in the city of Hokuto, northwestern Yamanashi Prefecture. This area is home to some 300,000 sunflowers. Under the blue summer skies, bright-yellow sunflowers as tall as adults face forward as if they welcome visitors. In Japanese, its name is written literally as sun-facing-flower, and as such all these sunflowers bask in the sunlight, blooming vigorously. This sight gives viewers a sense of vitality.
Photo by: Keiko Kato

Message from the President



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

The Grant-making Activities in FY2021 –Review our programs in anticipation of the post-Covid-19 situation

Looking over the past year, we saw a huge wave of the Delta variant sweeping Japan in the days leading up to the opening of the Tokyo Summer Olympics one year ago, heightening tension in people's daily lives.

In fiscal 2021, we, the Toyota Foundation, made grants worth a total of 360 million yen to 47 projects through our programs – the Special Subject, the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan, the Research Grant Program, the

International Grant Program, and the Initiative Program.

We reviewed the directions and themes of the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan and the Research Grant Program. This was intended to help find solutions to many social problems that were laid bare by the Covid-19 pandemic and to build a new social system, with an eye toward the post-pandemic situation. As a result of this review, the new grant themes – “Fostering the Autonomous Society under ‘New Normal’ Based upon the Inventive Ideas” and “Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies: Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in the New Normal Era” – were set for the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan and the Research Grant Program, respectively.

Within the framework of the Research Grant Program, the Toyota Foundation has entered into a partnership with the Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI), the University of Tokyo, launching a new entity for nurturing professionals at the IFI, called Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies Research Unit. The Foundation's grant assures a couple of young researchers affiliated with this unit of fixed-term employment, allowing them to focus firmly on exploring what a social system for the next generation will look like. This project is an innovative undertaking in that it is designed to nurture capable future professionals over time through collaboration with the like-minded institution.

Outlook for the future – a transformation of world order caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine

While we started providing grants under the new themes for the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan and the Research Grant Program, we believe that the challenge for the Foundation is to compile overall outcomes of these programs so as to disseminate and spread such outcomes to the public, going forward. Excellent outcomes from the grant-awarded projects are communicated on an individual project basis. This is part of our grant-offering requirements, thus deemed very important. Nevertheless, the Foundation itself must redouble efforts to seriously study ways to compile the overall outcomes of the programs, present and disseminate them.

These two programs are characterized by the two key concepts – “a system for future societies” and “the autonomous society based upon the inventive ideas.” But what such a system and autonomous society should look like still remains somewhat nebulous. The image of these concepts needs to be cultivated more through experiences over time. For that to happen, it is important to learn from on-site activities of many projects that receive the grants within the framework of these two programs. As the Foundation's officers and stakeholders will learn by watching firsthand the practices and research activities on the ground, the Foundation will be able to accumulate a wealth of significant information about these two key concepts. By using such information and leveraging the partnership with IFI's Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies Research Unit, the Foundation's officers will engage in comprehensive discussions with grant recipients and outside experts. Through such efforts, the shape of such a social system and autonomous society will surely become clear. Disseminating and spreading the outcomes of such projects will prove to be a culmination of the two programs as a whole. We, the Toyota Foundation, are committed to stepping up efforts to deliver such outcomes.

Compiling and Disseminating the Overall Outcomes of the Entire Programs

In fiscal 2021, we provided grants under the two Special Subject programs -- “Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies” and “Migrants and Japanese Society” – and the International Grant Program without reviewing these three themes. It is a welcome development that strict border controls, which had been in place to curb cross-border movements for over two years following the Covid-19 outbreak, have begun to ease. While some uncertainties remain, this change will certainly help reinvigorate activities of those grant recipients working on the ground in East and Southeast Asia. We have high hopes for great outcomes from their activities.

Meanwhile, we need to take a huge change happening in the international area into account when we implement and manage the International Grant Program in the future. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is greatly undermining the international order established following the end of the Cold War in

1989 as well as the order maintained since the end of World War II in 1945. Furthermore, the current situation can be interpreted as one in which the hegemony of the former imperial powers that fought against one another time and again -- the Group of Seven countries clashing against Russia even in the current war -- comes under threat now.

Meanwhile, China, India, Indonesia, and other countries that were pressured and subjected to colonization by these former imperial powers in the past, distance themselves from the current conflict between these former imperial powers. I believe that these emerging countries, which do not give into demands from the former imperial powers, will have even greater presence in the international community in the future. (I wrote an essay titled “Listening to the voices of non-western members of ‘the international community’ – historical experiences behind diversity,” originally published in Japanese, for the 2022 May/June issue of “Diplomacy” publication issued by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I would appreciate you for reading it.)

There is no doubt that a more multi-polar, multi-layered world order will emerge in the not so distant future. At this historical inflection point, we, the Toyota Foundation, need to conduct further investigations and have deeper discussions as to from what kind of angle we should continue to engage in international grant-making, albeit with our limited resources.

It is fortunate that the Foundation has accumulated achievements from years of support extended to Southeast Asian countries. Moreover, it resumes making international grants aimed particularly at South Asia for the first time in about 20 years, beginning in fiscal 2022. This will help us build a human capital network in South Asia, aside from the ones we already have in East and Southeast Asia, thereby allowing us to gain access to primary source of information in South Asia. While leveraging these assets fully, we are seeking to explore a future direction of the International Grant Program one step at a time. I would appreciate your further guidance and assistance. Thank you.

July, 2022

[April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022]

The Challenges the Toyota Foundation Tackled in FY 2021

In fiscal 2021, the Toyota Foundation (TF/the Foundation) made grants through the two Special Subjects: “Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies” and “Migrants and Japanese Society,” and the existing three programs with public calls for proposals: the “Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan,” the “Research Grant Program,” and the “International Grant Program.” The Foundation also provided grants through the “Initiative Program” that doesn’t publicly call for proposals. Moreover, the Foundation has overhauled the content of the “Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan” and the “Research Grant Program,” and has integrated the “Communication with Society Program” into the “Initiative Program,” beginning in this fiscal year.

Looking Back the Toyota Foundation's FY 2021

[April 1 to June 5]
The International Grant Program
Call for Proposals

[April 12 to June 18]
The Research Grant Program
Call for Proposals

[April 21 to June 11]
The Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan
Call for Proposals



[September 6 to November 20]
Migrants and Japanese Society Call for Proposals

[October 4 to November 30]
Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies
Call for Proposals

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 by artificial intelligence (AI).

**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 renewed the theme of the program and called for unconventional, free-thinking, and ambitious project proposals that sought to transform the social systems. The outcomes of the projects are expected to be disseminated extensively to society and beyond the boundaries of academia.

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, and Southeast Asia. In light of travel restrictions globally and changes in methods of communication, the Foundation created a new “online exchange” category for online mutual learning as its main method of communication.

**The Grant Program for
Community Activities in Japan**

With greater focus on the sustainability and development potential of “Japanese society” and “local community,” the TF placed emphasis on the effective use of new information technology (IT) and information and communications technology (ICT) of late within the framework of helping to create a new value and system through initiatives unrestricted by the existing systems and methods or conventional ways of thinking.

Programs with closed application process

The Initiative Program

This program made grants to the initiatives conducive to invigorate the non-profit sector, such as the capacity building of non-profit organizations and the promotion of civic participation. Also, Initiative Program is to boost the initiatives to which the Toyota Foundation ought to commit intentionally, such as the collaborating grants with other donors and the efforts worthy of support from the private grant-making foundations.

Interactive Arts and Disability: Creative Rehabilitation and Activity for Individuals with a Disability -- a project by Shigenori Mochizuki.

As for a practical research project of reconnecting through arts and technology, despite travel restrictions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it connected Japanese Noh singer Ryoko Aoki (shown in the photo) and the Amplified Elephants, an Australian music group of people with intellectual disabilities, by an online stage performance which was an Australia-Japan joint project of visualized voice data collaboration called "Hagoromo" performance.

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Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
22(34)	5(6)	33.0(44.0)	40.0(40.0)	22.7(17.6)

the Research Grant Program and has been operated as such. As in fiscal 2020, the spread of the new coronavirus has accelerated the use of digital technologies at a fast clip in society, adding to the importance of responding to issues relating to the use of these technologies and society, a trend seen as characteristic of the past few years.

