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Research Grant Program
Comprehensive Review
— Exploring New Values for Society —

2011
2019

The Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program

Comprehensive Review of “Exploring New Values for Society”

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Introduction

Ever since its establishment in 1974, the Toyota Foundation has continued to run research grant programs, providing grants for research. At first, the Foundation provided grants for specific fields such as transport safety, the living and natural environment, social welfare, and education and culture. However, since 1984, every ten years or so, we have set a theme for grants to foreshadow the coming times, in addition to presenting the social vision the Toyota Foundation seeks.

Table1 Evolution in the Grant Themes

Years	Grant Themes
From 1974	(Field-specific grants) Field: 1. Human and natural environments, and transport safety; 2. Social welfare; and 3. Education and culture
From 1984	In Search of a New Society
From 1994	Creating a Society with Pluralistic Values
From 2006	The Search for the Richness of Human Life and Activity
From 2011	Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future Sub-themes: Research that aims at creating new social value Practical research that contributes to addressing social issue
From 2014 to 2019	Exploring New Values for Society

Under the “Exploring New Values for Society” grant theme established in 2011, the Toyota Foundation supported a total of 272 projects (total amount: 890 million yen) over the nine years* up to 2019. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations in 2015, as well as the grant having been provided for a certain period of time (nine years), we decided to stop providing grants under the theme in 2019 as we considered that our efforts aimed at value creation had served their role to some extent, and to review the grant theme and consider a new grant theme during 2020. This report is the product of that review, and the main objectives are to summarize the results and ripple effects achieved through the nine years of grant activities as well as the issues that have been identified.

“Exploring New Values for Society” was originally one of the sub-themes established under the grant

*Established as a sub-theme until 2013 and the main theme from 2014

theme of “Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future,” which commenced in 2011. However, because the setting of a number of sub-themes diluted the message, the program title was slightly revised to “Exploring New Values for Society” in 2014 and elevated into the main theme. This grant theme was based on an awareness that it is difficult to solve fundamental issues with existing values and compartmentalized, specialized knowledge in today’s society, which faces diverse and complex challenges. It was hoped that projects would reconsider the conventional ways of thinking and social norms from a multi-disciplinary/cross-cutting and long-term viewpoint to create new perspectives.

In reviewing the grant program, we have attempted to provide a summary that is based on multifaceted opinions by including feedback from diverse perspectives, including grant recipients and outside experts. The structure of the report is as follows.

Chapter 1 provides an overview of the Research Grant Program “Exploring New Values for Society.” Specifically, the chapter sets out and considers the process leading to the establishment of “Exploring New Values for Society” and the workshops for grant recipients held from 2014 until 2019 as a Foundation-initiated program to support our grant activities. In Chapter 2, there is a dialogue with the past Chairs of the Selection Committee in which they look back on the program and provide their messages for the future. Chapter 3 summarizes the content and results of the third-party evaluations by three experts. Chapter 4 provides a summary and discussion of the results of the questionnaire conducted for grant recipients under the Research Grant Program between 2011 and 2018.

It is hoped that the findings obtained will be disseminated to stakeholders and the general public via our website in addition to being used for the Foundation’s future grant programs.

Overview and Evolution of “Exploring New Values for Society”

1-1 “Exploring New Values for Society”

As described previously, the grant theme “Exploring New Values for Society” was originally one of the two sub-themes established under “Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future,” the grant theme which commenced in 2011. This program provided grants under the frameworks of “value creation” or “Research that aims at creating new social value” and “problem solving” or “Practical research that contributes to addressing social issue” with two categories, which were “Joint Research” and “Individual Research.” <Category A>covered “Joint Research,” and only this category was eligible for grants under the sub-themes. In other words, researchers were able to plan research without being restricted to a theme under <Category B> which was for “Individual Research.”

In 2014, the Foundation slightly revised the name of the “Research that aims at creating new social value” and decided to make it into the single main theme of “Exploring New Values for Society.” The reasons for and the process by which a sub-theme was made into the main theme were described in detail in Comments by Selection Committee Chair following the selection process in 2012, and an excerpt is provided below.

Comments by Selection Committee Chair (Toshio Kuwako) (2012)

In 2012, as in the previous year, the Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program conducted reviews in two categories. Category A covered Joint Research Grants; Category B was for Individual Research Grants. In previous year, Category A was broken down into Category A1 (“Practical research that contributes to addressing challenges facing society”) and Category A2 (“Value-creation research aimed at forging a new society”). This year, the order of these subcategories was reversed, so that Category A1 is now “Research that aims at creating new social value,” and Category A2 is “Practical research that contributes to addressing social issue.”

We changed the order in order to reflect our priorities. Our aim is to actively support original, visionary research projects that work toward a new future. We believe that society is at a critical historical turning point. It is vital to resolve the issues we face today. The phrase “Creating new value” encapsulates this philosophy.

In soliciting applications for Joint Research Grants A1, we were looking not for conventional research of the kind rewarded within existing academic evaluation systems, but projects that went beyond conventional academic research. We hoped to see ambitious, ground-breaking research that introduced new ideas, concepts and theories capable of taking the world into the future.

Unfortunately, however, the selection committee was forced to conclude that overall few projects met these expectations and offered real potential in terms of creating new value for society.

There were probably a variety of reasons for this. It may be that the purpose of the Toyota Foundation research grant was not communicated to applicants properly. The foundation need to work on the way it conducts its publicity. On the other hand, it may simply be the case that this year’s applicants did not take the time to understand the intent of the foundation’s research grants fully before applying.

“Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future” was the grant theme that began in 2011. However, it can be seen that the focus was already starting to shift toward the sub-theme of “Research that aims at creating new social value” in the Comments by Selection Committee Chair in 2012, the following year. Meanwhile, it was also pointed out that the aims and intent of the program were not fully understood. Given these observations, the Toyota Foundation published an interview with the Selection Committee Chair in its public relations magazine “JOINT” and on its website and made efforts to communicate the purpose of the program to more people in advance of the following year’s applications (link for the interview with Professor Toshio Kuwako, Selection Committee Chair: <https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/research/2013/interview.html>).

In addition, since the creation of a single grant theme in 2014, we have held workshops twice a year with the primary purpose of deepening understanding of the theme, as well as thinking about the “new values for society” that the Toyota Foundation is aiming for together with grant recipients and people who are considering applying to the program. We would like to touch on the workshops again in more detail later in section 1-2.

Despite our initiatives to promote understanding of the objectives of the grant program by using the public relations magazine and holding regular workshops, there was still some feedback that the theme was vague and difficult to understand. In 2018, therefore, we used a portion of the Research Grant Program budget (40 million yen) to establish the Special Subject “Co-Creating New Society with Advanced Technologies.”

Due to the reduction in the budget associated with this as well as other factors, in the same year, the “Individual Research Grant” category was effectively eliminated from the Research Grant Program, making only joint research by project teams of three or more people eligible for the program in principle. In addition, the age of project representatives was restricted to those aged 45 and under. Although these changes were triggered by the reduction in the budget, the Foundation also had an eye on fostering young researchers by providing the opportunity for them to demonstrate leadership.

Furthermore, in 2019, it was decided to restrict the place of residence of project representatives to Japan in order to encourage collaboration between the Foundation and research projects as well as between research projects and to provide more support than in the past for disseminating the results of research to domestic stakeholders and more. Thus, we made a variety of minor changes to the application requirements in and after 2018. However, since these changes in the requirements have not been in place for very long, we do not consider their impact in this review.

Table2 Evolution of the Research Grant Program “Exploring New Values for Society”

Fiscal Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Theme	Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future			Exploring New Values for Society						
Sub-themes	<A1> Research that aims at creating new social value <A2> Ractical research that contributes to addressing social issue*1									
Committee Chair	Toshio Kuwako							Hideaki Shiroyama*2		
No. of applications	<A1>121 <A2>242 (Individual) 499 Total: 862	<A1>149 <A2>236 (Individual) 495 Total: 880	<A1>126 <A2>184 (Individual) 324 Total: 637	(Joint) 351 (Individual) 340 Total: 691	(Joint) 347 (Individual) 352 Total: 699	(Joint) 429 (Individual) 449 Total: 878	(Joint) 452 (Individual) 393 Total: 845	361	152	
No. of projects selected	Joint	<A1>12 <A2>11	<A1>5 <A2>8	<A1>6 <A2>8	17	17	17	18	11	11
	Individual	24	21	19	14	15	23	13	1	1
Total grant amount (Million yen)	140	130	100	100	100	100	100	100	60	60
Main requirements								• Project representatives 45 years old or under • In principle project teams of 3 persons or more		
								• Place of residence of project representatives: Japan		

*1 In the first year, <Category A1> covered “Practical research that contributes to addressing social issue” and <Category A2> was for “Research aimed at creating social value,” but <Categories A1> and <A2> were reversed from 2012. To avoid confusion, <Category A1> of 2011 in this table is for “Research aimed at creating social value.”

*2 Professor Hideaki Shiroyama was a member from 2016 before he became the Committee Chair in 2018.

1-2 Workshops for Grant Recipients

As mentioned previously, under the Research Grant Program, the Toyota Foundation has held workshops for grant recipients regularly since 2014 (total of 11 workshops). The primary purposes of the workshops were to deepen understanding of program objectives among grant recipients and those considering applying for a grant in the future and creating opportunities for grant recipients to interact. In particular, we held sessions for the workshops between 2014 and 2018, when there were a large number of supported projects, with reports from research projects in each session. Even though the research projects seemed to be completely different from each other at first glance, the researchers were able to conduct vigorous exchanges of opinions based on universal perspectives that transcended the individual case study reports through the common theme “new values for society.”

An overview of each of the workshops is as shown below.

1-2-1 Overview of Workshops

Date	Place	Participants	URL
Jun 7, 2014	Sanjo Kaikan, The University of Tokyo	Around 30 participants	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2014/toyotafound/2014-0609-1737-7.html
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> ① Yuko Shimazaki; Assistant Professor, The Hirayama Ikuo Volunteer Center Waseda University International Joint Research on the Concept of the "Elastic Public Sphere" in Cambodia ② Shohei Yao; Research Associate, Organization for Asian Studies, Waseda University A Sociological Analysis of the Social Mechanisms to Produce Ethnic Minorities in Post-WWII East and Southeast Asia and the Possibility of their Multicultural Symbiosis: A Case Study of Overseas Taiwanese in the Ryukyu Islands ③ Masaya Nemoto; Junior Fellow, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University Memories of Atomic Bombing and Story-telling Activities by Atomic Bomb Survivors in the U.S.: An Anthropological Study on Violence, Society, and Victims ④ Hiroko Aihara; Representative Director, Japan Perspective News, Inc. From Fukushima to the World from Past to Future: An Interdisciplinary, Practice-Oriented Project to Build a Global Network of Hibakusha and Archive their Narratives ⑤ Ryoto Tomita; Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture, Shizuoka University How Can We Maintain "Richness" of Agriculture? : Focusing on Utilization and Protection of Heirloom Crops ⑥ Hideyuki Tsuji; Representative Director, NPO Green Wood First Stage of a Project to Restore Mutual Aid and Right of Self-Determination in Education: Towards the Establishment of an Education Community Fund by Citizens of Rural Municipalities 			

June 14, 2014	Inamori Foundation Memorial Hall, Kyoto University	Around 30 participants	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2014/toyotafound/2014-0618-1143-7.html
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Takeshi Yamazaki; Researcher, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties The Primary Factors of Historical Changes to the Distribution of Wild Animals in Japan: Aiming for the Establishment of Archaeozoology ② Koichiro Zama; Researcher, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University Localizing Biodiversity: Introduction of an Environmental Education System to Support Spontaneous Conservation Efforts by the Local Community in Western Tanzania ③ Kaito Towhata; Clinical Psychologist, Nakama Clinic Medical Anthropology of "Savage Healers": The Hybridized Healing Cultures in Okinawa Island and Psychotherapy ④ Sungman Koh; Graduate Student, Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University Creating New Views on Death and Life for Non-experienced Generations: From the Case Studies of Islands in East Asia Region in the Post-conflict Era ⑤ Haruko Aito; Representative Director and Chief Researcher, WILL: Support for Civil Society Groups in Childcare Activities Establishing Childcare Networks Approaching Issues in Closed Mine Area: Focusing on the 15 years' Activity of "Chikuhou Kosodate Network" ⑥ Kohei Yoshida; Visiting Scholar, Tokyo Metropolitan University The Present and Future of Small- and Medium-sized Companies: A Case Study in the Areas around the Fukushima-1 Plant 			

April 11, 2015	Seihoku Gallery, Yayoi Auditorium, The University of Tokyo	Around 50 participants	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2015/symposium/2015-0420-1350-61.html
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Fuyuki Makino; Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University International Joint Research on the Concept of the "Elastic Public Sphere" in Cambodia ② Shinsuke Nagaoka; Associate Professor, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University New Value Propositions by Mutual-support Funds and Islamic Finance: A Community-based Economic Philosophy towards a Post-capitalist Society ③ Tikayo Koyama; Professor; Graduate School of Health Sciences, Niigata University Promoting "End-of-life Care Culture" in Facilities for the Aged in Japan by Means of "Mutual Action 			

Research"
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ④ Yasushi Kato; Professor, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Hitotsubashi University The Transcultural Research for a New Concept of "Dignity of the Elderly" in Respect of the Present Condition of the Social Care for the Elderly (Including Persons with Dementia) and for a New Model of the Welfare Society ⑤ Kazuhiko Ota; Part-time Lecturer, Musashi University Institutional Design for Sustainable Conservation of Natural Resources: Institutional Design for Enacting a Soil Conservation Act ⑥ Ryoto Tomita; Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture, Shizuoka University How Can We Maintain "Richness" of Agriculture? : Focusing on Utilization and Protection of Heirloom Crops

July 4, 2015	Inamori Foundation Memorial Hall, Kyoto University	Around 40 participants	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Ayumi Terada; Specially Appointed Professor, The University Museum, The University of Tokyo Research on the Utilization of Museum Activities for Education for the Young Generation in the Philippines: Development of Mobile Exhibitions to Redress Regional Disparities in Educational Opportunities and Foster Human Resources to Manage Natural and Cultural Heritage ② Fan Yi; Graduate Student, Graduate School of Design, Kyushu University A Study on Creative School Architecture in Rural Area of China: With the Aim of Closing the Gap of Education and the Post-earthquake Reconstruction ③ Akiko Nagahama; Faculty of Sport and Health Science, Ritsumeikan University Structuring of "Discrimination" and Development of the Action Transformation Program to Act without the Tacit Consent for Disability Discrimination: Shift from "Looking on," "Indifference," and "Descriptive Understanding" ④ Makiko Kondo; Associate Professor, Graduate School of Health Sciences, Okayama University Using Life Reviews to Preserve the Narratives of Hansen's Disease Survivors and Improve Nurses' End-of-life Care Skills ⑤ Ryugo Kurosaki; Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, University of Teacher Education Fukuoka The Practical Study on Environmental Conservation Based on the Pico Hydro Power and Farmers' Exchange in Tanzania ⑥ Michio Nakamura; Associate Professor, Wildlife Research Center, Kyoto University Localizing Biodiversity: Introduction of an Environmental Education System to Support Spontaneous 			

April 16, 2016	Fukutake Hall, Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, The University of Tokyo	Around 60 participants (over applicants expected)	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2016/symposium/2016-0511-1405-6.html
<p>① Ako Mashino; Part-time Lecturer, Tokyo University of Arts The Potential Power of the Performing Arts in Creating Symbiosis, Interaction, and Collaboration with Others: An Ethnographic Study of the Performing Arts of Religious Minorities in Bali, Indonesia</p> <p>② Ivan Botev; Lecturer, Faculty of Regional Development Studies, Toyo University Exploring the Art of Living Together in 21st Century Ethnically Diverse Europe: Fostering strong sense of belonging, living in harmony with one another, and integrating refugees</p> <p>③ Riyo Naoi; Institute Researcher, Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies, Kyoto University Changing Identity and Lifestyle of Myanmar Refugees in a Refugee Camp near the Thai-Myanmar Border: Observation through Documentary Film Making</p> <p>④ Eri Hashimoto; Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science An Anthropological Study on the Reorganization of Youth Associations and Their Cooperative Roles in Post-independent South Sudan: Toward the Reconstruction of Local Communities through Fulfilling the Vision of Youth</p> <p>⑤ Hidenobu Jinnai; Professor, Graduate School of Engineering and Design, Hosei University Renovation of an Early Modern Water City for Renewable Energy Era: Re-evaluation of Industrial Remains of Water Utilization in the Early Modern Period from the View Point of Local Empowerment and Their Reconstruction into Water city of Renewable Energy Industries and Green Tourism</p> <p>⑥ Sawako Shigeto; Associate Professor, Academy of Global Leadership, Tokyo Institute of Technology Future Re-design of a Rural Area for "Local Asset" Accumulation: A Case Study on a Rural Town Close to Metropolitan Area</p>			

July 9, 2016	Inamori Foundation Memorial Hall, Kyoto University		https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2016/symposium/2016-0728-1155-7.html
<p>① Hironori Sai; Associate Professor, Faculty of Information Design and Sociology, Hiroshima Kokusai Gakuin University Understanding the Reorganisation of the Marginalised Labour Market in Contemporary Japan</p>			

<p>② Yongho O; Part-time Lecturer, Tokyo Gakugei University Historical Analysis of Legal Position of Schools for Foreigners in Post-World War II Japan: To build an education system in the time of globalization</p> <p>③ Masahiro Yamada; Researcher, The Kinugasa Research Organization, Ritsumeikan University Understanding Japan as a Multi-cultural and Multi-lingual Society: Establishing objective criteria for measuring mutual intelligibility and intergenerational transmission of the endangered languages</p> <p>④ Takahito Sato; Part-time Lecturer, Faculty of Policy Management, Keio University Reconsidering the Future of Language Education Based on the Significance of a Language that Shapes One's Whole Life Course</p> <p>⑤ Ken Ushijima; Researcher, Northern Regional Building Research Institute, Hokkaido Research Organization Comprehensive Approach for Improvement of Living Environment in Urban Slum of Indonesia: Analysis on Urban Metabolism and its Harmonization with People's Value System</p> <p>⑥ Tetsuo Tezuka; Professor, Graduate School of Energy Science, Kyoto University Limits to Urbanization: Application of Integrated Assessment for Smart City Development in India</p>			
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April 15, 2017	Okuma Auditorium (small hall) Waseda University	Around 60 participants	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2017/symposium/2017-0511-1450-7.html
<p>① Fuyuki Makino; Research Fellow, The Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies at Waseda University The Study of Transferring Events of Negative Memories at the Public and Local Memorial Spaces in Cambodia: Recognition of "the positionality of negative events" and conducting the formation of an active database</p> <p>② Hiroyuki Sato; Associate Professor, Education, Law, Economics and the Humanities Area, Research and Education Assembly, Kagoshima University Construction of Archives that Contribute to Inheritance and its Use of Memory of War, and Research of the New Possibility of the Peaceful Learning Based on it: To bring up a heart to desire peace</p> <p>③ Maiko Nishi; Graduate student, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Columbia University Multi-level Governance of Agricultural Landscapes: Role of value perspective on farmland tenancy arrangements in Japan</p>			