In fiscal 2021, too, the grant-making aim and framework of this program with a public call for proposals, in principle, remained the same with those in the previous fiscal year. Specifically, application requirements were such that the project's representative must be 45 years old or younger and that the representative's place of residence should be in Japan, a rule introduced since the previous year. Also, as in the preceding years, the requirements were such that a project should not be about technological development per se but should be about a joint research project by a cross-sector and cross-discipline team, and that a project should bridge different fields and sectors in terms of research purpose and content, contribute to international research and activities, and state clearly methods for disseminating outcomes.

In addition, as in the previous years, three approaches were simulated as examples: 1) a project that will examine social impacts of cutting-edge technologies both academ-

ically and theoretically from mid- to long-term perspectives; 2) a practical research project that will verify, based on on-the-ground experiences, how cutting-edge technologies can be utilized in social life and what kind of challenges such technologies will pose, and 3) a project that will help to build an international network of young researchers across the boundary between humanities and sciences.

At the time of public calling for proposals, a report-back meeting of fiscal 2018 grant-awarded projects was held. It was streamed live and its archived version was released on the Toyota Foundation's YouTube channel. By providing an occasion to report on the outcomes of the grant-awarded projects for the inaugural year of "Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies," the Foundation was able to publicize its grant program.

In the end, the number of applications totaled 22, declining slightly from the previous fiscal year. The number of grant-awarded projects was five, a decrease by one from the previous fiscal year. Meanwhile, more projects about mental health were selected, underscoring the fact that a growing number of proposals aimed to meet the demands of the times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Special Subject

Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies

Overview

Program Title

Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies

Call for Proposals

October 4 to November 30, 2021

Project Period

One to three years beginning April 1, 2022

Total Amount of Grants

40 million yen in total, up to five to ten million yen per project

"Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies" is a grant program, which is set to cover research projects that address social issues concerning cutting-edge technologies, particularly digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), big data, robotics, and blockchain. As such, the program called for high-minded projects designed to tackle issues of 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

Comments

Comments by Selection Committee Chair Hideaki Shiroyama

The Toyota Foundation established Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies as a Special Subject in fiscal 2018. In the face of emerging advanced technologies like AI, the objective is to support research that deals with questions based on the perspective of the users of advanced technology, such as how these technologies should be handled in society, what kinds of social issues will be solved with such technology, and what kind of vision there should be for human society in the future. This year the Special Subject conducted its fourth call for proposals, received 22 applications with a broad range of con-

tent, and finally selected five projects.

The projects selected can be roughly divided into three categories.
 The first category of projects examines the possibilities and challenges of using advanced technology in specific settings. This year three practical projects related to health, specifically mental health in a broad sense, were selected. These three projects are D21-ST-0010 "Mental Health Measures for Teleworkers Using XR Technology in the post-COVID Era," Kiyooki Arakawa, Business Develop-



The representatives of the grant-awarded projects in fiscal 2019 and 2020 were invited to a series of online seminars, "The Forefront of Accepting Foreign Human Resources: From the Field of Children, Employment and Health," to report back on their activities (shown left). The report on this seminar series was published in both Japanese and English (above).



The Special Subject Migrants and Japanese Society

Overview

Program Title	Migrants and Japanese Society
Call for Proposals	September 6 to November 20, 2021
Project Period	Two or three years beginning May 1, 2022
Total Amount of Grants	50 million yen in total, up to five to ten million yen per project

The Special Subject "Migrants and Japanese Society," a grant program launched in fiscal 2019, marked its third year of operation in fiscal 2021.

The Japanese government laid out its policy in the spring of 2019 to accept up to 340,000 foreigners over a five-year period. The Toyota Foundation revisited the issue of foreign migrants in a broader framework and recognized that creating an environment enabling everyone to demonstrate their abilities to the fullest, would be conducive to the well-being of all people living in Japan, including foreign migrants. Based on this recognition, the Foundation set out 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, 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.

Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
50 (75)	7 (6)	50.0 (50.0)	50.0 (50.0)	14 (8)

- To study any changes and impacts on various parts of Japanese society from 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

The Foundation started accepting applications in September 2021, calling for applicants widely from society. A total of more than 100 participants attended its online information sessions on the application guidelines. At the same time, prior consultations were conducted online for about 30 times. As a result, the Foundation received 50 proposals from around Japan by the deadline in mid-November, and seven projects were selected and approved for grants through deliberations by the Selection Committee and the Board of Directors.

Moreover, the Foundation streamed live online report-back meetings by the grantees of the grant-awarded projects from fiscal 2019 and 2020 -- "The Forefront of Accepting

Foreign Human Resources: From the Field of Children, Employment and Health" -- on its YouTube channel on three occasions from September to November 2021.

In these online seminar sessions, the grantees of the two grant-awarded projects provided an overview of their projects in line with these key words: Childrearing and Institutions, Inviting and Accepting Human Capital, and Communication in Healthcare, and they talked about some challenges they encountered along the way and held discussions with comments from the commentators. These grantee presenters received comments and questions from online viewers during the live streaming. The Foundation also created approximately 12-minute-long digest versions of each online seminar session, and it also streamed these sessions dubbed in English as well as ones with English subtitles, and published a report in Japanese and English for the sake of disseminating information globally about lesser-known situations in Japan.

In fiscal 2022, the fourth year of this program's operation, the Toyota Foundation will continue to accept applications under the same theme. While continuing to monitor the progress of the already-granted projects individually, the Foundation looks to share and disseminate insights gained from such projects through organizing report-back meetings as well as through participating in conferences.

Comments

Comments by Selection Committee Chair **Akihiko Tanaka**

The Toyota Foundation publicly solicited applications for the FY2021 Special Subject "Migrants and Japanese Society." The grant program will be given to projects that study any of the five issues below and implement measures to address these issues (for example, building a mechanism or system to solve an issue or improve a situation) during the grant period.

- (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

This fiscal year, as in FY2020, for categories (4) and (5), we also accepted applications from applicants whose projects focus on research and studies, and considered them for selection. Between September 6 and November 20, 2021, we received 50 applications. During this period, the administrative office held two briefings over Zoom. After three members of the Selection Committee examined and evaluated the application documents, the Committee met on February 1, 2022 and chose seven grant candidates to receive a total of 50 million yen.

The following is an outline of the candidate projects.

D21-MG-0014 Tetsuo Kato, Managing Director, REEP Foundation

“Prototyping financial inclusion system for financially excluded foreign residents based on participatory research for financial inclusion of foreign residents in Japan”

This project is intended to identify how difficult it is for foreign residents to use financial services, or the reality of their financial exclusion, and to consider a mechanism that will improve their use of financial services (financial inclusion). The project will address issues in categories (1) and (2). The reality of the use of financial services by foreign residents has not been well understood because of the characteristics of the financial industry. This project is an ambitious one and is expected to produce results. It aims to understand the reality of the use of financial services by foreign residents in cooperation with financial institutions and explore a new scheme for the financial inclusion of foreign residents.

D21-MG-0016 Maho Hadano, Coordinator, Door to Asylum Nagoya

“Survey on the actual conditions of employment of refugees living in the Tokai region and efforts to improve their working environment”

In this project, refugee supporters and refugees will cooperate to understand the reality of the employment status of people who are recognized as refugees and have applied for asylum. The project also aims to improve the working environment for refugees as human resources from overseas. The project will address issues in categories (1) and (2). The project team includes people recognized as refugees who have been working in Japan, which is one of the strengths of the project. In addition to understanding the difficulties and challenges that people recognized as refugees and permitted to stay in Japan due to humanitarian

considerations and who are working in Japan face and pursuing ways to address them, this project also aims to raise awareness in society of refugees as human resources that contribute to Japanese society. That is one of the characteristics of this project.