- ④ Izumi Tsurita; Graduate Student, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo
Observing the Conception of Nature in Contemporary Japan through Marine Conservation Activity by Fishermen
- ⑤ Kamon Nitagai; Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
It Unfolds with Generation of Morals Economy and the Volunteer Economy (an Area) under <Disasters-time Economy>: A Social Economic Assessment of the Revival
- ⑥ Kiminori Hayashi; Specially Appointed Lecturer, Graduate School of Economics, Hitotsubashi University
The New Ideas and Practices on Fund Supplying: Focusing on the GLS Bank

SATOYAMA by tree thinning

May 21, 2017	Medium conference room in Nishijin Plaza, Kyushu University	30 participants and more	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2017/symposium/2017-0808-1357-7.html
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- ① Yuko Kawai; Associate Professor, College of Intercultural Communication, Rikkyo University
Trans-Asian Multiculturalism: International Collaborative Project of Transnational Cultural Citizenship in East Asia
- ② Yiping Lu; Graduate Student, School of Cultural and Social Studies, the Graduate University for Advanced Studies
An Anthropological Study about Ethnic Identity of Siraya Tribe in Taiwan: A case study centering revival of indigenous people's handicrafts through museum collections
- ③ Tomoko Niwa; Project Assistant Professor, National Institutes for the Humanities
The Power of "Self-Documentary" (Personal Documentary Films) to Reflect the "Everyday World" after the Great East Japan Earthquake: The process of sharing disaster experiences and fostering "insiders" through filmmaking by the citizens in post 3.11 Japan
- ④ Sho Yamasaki; Graduate Student, Graduate School of International Media, Communication, and Tourism Studies, Hokkaido University
Managing Festivity in the Contemporary Age: An action research through mutual interactions and networking of the organizers of rock festivals in Japan
- ⑤ Kenji Suetsugu; Lecturer, Graduate School of Science, Kobe University
Identification of Mycorrhizal Fungi in (Potential) Mycoheterotrophic Plants: Implication for conservation of species-rich underground biotic networks
- ⑥ Hiroyuki Kurokochi; Specially Appointed Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo
Development of Management Methods to Conserve Cymbidium Goeringii in SATOYAMA: Clarification of its inhabiting processes and scientific verification after improvement of

April 14, 2018	International Conference Center, Waseda University	Around 30 participants	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2018/symposium/2018-0425-1408-7.html
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- ① Hideki Yui; Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
A Historical Study on the Construction of a Standardized Image in Maternal and Child Health
- ② Kenji Takehara; Chief, Division of Health Policy Development and Research, Department of Health Policy, National Center for Child Health and Development
Should "Ikumen" be Ideal Model of Fathers in Japan?: The effect of "ikumen" boom and something that we lost by the boom
- ③ Tomoki Imai; Documentary Film Director, Studio-Garret
On the "Boundary" that Lies between Nature and Human: To open up new possibilities for "image folklore"
- ④ Kenichi Sawazaki; Representative Director, Living Montage
Senses of Field Studies Standing on Peoples' Livelihood: The search for phenotype of interdisciplinary research to take advantage of the video media
- ⑤ Chieri Yamada; Professor, School of Graduate Education, Fukushima Medical University
Community Initiative of Activities for Preparing against Radiation Exposure in the Vicinity of a Uranium Mine in Mongolia: An effectiveness study of assisting approaches and influential factors
- ⑥ Shuhei Nomura; Assistant Professor, Department of Global Health Policy, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo
Assessment of the Mid- to Long-term Health Effects of Japan's 2011 Fukushima Nuclear Disaster: Toward disaster-resilient health care systems

June 30, 2018	Large conference room in Nishijin Plaza, Kyushu University	Around 30 participants	https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2018/symposium/2018-0711-1534-7.html
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- ① Ai Suzuki; Research Fellowship for Young Scientists, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
Mitigation of Conflict between Local Community and Fishing Cats in Hail Hanor, Northeastern Bangladesh: Interdisciplinary survey on conflict and possibility of participatory research in conflict mitigation

- ② Satoshi Watanabe; Part-time Lecturer, Faculty of Humanities, Seikei University
Living with a "Troublesome" Species: Emerging ways and skills to coexist with yamabiru (mountain leech) in Japan
- ③ Rengyou; Director, Eisei Theater Company
Comprehensive and Quantitative Evaluation of the Effect of Theater Workshop Targetting Multi-generation in the Community
- ④ Taizo Yokoyama; Teal Project Manager, (Non-Profitable Organization) Wakamono International Support Association
International Comparative Study on the Effect of Philosophical Dialogue in Self-help Groups
- ⑤ Kentaro Okamura; Assistant Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, The University of Tokyo
Construction of the Sanriku Coast Village Archive Towards the Formation of Autonomous Communities by the Cooperative of History Researchers and a Photographer
- ⑥ Yasushi Maehira; Professor, Faculty of Education, Kio University
Toward Integration of Time and Space in Lifelong Learning: From the field of Dosenbo area, Kyoto

April 11, 2019	Conference room in Shinjuku Mitsui Building	Around 20 participants	Kickoff Meeting followed by Grant Award Ceremony
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Tomoki Takada; Department of Civil Engineering, Kobe City College of Technology A Study on Value Structure of Shrine Space for the Disaster Risk Reduction on Nankai Megathrust Earthquake ② Yoko Setoyama; Faculty of Medicine, School of Nursing, Tokyo Medical University Development of "Narrative Video Archive" for the Empowerment of Students with Disabilities ③ Rei Harada; Restoration Project Office for National Cultural Properties, Faculty of Fine Arts, Tokyo University of the Arts Shuji Funo; Specially Appointed Professor, Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering College of Industrial Technology, Nihon University Revitalization and Sustainability of Communities in Historic Cairo Based on their Historical Monuments and Traditional Habitats 			

1-2-2 Feedback from Participants (Excerpts from Questionnaire Results)

About the Research Grant Program

- The key points are the program's participatory-oriented and public nature. I think the significance of the program is that it is not limited to discussion within the academic community but that it also questions how to return research output to society.
- I felt that diversity is the hidden theme of "new values for society."
- The program values the process of research involving diverse people in its own right while seeking to return the output to society.
- There is a clear commitment to providing support during the grant period, and this aspect is fundamentally different from other grant-making bodies which only provide financial support.
- I felt that the program not only requires researchers to achieve their research project but also encourages them to think thoroughly.
- Unlike the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research program and consulting reports, the program is attempting to create a unique field that combines the perspectives of research and the community.
- I thought it was great that the program did not simply hand out grants, but also provided sustained and on-going follow up and support for the selected projects.
- I felt that the program is unique in that while responding to the needs of society, it took a medium-to-long term view and forecast future issues based on currently visible issues to solve them, instead of rushing to give back to society quickly.
- I felt the program was willing to provide grants for "unfinished" projects that are difficult to predict and require further investigation while being challenging and energetic.
- I felt there was a conflict between producing useful research results and "creating new values" in temporal, spatial, and questionable terms.
- I felt it was also an opportunity to make science and engineering researchers aware of connections with "society" as well as creating a zone for contact between engineering and scientific research and the humanities and society.
- A mere solution to a problem will only have a short-term effect, but I felt that the grant program supported research with a larger, more sustainable perspective.
- There are researchers who can understand and/or give advice on the potential of research that the grant recipient is not yet aware of or has not yet arrived at (constructive feedback, both negative and positive).
- I give a positive rating to the fact that the ex-post evaluation and discussion of research is opened in this way [workshops] so does not simply end up as a results-based ritual (a short-term operation).
- I felt that I had to look calmly at "current values" when considering "new values."
- The program spans research, art, and social collaboration (practice), and it is future-oriented with unique criteria, which differ from those of the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research program. Nevertheless, I thought that the dramatic reduction in the total budget from the next year was

unbelievable as a policy.

- It could be interesting to put together a selection of Foundation's granted projects to date for publication using "new values" as the key word.
- Isn't value something that is evaluated rather than created? Creating something with value? The use of the word "Exploring" in English is a better match for me.
- Although the grant period itself is two years, I thought that all of the grant themes were important and interesting themes for a five- or ten-year basis.
- It would have been good to have an opportunity to be able to learn a bit about the grant themes for the past five or ten years, or to include a column in the report.

About the Workshops

- Although there were some incompatibilities and areas with insufficient discussion due to differences in research methods and approach, there were common issues running through each research project, and the conversation was very interesting in a way that doesn't happen at academic conferences within a discipline.
- The workshops were useful for understanding the intent and purposes of the Toyota Foundation's grants better.
- The discussions were interdisciplinary and very stimulating. I don't think the workshops could have been held under the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research program.
- I felt it is important for research to move people's hearts as well.
- The program structure consisting of two presentations for each research field allowed us to go beyond the individual results of each research project to learn about the universal themes and issues running through the projects.
- I got the impression there was a sense of unity among diverse research projects due to the theme of "creating new values" and that the whole program could become a big groundswell.
- I felt that horizontal connections between the grant recipients were being consciously created.
- Both the methods and the tools for producing research results differ from those in the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research program and that they can be creative. I found it interesting just hearing about this aspect.
- I learned fresh perspectives from the reports in different fields. At the same time, I was impressed to find common areas in methodologies.
- The discussions between presenters and commentators were very multifaceted and significant.
- I was reminded of what and who research is for.
- Specialization and compartmentalization is a serious problem, and I felt that the workshops were significant as a place for collaboration between experts and non-experts in different fields.
- At a glance, the presentations related to language, globalization, and urban planning and engineering seemed very different from each other, but I felt the issues addressed and the

understanding of the issues were shared.

- I liked the fact that the issues were universal rather than just for researchers in a specific field so that anyone could take part, such as the questions from sociology experts in the field of linguistics. I felt that the collective strength of researchers in different fields will become more important in the future.
- I hoped there would be more "Ba [opportunities]" through this kind of workshop and other events for considering why researchers engage in research and how it can lead to social change and the "creation of new values."
- I thought that I had been conducting joint research with researchers from various fields, but I realized that I still have a narrow perspective.
- I was exposed to diverse ideas about the project results, and was reminded of the fun and excitement of research.
- It was a clear reminder that the key points for creating new values are 1) people take the initiative and 2) focus on the fact that society and the people are trying to change.
- There were many themes that didn't appear to have any connection with mine at first glance. However, I was very interested to listen to all the presentations. I think it was because the problems were related to our lives that I was able to relate to them in so many ways, and I realized the practical and universal nature of each of the research projects.
- There are many things in common such as the underlying ideas and methodologies even for projects in different fields, and it was an opportunity to reconsider my own work.
- I felt that how we communicate the research results to society and the subjects is important.
- I was inspired by the opportunity to actually learn about projects on a wide variety of topics. I was able to find things in common even for topics that were very different from each other at first glance.
- I was able to hear an explanation of the objectives of the workshops, and I feel that various questions such as "what social values are" and "who the actors are in creating social values" have been cleared up to some extent. I think that the project reports also provided some suggestions for these questions.
- I felt there was a lot to be learned because the research projects are conducted under a common theme although the detailed topic for each grant project is different.
- I think it is wonderful to be able to share your own research at a workshop in which researchers from many fields participate. I am looking forward to many of these workshops being held!
- I was reminded that a truly diverse range of interesting projects are selected for grants. Even though each field is different, it was significant to consider points in common and to feel the shared "enthusiasm" of everyone about "wanting to improve society" and so on. I think that having this kind of opportunity for interaction between grant recipients is a real positive of private-sector grants. I am very grateful to the people at the Toyota Foundation, which has a friendly atmosphere.

1-2-3 Snapshots of Workshops



1-2-4 Summary: Grant Recipient Workshops

Based on the results of questionnaires when the workshops were held, the reactions of participants at the venue, and the comments received at the social gatherings, we felt that the workshops were well received. The impetus for holding the workshops came from observations that the objective of the grant theme may not be communicated adequately. Although we had combined the different sub-themes into one theme, there were comments that it was difficult to understand the focus of the Toyota Foundation because the theme of “Exploring New Values for Society” was highly abstract and diverse projects were selected. The unexpected effect of the workshops was a realization of the

importance of discussions that transcend academic disciplines, probably not found much in other settings, through gatherings of diverse researchers and practitioners to engage in discussions on the universal theme of “new values for society” from a variety of perspectives.

By providing ongoing opportunities for researchers and practitioners with diverse backgrounds to engage in discussions based on the common theme of “creating new values,” the workshops provided a forum for reconsidering the ideals for “research” and “researchers.” In this forum, discussion was stimulated and shared from various angles on such issues as relationships with research subjects and society and why and for whom research is conducted. The workshops were also places for exploring results/dissemination of results not limited to academic papers.

It is common for many researchers to conduct their research while deepening their expertise among colleagues with similar professional expertise to themselves at academic conferences and research meetings. In contrast to this, we felt the great benefit of the workshops was in being able to provide a forum to facilitate universal discussions that transcended the individual case study reports by bringing together a variety of people. We believe that being able to continuously create forums not found elsewhere that are different from academic conferences is one of the major achievements of the workshops.

In particular, through the workshops, we provided young researchers just embarking on their careers with the opportunity to interact with a variety of experts and continued to communicate the message that we wanted them to conduct their research with a broad perspective. We believe this was a unique initiative and achievement for the Toyota Foundation, which provided grants without any restrictions on the field of research.

On the other hand, despite establishing a theme which was “for society,” we have not yet reached the point of disseminating the insights obtained through the workshops or the results produced by individual projects more broadly to society or returning them to society in concrete ways, and we feel this is an issue to be addressed when designing the grant program going forward.

Dialogue with the Selection Committee Chairs

The Toyota Foundation's Research Grant Program "Exploring New Values for Society" was originally one of the two sub-themes established under the program title "Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future," which commenced in fiscal 2011, and was elevated into the main theme in fiscal 2014. This narrowed down the two previous themes of "solving issues" and "creating values" into one theme. The program was also shaped through trial and error, which included only accepting applications for joint research projects from fiscal 2017. In this chapter, we looked back over the past nine years with Toshio Kuwako and Hideaki Shiroyama, who both served as the Selection Committee Chair, and asked them about the future outlook.

Profiles



Toshio Kuwako

First Selection Committee Chair (FY2011 - FY2017), Representative Director of the Association of Consensus Coordinators, Japan, Professor Emeritus, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Specially Appointed Professor, Tokyo Woman's Christian University. His fields of specialization are philosophy and theory of consensus building. His main publications include *Social Consensus Building Project Manager* (CORONA PUBLISHING CO., LTD.) and *The Philosophy of Life and Landscape* (Iwanami Shoten, Publishers).

Hideaki Shiroyama

Second Selection Committee Chair (FY2018 - FY2019), Professor, The University of Tokyo Faculty of Law, The University of Tokyo Graduate Schools for Law and Politics. His fields of specialization are public administration, international administration, and technology and public policy. His main publications include *Science and Technology, and Politics* (Minerva Shobo) and *International Administration* (YUHIKAKU PUBLISHING CO., LTD.)



Free Ideas Research Facilitated by the Toyota Foundation

Setting Problems and Creating Values, the Toyota Foundation's Unique Approach

The Foundation: I'd like to ask you to summarize "Exploring New Values for Society." First, Professor Kuwako, please tell us about your thoughts when the theme was established and why the program came to focus on "creating values" out of the two grant categories of "solving problems" and "creating values."

Professor Kuwako: I'll start by talking about how

the program became "Exploring New Values for Society." In the area of research grants (competitive funding), there are various grant-giving bodies, such as the Japanese government's Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, and these bodies vary widely in scale and field. Initially, there was a lot of research proposals based on the evaluation criteria of the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research as if to say,

"We weren't selected for a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, so let's try the Toyota Foundation" (wry smile). Therefore, we spent a lot of time discussing what kind of research grant would be unique to the Toyota Foundation, and how we could differentiate the program.

There were concerns that various restrictions would narrow the scope of research and we wanted to emphasize the independence of applicants. Also, rather than whether the application is from a well-known researcher, we wanted to support free-thinking research that is not restricted by conventional frameworks, not in terms of the age and background of applicants, but with a focus on the actual content of an application. These considerations created the current form of the program. Likewise, our aim was to have the Selection Committee members evaluate applications from a free

standpoint and it was almost creating the actual evaluation criteria through the selection process. This means the Selection Committee members themselves would also be actively involved in creating new values through the process.

For this reason, I couldn't help enjoying the Selection Committee meetings because it was often exciting to see how an application which was initially given a low evaluation at a Selection Committee meeting changed to a high evaluation as a result of a presentation by one of the members.

The Foundation: Professor Shiroyama, what are your thoughts? It must have been very difficult to take over the work that had been done under the leadership of Professor Kuwako for many years. How did you interpret the concept of "Exploring New Values for Society"?



Professor Shiroyama: Going back a bit further, I was a member of the Selection Committee for two years from 2016 before I took over as Chair. To be honest, I didn't feel too uncomfortable when I heard the phrase "creating values." This was because I remembered having a similar discussion as part of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's "Humanities and Social Science Promotion Project" on which I worked with Professor Kuwako. In that project, we also discussed the idea that not only the sciences but also the humanities and social sciences must contribute to problem solving. However, we then turned the discussion around and decided to use a problem-setting approach rather than a problem-solving one. This was because it is

important to discover what the key issues are, and we intended to support projects with interesting perspectives. In other words, we have an awareness that there may be many various things to do before solving problems. I think "creating new values" is perhaps the next step. I guess "creating values" is what we do next after discovering the key issues. In that sense, it didn't feel out of place.

Professor Kuwako: Also, the problem-solving concept is surprisingly common, and sticking rigidly to it would narrow down the themes. Although a problem may be clearly stated, it is difficult to see beyond it. When we adopted the themes of "expressing new values" and "creating concepts," we

wanted the applicants to talk about the big picture in relation to the concept or idea of value.

Professor Shiroyama: As Professor Kuwako mentioned briefly earlier, I was surprised that the selection method was quite different from other grant-giving bodies. I have experienced selections for research grants from other foundations and public organizations in the past. There, I always felt rather constrained by the method of adding up the prescribed evaluation items and weightings and listing them in descending order. For the Toyota Foundation, however, we had to come up with our own recommendations, including top recommendation by each selection committee members, and then bring them for discussion. The Selection Committee members had various reasons for their evaluations, and I think this process was truly the discovery of “new values.” If the selection evaluation criteria are limited, the projects that can be selected are obviously limited as well. The

selection process at the Toyota Foundation, which simply chooses the best applications, was interesting. In addition, we made one change to the selection process. Previously, you spoke about not selecting projects led by well-known professors, and this standpoint has been institutionalized in a sense by limiting the age for project representatives to 45 and under. I wondered whether it would work out, but the average age of project representatives have gone



interesting feedback about the workshops, but a lot of it concerns the cross-disciplinary interaction. For example, we’ve received such comments as, “Unlike academic conferences, it was refreshing and very stimulating to discuss the single theme of ‘what creating new values’ is with people from different areas of expertise” or “I was able to reconsider my own research after observations based on perspectives I had never thought of from researchers with different areas of expertise.” I thought the ability to provide such opportunities is one of the strengths of the Toyota Foundation’s program, which is different from other grant programs.

Professor Shiroyama: That’s true. It’s probably a good thing that the workshops are ad hoc gatherings. They would be difficult with a rigid organization, and even if we used descriptive phrases such as “interdisciplinary research” or “integrated research,” it would sound forced. Although they have diverse bases for their research and activities and so on, it is

positive for these people to get together from time to time to exchange opinions and inspire ideas. In that sense, I feel there is just the right sense of distance in that while the people being supported by the Foundation are not too closely connected, it is interesting for them to find unexpected developments when they have serious discussions.

The Foundation: Actually, as a new experiment, we are currently holding our online Café Meetings,



senior researchers in running the project. By doing this, I think we have helped young researchers take a step forward to form networks for themselves.

Professor Kuwako: It’s wonderful. It is a positive thing for veterans to provide support for the flexible ideas of the young from the sidelines.

We started workshops part of the way through the program. At the reception after the grant award ceremonies and the workshops, it seems that the researchers were actively interacting with colleagues from diverse fields and making new connections. There is an atmosphere at the Toyota Foundation that allows researchers to interact with each other without being constrained by their academic disciplines.

Professor Shiroyama: I think I inherited that aspect as well. We provide opportunities to meet regularly and have proper discussions around once a year. If we continue to do this, we can build networks, so I feel this is a positive asset for the Toyota Foundation.

The Foundation: We’ve received a variety of very

which are small online reporting sessions. As we can no longer meet in person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to create an opportunity for casual discussion and exchange of information during lunch breaks. We set a topic speaker to introduce their research project and around five people who are interested in the topic get together to have a lively discussion about it. The surprising thing was that grant recipients from other Toyota Foundation grant programs, including the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan and the International Grant Program, which conduct more practical types of projects, were interested in taking part. I think that the ability to have this kind of interaction between practitioners and researchers is also unique to the Toyota Foundation.

Professor Shiroyama: The Toyota Foundation has always supported practical problem-solving type projects in its Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan and the International Grant Program. Therefore, it would be great if those kinds of practical

grant programs could complement the “value creation” in the Research Grant Program. For example, something which was originally a practical project but which we would like to consider at a bit of a distance from the practice setting over the long term could become a topic for the Research Grant Program. Although it may be difficult to establish as a mechanism for this, the Café Meetings form an opportunity for the people working in the field to communicate their awareness of the issues to researchers, so I feel like they play a role in creating such a process on a daily basis.

down considerably. I believe the average is now late-30s.

The Foundation: I think it’s now about 37.

Professor Shiroyama: That shows how much the program was rejuvenated. Of course, when these younger people came in, the idea was not that they would run the projects alone. Rather we emphasized the idea that they would form a group that included

Supporting Creation of New Futures The Next Stage of the Research Grant Program

Bringing New Values to Social Systems

The Foundation: Professor Kuwako, in an interview you once said that “both problem solving and value creation are needed for research, and the Toyota Foundation would like to focus more on creating a new future first.” You said it is important to go back and forth between practice and research when conducting research and that the Toyota Foundation grants are for these kinds of projects.

Professor Kuwako: I myself was thinking in terms of both practical field activities fieldwork and theoretical research. We have the phrase “research and development,” which means that “research is not enough by itself.” Of course, it is important to make research into something that can be used by society. However, before doing that, it is important to grasp

the nature of society and human beings through new ideas or to create concepts, as I recall saying on various occasions.

My field of specialization is philosophy. Some philosophy researchers only conduct research through the literature, but I was not satisfied with that, so I conducted practical research as well. However, this wasn’t well received among my peers. I heard people saying, “What’s Professor Kuwako up to? He should study the classics properly.” In that sense, it was very uncomfortable. However, the Toyota Foundation’s selection process emphasized integration of theoretical and practical aspects which meant I was helping researchers from that perspective. So I felt I was being true to myself, and was comfortable doing it (laughs).



Professor Shiroyama: Conversely, in my case, I was researching public policy and other issues in the public administration field within political science, so doing practical research itself was encouraged,

and I had to know about practical activities. However, a frequent saying among my peers is “useful scholar of public administration, useless study of public administration.” The meaning of this is that while scholars of public administration are practical, they are not very theoretical. However, we need to elevate things to the level of solid theories because strictly speaking we are researchers not practitioners. In that sense, I enjoyed the discussions with the members of the Selection Committee, who are active in diverse fields, because they provided tips for thinking about how to link practical topics in the field with theoretical ones.

Pioneering the New Normal and Building Social Systems

Professor Kuwako: We need to regard practical topics in the field and theoretical topics as a continuum rather than as a pair of wheels because there are no clear boundaries in reality. Within human cognition, we classify them and set

conditions or stereotype them using evaluation items, but I don’t think doing this allows us to see anything new. We need to discuss how to actually reshape social systems, in other words, how to change society, but there are few frameworks to

support new and free ideas. I think it would be difficult with the evaluation criteria for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research and other programs, as they seem to take no risks.

Professor Shiroyama: In that sense, the Toyota Foundation established a very general idea of “creating new values” and with the benefit of hindsight, I think there were some interesting projects that were quite pioneering. For example, there was some research which tried to understand the relationship between nature, animals, and humans. Including the perspective of animals rather than simply humans and nature made the discussion extremely multidimensional. The expression “Anthropocene” has come into common usage recently, and there were several projects that posed problems leading into discussion of such issues. However, it is necessary to systemize and embed it into society, but we have not been able to do that so far. In the case of Japan, I think we are good at

adopting finished products, but weak at successfully connecting awareness to systems. I think this is the issue for the next step.

Professor Kuwako: Also, there are various systems, but the most important are administrative systems and institutions as well as technology. However, in the humanities such as literature and philosophy, it is quite difficult to think about social institutions and the social sciences have also not incorporated technology very much.



Professor Shiroyama: We have been able to discover something like the signs of new values but we must connect these new ideas with the practical field. In addition, doing this continuously requires a certain scale. This is related to the Toyota Foundation’s approach, but I think it is also important to consider collaboration with others. Looking at international trends, for example, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and the World Economic Forum are working together to tackle the problem of marine plastic. They are working together to create a new agenda and incorporate it into the social system. If there are individual activities by researchers and practitioners, and, meanwhile, activities to renew the social system through collaboration among various organizations and people, including the foundation, the signs of new values will be connected to the practical field.

Professor Kuwako: That’s right. I think you should consider it as one way forward for the Toyota Foundation.

The Foundation: In the past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has completely changed our society and way of life. What are your expectations for research grant recipients and the Toyota Foundation in the coming era?

Professor Kuwako: In today’s world, I think knowing how to use the internet is obviously important. Due to COVID-19, there is a new living environment, and the research situation for researchers has also changed dramatically. People are forming research teams online. I think it is important to understand these changes properly and adapt the Foundation’s support system so that it is appropriate for these changes.

Also, how about organizing roundtable discussions of researchers who have received grants in the past and have things in common and publishing it on YouTube? I think you should do your best to use internet such as YouTube and other methods of dissemination. In that sense, now is also an opportunity to try new things.

Professor Shiroyama: I think that there are some research proposals that can only be made now, so I would like to see new proposals, including the methodologies. On the other hand, while there are things that can be done online, I also think there are situations in which it is important to visit the site or meet with people. For that reason, I think it is important to make proposals with a balance. In addition, by using the internet, the Foundation can meet with grant recipients without making special arrangements. Then it could more easily keep in touch with them continuously to see how things are going in three- or five-years' time, which could lead to the next new development over time. While you are doing something new, it is difficult to place the situation in context, but you may realize how it fitted if you continuously keep track of it.

Also, I think the dissemination of research results to society has probably been thought of as outreach or public relations in the past. However, rather than simply publicizing research ideas, it is necessary to

make them into social trends or something that will change the social system in a sense. From the perspective of the Foundation, if we can find concrete methods for how to work together and on what, I feel it will create the momentum for the next phase, not just creating ideas and new value. So I would like to see some consideration of this in the future.

The Foundation: You've given us a lot of suggestions for the next new grant program. Thank you very much for today.

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Third-Party Evaluations

In this chapter, we asked three experts to evaluate the Research Grant Program implemented under the theme “Exploring New Values for Society.” The experts’ backgrounds include humanities and social sciences, economics, engineering, and they have various connections with society through their research.

- Evaluation Date: mid-December, 2020
- Evaluation Method: With providing documents and references of the Research Grant Program beforehand, we conducted on-line interview with each expert.



Kenji Sato

Executive Director and Vice President of the University of Tokyo, Professor of the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology
 Born in Gumma Prefecture in 1957, Graduated from Faculty of Letters, Completion of Graduate School of Sociology, University of Tokyo. Ph.D. degree in Sociology.
 Majoring in Historical Sociology, Social Consciousness Studies, Development of Social Research, Media Studies, etc.

What the Research Grant Program “Exploring New Values for Society” Addressed

Commons: The Concepts of Shared Regional Resources and Places for Constructing Them

Looking at the materials in this evaluation, I confirmed that there were initially two themes in 2011: an issue-solving theme and a value-creation theme. Both themes pursue something which does not currently exist, such as proposals for new happiness or a break from the status quo. I think the proposals needed to conceptualize something that does not exist: namely, imagination about the future was required. In that respect, I think that the perspective in both themes overlapped. I appreciate that the subsequent process of unification into the value-creation theme was natural to some extent.

Incidentally, I think it needs to be kept in mind that communicating the very meaning of the word value is difficult in modern times. This is because the word value has only been perceived in terms of economic gain. We feel that we can only appreciate the scale of value when we measure it using monetary indicators. In fact, such degradation is widespread in modern industrial society. Given this, I felt that the very words value or value creation may have had limitations in that they do not resonate well.

Nevertheless, looking at the projects that were actually selected, it appeared that the selectors were more or less aware of a certain direction or the implicit new values to be aimed for. Also looking at the range of selected projects, it appears that these ideas were shared by the grant recipients, regardless of whether or not they were articulated.

I think that one of the shared implicit values was the idea of a “commons.” A “commons” is a concept that refers to maintaining and managing common resources in a region or newly creating such shared ground and the places that facilitate such practices. It is also related to terms such as public interest, openness, and resource allocation, as well as community participation and building trusting relationships with others. It can also be said that the concept goes a step further than the idea of value to address concrete forms. I had the impression that the importance of this was shared by both the Selection Committee and the applicants. I feel that the concept of “commons” was implicitly understood in both a global and local sense as a part of the “new values.”

Open Ownership

Another area that the program addressed is a value that should be described as “ownership.” This consists of subjective practice beginning with the issues faced by “I” or the “Self.” It was clearly expected that this would lead to the creation of new values. I feel that the “signs (of social change)” valued by then the Toyota Foundation Executive Director Yujiro Hayashi and Program Officer Yoshinori Yamaoka were apparent in the granted research. It seems like there was also an overlap with participatory orientation, the principle that the Toyota Foundation has traditionally stood for. The important thing is this “ownership” is not confined to “I.” There was no direct and rigid exclusion based on the idea that “only participants understand.” “Ownership” was open through the acts of talking or listening to others with empathy. To phrase this in more difficult terms, it is similar to the understanding of human nature of oneself in the Other and the “alter ego” as in Sartre’s Critique of Dialectical Reason. In the sense that ownership was pursued as a starting point that was not confined to the individual or the Self and one’s own egoism, and was open to others, it is also related to the concept of “commons,” which I pointed out previously.

In addition, “Exploring New Values for Society” also opened the door to independent researchers without a researcher number for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research program. Under the institutional limitations of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research program, independent researchers cannot participate in research as an owner. I believe that the very framework which was open to such independent researchers had the potential to lead to creation of new values.

On the other hand, if that is the case, there is the question of whether the Toyota Foundation should provide special grants for independent researchers only in order to emphasize its special characteristics. I cannot agree with this view. Such division of labor and vertical segmentation seem to be the ideas of bureaucratic management. The positive and interesting aspects of the Toyota Foundation’s grants consist of facilitating frontline encounters of university researchers, independent researchers, and diverse people who want to learn something from practice. Working alone when solving problems, or engaging in related research tends to be isolating and obstinate. It is important to make the frontline of the research into an open place in which diverse people, including university researchers, are involved as a type of commons.

Uncovering Overlooked Local Values

There is one more thing that needs attention. This is the conscious uncovering of values that were previously overlooked. To say that new values are only “new” in the sense of not existing before is too narrow, and is an

impoverished viewpoint, to be frank. Rather, things that have been experienced but forgotten and things that are remembered and noticed are also “new.” For example, the area that Freud titled the unconscious is actually memories that are experienced but consciously suppressed, and there is also the discovery of experiences that were forgotten and kept out of reach. There seems to have been a clear awareness of this in the discussion of new values.

For example, there were a variety of projects that cast light on local or traditional things in communities to clarify and share them. This is also connected to the “local studies” advocated by folklorist Kunio Yanagita in the early years of the Showa era in which research is carried out as a community participant, or through the knowledge and practices accumulated without awareness of the community. Casting light on things that have been forgotten, overlooked, and excluded, and setting out and sharing the problems is also something that makes research interesting. It can be said it was a movement toward creating “commons.” Considered like this, as a result, it seems the Toyota Foundation moved toward the creation of new values in this theme.

The Importance of Program Officers

I think that the role played by the Toyota Foundation’s program officers, while being difficult, is important and significant as it involved the true essence of research. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research program certainly has relatively ample funds, but ultimately funds are just distributed to individual researchers and research groups. This is a fundamental difference.

Program Officers as Bearers of Implicit Knowledge

I have glanced the areas in which the program has provided grants. However, the question is whether this has led to “the creation of new values for society.” This point needs to be presented from the perspective of making an evaluation. There are difficulties in explicitly interpreting the results from the applications and reports of grant recipients. I believe that the Toyota Foundation has implicit knowledge about grants which has been accumulated during its history since Citizens Research Contest: Observing the Community Environment, which started at the end of the 1970s. I expect that this implicit knowledge has been shared with the program officers, even if it has not necessarily been made explicit and verbalized.

For example, this shared implicit knowledge is disseminated to applicants at the workshops that have been held twice a year as part of the program since 2014, and I believe that such opportunities are important. As a result of such dissemination, I consider that the funded projects were aligned with the theme of “Exploring New Values for Society.”

Program Officers as Encounter Facilitators

As I mentioned earlier, ever since Citizens Research Contest: Observing the Community Environment, a positive feature of the Toyota Foundation’s grants is the value put on encounters with participants in the field. Such encounters can encourage changes in the tacit assumptions of the research itself as well as encourage changes in the place where the research is carried out. I think this is the unique characteristic of the Toyota Foundation’s grants. When reading the reports of grant recipients, I think that many of them give a high rating to this encounter function and go so far as to specifically emphasize it in this program as well. The role of the program officers in this is important. Rather than remaining outside the research projects as observers, the program officers become involved as facilitators. Looking at the questionnaire by The Japan Research Institute, I would like to note that grant recipients appreciated the interviews with program officers and the advice they

received in the interviews.

From a different angle, grantees or researchers must not only possess academic language, but also the language to be able to engage in discussion with program officers and people in the field. It is necessary to understand both, or to be bilingual so to speak. Moreover, I think that the researchers are required to have the ability to adjust the design of their own research in a flexible manner and create something with new value based on such encounters and advice.

Program Officers as Editors Providing New Points of View

A lack of good editors is cited as one of the reasons why the humanities and social sciences have become confined to universities. Amid a trend of decline in the culture of the printed word, one factor is that publishing companies have become weaker. I believe that it is the result of poor editing rather than a problem of business mismanagement. The decline of editors who are both skilled critics and smart readers has made it difficult to bridge the humanities and social sciences and society at large, and university researchers in the humanities and social sciences have become cut off from society. Another thing I would like the program officers to do is to play the role of good editors in this respect.

Let me give you the example of Japanese literature. You will encounter volunteer clubs for reading The Tale of Genji in all local communities. You may find women from the generation who were unable to complete their studies during the war are actively involved in these clubs. The activities in such clubs do not consist of using novel interpretations in the reading of The Tale of Genji. Therefore, contemporary researchers of Japanese language and literature are not interested in their activities. However, in research of urban development and community studies, the role that these clubs play and the places for human relations could provide an important opportunity that triggers the next development in urban development. Even when looking at the same thing, we see a completely different view if we switch to a new angle. I believe the insightful and highly motivated editors who supported the publishing companies of the past were doing this, and I think that the Program Officers can actually do something similar in the research grants.

Through the activities of program officers with such editing skills, I think the Toyota Foundation’s grants could lead to the creation of unique value.

Issues around Results and Evaluation

Approach in the Toyota Foundation’s Early Evaluations – The Importance of Meandering

As I mentioned earlier, I think it can be considered that granted projects were aligned with the theme of “Exploring New Values for Society.” However, many of the results produced by the projects are not immediately apparent. To be honest, there are some research reports that make you wonder whether the person who conducted the research understood what they have achieved.

On the other hand, I think that Executive Director Yujiro Hayashi and Program Officer Yoshinori Yamaoka in the early years of the Toyota Foundation did not think about just achieving results. As I also touched on earlier, the approach is an admirable philosophy, which includes the importance of encounters and relationships as part of research or research as networking that connects diverse people

as well as the idea of establishing research goals freely. From a different perspective, it can also be described as the concept that it is important for grant recipients to “meander” in the course of conducting the granted projects with a guarantee of opportunities and time to consider and the places to try them out.

Evaluation that Expands Networks and Creates New Values

Nevertheless, I think it is important to evaluate what kind of potentialities a project has produced over the two-year period of a grant. It is important to conduct a serious evaluation and get back to the grant recipient while giving feedbacks. I also think it is necessary to share the evaluation not only with the grant provider and the grant recipient, but also with the many interested parties around them.