D21-MG-0017 Ryo Kanbayashi, Professor, Hitotsubashi University

“Co-Creation Platform for Evidence Based Migration Policy Making”

This project will conduct a large-scale panel survey to understand foreign technical intern trainees and specified skilled foreign workers as consumers and workers, contributing to forming a basis for policy on accepting foreign human resources based on scientific evidence. The project will address issues in categories (1) and (2). The data on foreign technical intern trainees and specified skilled foreign workers that the government has gathered do not include attributes such as human relationships, relationships with local communities, and lifestyles. It is therefore difficult to analyze scientifically and systematically the challenges that those people, who are workers and consumers, are facing. A large-scale panel survey in this project is expected to obtain findings that have been difficult to obtain from government statistics.

D21-MG-0028 Yoshihikodoi, Representative Director, NGO Resource Center for Multicultural Community Tokai

“Establishing a Multilingual Consultation Desk Network for Foreign Human Resource Inclusion in a Post-Corona Society and Developing a System for Training Professional Human Resources”

This project is the second phase of a 2019 grant project titled "A Strengthening Project of a Multilingual Consultation Service System Through Public-Private Partnerships: Towards Reaching

Sustainable Management of (Japan's) Newly Formed Multi-Cultural General Information Consultation System 'One-Stop Centers'." This project aims to address challenges that counselors for multilingual consultation service face which have become evident in the 2019 project and to build their capacity and gain recognition of them as professionals. The project will address issues in category (2). The 2019 project has revealed that the position of many counselors in the organization appears to be vague and they appear to be irregular members. They do not seem to be given sufficient opportunities to participate in training to improve their expertise. This project is expected to plan

and implement effective training projects and thereby enhance the counselors' capabilities, gain recognition of them, and improve their status.

D21-MG-0039 Yuri Sadoi, Professor, Faculty of Economics, Meijo University

“Issues and Measures for Human Resource Development of ASEAN Engineers Working in Japan”

This project focuses on foreign workers from ASEAN countries who work at manufacturers and IT companies in Japan. The project will survey and analyze human resource development in ASEAN countries and education and training in Japan and will consider sustainable human resource development methods that are beneficial for both those countries and Japan. The project will address issues in categories (4) and (5). It is expected that the project team and ASEAN researchers will conduct joint studies in ASEAN countries and Japan and systematically identify the needs, quality, and purposes of foreign engineers, and as a result, the examination of desirable human resource development methods will make progress.

D21-MG-0042 Yu Shinagawa, CEO & Founder, An-Nahal Inc.

“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”

This project is intended to provide opportunities for mutual mentoring (guidance and information sharing through dialogue) to international students and Japanese people involved at Japanese companies and conduct a study of changes in their mindsets and behavior and thereby encourage changes in the mindsets and behavior of companies that accept international students and expand the number of international students working at Japanese companies. The project will address issues in category (4). In addition to providing information to international students and increasing interaction opportunities, the project aims to have an impact on the mindsets and behavior of human resource personnel at Japanese companies. That is one of the characteristics of the project. The project is planning to create a handbook about mutual mentoring methods, which is expected to help companies in Japan hire human resources.

D21-MG-0045 Russell Miller, Visiting Scientist, University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Community and Global Health

“Development and dissemination of a multilingual on-

line health and wellbeing information crowdsourcing platform by a multinational team -Towards equitable access to healthcare”

In this project, a multinational project team will build and operate a multilingual health information platform. The project will address issues in category (2). Medical personnel and software experts from different countries who have strongly felt the need for a platform for promptly providing multilingual health information to foreign nationals amid the COVID-19 pandemic have proposed this joint project. This project is expected to produce immediate effects based on a website that is already in operation, through the participation of website users in development and the development of programs by volunteers.

Comments

The main characteristic of this fiscal year's projects is the selection of projects whose themes have rarely been chosen, such as financial inclusion and refugees, in addition to projects that steadily address specific issues and projects that aim to deal with urgent issues. We expect that projects that deal with specific issues will play a leading role that will affect future projects of government organizations. We have selected two projects related to promoting the acceptance of highly skilled human resources. No projects directly related to category (3) are selected this year. However, we selected a number of projects related to category (3) in the previous two years, and a project selected this year is related to medical care. Overall, we believe the selection of projects this year is well balanced.

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)
D21-MG-0014	Prototyping financial inclusion system for financially excluded foreign residents based on participatory research for financial exclusion of foreign residents in Japan Tetsuo Kato, REEP Foundation, Managing Director	5,350,000
D21-MG-0016	Survey on the actual conditions of employment of refugees living in the Tokai region and efforts to improve their working environment Maho Hadano, Door to Asylum Nagoya, Coordinator	5,550,000
D21-MG-0017	Co-Creation Platform for Evidence Based Migration Policy Making Ryo Kanbayashi, Hitotsubashi University, Professor	8,400,000
D21-MG-0028	Establishing a Multilingual Consultation Desk Network for Foreign Human Resource Inclusion in a Post-Corona Society and Developing a System for Training Professional Human Resources Yoshihiko Doi, NGO Resource Center for Multicultural Community Tokai, Representative Director	8,400,000
D21-MG-0039	Issues and Measures for Human Resource Development of ASEAN Engineers Working in Japan Yuri Sadoi, Faculty of Economics, Meijo University, Professor	7,600,000
D21-MG-0042	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 Yu Shinagawa, An-Nahal Inc., CEO & Founder	6,500,000
D21-MG-0045	Development and dissemination of a multilingual online health and wellbeing information crowdsourcing platform by a multinational team - Towards equitable access to healthcare Russell Miller, University of Tokyo, Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Community and Global Health, Visiting Scientist	8,200,000



The collaborative research of the *Sudamala* relief. ("Reciting" the Cosmology of Life and Death in Medieval Java: The qualitative shift of relief interpretation by audiovisual narrative and its potential for cultural transmission, Akiko Nozawa)

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 12 to June 18, 2021

Project Period

Two years beginning October 1, 2022

Total Amount of Grants

40 million yen (per project, up to around eight million yen/two years)

In this fiscal year, the Research Grant Program launched a new theme for its grant program, namely "Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies." Under this new theme, it set two new frameworks aimed at nurturing young researchers.

The first one is intended to provide a stable research environment enabling promising young researchers, who are expected to become next-generation leaders, to focus on their research topics for five years. This is a collaboration in partnership with the Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI), the University of Tokyo. The other one is intended to support two-year joint research projects conducted mainly by young researchers. In addition to the main theme of "Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies," this latter program comes with the sub-theme of "Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in the New Normal Era," and is arranged in line with the demands of the times.

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

[Partnership Program]

For this new partnership program conducted in collaboration with the IFI, the Foundation publicly called for applications from researchers, with a view toward nurturing young researchers who work to transform social systems by providing them with long-term employment.

Application requirements were: 1) holding a doctoral degree in a relevant field or expected to obtain such a degree by the time of assuming the post; 2) having a record of achievements in science and technology; 3) having a clear awareness of issues for transforming social systems and being willing and able 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 international organizations to central and municipal governments as well as to businesses and industry. Of 36 applicants, two candidates have been selected and have started working on their respective research since April 2022.

[Joint Research Program]

For this 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 new theme of "Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies" with the sub-theme "Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in the New Normal Era."

Application requirements were a joint research project by a team of two persons or more, a project representative must be 45 years old or younger, and have a contact address in Japan. Moreover, selected researchers would be asked to disseminate their research outcomes to society and beyond the boundaries of academia by practical means such as policy papers.

As for public calling for proposals, the Foundation held online information sessions to publicize the new grant programs widely while providing other opportunities to learn about the program objectives. In addition, the Foundation engaged in a wide range of communication activities such as notifying major universities, institutions, and academic societies, as well as posting notices on the websites of non-profit and non-governmental organizations. There was a total of 130 applications, and nine proposals were selected.

While it was the first year of public calling for proposals under the new theme, this program drew much attention from researchers working at various organizations, including research institutions, companies, and NPOs, and it received diverse project proposals.

tire world is facing this challenge and is still groping to find the right ways to address it.

However, if we reconsider the challenge, it seems that the division and isolation we are currently experiencing are not only due to COVID-19. Rather, we might say that we are being directly confronted with a serious problem that had been latent but invisible. For example, the problem of solitary deaths among elderly people, who live by themselves due to the declining birthrate and aging population and the large impact of communication using social networking services on people's psychology and behavior both had caused the division and significant changes in the nature of human relationships before the COVID-19.