Obviously, the subject of the evaluation does not need to be limited to a report submitted by the grant recipient or a list of activities conducted. I think it is better to have an evaluation that involves a broad range of practitioners and participants involved in the granted project or with a broad perspective from the position of researchers with different specialties. I think it would be great if the evaluation itself could be dynamic and expand networks and create new values. If this is possible, it would really set out the uniqueness of the Toyota Foundation’s research grants as opposed to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research program, which ends with the allocation of research funding.

The Toyota Foundation’s “Communication with Society” program seems to be an attempt to be involved in this aspect. However, the report from The Japan Research Institute indicated that the majority of respondents were not aware of the “Communication with Society” program, and 70% did not use it. Even the Toyota Foundation’s website merely states, “this Foundation-driven program is aimed at promoting results and methods of past projects founded by the Toyota Foundation grants,” and the project selection process is described very briefly. I would like a fuller explanation of the objective of the “Communication with Society” program, whether it be support for events, upgrading of research, or the provision of grants following evaluation of research conducted over the two-year grant period. Otherwise, it appears that only the procedures are described, and the true objective may not be communicated. Nevertheless, the phrase “Communication with Society” does actually seem to contain a message that it is relevant to “creating new values for society.”

Evaluation in the Humanities and in Science, and One-Dimensional and Multi-dimensional Evaluation

At a glance, the evaluation of scientific research appears to be carried out explicitly and objectively based on the number of citations, which is an indicator of the breadth and level of attention for the research. On the other hand, research in the humanities cannot always be evaluated by measuring the number of citations due to the low level of sharing in English. Instead, evaluation seems to be conducted in secret in the form of peer evaluation within the specialist community to which the

researcher belongs based on comments such as, “his research is worthless,” “interesting perspective,” or “very hard work.” Moreover, whether or not the research has been summarized in book form, which is not often the subject of evaluation in science, is also emphasized as something that cannot be ignored in the humanities. There are many mutual misunderstandings due to this difference in the reality.

Given this difference, I believe there is a need to actively create diversity in the axis of evaluation itself. To give one example, why were the SDGs created? To put it simply, the idea is that evaluating “development” using indicators that can be aggregated in monetary terms is inadequate and that the indicators need to be made more diverse. In other words, GDP measures a country’s overall wealth using a one-dimensional economic indicator. On the other hand, there are a number of indicators that cannot be integrated into GDP, and the actual state of society is measured using them. For example, the crime rate and suicide rate, surveys of people’s sense of wellbeing as well as the value of the environment measured using biological indicators are not incorporated into GDP. The idea of social indicators as distinct from economic indicators arose out of a re-evaluation of “development” and “wealth,” and the SDGs emerged as an extension of this perspective. However, as they are not intuitive, multi-dimensional social indicators are inferior to economic indicators, which can measure performance with a single monetary value. Nevertheless, with the recent exponential increases in the performance of computers, it may be possible to use this power to integrate multi-dimensional social indicators into a unified social indicator. If necessary, the Toyota Foundation could provide grants for such research and development.

Expectations of the Toyota Foundation Grant Program

Taking an overview of the “Exploring New Values for Society” program, one of its major characteristics is involving participants and creating encounters as part of the research process. These encounters have changed research and the sites of practice. As I also mentioned previously, researchers are also required to have the ability to design and flexibly create new directions for research through such encounters, not to mention the important role of Program Officers as facilitators. For example, I think being able to discover not only technical results but also forgotten values is important in problem-solving narrative. In addition, as I already mentioned, I think bilingual capabilities to translate the words of researchers and policy makers as well as practitioners and participants are important. These areas will be intrinsically important in research to cast light on something like the “commons.” One of the challenges for future research support will also be how to develop these areas through the relationship between program officers and researchers. Such multifaceted values cannot be asked for grants and support under the Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research program. They are expectations unique to the Toyota Foundation’s Research Grant Program.





Hiroshi Ohashi

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Focus of the Research Grant Program "Exploring New Values for Society"

Background and Scope of the Research Grant Program

"Exploring New Values for Society," which was established as a sub-theme in 2011, became the main theme in 2014, and the Research Grant Program has handled very many diverse projects since then. The Toyota Foundation has now built up experience that other grant-making foundations do not have, and it can be said that this will bring about further expansion in the scope of future projects and depth of research. With many grant-making foundations stuck in a pattern which they do not diverge from, I can appreciate the approach of trying to understand the problems of contemporary society at the cutting edge where change is accelerating without being bound to convention. The Research Grant Program has evolved and been refined as demonstrated by the gradual changes in the application form for example.

Social Distortions Appear on the Margins and the Potential for Innovation Starts at the Fringes

Getting into the topic, many "new values for society" are yet to be realized or visualized by the majority of society. Some of these values have begun to appear in small communities, and have not become a general trend in society for some reason, such as issues with social institutions or customs. It is very difficult to identify values that are not visible. They may become visible through research focused on areas where the light did not previously shine.

For example, social distortions arise on the margins at the edges of society, isolated from the mainstream. At the same time, innovation that creates "new values for society" is also produced from the margins. Noticing these changes is difficult when positioned in the social mainstream. The challenge is how to identify these changes.

Looking at the projects funded under "Exploring New Values for Society," we can see that they focus on these social margins. For example, there are projects that go into the rural areas of developing countries, get close to people with disabilities and the poor, and enter marginal communities to engage in dialogue. I get the

impression that the interviews published in the Toyota Foundation's public relations magazine "JOINT" also often cover grant recipients who are engaged in these kinds of projects. It can be seen that a huge volume of information has come in from the margins of society due to the provision of the grants. I also think that the amount of the grant per project was adequate for the humanities and social sciences.

In terms of focusing on the margins, there was a lot of great individual research. I also think that the program provided opportunities for young people, including graduate students, giving them self-confidence and having a significant impact on their subsequent careers. On the other hand, there were some joint research projects where I could not tell whether "new values for society" was the right topic. It may be necessary to reconsider the structure of joint research projects. I believe only projects that really need to be carried out through joint research should be supported.

What does the Toyota Foundation's Secretariat Learn from Granted Projects?

In order to achieve "Exploring New Values for Society," it is clearly not enough for the Toyota Foundation's secretariat to just sit at the desks in their office, handing out grants and reaping the rewards at the end. It is easy to see that the secretariat focuses on follow up by holding symposiums and interviewing grant recipients again and so on. Nevertheless, there are some points that are not clear. These are the issues of what kind of framework the Toyota Foundation's secretariat uses to look at funded research projects in marginal areas, and what it tries to learn from them.

Looking at current social and economic phenomena, a variety of elements are connected through networks. Due to this, a single phenomenon will propagate or spread and causes increase of uncertainty. Therefore, using conventional methods is difficult, and we cannot take advantage of past experience without adding something extra to it. Considering this, the question of what is learned from a certain research project becomes an issue for the Toyota Foundation's secretariat.

When we look at the funded projects, there are many interesting narratives which normally cannot be heard, such as stories from historical sites, nursing care settings, and fringe communities. However, can we describe these narratives as creating value? They undoubtedly stop just short. Because of this, something extra is needed to relate the narratives into value creation.

Expectations of the Toyota Foundation's Secretariat

A Worldview Needed for "Exploring New Values for Society"

Achieving this requires a framework for how the Toyota Foundation's secretariat view the world. Without this worldview, the Foundation will not know how to refine any rough diamonds for society.

During the three years before "Exploring New Values for Society" became the main theme, the research grant program established two frameworks, which were addressing social issues and creating new social value. However, accepting and understanding the significance of very many granted projects is not possible based on these simple frameworks.

Alternatively, the chair of the Selection Committee might have been expected to set the worldview. The job of

the chair of the Selection Committee is not just to select, but also to uncover and nurture potential results from among the many granted projects. It also seems that the chair of the Selection Committee had the role of “translating” the processes through which the research findings and results were achieved.

The secretariat is expected to accumulate expertise on how to view the world and how to establish the issues. One idea could be to brainstorm what knowledge is needed for “Exploring New Values for Society” together with the chair of the Selection Committee.

Adding to this, if the secretariat can create this worldview and establish the issues within it, a competition format will be possible, in contrast to the Toyota Foundation’s method for grants up until now, which values the independence of researchers. The Foundation will ask researchers to form teams and call for proposals based on their knowledge about themes related to the worldview established by the secretariat. Around three stages will be held over a period of about two years. A competition will be held at each stage, and the proposals will be screened. This is one of the commonly-used methods for research and development.

Rebuilding of Social Container Suggested by Embodied Knowledge based on Experience

From a slightly different angle, as digitization proceeds, various things will be connected via data and AI, regardless of the field. As a result, barriers that previously functioned as partitions will dissolve, and the traditional vertical divisions in society will collapse. As part of this, the existing stage, also termed architecture (structure) or platform, on which capitalism and liberalism act will collapse, and the need to rebuild social container will arise. Democracy was considered to have been securely established as a social system. However, with the advent of the digital world, it is no longer guaranteed without consciously creating democracy.

In the past, state authority created the architecture or platform based on laws and customs. Now, private for-profit companies can create it as they like. Therefore, it may not be possible to maintain a community unless the community as a unit consciously creates its own architecture or platform through ongoing discussions among the stakeholders.

However, there is no consensus about this rebuilding of social container. Moreover, it is likely to involve embodied knowledge rather than systematic study constructed through thought. I believe it is something that will be rebuilt through a process in which everyone learns in a physical way and engages in discussions between stakeholders. In other words, there is no single correct answer. Moreover, the important thing is not to know the correct answer, but rather the process through which the stakeholders of a society try to find the correct answer through discussion.

The granted projects in the research grant program have included many examples aimed at discussions between stakeholders based on this kind of embodied knowledge and rebuilding social containers. Potential systems must be hidden within each individual example. The question of whether such a potential system has any universal characteristics is an important issue that is always interesting. However, the extraction of the system from the example and making it universal may require scientific abilities. Alternatively, people who possess different types of abilities than the grant recipients under “Exploring New Values for Society” may be required.

Nevertheless, as there are still no theories about the rebuilding of social containers, all we can do is learn from embodied knowledge based on concrete experience. Therefore, it is a great thing to have so many concrete examples that provide suggestions as well as examples in the outlying areas that tend to produce innovation. In addition, the network with the grant recipients who worked on these projects will undoubtedly be an asset for the Toyota Foundation.

The Need to “Translate” the Leftovers of Research Results based on the Toyota Foundation Secretariat’s own Definition

On the other hand, granted researchers implemented their projects in accordance with their own awareness of the problems involved in a different dimension to the major social trends and movements that I have just described. Therefore, there is a need for the Toyota Foundation’s secretariat to look at these research projects from its own perspective. It should be emphasized that research which is considered to have produced good results in an academic sense may not necessarily be good research for the Toyota Foundation. What needs to be the focus is the information corresponding to the so-called leftovers of the research results produced by the grant recipients. When carrying out a research project, the researchers gather a huge amount of information apart from information that is directly needed to produce the results. It is necessary to absorb this information from the grant recipients, sort through it and translate it into the Toyota Foundation secretariat’s own knowledge. It is not clear whether the Toyota Foundation secretariat is engaging in this translation work or not.

To repeat the point again, the Toyota Foundation secretariat must have its own framework for viewing the world in order to translate this information. Without such a framework, the secretariat is bound to be overwhelmed by the huge volume of information, leading to chaos. It is necessary to have a firm structure while taking on board changes in the world in a flexible manner.

It is particularly important for the Toyota Foundation secretariat to create its own unique definition of what “new values for society” are. It is impossible for everyone to agree on exactly “what new social values are.” It is natural for the interpretation to vary depending on the person, organization, and society. Therefore, the Toyota Foundation secretariat should define its own “new values for society.”

Academic and Embodied Knowledge and Professionalism – Drivers in “Exploring New Values for Society”

Researchers do not create “new values for society.” There are not very many examples of academic papers that have been truly useful for society. To start with, researchers are not the people standing on the “frontline” of society. Although researchers may play a role as catalysts in unraveling situations with complicated real-life interests, ultimately we have to turn the conversation back to the “frontline” participants.

Incidentally, there is a field called Evidence-based Policy Making (EBPM) in which I have been involved for around 10 years. In fact, it is difficult to develop human resources in this field. This is because policy making and policy planning are not considered academic. The field is certainly not academic. However, when making policy, it is important to create a logical framework and bring out the evidence to avoid being influenced by stakeholders with loud voices. Such a methodology and the professionalism that goes along with it exist. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research does not excel in fields involved with this type of embodied knowledge. That is why I think there is plenty of scope for private foundations to be involved.

In order for “new values for society” to be created, methodologies and professionalism based on embodied knowledge will interact with academic disciplines. Then discussions between various stakeholders will be held. It seems this is the kind of process that will be necessary. One of the important roles for the research grant program in the future will be supporting this.





Kiyooki Murakami

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 Graduated from the University of Tokyo in Engineering in 1978 and received his master's degree in Science from Cornell University in 1984. In 1978, he joined Japanese National Railways and engaged in the Shinkansen General Bureau and the Technical Planning Office. In 1987, he joined Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. and he specializes in Social Systems, Science and Technology Policy and Future Study (Post Industrial Society). He was appointed as a Research Fellow in December 2012, a Senior Research Fellow in December 2016 and an incumbent Research Fellow in December 2020. And he has been serving as a member of committee on project manager training program, JST, a visiting fellow of Seikei Education and Research Center for Sustainable Development, a mentor of Seikei University Marunouchi Business Training and a Senior General Manager for Azusa Institute of Research Co., Ltd.

Distinctive Features of the Research Grant Program “Exploring New Values for Society”

A Program Launched in an Era of Exploration

The program title “Exploring New Values for Society” was launched in 2011. This corresponds to the period when the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred, and Japan’s GDP, which had previously ranked second in the world, was overtaken by China. Despite having achieved economic success, Japan’s confidence was crumbling on many fronts. Under these circumstances, the limits of economy first were recognized, and the idea of needing to seek non-economic values emerged, and the exploration began. However, finding non-economic values that many people embrace was no easy task, as is still the case today.

Subsequently, the United Nations somewhat belatedly proposed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This had a big impact in Japan. The SDGs set 17 goals and 169 targets, which included many non-economic social values. The SDGs were probably accepted in Japan due to the exploration of non-economic values I have just mentioned.

The SDGs adopted a typical Western top-down methodology. This methodology first establishes a vision of the ideal society and thinks up solutions to achieve it. Time-wise, it uses a methodology known as backcasting, which draws up an image of the long-term future and considers what needs to be done now to reach it.

In contrast to this, I think “Exploring New Values for Society” was a program based on the idea that as we do not know what to do, we should try exploring what to do for the time being, adopting Japanese-style bottom-up thinking.

Time has moved on since then, and while the exploration is necessary in research, I think the direction of value creation has become fairly clear. Taking the model through which one billion people in developed countries used abundant resources to realize affluent lives as in the previous era of industrialization and expanding it to ten billion people around the world is no longer feasible. The ten billion people in the world forecast for the second half of this century will have to use the Earth’s finite resources to create new ways of becoming affluent. When the goal is clear, what needs to be done also becomes clear. Going forward, we are entering an era when practice and implementation (sharing in the wider society) of what needs to be done will be important.

What Kind of New Values were Created? – The Analogy of Wild Flowers and a Tulip Field



Photo source: open materials of the World Health Capital Conference in Matsumoto (2017)

Diverse values have been created through the program. However, these values are fundamentally academic values. Their social value is still to come in the future. Consider the following analogy.

The picture on the left shows wild flowers blooming all over a field. The picture on the right shows an intentionally designed field of flowers. The individual flowers in each picture are the same, but social and economic value is created through the composition of colors, their placement, and the landscape. The Dutch tulips in the picture on the right have also become an international brand. The results created through the program “Exploring New Values for Society” seem to be only at the stage of the wild flowers.

Characteristics of Accepted Projects - Many “Investigational Research” on “Safe Themes”

Looking at the accepted projects, there is some challenging research. There is also some research which would be unlikely to be accepted under the Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research program. However, most of the research projects establish safe themes, rather than themes with great significance for society, and consist of investigational research using methods such as case studies, questionnaires, and interviews. Only a minority of the projects are future-oriented as well as creating plans and taking a panoramic view. There is a gap between this tendency and the aim of the program.

Proposal Guidelines Targeting a Think Tank Rather than Academ

Looking at the project proposal guidelines for 2019, the program targets the following proposals.

- Great significance for society
- Anticipating internal and external issues
- Future-oriented
- Sustainable and developable
- Expected to have a ripple effect

The program objective states a purpose of addressing complex issues comprehensively.

- What is needed is to uncover potential problems that are still invisible in addition to problems that have already manifested themselves, and to address these problems by “Exploring New Values for Society”
- It is difficult to identify the essence of complex issues and obtain clues that will guide us to prevention and resolution of such issues through standardized values and compartmentalized knowledge
- A wider and more flexible perspective that looks into the future with a panoramic view of the world
- Move forward toward new values for society while fundamentally reevaluating our conventional ways of thinking

While I support this content, a program that handles such complexity is more akin to the theme for a think

tank than academia. It is also very similar to the research areas addressed by Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX) of Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST). As I know from serving as an advisor at RISTEX, it is difficult to make such programs function. The motivation of academic researchers is to engage in the research they themselves want to undertake. They want to secure research funds to achieve it. They also want to write papers and secure a stable position. Rather than addressing complex social issues, they are interested in research that is suited to academic papers. The reality is research that does not fit into the existing framework or academic system may not be suited to academic papers or may lack academic conferences for presentation and often goes unrewarded despite being challenging research. Therefore, rather than planning research that fulfills the message of the proposal guidelines, researchers will often find a line of reasoning based on their own research theme to make it fit into the proposal guidelines, and this is inevitable.

Support Provided by the Toyota Foundation

Focusing Themes

Holding workshops and so on is effective for both project implementation and dissemination of results. However, in the case of this program, the effects seem limited. The reason for this is that the program is composed of many projects under a broad theme. By comparison, RISTEX has several sub-themes located in between the broad theme and individual projects. Projects and researchers belonging to the same sub-theme share an interest in specific problems. Therefore, holding workshops that are organized by sub-theme makes it easy to establish collaboration based on interests in similar problems, increases synergies, and makes it easier to provide to support. The introduction of sub-themes is extremely effective.

On the other hand, introducing sub-themes or specifying and focusing the theme decreases the degree of freedom from the perspective of the researchers who apply. If the free framework is retained to ensure the number of applications, it will be necessary to have a clearly stated objective, such as uncovering outstanding human resources. In this respect, there is also the option of assistance without providing support. The image in this instance is of allowing cutting-edge researchers to engage in research however they want to, as in the Grand Challenge projects of the past or the recent Moonshot Research & Development Program of Japan's Cabinet Office.

One more issue is that organizational capabilities are required in order to disseminate results, share them with society, and put them into effect in society. If this aspect is left up to individual researchers, it goes no further than presentations at academic conferences. I hope the Toyota Foundation will provide support for sharing results with society and putting them into effect in society.

Results and Evaluation

Creating a Chain Mechanism that Turns One Grant into 10 or 100 Values for Society

Freedom, diversity, and tolerance were the characteristics of the program "Exploring New Values for Society" that received high praise from grant recipients. However, the converse of this is that the program is diffuse, making it difficult to create synergies and values for society. The challenge going forward will be creating a mechanism to produce a chain which turns one grant into 10 or 100 values for society instead of individual research results. The usefulness of one's research results to society and the ability to put them into practice

should be a strong incentive to applicants rather than simply receiving a grant. Young researchers are very interested in this aspect of research. Moreover, while there are limits to the capabilities of individual researchers as I mentioned earlier, I believe there is much that the Toyota Group as a whole can do in the area of putting research results into practice in society.

Specifically, this means strengthening dissemination capabilities. Despite holding workshops and symposiums under the current broad theme, it is difficult to know what to focus on because there are diverse fields and specialties. To use the previous flower analogy, the flowers bloom in the field without any order. Narrowing down the themes or creating sub-themes that correspond to the 169 targets of the SDGs will make it possible to call for researchers involved in each of those areas. It will then be possible to discuss a variety of aspects from technical, economic, and social studies perspectives based on a certain theme, which will increase the value of dissemination. Returning to the flower analogy again, it will be a field that has been organized by human beings. This will spark international conferences. As research proceeds on the theme around the world, it will create a social chain.

On the other hand, the character of the program itself in terms of comprehensive solutions for complex problems is still necessary for Japanese society, and there is no need to change that aspect.

Toward Creating New Research Fields on Innovation

When I was studying operations research (OR) in the United States during my youth, my teacher once said to me, "You probably know about *Kanban* because you are Japanese." I was surprised because I hadn't thought *Kanban* was Japanese. At the time, inventory management in the field of operations research was exploring how to minimize waiting time or maximize capacity utilization based on queuing theory. However, the *Kanban* method, which took a completely different approach to existing research on reducing inventory to zero, was a disruptive innovation. In terms of research areas, it marked a shift from OR to information systems. It then evolved into supply chain management (SCM) and is now used all over the world.

There should also be many examples like this in Society 5.0, which is just about to begin. There is great potential for discovering such budding research and nurturing it into an academic field. One example is in the area of town planning. The neighborhood theory of town planning in the 20th century used elementary school zones as the planning unit. This is the same concept as the mass production of standardized products in industrial society. In addition, the larger the population, the greater the administrative efficiency. The merger of municipalities and the centralization of the population in core cities were based on this idea. However, in the 21st century, when cyberspace and real space are merging, completely different methods may be possible in town planning. Administration can be streamlined regardless of population size and networking of unique towns could create diverse regions and communities. There are many such prospects.

In these circumstances, there is also potential for joint research with the Toyota Group to begin. I think a good concept is that of a Living Lab for empirical research into the impact of not only hardware development but also services and products on society. There are more than 400 Living Labs in Europe. If researchers can take part in these kind of empirical research projects, research results will be disseminated to society and human resources for research will also be developed.

Even university researchers will engage in verification and implementation in a Living Lab without being confined to academia. If this leads to the creation of new entrepreneurs, one grant will create a social chain that produces 10 or 100 values.

Discovery and Development of Outstanding Human Resources

I believe that a variety of human resources have been developed through “Exploring New Values for Society.” Some of them say that they were able to secure a five-year fixed-term post thanks to the grant, but it is now covered through competitive funding.

What we need to think about in Japan is the development of human resources with outstanding unusual talent. The areas in which human resources with unusual talent play active roles are games and *Go/Shogi*, and I consider the outflow of these human resources to the United States and China to be a national loss. In the area of national research and development, I think that initiatives such as the Moonshot Research & Development Program provide opportunities for these kind of human resources. However, very few are able to obtain such opportunities, and many young researchers are in unstable positions and do not dare to take on challenges. Over the past few years, many corporations have started talking about discovering and utilizing unique human resources, but such human resources are still the exception. This is exactly why I believe it is good to give such people opportunities.

However, there is room for looking into whether an academic paper is appropriate as output. Another way is to set a difficult task and give out a prize if it is accomplished as in the X PRIZE Foundation’s Grand Challenge. Whether or not the Toyota Foundation’s program does this, I hope these kind of outstanding human resources will be given a chance.

Stages of Creating Knowledge Value – From investigation, Discovery/Invention, and Utilization to the Ethics of Knowledge

Finally, I will try a different way of looking at value creation. This is the information and knowledge pyramid.

《Basic research》

The most basic level is collecting and organizing data and information. It is probably the most important.

《Discovery/Invention》

After the basic research is done, knowledge is created using it. Then comes the stage of creating useful technologies, including obtaining patents. This is the area in which Japan excels. It is the reason why Japan became a technology superpower at the industrialization stage. Based on my observations, 70 to 80% of Japan’s engineers are at this stage. It is the sense that innovation = invention. However, remaining at this stage means going into a niche to seek inventions that others have not come up with. Such inventions tend to be concerned with the question of how many people in Japan will actually use the given technology.

《Utilization of knowledge to accomplish a mission》

The next stage is mission-oriented research, which is the utilization of the vast amount of knowledge in society to accomplish a mission (solve a problem). Research is problem-based, rather than technology-based. A typical example is the Moonshot Research & Development Program, and it is also the main type of think tank operations. The importance of this area is being recognized, and a lot of funds have been invested recently.

《Proper use of knowledge》

With the rapid development of AI, the ability to perform quantum computing, and advancement of gene editing technologies in the area of biotechnology, it is not sufficient to ask what can be done. It becomes more important to consider what should be done. This is a question of ethics, philosophy, and judgement to consider whether human beings will be happy or whether society will head in a positive direction. Europeans excel in discussing

these issues. Such discussions will probably determine international standards or ISO in the future. Countries that can only discuss what can be done or what is profitable cannot lead the international community. I think the ability to conduct this type of discussion properly and obtain a social consensus will determine whether innovative technologies become widespread in society. For example, the gene editing technology that won the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry will make it possible to treat many intractable diseases, but it can also create designer babies and dangerous viruses. It also has the advantages of allowing reductions in agrochemical and antibiotic usage, but this could also pose risks to ecosystem and the human body when used for crop breeding.

This problem cannot be solved using technical knowledge alone and requires multi-faceted research that includes economics, law, ethics, and philosophy. Although the government have recognized this, the research has not advanced and has become an important issue for the future.

Using the perspective above to review the projects funded under “Exploring New Values for Society,” it appears that many of the projects were limited to the first two stages of basic research and discovery, and invention, even in the social science field. Therefore, I hope that the Toyota Foundation’s future research grant program will provide support for research in the two stages that follow as well as discovering and developing outstanding human resources.



Questionnaire for Grant Recipients

As part of the review, we conducted a questionnaire for grantees of the Research Grant Program between fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2018. (The questionnaire was outsourced to The Japan Research Institute, Limited.) In this Chapter, we evaluated and discussed our grant program by using some of the results and graphs in the “The Report for Supportive Work of Survey and Analysis on Research Grant Program 2011-2018” written by the Japan Research Institute, Limited.

4-1 Outline of Implementation

Objectives of Implementation

To review the Research Grant Program that has been running from fiscal 2011 to 2018, we conducted a questionnaire for all grantees who received grants in those periods. Consequently, we will review the theme of grant program “Exploring New Value for Society” and obtain suggestions for the operation of the new grant program planned to commence starting next fiscal year based on the results.

Implementation Period

Friday, May 29 – Monday, June 29, 2020

(The above dates are the period over which the questionnaire was implemented for those who answered using the online site for responses.)

Implementation Method

Either of the methods below (or both) were used for responses

- An online questionnaire response site (For respondents who were not located in regions subject to the GDPR* when answering)
- An Excel file (For respondents located in regions subject to the GDPR when answering, for respondents who for some reason were unable to complete their answers on the response site, and for respondents who answered after the deadline)

* EU General Data Protection Regulation

4-2 Summary of Results

Overview of Respondents

We obtained responses from 72.5% of respondents (182 people) as a result of the questionnaire.

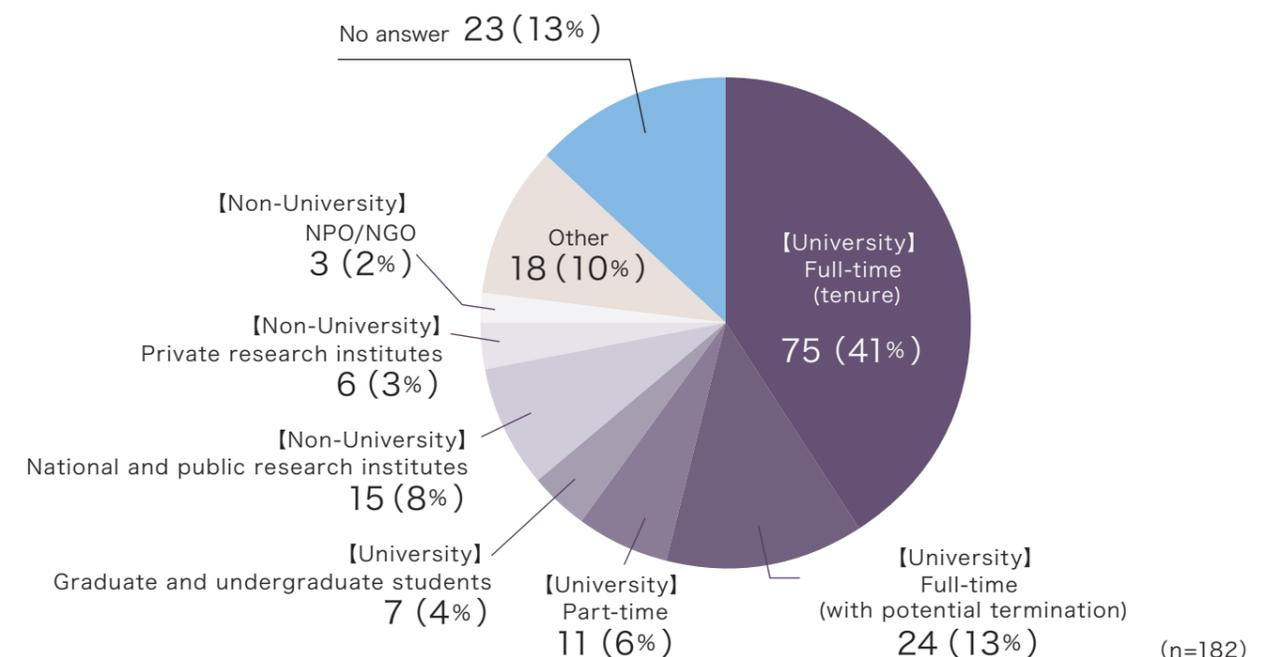
Category	Numbers	Notes
Number of people on distribution list	260	Multiple grants for the same person counted separately
Of which not eligible for questionnaire	9	Those for whom there is no need to send questionnaire, etc.
Number of valid targets, excluding above	251	260-9=251
Total number of respondents	182	
① Responded using online site	165	Includes those who used Excel for some responses
② Responded using Excel	17	-
Number of non-responders	69	Includes those who answered they were unable to respond due to their busy schedule
Response rate	72.5%	182÷251=72.51

Basic Information about the Respondents

(1) Affiliation

When the questionnaire respondents (182 people) were asked about their current affiliation, respondents who worked at a university accounted for 54% of the total. There were also young researchers, such as graduate and undergraduate students, people connected with NPOs/NGOs, and others, though in small numbers. It can be said this is a mark of the wide scope of the program.

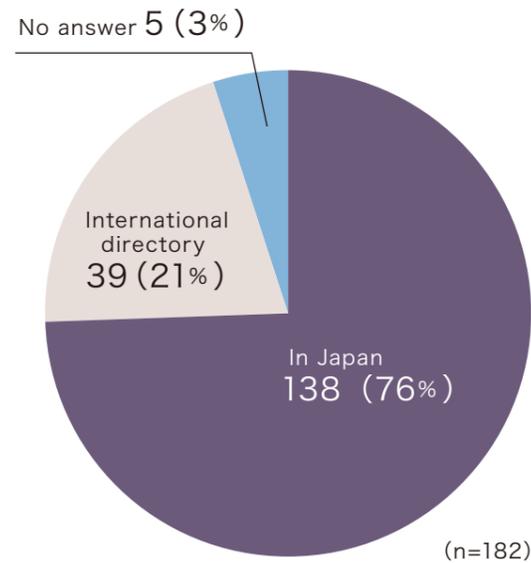
Q.2 Please choose one of the following as your current affiliation. If you belong to more than one department, please choose the main department.



(2) Residence (Country)

Similarly, when respondents were asked about their current residential address (country), it was found that researchers who live in Japan accounted for 76% while, overseas, researchers live all over the world, primarily in Asia/Oceania and Europe.

Q.4 What is your current address (Country)?



Breakdown outside of Japan

Region	No. by region	Country	No. by country
North America	4	U.S.	2
		Canada	1
		North America	1
South America	3	Colombia	1
		Argentina	1
		Mexico	1
Asia/Oceania	14	Australia	1
		Vietnam	3
		India	1
		Indonesia	1
		Malaysia	1
		South Korea	2
		Thailand	2
		Nepal	1
		Mongolia	1
		China	1
Middle East	1	Egypt	1
Africa	1	Mozambique	1
Europe	11	Austria	1
		France	1
		Netherlands	3
		U.K.	4
		Ireland	1
Not disclosed	5	—	—

4-3 Evaluation of the Grant Program Based on the Questionnaire Results

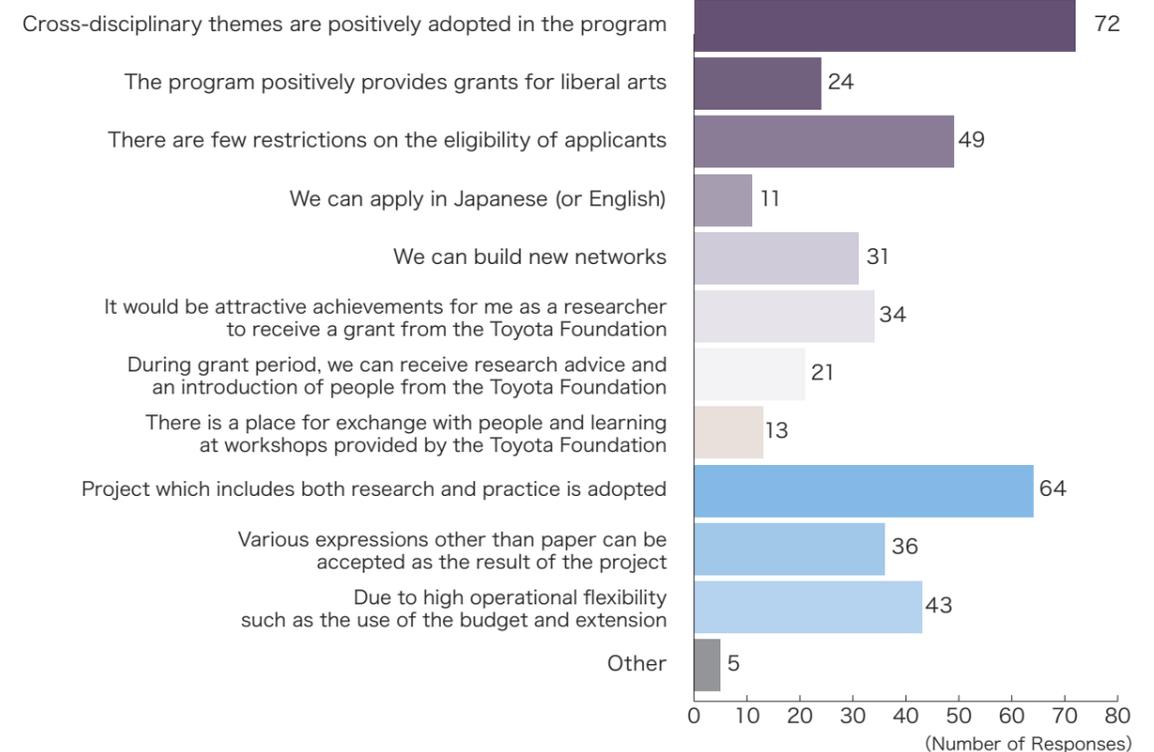
We evaluated the grant program based on the results of the questionnaire for grant recipients as shown below. The evaluation is organized into 4-3-1“Framework for Grants,” 4-3-2“Support and Operation System during the Grant,” and 4-3-3“Acquisition of Other Research Funds and Grants.”