It is in response to this that the Toyota Foundation set "interlinkages" as the keyword in its research grant program and decided to support research on new social systems created or attempted in the context of COVID-19, targeting research groups led by young researchers based in Japan. In addition to setting a broad theme and welcoming research from diverse fields, we also emphasized our expectation of results that can lead to social practice in a broader sense than purely academic research.

This year, a total of nine projects were adopted from among the 130 applications. In terms of academic disciplines, there seemed to be relatively more applications from fields related to sociology, medicine, and psychology. Even so, we received highly diverse, original, and interesting applications from people belonging to various research institutions, companies, NPOs, and other organizations. We therefore made the assessment that the research grant program has achieved more than enough for its first year. Below we introduce several of the selected research projects.

D21-R-0042 Takuro Shimada (Wawon Association, Board Member, Secretary General)

"Realizing employment for people with severe physical disabilities requiring 24-hour care: A reexamination of the disallowance of assisted work from the viewpoint of people with disabilities"

The widespread adoption of teleworking due COVID-19 has opened up the possibility of employment for people with severe physical disabilities, for whom commuting had been a hurdle. However, economic activity is not allowed under the system of visiting care for persons with severe disabilities, and the current situation is that employment opportunities for people with severe physical disabilities

are restricted in terms of the social system. This research is expected to provide recommendations aimed at realizing a new form of socioeconomic activity known as assisted employment.

D21-R-0092 Mao Matsuyama (Research Associate, Mukogawa Institute of Esthetics in Everyday-Life)

"A comprehensive study of "home" environment based on the recognition relationship between humans and things: From an integrated approach of environmental aesthetics, architecture and urban planning theory, and art practice"

One of the most obvious impacts of COVID-19 is that it has greatly changed the meaning of the home environment. This research is not only about infection control, but also about creating new lifestyles and values by combining environmental aesthetics, architecture, and urban engineering, treating the home as a place where people and things can build close relationships.

D21-R-0097 Rie Sato (Representative, Mirai + Corona)

"Research on a citizen-participatory local governance process using DX to solve the disengagement of young people from politics, which has been exacerbated by the decrease in interaction and distrust of politics in the coronavirus pandemic"

Political disengagement among the younger generation has long been a serious issue in Japan, and COVID-19 has forced a delay in the framework of community development and local government focusing on the participation of local residents, which was intended to counter this. Meanwhile, the importance of introducing digital transformation is rapidly gaining recognition. This research will explore ways to stimulate political participation by young people taking advantage of the digital transformation trend, referring to precedents in Europe.

Comments**Comments by Selection Committee Chair****Hiroshi Nakanishi**

Starting in 2021, the Toyota Foundation's Research Grant Program began accepting applications based on the new theme of Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies; Reevaluating Social Issues and Forging New Solidarity in the New Normal Era.

COVID-19, which has swept the world since last year, has posed an unexpected challenge to modern society. The close social networks which allowed modern society to function and thrive were suddenly and forcibly shut down, creating division and isolation right across society. The en-

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)
D21-RC-0001	Interlinkages and Innovation for Future Societies" Research Project Hideaki Shiroyama, 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)
D21-R-0039	Seeking help when help is needed: Overcoming factors causing social isolation among older adults in Japan Tomoko Ikeuchi, Researcher, Human Care Research Team, Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology	6,200,000
D21-R-0040	Assessing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on compact cities and exploring pathways for a green and just recovery based on interlinkages between humans, the environment, and technology: Insights from Tokyo and Shanghai Ayyoob Sharifi, Associate Professor, Hiroshima University, Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, International Economic Development Program	6,400,000
D21-R-0042	Realizing employment for people with severe physical disabilities requiring 24-hour care: A reexamination of the disallowance of assisted work from the viewpoint of people with disabilities Takuro Shimada, Board Member/Secretary General, Wawon Association	5,800,000
D21-R-0061	Proposal of co-creation of sustainable future visions using a gaming approach: A case study of the Mini SMART EARTH concept Kengo Suzuki, Assistant Professor, Department of Engineering Mechanics and Energy, Faculty of Engineering, Information and Systems, University of Tsukuba	6,200,000
D21-R-0091	Development of a single-parent support program that realizes peer support and transcends regions: Verification of the process of realizing "new solidarity" from the restoration of "independence" Eri Sato, Graduate Student, Division of Public Health Nursing Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine	5,400,000
D21-R-0092	A Comprehensive Study of "Home" Environment Based on the Recognition Relationship between Humans and Things: From an Integrated Approach of Environmental Aesthetics, Architecture and Urban Planning Theory, and Art Practice Mao Matsuyama, Research Associate, Mukogawa Institute of Esthetics in Everyday-Life	3,500,000
D21-R-0095	Learning in Community, Learning with Community: Development of a Network-Building Field Education Model Using ICT Tomohisa Abe, JSPS Research Fellow (PD), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science/ College of Intercultural Communication, Rikkyo University	4,500,000
D21-R-0097	Research on a Citizen-Participatory Local Governance Process Using DX to Solve the Disengagement of Young People from Politics, which Has Been Exacerbated by the Decrease in Interaction and Distrust of Politics in the Coronavirus Pandemic Rie Sato, Representative Director, Group Mirai+Corona	6,000,000
D21-R-0109	Survey on Gender Inequalities and Working Conditions in the Japanese Film Industry Tatsuhito Utagawa, Representative, Japanese Film Project	4,000,000



A scene of Intensive Lectures and Discussion - "Ethics and Logics of International Collaborative Projects" -- held in collaboration with the University of Tokyo Integrated Human Sciences Program for Cultural Diversity (IHS).

The International Grant Program

Overview

Program Title

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

Required elements for Project

Transnational, Cross Sector, Mutual Learning, Foresight

Target Countries

East and Southeast Asia^{*1}

Call for Proposals

April 1 to June 5, 2021

Project Period

Two-Year Grant (Nov 2021 - Oct 2023)
One-Year Grant (Nov 2021 - Oct 2022)

Total Amount of Grants

70 million yen in total

- a) One-year project: Up to three million yen
- b) Two-year project: Up to ten million yen

* 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

	Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
One-Year Grant	23	3	70.0	70.0	13
Two-Year Grant	93	7			7.5
Total	116	10	70.0	70.0	8.6

In fiscal 2021, the International Grant Program continued with its basic theme from the previous year and made grants accordingly, even though high hurdles remained to international movements of people due to the pandemic. Under the theme of “Cultivating Empathy Through Learning from Our Neighbors: Practitioners’ Exchange on Common Issues in Asia,” the Foundation 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, including Japan, and Southeast Asia. As in the previous fiscal year, the program’s grant amount totaled 70 million yen.

While keeping the basic project theme, the Foundation also experimented with a new framework. Considering the restrictions on international movements and changes in people’s communication methods, the Foundation created an “online exchange” category for projects focused on online mutual learning that required no mutual in-person visits (actual movements in the real world) to participant countries. But the budget was capped at 3 million yen per project, with the grant period limited to one year. As in the previous year, the Foundation accepted applications for two months from April 1 to June 5, and received a total of 116 applications: 23 for the new one-year grant and 93 for the two-year grant. In the end, three proposals and seven proposals were selected, respectively.

In addition to making grants, the Foundation continued to step up information dissemination via its YouTube channel for the sake of sharing and publicizing expertise gained from grant-awarded projects. Representatives reported on their grant-awarded projects and they answered questions from each other as well as from viewers in online seminar series titled “Ethics and Logics of International Collaborative Projects.” Each of these 90-minute discussion sessions was streamed live on four separate occasions, and 10-minute digest versions of these sessions were created and their English-dubbed versions can also be viewed online in the Foundation’s YouTube channel archive. In February 2022, the Foundation held a seminar-style class for three days to

discuss the International Grant Program and the outcomes of the grant-awarded projects, in collaboration with the University of Tokyo Integrated Human Sciences Program for Cultural Diversity (IHS). These discussions were compiled into a report in Japanese and English and can be viewed on the Foundation’s website.