4-3-1 Framework for Grants

Evaluation of breadth of scope for application requirements and grant areas

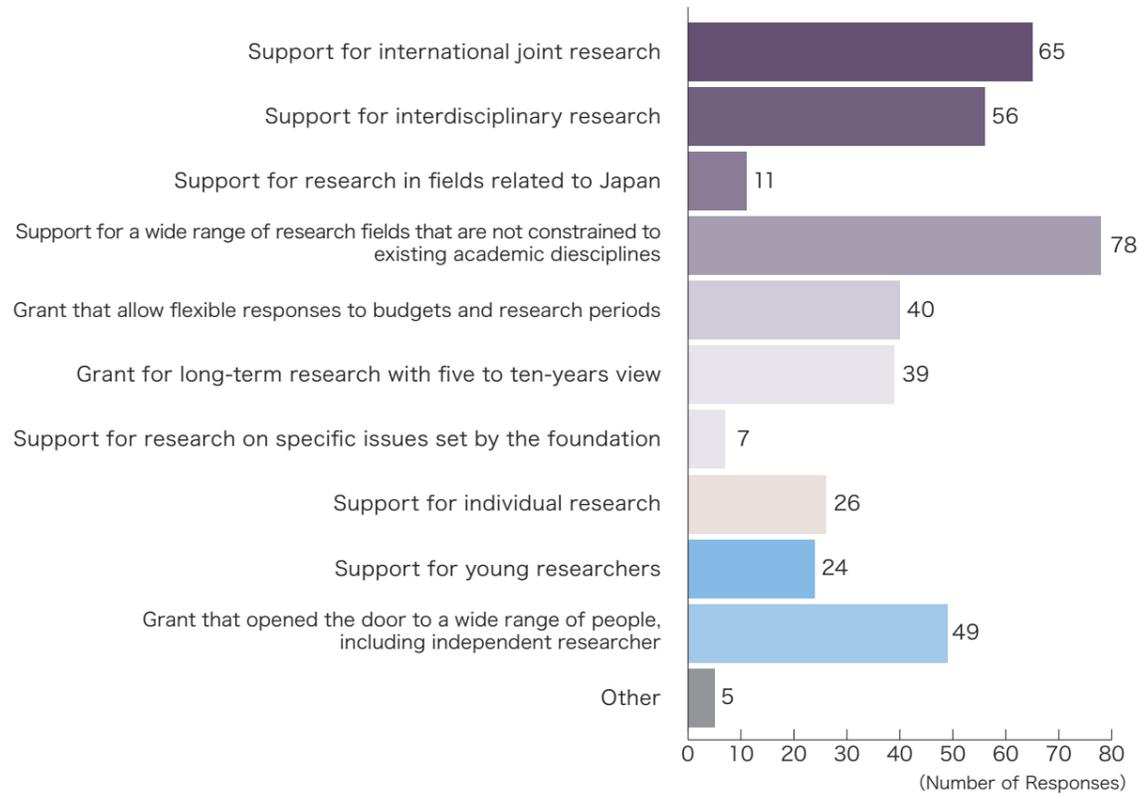
In the questionnaire (Q. 34), when asked about the advantages of the Research Grant Program, it was found that points such as cross-disciplinary themes are positively adopted in the program, projects which include both research and practice are adopted, and there are few restrictions on the eligibility of applicants were recognized as the leading advantages of the program. The program has solicited applications from a diverse range of people, regardless of the affiliations and credentials of the applicants. Moreover, the program has taken applications so as to actively encourage sharing of project outputs with society in other ways than academic papers. The results of the questionnaire showed that the program has obtained a high rating and has been embraced for these points.

Q.34 What do you think is the advantage of our Research Grant Program? Please choose up to three options.



It was also found from Q. 35 that it was hoped the program would provide support for a wide range of research fields that are not constrained to the existing academic disciplines, support for international joint research, support for interdisciplinary research, and grants that opened the door to a wide range of people. Meanwhile, there were only seven positive responses for “Support for research on specific issues set by the foundation,” which indicated there are few expectations with regards to focusing research issues more narrowly.

Q.35 What fields or characteristics do you think are desirable for the Toyota Foundation’s Research Grant Program? (Please choose up to three options.)



In the final free comment section of the questionnaire, there were also many comments about broad scope of the program, and we present excerpts of these comments below.

Q.39 Please describe your impressions of participating in the Toyota Foundation’s Research Grant Program, your requests or any improvements needed.

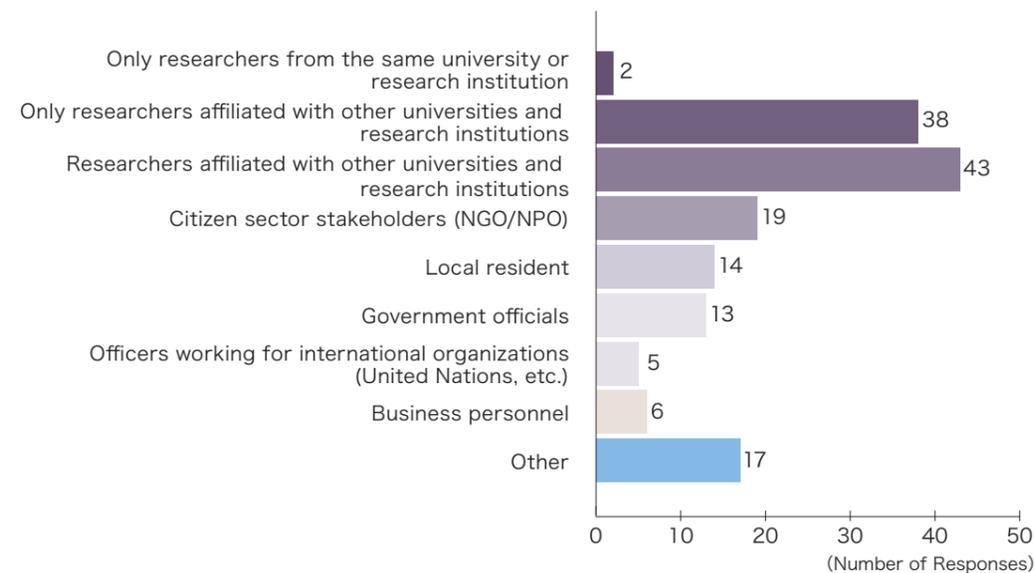
Comments that support the positive evaluation of the broad scope of the program (field, age restrictions, achievement)

- I strongly hope for the continuation of research that is innovative, novel, and boundary defying, without being obsessed with immediate output and achievements.
- I think a particularly outstanding feature is that the Toyota Foundation has made a broad variety of selections relating to what society needs or will need in the future, regardless of the academic content. I was also pleased because the selection of my application for “new values” demonstrated that my own ideas were shared to some extent. I definitely want to apply again if I have the opportunity.
- I am extremely grateful the Toyota Foundation selects research topics that are practical and challenging, rather than just academic research.
- Although I myself am a university faculty member, I hope you will continue providing research grant opportunities for researchers in the field and researchers without a research number in the future.
- The large amount and flexibility of the grant allowed me to engage in very meaningful yet creative and international activities and produce results. It is a great pity that the age at application for applicants has now been lowered.

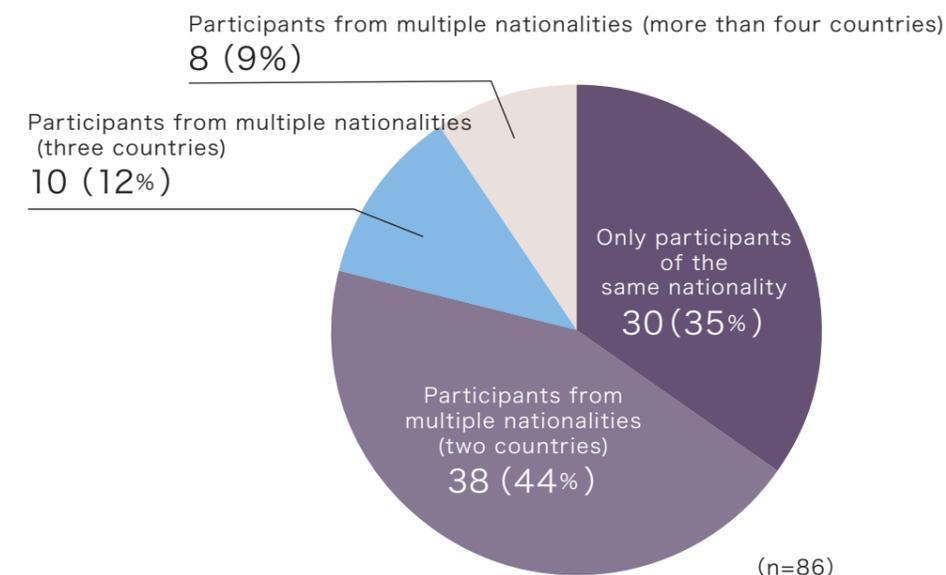
Broad composition of joint research project team members

In addition, with regards to the composition of participants in the 86 projects that conducted a joint research project out of the 182 projects from which a response was obtained, it was found that projects were mainly led by researchers from universities and research institutes while being conducted in collaboration with various other sectors. Moreover, it was found from Q. 8 that 65% of joint research projects were composed of members from multiple nationalities. Based on this, it was found that the grant program broadly achieved the implementation of projects by diverse participants, transcending occupations, fields, and national borders, which is what was initially envisaged.

Q.7 (This question is only for those who answered “joint research”)
What is the composition of project participants? Choose all of the following:



Q.8 (This question is only for those who answered “joint research”)
What is the nationality composition of the project participants?



4-3-2 Support and Operation System during the Grant

With regards to the support and operation system during the grant, as can also be seen from the factors mentioned above (Q. 34), points such as high operational flexibility and building new networks were rated highly as advantages of the program.

In addition, we received many opinions about the support from program officers and the operational system during the grant in the final free comment section of the questionnaire, and we present excerpts of these comments below.

Q.39 Please describe your impressions of participating in the Toyota Foundation’s Research Grant Program, your requests or any improvements needed.

Comments that support the positive evaluation of support from the Toyota Foundation

- I was very grateful for the financial aspect, but the program officer was also kind and gave me advice, which was extremely helpful. Social issues are becoming increasingly complex. I really hope you will support researchers in the field and individual researchers who are not affiliated with research institutions.
- I also enjoyed the interviews with the program officer. It’s great that it is not the type of grant which “just provides money and orders you to produce results quickly.” The research data I was able to obtain during the grant period took shape slowly after the end of the grant period. I am grateful for this type of support for my research.
- I was very grateful for the meaningful advice I received from the program officer at the time. I have several experiences of receiving Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research and other private-sector grants, but this was my first experience for this grant, and I could conduct my research with a sense of pressure.
- The interviews by the staffs from the Toyota Foundation’s Research Grant Program were very meaningful. They were more like places for both sides to exchange opinions and information than interviews. Some people might get a bit defensive when they hear the word “interview,” so it might be good for the staffs to let them know that it is a place for exchanging opinions.
- I received a great deal of support from Toyota Foundation officers as I was preparing to apply for the funding and during the two years of my research project. An officer also spoke with me at length after the project was completed and I was encouraged to apply again. Unfortunately, I was not successful in my application then.

Please describe your impressions of participating in the Toyota Foundation's Research Grant Program, your requests or any improvements needed.

Comments that support the positive evaluation of operational flexibility

- I was able to achieve great results with the backing of the Toyota Foundation, which makes it possible to use the project budget flexibly, and supports international and cross-disciplinary research. I would definitely like to apply again if I have the opportunity. I hope this kind of research grant will continue for a long time to come.
- Mainly using the website was convenient compared with many other research grants for which you type out an expenses report in Word or Excel and e-mail or print and post it. However, it would be more convenient if you could scan or photograph receipts instead of posting them.
- I greatly appreciate the fact that the program does not set boundaries in regards to what researchers can explore. That is inspirational and liberating in contemporary times where funding is closely linked to specific themes and areas. The funding is flexible and responds to the volatile and changing specificities of the research world.

Other negative comments on the methods of reporting financial expenses

- ▲ On the university side, when I received the grant there was no precedent for the university undertaking research without any overheads, so everything had to be done by the individual (the university now undertakes research without overheads through private-sector foundations). Therefore, during the period when I was receiving the grant, I was swamped with accounting work rather than research as all the expenses could only be handled through reimbursement of receipts, and this also had to be done for the receipts of researchers from other universities.
- ▲ Because the accounting rules of the Toyota Foundation and those of my university were different, I really struggled to make them consistent, so I would like you to improve this point.
Registering items in the accounting system one by one was a bit difficult.

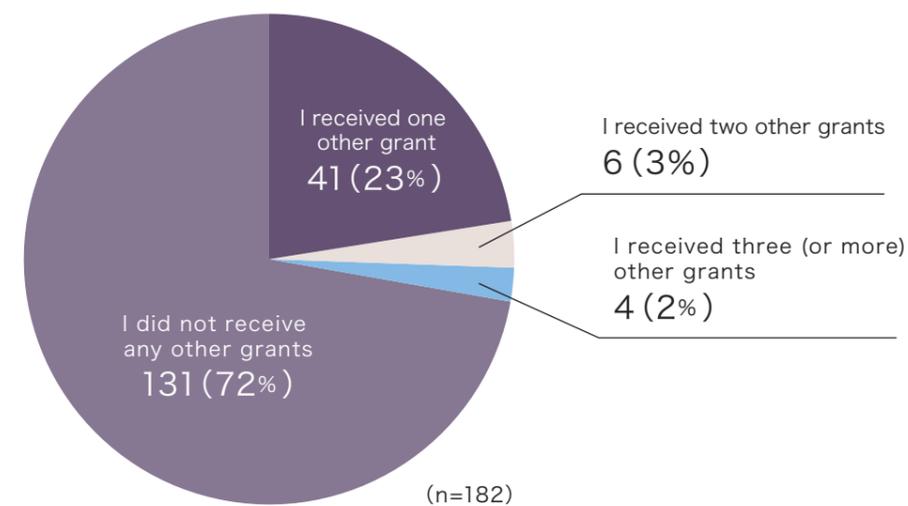
4-3-3 Acquisition of Other Research Funds and Grants

We surveyed the acquisition of other research funds and grants by project representatives during the period when the research grant was obtained from the Toyota Foundation. The result was that 51 project representatives (28%) received one or more other research funds and grants. It was found that Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) were obtained in 30 of these cases.

The Research Grant Program does not impose any specific restrictions on the use of other grants and research funds when the project content is clearly demarcated and it is considered possible to conduct the projects alongside each other. The grant program endeavors to facilitate multifaceted support for research activities rather than restricting the receipt of grants at the same time.

The Research Grant Program is not restricted to researchers affiliated with research institutions and provides grants to a diverse range of people. However, under the current environment in which many of the people involved in research obtain a variety of competitive funding to conduct their research activities, it was found that 51 out of 182 respondents (28%) obtained multiple research funds simultaneously, which we consider to be important as a future indicator.

Please describe details of any other grants/funds received during the grant period.



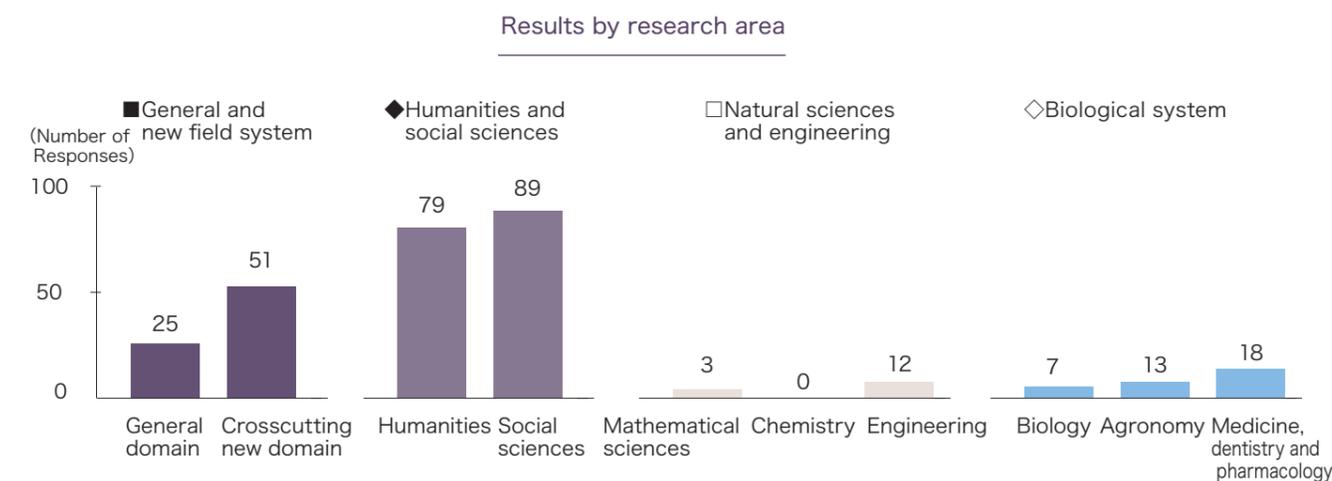
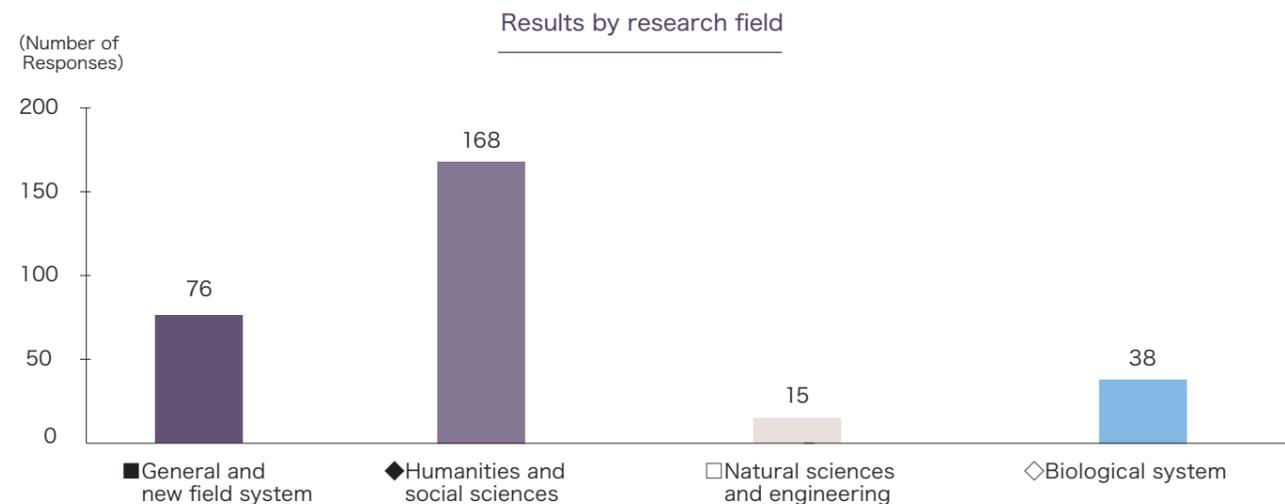
4-4 Areas of Contribution

In this section, we would like to look at the areas in which the program has made contributions. We would like to organize the section by dividing it into 4-4-1 “Grant Areas and Areas of Contribution for Output” and 4-4-2 “Contributions to Human Resource Development.”