In fiscal 2022, the Foundation ceased the one-year grant that was experimented with in fiscal 2021, and has brought back one-year or two-year grants with the requirements for actual site visits and in-person exchanges amid signs of growing movements of people across borders. What’s more, South Asia has also been added to the target area regions, along with East and Southeast Asia. Although most grant-awarded projects have been conducted under the pandemic-caused strict restrictions, there are more activities involving people’s movements domestically and internationally. While utilizing tools for virtual communication online, the Foundation will explore what face-to-face communication in the real world can bring about, particularly when we need to deepen our thoughts, and disseminate the value and significance of the International Grant Program.

Comments

Comments by Selection Committee Chair Shigeto Sonoda

This is the third time for me to provide commentary on the selection results, following fiscal 2019 and fiscal 2020.

During this time, we made minor changes to the way we call for applications for the International Grant Program. The prioritized area, which was introduced in fiscal 2019, was abolished in fiscal 2020, making the program completely open

Table 1: Distribution of the nationalities of applicants for fiscal 2019, 2020 and 2021

Nationality	2019	2020	2021
Japan	105	103	70 (14)
Malaysia	9	4	12 (1)
Thailand	1	2	5 (2)
Indonesia	8	6	5 (1)
United States	1	1	3 (1)
Vietnam	0	0	3 (1)
United Kingdom	2	1	2 (1)
Taiwan	4	3	2 (0)
The Philippines	2	1	2 (0)
Canada	1	0	2 (0)
Tajikistan	0	0	1 (1)
Belgium	0	0	1 (1)
China	0	5	1 (0)
South Korea	6	4	1 (0)
Czech Republic	0	1	1 (0)
Bangladesh	1	1	1 (0)
Egypt	0	0	1 (0)
Australia	0	0	1 (0)
Germany	0	0	1 (0)
Bolivia	0	0	1 (0)
India	0	2	0
Unknown	0	2	0
Nepal	0	1	0
Sudan	0	1	0
Myanmar	2	1	0
Mongolia	1	1	0
Singapore	1	0	0
Sri Lanka	2	0	0
Chile	1	0	0
Total	147	140	116 (23)

Note: Countries/regions are listed in descending order of number of project representatives by nationality for fiscal 2021. Figures in the parentheses () indicate the number of applicants for the One-Year Grant.

to applications on various issues. In fiscal 2021, we introduced the One-Year Grant to call for proposals on projects based on fresh ideas focused on online activities, which can be undertaken without requiring the cross-border movement of people. However, the key points of the International Grant Program remain unchanged. Its purpose is to support projects that are aimed at solving common issues in Asia through learning from our neighbors and which include the following Four Elements. The total budget also remains unchanged at 70,000,000 yen.

(1) Transnationality: The project must cover at least two countries in East Asia and/or Southeast Asia, and the project members must also be from at least two countries. In addition, any achievement made through the project 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 needed to solve the problem, must be participating in the project under an organic relationship.

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

(4) Foresight: The project must reflect a strong awareness 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 should also cover problems that could occur in the future and reflect a new perspective beyond conventional frameworks.

Overview of Applications

The open call for proposals began on April 1, 2021, and applications were accepted until June 5. Last fiscal year, the application procedure started slightly later than usual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, the application window was the same as before.

Among those who sought prior consultation, there were several applicants wondering whether to apply for the Two-Year Grant or One-Year Grant. It seems that many applicants were wondering on what scale they should implement their projects and how to manage the schedule

Fig. 1: Targeted countries/regions that were stated in application forms for 2019, 2020 and 2021

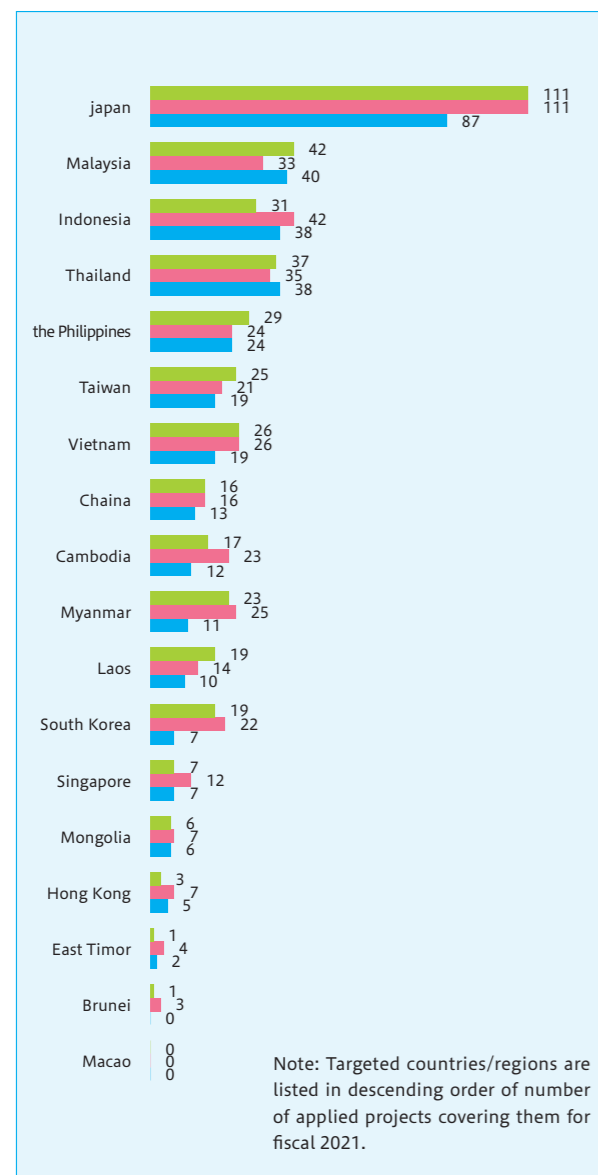


Fig. 2: Numbers of targeted countries/regions that were stated in application forms in 2019, 2020 and 2021

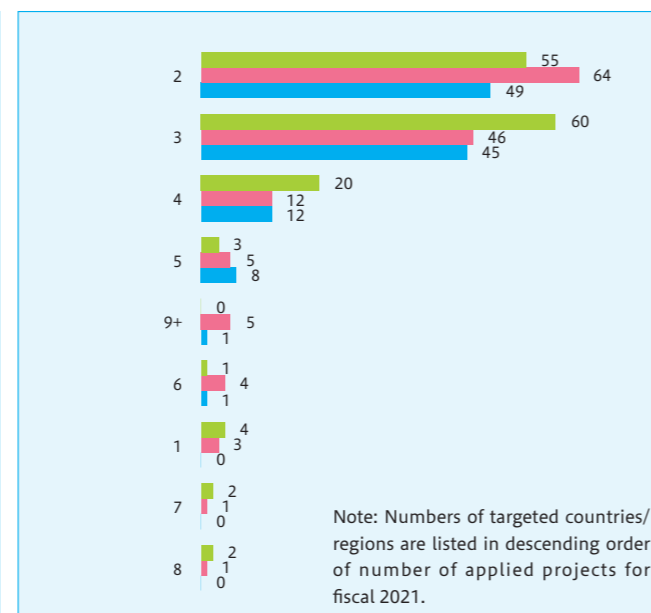
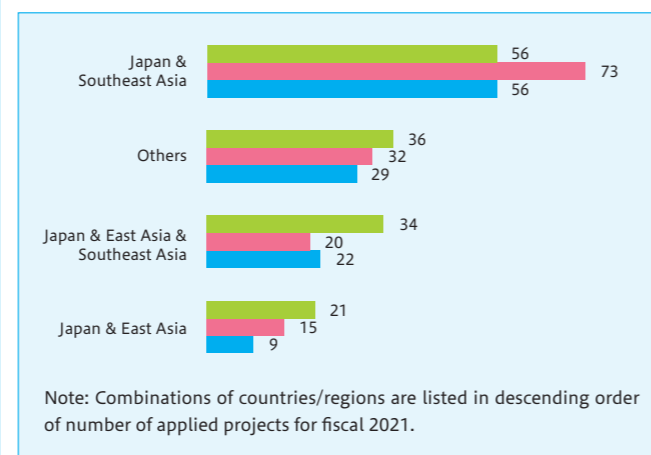


Fig. 3: Combinations of targeted countries/regions that were stated in application forms for 2019, 2020 and 2021



■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 (Excluding countries/regions outside East and Southeast Asia)

given the uncertainty about the future course of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, the number of applications for the new One-Year Grant was 23, which was not as large as we expected. Meanwhile, the number of applications for the Two-Year Grant was 93, or around two-thirds of the usual number. As a result, the total number was just 116. Among them, the number of applicants who had undertaking projects with grants from the Toyota Foundation was 15 (12.9%), not significantly different from the last year's rate (15%).