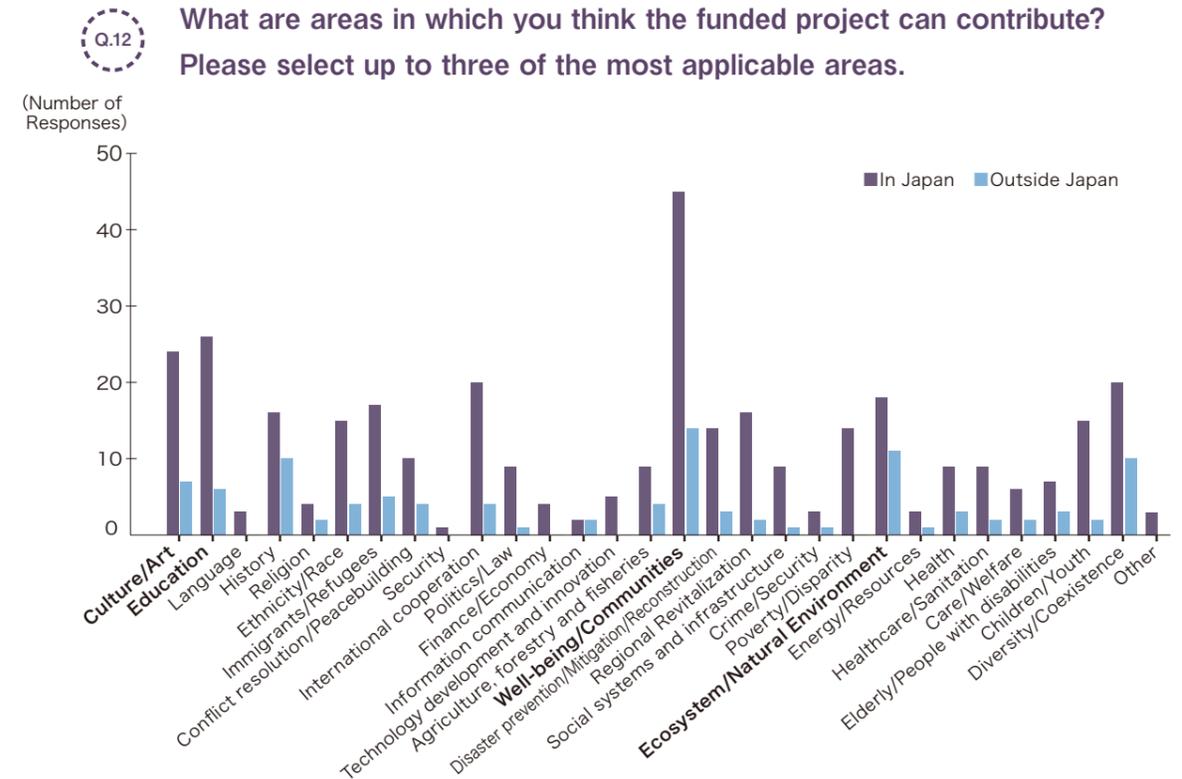
4-4-1 Grant Areas and Areas of Contribution for Output

As can be seen from the diagram for Q. 11, many of the selected projects are in the field of humanities and social sciences. In addition, while humanities and social sciences account for a large number of projects, a certain number of biological system projects have also been adopted. If we look at the breakdown, it can be seen that there are many areas considered to have strong connections with community and well-being, such as “medicine, dentistry and pharmacology,” “agriculture” and “biology.”

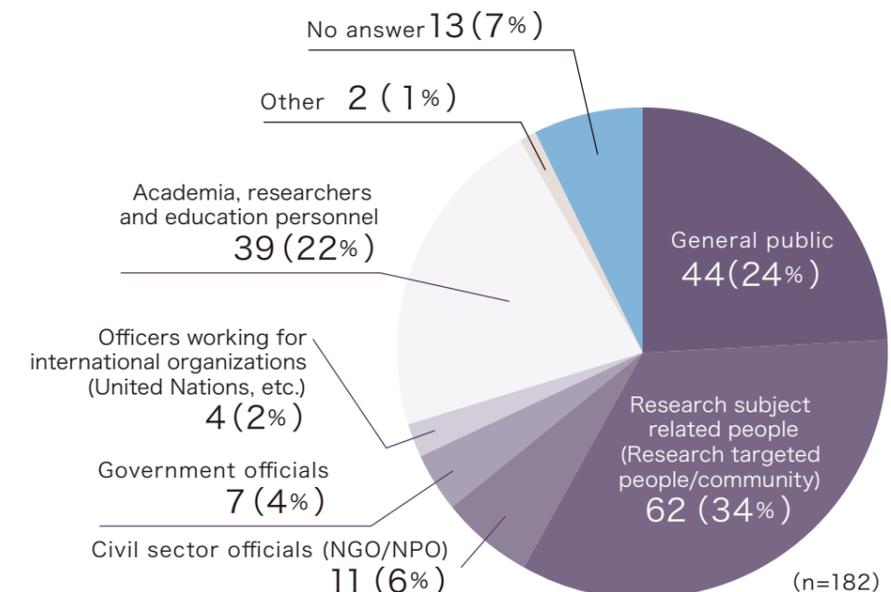
問11 Please select the field/area that is most likely to apply to the funded project. If your theme covers multiple fields or areas, please select up to three that mainly apply.



When asked about the areas in which the funded projects could contribute, it was found that much of the research was strongly connected with social contribution to day-to-day well-being or the natural environment, regardless of whether the representatives’ residential addresses are domestic or not (Q. 12). When asked about the beneficiaries of the subsidized projects, the “general public” or “research subject related people” accounted for 58% of all responses (Q. 15). We consider this fulfills the aims of the program which strongly pursues connections with society and dissemination of project output to society as a grant program.



Q.15 Please select the one which is most likely to be applicable as the beneficiary of the subsidized project.

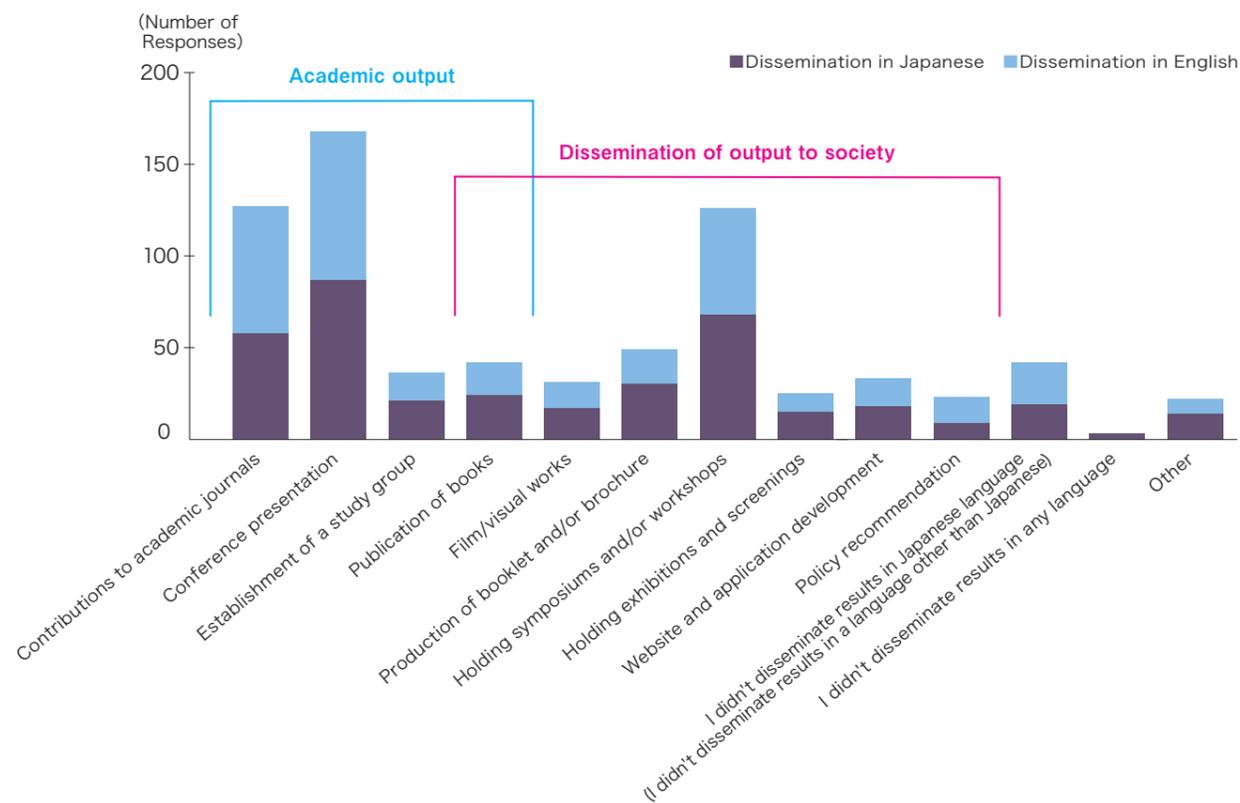


When asked for details regarding the dissemination of project output during the grant period (Q. 21 and Q. 22) and after the end of the grant (Q. 27), project output was actively disseminated to both academia and society during the grant period, and it was considered that the grants promoted dissemination of project output.

While it is thought that there is a certain positive evaluation with regards to this point, in terms of the aims of the program, although there were high hopes for a variety of dissemination of project output to society, the result was that many of the achievements were academic, such as conference presentations and papers, etc. Furthermore, it was found there was an overwhelmingly large number of symposiums and workshops held with regards to disseminating project output to society. As the initial aim was to disseminate a wider variety of project output, this point is likely to be an issue when planning future grant programs.

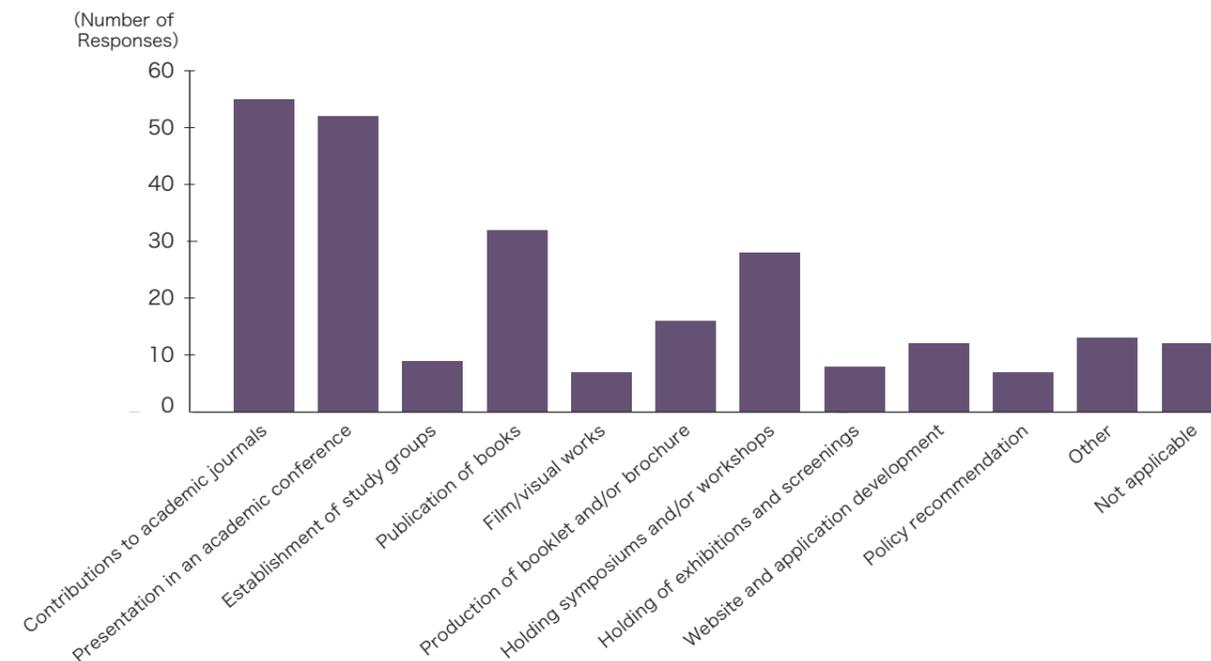
Q. 21-22

**What kind of dissemination of output did you do during the grant period?
Please choose all the options in which you disseminate the output in Japanese language, or any language other than Japanese.**



Q.27

Please describe the details, if you have disseminate the output of the project in any forms, which you have done after the grant period. If there is more than one, please list them all.



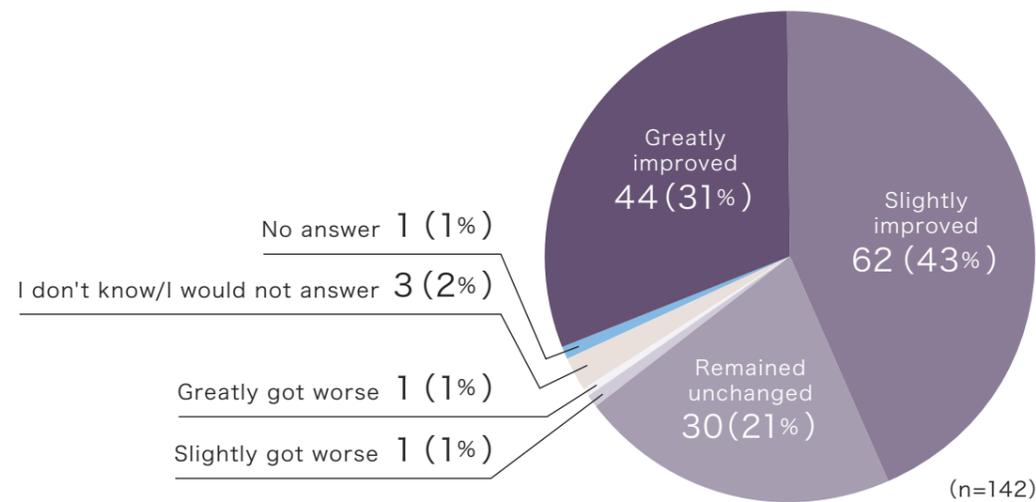
4-4-2 Contribution to Human Resource Development

In order to measure the impact that the grant program has on grant recipients, Q. 32 asked about changes in the position (job title/role) of representatives, and Q. 33 asked about the growth of young, co-researchers. In the results, 74% of respondents answered that their position had improved after receiving the grant (Q. 32). It was found that the grant program also contributed to the development of the young researchers involved in projects (Q. 33). Although it is unlikely that the grant had an impact on subsequent career by itself, it can be said that obtaining the grant had a considerable positive impact on project representatives and young researchers.

Further, Q. 29 asked about awards received during and after the grant. It was found that awards were received not only from academic societies and other academic circles but across a broad range of sectors, including government-related organizations and the art world. It is speculated that receiving the grant increased social credibility and recognition, which may have led to receiving an award.

Q.32

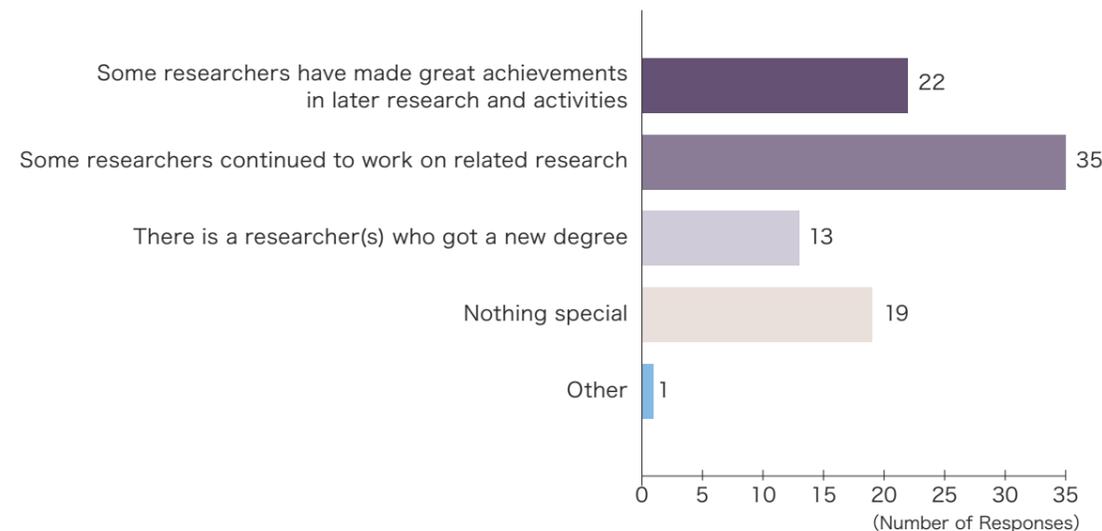
How has your position (job titles/roles) in academia and the workplace changed since before the grant?



(This question is only for those who answered "joint research")

Q.33

Are there any other young researchers, such as graduate students, who have grown by participating in or cooperating with projects funded by this grant? If there is more than one, please list them all.



Below, we list the main awards received based on the responses to Q. 29 (Please provide details of awards granted during or after you have received our grant, if any.)