As for the distribution of nationalities of applicants, no

major change was seen in the last three years (see Table 1). Because of the condition that applicants have their main residence in Japan, around 70% of the applicants were Japanese. This trend is also seen among applicants for the One-Year Grant. As a whole, the number of applications from applicants of Southeast Asian nationalities has increased while that of applicants holding East Asian nationalities has been decreasing. This is also influencing the distribution of targeted countries, which will be described below (see Fig. 1).

Countries/regions covered by the proposed projects (Fig.1), their numbers (Fig.2) and their combination (Fig.3) show that

the ratio of proposed projects targeting Southeast Asian countries/regions has seen a relative increase, while the ratio of projects targeting Japan and East Asia or only East Asia excluding Japan has decreased. Further, the number of proposals on projects targeting a wide area covering six or more countries/regions has decreased, which gives the impression that the number of more modest projects has grown relatively large. Keywords written on the application forms were as diverse as human rights protection, food safety, environmental preservation and sustainability, tourism, poverty and inequalities, disaster prevention, resource management, aging, and medical aid. There were more cases than last year in which the COVID-19 pandemic was referred to in the project explanation. This reflects the increase in the number of applicants who set a mission to solve a common issue in Asia that has emerged (or become more serious) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of targeted countries/regions stated in applications. The number of applications targeting Japan was 111, similar to the previous fiscal year, which reflects the large number of applications from Japanese applicants. Looking closely at the proposed projects targeting both Japan and Southeast Asia, more proposals targeted Indonesia while less focused on Malaysia: there were slight changes within the applications involving Southeast Asia.

Applications were found to describe diverse projects, which contained many different factors, such as multicultural coexistence, gender, environmental preservation, sustainability, conservation of cultural properties, tourism, education, poverty and disparities, disaster prevention, food safety, resource management, community construction, and aging.

Selection process and results

The selection committee was made up of four members including the committee chair. All of them have continued in their positions from the previous fiscal year. This enabled selection to be completed even more smoothly than last year.

First, Program officers (POs) closely reviewed the 116 applications individually. 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.

The four committee members read the applications carefully, and recommended nine projects in total, assuming three for the One-Year Grant and six for the Two-Year Grant based on the number of selected projects in recent years. Each member gave a weight on a small number of the projects that he or she strongly recommended and added their own personal comments.

If a member of the selection committee had any question about the content, schedule, budget plan, or other matters, or expected difficulties in the implementation of the proposal, he or she informed the POs, who communicated the questions/concerns to the applicants and received replies before they participated in the selection committee meeting.

At the end of the selection process, the results of the reviews by the four committee members were summarized, and a selection committee meeting was held. At the meeting, the committee eliminated applications that had not been recommended by anyone at all. All members commented on applications that at least one of the members had recommended, and they discussed those applications one by one. They made the final decision on the winning projects by considering the balance among the countries/regions covered and project themes, the One-Year Grant and Two-Year Grant proportion, and by adjusting the amounts of grants so that the total amount would not exceed 70,000,000 yen.

The ten projects selected for this fiscal year (three for the One-Year Grant and seven for the Two-Year Grant) have the following characteristics.

First, all the representatives of the selected projects are Japanese again. While there had been several non-Japanese representatives of selected projects in each year before 2019, there was no such representative among projects selected in 2019. This time again, all the representatives are Japanese, as in 2019. It is possible that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it difficult to reach out to non-Japanese applicants, and the foundation may have to consider a measure for this in the future.

Second, the number of projects covering East Asian countries/regions has increased. In 2019, one project targeting South Korea and one targeting Taiwan were selected. No project targeting East Asian countries/regions was selected in 2020. This year saw an increase in such projects, with one targeting South Korea, three targeting

Taiwan, and one targeting China among the selected projects. On the other hand, projects targeting Southeast Asian countries/regions such as Indonesia, Malaysia, and Myanmar, which were among selected projects in the past two years, are not included in the projects selected this year. In terms of applicants' nationalities, while the number of applications from Southeast Asians saw a relative increase, the number of selected projects decreased.

Projects targeting the combination of "Japan, East Asia, and Southeast Asia" and those targeting the combination of "Japan and East Asia", none of which was selected last year, were among the winning projects this year, with their numbers being two and three, respectively, while projects for linking "Japan and Southeast Asia" and the ones linking countries and regions in Southeast Asia were also selected as usual. Above all, three projects for linking Japan and Taiwan were selected, underscoring the strength of the ties between Japan and Taiwan in the COVID-19 pandemic. The number of applications stating the combination of Japan and East Asia decreased to nine, but the above result means that contents of those applications were evaluated highly by the selection committee.

Third, a high selection rate for applicants who had undertaken projects with grants from the Toyota Foundation, which was pointed out in the preceding years, is not seen this time. Last year, "Of the 140 applications, 21 proposals were made by those who had received grants from the foundation in the past. Three of the 21 proposals were selected: the rate of selection is 14.3%. On the other hand, six proposals (5%) were selected from 119 applications made by those who had not received grants from the foundation" (quoted from the outline I wrote last year). This year, however, 16 of the 116 proposals were made by representatives or members of projects which were undertaken with grants from the Toyota Foundation. And only one of the 16 proposed projects was selected, resulting in a decline of the selection rate by half, to 6.3%. On the other hand, nine proposals (9%) were selected from 100 applications made by those who had not received grants from the foundation: the result is quite different from last year's.

While no project related to environmental preservation/sustainability was selected last year, three such projects were selected this fiscal year. On the other hand, no project related to tourism was selected this fiscal year, although at least one such project had been selected every recent year. Further, only one project related to immigrants was

selected this year while three and two such projects were selected last year and year before last, respectively, partly because the theme fell under a prioritized area.

As described above, trends in applications and the features of selected projects for this fiscal year seem to have been slightly different from those for the last fiscal year.

Introducing Adopted Projects

The following are two projects that received a relatively high evaluation, one each from among winners of the Two-Year Grant and those of the One-Year Grant. Japan happens to be included among the targets of these projects, but there are two other projects which do not target Japan.

Saya Yukimoto, "Building a simultaneous solution system for climate change and poverty - applying the "+- model" of Taiwan in Thailand and Japan"

Countries: Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand

Term: 2 years

A factor which has seen climate change (global warming) spin out of control is the apathy of the poorer population and businesses that cannot afford to think about the problem. Based on this understanding, this project will apply the "-+ Model" that was developed in Taiwan (a system in which negative factors are changed into positive factors through a behavioral chain, such as requesting businesses to digitalize invoices and receipts and donate the money thus saved to replace lights of poor households with LED and returning the money thus saved to such households). The project will be implemented in collaboration with the city governments of Kyoto and Bangkok. The above model will be modified in the program of each city by adjusting it to the local conditions. What makes this project praiseworthy is not only the idea of applying the system transformation to local municipalities but also the plan to expand a successful example in Taiwan by reflecting local conditions. This project will be even more attractive if it becomes possible to externally disclose and communicate the process as well.

Akira Morita, "Encountering to Understanding: how media can foster mutual learning across cultures"

Countries: Japan, Cambodia, and the Philippines

Term: 1 year

This program is aimed at further empowering citizen journalism and independent media. It solicits participants via social media or other means, aiming to encourage them to acquire detailed storytelling techniques through online

seminars, workshops, and trial production of videos. Mr. Morita implemented a similar project in five countries during 2016 to 2019. Taking advantage of this experience, he has planned to implement the project by narrowing the target countries to Japan, Cambodia, and the Philippines. □Applications strongly appealed to the selection committee if applicants understood the foundation's missions and characteristics and the goals of the International Grant Program, even if the applicants have not received the Toyota Foundation's grant in the past, if for instance, the applicants had participated in explanatory meetings and detailed consultations with POs. Applicants for the next fiscal year are encouraged to take this point into account.

Conclusion

Last fiscal year, the number of applications did not decrease as expected, although we called for applications when COVID-19 was about to spread all over the world. This fiscal year, however, the total number of applications decreased, even though we introduced the One-Year Grant in an attempt to encourage activities despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which had made movement across borders impossible. While this is unfortunate, 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."

Selection committee members were happy to read some applications proposing "new combinations" including one proposing environmental protection and the revitalization of local communities through the innovative use of ICT. However, among the representatives of the selected projects, only one was in their 20s and one was in their 30s, which is a bit disappointing. I look forward to younger applicants' innovative proposals.

List of Grants

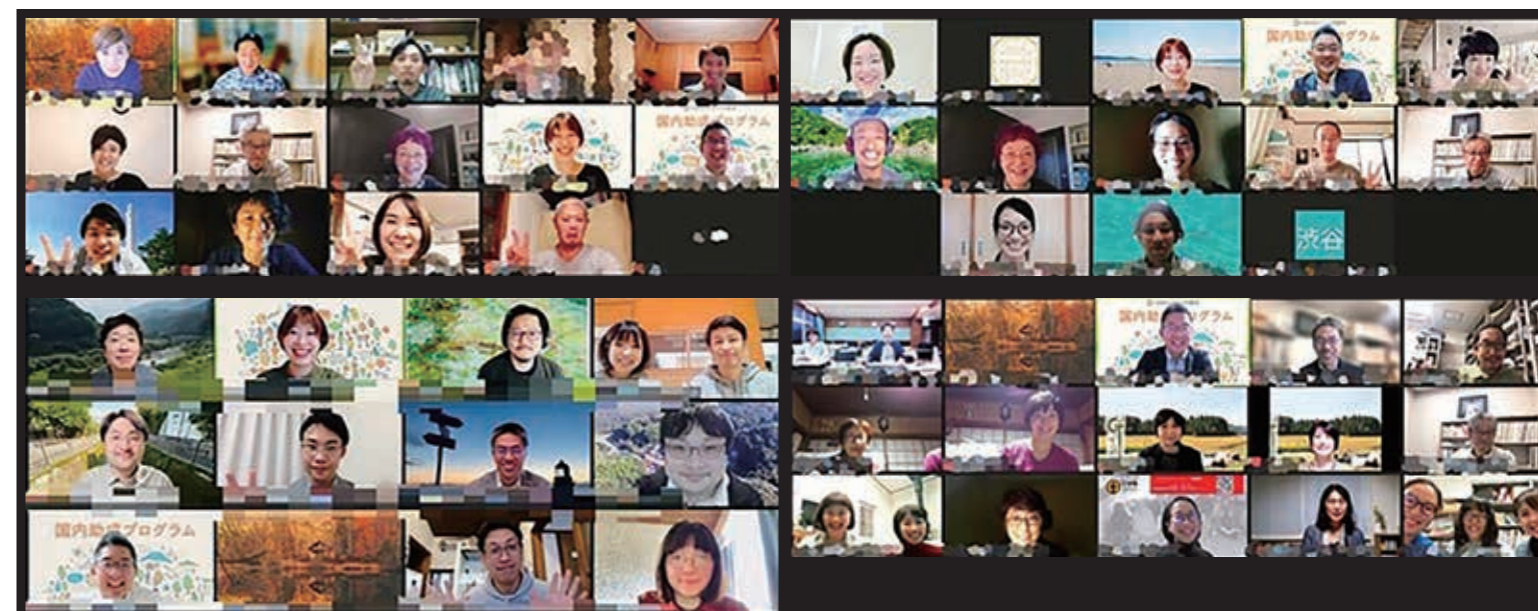
*Note: The project titles among other things on this list are those at the time of grant approval.

One-Year Grant

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D21-N1-0003	Harmonising Society through Migrant Worker and Foreign Investor Cultural Education Yasunari Urashima, Country Director, NPO Japan ADRA (Adra Japan)	3,000,000
D21-N1-0006	Co-creation of civic education and community building methods using Taiwanese ICT and Japanese entertainment for the purpose of realizing zero emissions in East Asia Masataka Mori, Researcher, Not-for-profit Organisation, issue+design	3,000,000
D21-N1-0022	Encountering to Understanding: how media can foster mutual learning across cultures Akira Morita, Director of Program and Community Design, School of Slow Media	3,000,000

Two-Year Grant

Grant Number	Project Title Project Leader Position, Organization	Grant Amount(Yen)
D21-N2-0026	Design for People-Centered Circular Systems: Examining food packaging, services and hygiene concerns from post COVID-19 lifestyle changes Hiroshi Tamura, Co-founder / Managing Director, Re:public, Inc.	9,000,000
D21-N2-0029	Building an educational model for improving community health through collaborative learning: The Japan-Thailand Multidisciplinary International Consortium Hirotake Mori, Associate Professor, Department of General Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Juntendo University	8,500,000
D21-N2-0036	Sharing and communicating local issues through the collaboration of literature and film in the Mekong River Basin countries Hiroyuki Yamamoto, Associate professor, Kyoto University	8,500,000
D21-N2-0047	Research, Mutual Learning and Network Formation on Human Rights Best Practices by Non-State Actors in COVID responses Ai Kihara-Hunt, Associate professor, The University of Tokyo	9,200,000
D21-N2-0052	Shaping practice of mutual learning to redefine cancer and life without leaving anyone behind in local communities in Japan and China Norie Kawahara, CEO, Asia Cancer Forum	7,500,000
D21-N2-0072	Financial support platform for Sustainable Circular Local Economy Keiichi Ishihara, Professor, Graduate Schools of Energy Science, Kyoto University	8,600,000
D21-N2-0087	Building a simultaneous solution system for climate change and poverty - applying "+- model" of Taiwan in Thailand and Japan Saya Yukimoto, Representative Director, NPO Glocal Human Development Center	9,700,000



All the participants of the fiscal 2020 "Survey Grant" outcome report-back meeting and the fiscal 2020 "Nurture Grant" mid-term training session and report-back meeting (including Selection Committee Members and the staff members of the office for the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan) are photographed here.

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) Invention of Social Services and Development of Human Resources in the Entire Japanese Society
- 2) Establishment and Conservation of Community-Based Platforms to Sustain the Local Neighborhoods by Co-creation

Call for Proposals

April 21 to June 11, 2021

Project Period

- 1) Three years, beginning October 1, 2021
- 2) Two years, beginning October 1, 2021

Total Amount of Grants

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

Since the revision of its theme in fiscal 2014, the Foundation reviewed the content of the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan several times in the following seven years of implementation. Given this history, the Foundation made medium-scale revisions to the program in fiscal 2021 and thus made grants under the theme of "Fostering the Autonomous Society under 'New Normal' Based upon the Inventive Ideas." The grant-making framework consists of the following two: 1) Invention of Social Services and Development of Human Resources in the Entire Japanese Society (hereinafter called Japanese Society) and 2) Establishment and Conservation of Community-Based Platforms to Sustain the Local Neighborhoods by Co-creation (hereinafter called Local Neighborhoods). The Foundation placed importance on efforts to resolve various challenges highlighted by the spread of the new coronavirus as well as on an approach to effective use of new infor-

	Number of Applications	Number of Grants	Value of Grants (¥ Million)	Budget (¥ Million)	Acceptance Rate (%)
1)	64	4	70.0	60.0	6.4
2)	138	8	40.0	40.0	5.8
Total	202	12	110.0	100.0	5.9

mation technologies (IT) and information communications technology (ICT) in practice in various places facing the need to shift from the conventional methods. Moreover, the Foundation employed an identify-potential-project approach and called for applications for the 1) Japanese Society category from Kosen (a five-year engineering program) schools across Japan through the National Institute of Technology (NIT) in this fiscal year.

As for a public call for proposals, as in the previous fiscal year, the Foundation held six information sessions online due to the spread of the new coronavirus. On three of those occasions, the meetings were held in collaboration with the NPO support intermediary organizations from different places that had been involved until fiscal 2019. This was intended to help deepen the understanding of this program from diverse perspectives, including those of on-site groups and practitioners as well as those of such intermediary organizations offering support and follow-ups.

Upon closing the application, a total of 202 proposals was received: 64 proposals for 1) Japanese Society and 138 proposals for 2) Local Neighborhoods. After deliberations by the Selection Committee, the Foundation decided to make grants worth a total of 110 million yen to a total of 12 projects -- four projects for 1) Japanese Society (including a grant made to one project through the identify-potential-project category mentioned above) and eight projects for 2) Local Neighborhoods --, exceeding the initial budget of 100 million yen by 10 million yen.

The grant-awarding ceremony, which was normally scheduled to take place at the start of the grant period, was canceled this fiscal year as well. As in the previous year, the Foundation held online a Kick-Off training session for grantees, giving them an opportunity to receive guidance from the office staff members and allowing project representatives to talk about their projects and interact with one another.

While follow-up operations were mainly conducted online in fiscal 2021, the Foundation stepped up mid-term re-

port-back meetings and training sessions by inviting outside lecturers or advisors. At the same time, the Foundation held report-back meetings at the end of the grant period in June and November, providing an opportunity for assessment and review of grant-awarded projects. Selection Committee members were invited to participate actively in these meetings and training sessions, and they offered feedback and interacted with grantees.

Since the program has been revised, grant-awarded projects selected under different themes and within different frameworks continue to be in operation at the same time for several years. But the Foundation's focus on making grants to projects involving cooperation and collaboration among diverse stakeholders remains the same. To help advance those projects, the Foundation is committed to taking on new challenges in the next fiscal year and beyond so that it can build a multi-layered network of people including Selection Committee members and outside experts.

The Initiative Program

Overview



A portal site that features people with disabilities working at companies, introducing them to young people with disabilities -- an outcome of a project supported by the grant of the Initiative Program.

Specifically, a grant was provided to certified NPO Akatsuki's efforts at "implementing and promoting evaluation method" in the second year of their "Development of Grassroots Nonprofits' 'Reflecting' Evaluation Method Making Use of the Narrative Approach," a grant-awarded project in fiscal 2020. In addition, the Foundation made grants to a project aimed at building a nationwide network of local roundtable organizations for achieving an inclusive future, National Network for Inclusive Future (NANIF), by the Japan Center for International Exchange, a Tokyo-based non-profit institute, as well as to a project aimed at changing the commonly-held perceptions about the employment of people with disabilities and creating a diverse and inclusive society by launching a portal site that features videos of people with disabilities at work and in life, called "a program for passing experience from working people with disabilities to young people with disabilities."

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)
D21-PI-0001	Expanding the implementation of Grassroots Nonprofits' "Reflecting" Evaluation Method Making Use of the Narrative Approach Naoko Yukimatsu, Akatsuki	5,880,000
D21-PI-0002	National Network for Inclusive Future (NANIF) Akio Okawara, Japan Center for International Exchange	9,000,000
D21-PI-0003	A future created by "the program for passing experience from working people with disabilities to young people with disabilities" that can change the perceptions about the employment of people with disabilities -- an effort not to leave the employment of people with disabilities as a minority issue Kumi Katsuta, FPCO Ducks Co.	9,730,000

Accounting Report

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2022

(Unit: Thousand Yen)

Account	Fiscal 2021	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019
I Assets			
1. Current assets			
Cash and deposits	446,736	489,417	515,873
Accounts receivable	68,183	67,629	71,777
Other	5,726	4,754	5,420
Total current assets	520,645	561,800	593,070
2. Fixed assets			
Basic funds	25,167,457	25,143,378	24,760,421
Specified assets	20,859,206	17,865,256	15,071,986
Other fixed assets	53,027	49,860	50,973
Total fixed assets	46,079,690	43,058,494	39,883,380
Total assets	46,600,335	43,620,294	40,476,450
II Liabilities			
1. Total current liabilities	386,232	400,121	476,072
2. Total fixed liabilities	66,869	75,687	77,699
Total liabilities	453,101	475,808	553,771
III Net assets			
1. Designated net assets	23,715,084	20,729,569	17,934,796
(Amount from above allocated to basic funds)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)	(3,000,000)
(Amount from above allocated to specified assets)	(20,715,084)	(17,729,569)	(14,934,796)
2. General net assets	22,432,150	22,414,917	21,987,884
(Amount from above allocated to basic funds)	(22,167,457)	(22,143,378)	(21,760,421)
(Amount from above allocated to specified assets)	(80,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)
Total net assets	46,147,234	43,144,486	39,922,680
Total liabilities and net assets	46,600,335	43,620,294	40,476,450

Accounting Report

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022

(Unit: Thousand Yen)

Account	Fiscal 2020	Fiscal 2019	Fiscal 2018
I Changes in general net assets			
1. Changes in ordinary profit			
(1) Ordinary profit	688,769	643,379	673,289
(2) Ordinary expenses	695,870	609,253	688,963
Current changes in ordinary profit prior to profit/loss appraisal	▲7,101	34,126	▲15,674
Profit and loss appraisal	24,334	392,907	▲305,358
Current changes in ordinary profit	17,233	427,033	▲321,033
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	17,233	427,033	▲321,033
Balance at beginning of the fiscal year in general net assets	22,414,917	21,987,884	22,308,916
Balance at end of the fiscal year in general net assets	22,432,150	22,414,917	21,987,884
II Changes in designated net assets			
Current changes in designated net assets	2,985,515	2,794,773	▲149,383
Balance at beginning of the fiscal year in designated net assets	20,729,569	17,934,796	18,084,179
Balance at end of the fiscal year in designated net assets	23,715,084	20,729,569	17,934,796
III Balance at end of the fiscal year in net assets	46,147,234	43,144,486	39,922,680

Officers and Trustees

Directors and Auditors

As of March 31, 2022

Name	Occupation
Chairman Nobuyori Kodaira	Former Executive Vice President, Toyota Motor Corp.
President Masashi Haneda	Director, Tokyo College, The Uni- versity of Tokyo
Managing Director (full-time) Akihiro Yamamoto	
Director Jyunichi Sato	Adviser, The Japan Federation of Engineering Societies
Director Yasuhiko Sato	Operating Officer, Toyota Motor Corp.
Director Atsushi Seike	President, Promotion and Mu- tual Aid Corporation for Private School of Japan Adviser for Educational Affairs, Keio University
Director Akihiko Tanaka	President, National Graduate In- stitute for Policy Studies
Director Kanetaka Hisatsune	Former Chairman, Toyota Dealers Association
Director Hiroshi Yoshikawa	President, Risho University
Auditor Masahide Yasuda	Audit and Supervisory Board Members, Toyota Motor Corp.
Auditor Fusahiro Yamamoto	Certified Public Accountant

Trustees

As of March 31, 2022

Name	Occupation
Yuko Arimori	Chairman, Special Olympics Nippon
Mitsuhsa Kato	Chairman, Toyota Central R&D Labs., Inc.
Shinichi Kitaoka	President, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Nobuyuki Koga	Chairman, Nomura Holdings, Inc.
Hiroyuki Sakaki	Managing Director, Toyota Technological Institute
Shoichiro Toyoda	Honorary Chairman, Toyota Motor Corp.
Shigeru Hayakawa	Vice Chairman, Toyota Motor Corp.
Kayoko Hayashi	President, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
Shin-ichi Hirano	Chair Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Koichi Fukaya	Former Executive Chairman, DENSO Corporation
Masanori Mitsui	Chairman, Daihatsu Motor Co., Ltd.
Naoko Munakata	Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo
Senta Morioka	Former Vice Governor, Aichi Prefecture
Shinji Yazaki	President, Yazaki Corporation



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

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