Government-related awards received

- Fundamental Research Grant Scheme, Malaysian Ministry of Education, 2019-2022
- Abe Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC) & Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP), 2019-2020
- Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare's Award, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, 2019
- 40th Award for the Promotion of Studies on Developing Countries, Institute of Developing Economies/Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO), 2019
- Issues in Aging Focus Group Award – Professional, U.S. National Council on Family Relations, 2019
- National Prize in Social Sciences, Fundación Alejandro Ángel Escobar, 2017
- Prime Minister's Award, 56th Science and Technology Film/Video Festival, 2015
- Excellent Film on Culture (Cultural Affairs Documentary Film Category), 2014 ACA Film award, Agency for Cultural Affairs, 2014
- Gold History Book, Pak Seng District, Luang Prabang Province, Lao People's Democratic Republic, 2014

Awards received from academic societies

- Architectural Institute of Japan 2020 AIJ Book Award, Architectural Institute of Japan, 2020
- 13th Chiikishakai Gakkai Shourei-sho (kojin Chosakuken-bumon) [13th Regional and Community Studies Encouragement Award (Individual Publication Division)], Japan Association of Regional and Community Studies, 2020
- Doboku Gakkai Ronbun Shourei-sho [JSCE Thesis Encouragement Award], Japan Society of Civil Engineers, 2020
- 7th Nihon Heiwa Gakkai Heiwa Kenkyu Shorei-sho [7th PSAJ Award for Promotion of Peace Studies], Peace Studies Association of Japan, 2019
- 30th JAALS Conference, Best Poster Award, The Japanese Association for

- Arid Land Studies, 2019
- Tokutei Ryoiki Kenkyu Shorei-sho [Award for Encouragement of Studies in Specific Field (The Oda Prize)], The Japan Society of International Economics, Fiscal 2019
 - 31st JAAS Kenkyu Shorei-sho [Award for Promotion of Research], Japan Association for African Studies, 2019
 - 25th Takashima Prize, Japan Association for Nilo-Ethiopian Studies, 2019
 - Gakkai-sho [Association Award], Japan Association of Regional Development and Vitalization, 2018
 - Kokusai Volunteer Gakkai-sho [The International Society of Volunteer Studies Award (for “No War, Dialogue, NGOs,” Shinhyoron Publishing)], The International Society of Volunteer Studies in Japan, 2017
 - 12th Nihon Jinrui Gakkai Shourei-sho [12th JASCA Encouragement Award], Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology, 2017
 - 27th JAALS Conference Best Poster Award, The Japanese Association for Arid Land Studies, 2016
 - 11th ISAIA Symposium on Architectural Interchanges in Asia, ISAIA 2016 Academic Session Award, 2016
 - Architecture Kyushu Award (Research Newcomer Award), Architectural Institute of Japan, Kyushu Branch, 2014
 - The Japanese Association for Rural Studies Research Encouragement Award (Monograph Division “Toumorokoshi no Senjumin to Kohi no Kokumin [The Indigenous People of Corn and the People of Coffee]”), 2014

Other

- MAXQDA International Conference 2020 Poster Presentations and Awards 3rd Prize, 2020
- 34th Agricultural Journalist Awards Prize “Ijusha ni yoru Keigyo [Inheritance by Migrants]” (2018, Tsukuba-shobo, co-authored with Hiroko Obara), 2019
- 34th Agricultural Journalist Awards, Encouragement Award Inaka wo Tsukuru [Making the Inaka (Countryside)]” (2018, Commons, written by Kazuo Kasami, supervised by Kazunobu Tsutsui), 2019
- 46th Shibusawa Prize, Shibusawa Fund for Ethnological Studies, 2019
- 14th IISR Award, International Institute for the Study of Religions, 2019

- XXV IUFRO World Congress Scientist Assistance Program, Curitiba, Brazil, 2019
- KAICA Awards 2018, 2018
- INNOVA Prize 2018, 2018
- The Society for East Asian Anthropology, Theodore C. Bestor Prize for Outstanding Graduate Paper, Honorable Mention, 2018
- 39th OKINAWA BUNKA Society Awards Kinjo Choei Prize, Japanese Society for the Okinawan Studies, 2017
- 5th Iwate Nannmin Kenkyu-sha Shourei-sho [5th Young Refugee Studies Scholar Encouragement Award], Refugee Studies Forum, 2017
- 125th IUFRO Anniversary, Freiburg, Germany - ADB SFBMB conference travel support award, 2017
- Graduate Paper Award, International Contemporary Ethnography Across the Disciplines Association, 2016
- Nanmin Wakate Kenkyusha Shorei-sho [Young Refugee Studies Scholar Encouragement Award], 2015
- XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS, Durban, South Africa - FAO partial conference subsistence support award, 2015
- XIV WORLD FORESTRY CONGRESS, Durban, South Africa - APFNet conference travel support award, 2015
- Graduate paper award, International Sociology of Sport Association, 2014
- XXIV IUFRO World Congress Scientist Assistance Program, Salt Lake City, Utah, 2014
- 1st place, 88th Kinema Junpo Best Ten Films, Cultural Film Division, 2014
- 2nd Green Image Film Festival, Green Image Award, 2015
- 5th Moriya Award, Fiscal 2017
- Council for Maternal and Child Health Promotion Chairman’s Award, Council for Maternal and Child Health Promotion, 2018
- Fiscal 2016 JNHF Excellence Award (Environment Sector), Japan Health Foundation, 2016
- 10th Wakamonoryoku Taisho [10th Youth Power Grand Prize] “Youth Leader Award,” Development Association for Youth Leaders, 2018

4-5 The Grant Theme: “Exploring New Values for Society”

The grant theme “Exploring New Values for Society” was established based on the awareness that faced with an era of historic change, it is necessary to revise our traditional ways of thinking and the state of society and clarify the values we should be aiming for. The theme encompassed the aspiration to support research that builds a new society based on ideas that differ from those of the past with a broad and long-term perspectives that adopts a panoramic view of the world.

As also touched on at the beginning of Chapter 1, it has often been observed that, unlike problem-solving type grants, this kind of very abstract grant theme is difficult to understand. Therefore, we operated the grant program through trial and error, including the holding of multiple workshops, mainly for grant recipients in an effort to deepen understanding (see Chapter 1).

In Q. 16 of the questionnaire, we asked about what kind of new values individual projects aimed to create and what the existing values and issues that corresponded to them were (Q. 16).

Below, we will first set out responses and present excerpts from the comments related to exploring “new values for society” and questioning of “existing values” and/or “issues.” In addition, this calcification is based on “The Report for Supportive Work of Survey and Analysis on Research Grant Program 2011-2018” of The Japan Research Institute, Limited.



What is the “New Values for Society” aimed at through the funded project?
What kind of “existing value” does your “new value” against? Or, if it was not a value which was against the existing value, what issues do you think it was about?

New Values for Society: “Tolerance and Respect for Diversity”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	→	“New Values for Society”
Neglecting minority languages.		Maintaining diversity by giving a certain status to minority languages.
Coexisting with diversity has been seen within the national framework (as control and integration). Also, the main paradigm has been drawn from the Western experience.		Working on coexisting with diversity beyond the national framework as cross-border collaboration in the East Asian context.
Enmity		Living harmoniously with “others.”
Sexual minorities among the elderly and in old age have not been recognized as commonplace, and the visions and challenges of an aging society have been discussed with an implicit assumption that the elderly are cisgender and heterosexual.		Recognizing the existence of diversity in sexuality and gender in all generations, including the elderly, not only younger generations, and discussing and facilitating a vision for an aging society premised on such diversity.
Issues include misconceptions, prejudice, and communication difficulties due to background, race, and languages spoken.		Building communities that transcend social background such as people’s origins can be done anywhere as part of daily life.
Even today, there is still a strong tendency to emphasize blood relationships in parent-child relationships. There is currently prejudice and discrimination against parent-child relationships that transcend blood relationships, particularly those formed by reproductive medicine, such as sperm and egg donation. What kind of approach is needed for society to eliminate such prejudice and discrimination?		Today’s families are mostly formed based on blood relationships. By presenting families that transcend blood relationships through my research, I aimed to create a future society that accepts diverse family forms and gives value to not being prejudiced and not discriminating against parent-child relationships that are not blood relationships.
The aforementioned was an effort to address the question of how we can find realistic ways out of the tension between xenophobia and internationalism, which has been heightening particularly since the 2016 U.S. Presidential election.		The “New Values for Society” pursued by this project were shareable ways of thinking and acting that can break free from the binary opposition between xenophobia and internationalism and draw out realistic possibilities for compromise and cooperation while respecting the cultures of others in the same way as one’s own culture.

Diversity is frequently understood to be recognizing the differences between oneself and others. However, recognition alone can lead to disregarding others who are different to oneself. This is one of the existing values challenged by this study.	Respect for differences with others is essential in a symbiotic society. However, simply recognizing differences can lead to discrimination. How do differences come about, and what are they based on? I believe understanding this is diversity as new values for society.
The value is that language education is about setting the target language and teaching learners knowledge and application of that target language.	Language education is for the purpose of encouraging formation of identity for each and every person through language activities. Aiming for this kind of language education is new values for society.
The existing values are deeply connected to material and personal satisfaction. While ensuring a basic lifestyle is important for human beings to live, enhancement of the spiritual aspects of life and finding the joy in living with people in society are issues.	I consider it is “recognizing the value of coexistence itself in society.” The yardstick includes such as understanding the present situation within the context of a long history, contemplating the future, searching for the meaning of living in society, and building new human relationships through cooperation and collaboration.

New Values for Society:
“Improved Awareness and Protection of Rights of the Vulnerable and Minorities”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
The system for recognizing minorities has been created by the state based on its own agenda.	How we can recognize the rights and existence claimed by minorities in ways that cannot fit into the existing framework.
In Taiwan, there was an unequal balance of power between rulers and citizens, and there were political, economic, and social disparities. Since the 1980s, there has been democratization, but the Han Chinese-dominated society has blotted out the existence of minorities in terms of ethnicity.	In Taiwan, a society of immigrants, an approach that promotes more social understanding of minorities is required amid a complex and diversified social composition.
The “vulnerable” are created through financial power, violence, and authority. They are labelled “vulnerable.” The “vulnerable” are fragmented. The “powerful” take all.	Realizing the hitherto hidden value and dignity of people considered “vulnerable.”
Refugee protection is mostly defined by the formal institutionalization of international	Protecting refugees through the practical implementation of international refugee/

refugee law by state-parties and NGOs are marginalized in the process.	human rights laws and norms by civil society organizations.
While Children’s Literature and picture books have existed for a long time, together with integration of refugees issues, these two areas have not been put together in similar previous research and that made our research project and its findings unique.	Our project explored how specifically selected picture books and other Children’s Literature could be used to educate both refugees and locals and help them overcome their differences and live together in a peaceful and harmonious way.

New Values for Society: **“Correction of Disparities”**

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
Cultural and education institutions have become fixed frameworks.	Realizing education that eliminates disparities due to locality.
Inequalities	Redistribution, solidarity
In China, where there has been rapid economic development, society has experienced a widening of economic disparities between urban and rural areas. Alongside this, there are also growing disparities in educational functions and school facilities. The readjustment of rural elementary and junior high school locations was national policy for about 10 years, but was temporarily suspended due to the appearance of various problems.	In the study, I examine the role and potential played by new school design (construction method and operation) based on democratic processes in correcting regional and educational disparities and disaster recovery in a rural area of China, by creating a case book and video, holding evaluation workshops, and presenting practical proposals. This leads to the creation of “new values for society” in which diverse people live together with mutual assistance. The new values include the presentation of models for building next-generation schools in rural areas facing diverse issues that are not constrained by economic and educational disparities, equal opportunities for education in developing countries, and suggestions for Japan, where disaster recovery has become routine.
In an environment such as an urban slum where restrictions based on government services and systems do not always fully reach, environmental degradation occurs as a result of behavior that is optimal for individuals. A mismatch thus arises between government measures and the value judgements of consumers. I regarded this	In the area of improving the poor living environment in urban slums, I aimed to create circumstances that naturally lead to solutions for the issues of urban slums as a whole, even though the people act according to their individual value judgements, by designing systems based on an understanding of behavior principles (value judgement criteria

situation as the “issue.”	and decision-making) rather than examining policies and funding. I considered an effective approach, such as solving environmental problems in the urban slums, as a new value.
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New Values for Society: “Enhancement of Social Welfare”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
—	Health and Wellbeing of Older Adults
After the Ebola epidemic in West Africa a few years ago, such an issue is emerging as that Ebola survivors and their families are still suffering from community discrimination and persecution. That issue is one of the major obstacles to conducting epidemiological research after the Ebola epidemic.	Solving the issues on human rights of Ebola survivors by establishing a social system that prevents Ebola-infected people from becoming vulnerable.
Medical ethics, End-of-life care	Bequeathing thoughtful experience of the people who recovered from Hansen’s disease to posterity, establishing a nursing system to support joy of life and provide cares for peaceful death for the people who recovered from Hansen’s disease.
Medical system that emphasizes physical	Medical system that enhances Well-being.
This funded project’s new value of shared decision-making is against the existing value of cultural paternalism, whereby women view clinicians as the expert or authority, and are often passive during decision-making.	This funded project aims to reduce the risk of breast cancer and improve quality of life for women with a BRCA (BReast CAncer gene) genetic change through a new value of shared decision-making between clinicians and women.

New Values for Society: “Preservation and Inheritance of Culture”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
The negative aspects of the modern dichotomy between “tangible cultural heritage/intangible cultural heritage” (E.g.: the alienation of local communities due to development of tourism at historic sites, development of stage plays for sacred performing arts.)	Organic relationships between people, land, and culture = the ideal of cultural heritage as living heritage.

- The religious fundamentalism - Religious conflicts	Shared understanding of coexisting religious practices and inculture of Catholics and local non-Catholic people.
Neo colonial values that disregard local knowledge about nutrition and culinary in Mozambique.	Knowledge about culinary and cooking practices in diverse groups in Mozambique.
Although archeology is an academic discipline that uncovers local history, in many cases archeologists did not give back the results of research to the local community when carrying out overseas research. Also, local historical perspectives, culture, and knowledge were not reflected in archeological research, and the local community and the academic discipline existed separately. Therefore, when preserving cultural heritage, methods were adopted that are biased toward the knowledge and values of one or the other, and it was not possible to preserve the heritage comprehensively, resulting in “destruction/damage.”	In the study, I explored practical ways to combine the values of archeology with the local values in order to preserve and use cultural heritage in a sustainable way. By combining archeological knowledge with knowledge about the local traditional culture and history, I aimed to create new value for local cultural heritage. Specifically, I compiled <i>Life in the Heart of Nubia</i> , an educational booklet for local children in a collaboration between archeologists participating in research at Sudan’s Amara West historical site and communities around the site.

New Values for Society: “Inheritance of History as an Asset”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
Awareness of inter-country and inter-regional history in East Asia, and resolving friction and conflict of “Asian” modernity and colonialism and in Cold War decolonization.	Uncovering resources in histories, memories, and ideas as a “Commons” for East Asia.
A way of individually handing on memories of war in each region of each country.	A new way for handing on memories of war in the international community across borders and generations.
This project is not against existing values, but it is emphasizing that the way in which history is taught and debated in society is strengthening existing animosities rather than improving reconciliation.	The value that was emphasized in the project is reconciliation, and in particular the power of using history and historic debate to promote reconciliation.
Not many of the so-called traditional private houses are left in the landscape of Sanriku coastal villages, and there are no areas designated cultural landscapes by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and	The new value I aimed to elucidate in this project was knowledge of the landscape of Sanriku fishing villages formed through repeated experience of past tsunamis and subsequent reconstruction.

Technology. Therefore, it can be said the landscape of Sanriku coastal villages was not considered to be worth academic research.	
As overseas Nikkei (emigrants Japanese and their descent) communities age, public memories such as first generation life histories and family histories are increasingly being lost. In addition, the communities are also facing problems that include little interest in the activities of Nikkei groups from younger generations and a decrease in the number of Nikkei community leaders.	Public participation-style cultural activities in which the memories of Nikkei (emigrants Japanese and their descent) communities are studied, preserved and handed on by people of Japanese descent themselves have value in revitalizing cross-generational human relationships, a sense of belonging and attachment to ethnic groups and regions, and can also contribute to developing the next generation of leaders in Nikkei communities.

expanded due to the weak links and circulation among them.	
The existing value as a protected area was “value in order to preserve biodiversity” or “value as a subject of research” only.	By regarding the small, remaining forest as a “field museum,” I aimed to create new value as a place for local people and visitors to learn and meet.
A way of perceiving society in which the aging population and declining birthrate are irresistible, and the stagnation in municipalities and regions can only be overcome when conditions are met, including recovery of the birthrate, increase of the permanent population, and stability of the financial base.	Places known as public spaces are created through the autonomous activities of municipalities and diverse local entities. In this process, a way of perceiving society in which the past of municipalities and regions is re-examined and pathways for future regeneration are seen.
The objectives and methods of regional revitalization projects were not aligned.	Establishing old and new methods for evaluating regional economic cycles and disseminating the concepts.
“Let things flow naturally.”	Self-management with support from the community system.

New Values for Society: “Sustainability of Community”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	→	“New Values for Society”
The shrine situated in the locality since ancient times was positioned as one of many other religious facilities, and thus its original multi-functional or community character had been diluted.		A practical framework for building a sustainable community where society and nature, blessing and risks, new and former residents intersect through the space of a shrine.
I consider values are interpreted according to fixed regional characteristics such as urban or rural, demarcated by national borders, or unified as global values.		The values created based on the region’s internal and external networks and the values created based on vernacular knowledge that can combine local knowledge with expert knowledge can be described as new values for society.
The fact that people who move to a foreign country form and live in their own groups do not integrate with the community they have moved to, and the problems arising from that.		How people who move to a foreign country integrate with the community to create a new society.
In the region (at the time of the research) there was still a tendency for development to be focused on exogenous development and development reliant on construction of public buildings, and this caused community divisions in the region covered by the research. The outflow of people, tangible goods, finances, and intangible goods (“regional assets”) continued, and activities taking advantage of regional assets had not		The values of focusing on diverse “regional assets” such as local people, tangible goods, finances, and intangible goods and uncovering, linking, circulating, and accumulating those regional assets, leading to regional sustainability.

New Values for Society: “Coexistence with the Natural Environment”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	→	“New Values for Society”
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In order to solve environmental problems, respect for international cooperation and local diversity is necessary. Compromised participation of residents is common for local environmental conservation. 		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Respecting international cooperation and local diversity in order to solve environmental problems. Breaking away from compromised participation by residents in environmental conservation.
There are said to be approximately 200,000 ponds nationwide. Biological surveys and assessments based on the presence/absence of rare species take an enormous amount of time and effort, making it difficult to prepare conservation and regeneration measures for individual ponds. Moreover, ponds that have not been surveyed are evaluated as having no value in terms of preserving biological diversity.		In continuing to preserve the biodiversity of ponds into the future, a new perspective of “understanding, preserving, and regenerating environmental factors,” and not only rare species, will be created. At the same time, it will become theoretically possible to forecast and evaluate the environment of all ponds shown on the map.
Chemical uses in agriculture.		Produce the clean agricultural products

	(vegetables and rice) by using the bio-wastes from agriculture.
This issue was how community people value peat land swamp forests.	New environmental ethics of peat land swamp forests to the community.
Looking at field survey sites in Asia and Africa from a “life perspective,” it is possible to find potential for solving various issues and shaping the future society. However, this potential has not been fully expressed in previous research.	Although not usually visible as research output, the project will record the ideas of researchers and people, which are important factors for solving issues in the field, in a video together with the diverse resources and ecological environment of the area covered by the research to find new values for society.
Conventional biodiversity conservation and measures to mitigate conflict between humans and wildlife often bring external values and promote the understanding of residents through education and so forth. In such cases, although the measures appear effective superficially, beneath the surface local residents are alienated, and the situation worsens as a result.	Rather than conservation based on the value of biodiversity in the global context, exploring the value of biodiversity within the context of local residents and the value of how biodiversity conservation should look based on that. In addition, the value of research that involves stakeholders while moving backwards and forwards between research and practice rather than translating directly from research into practice.
Human beings began using fossil fuels and, in pursuit of affluence and convenience, our living environment became alienated from nature. The knowledge and wisdom from the lives of animals and plants cultivated during the course of human history is rapidly being lost.	Throughout our long history, human beings have lived by embracing nature and naming and using plants and animals. This is where the knowledge and wisdom of our ancestors lies. This research project is attempting to discover this knowledge and wisdom as a new value called biological culture.

New Values for Society: “Strengthening of Resilience”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
Local communities vary in their ability to recover from large-scale natural disasters due to the diversity in factors such as information gathering capabilities and day-to-day relationships. In everyday life, there are issues such as lack of awareness about crisis management and the development and maintenance of organizational response capabilities.	Developing CCP to facilitate the introduction of the business continuity plan concept incorporated into management at private sector companies to local communities in order for them to achieve recovery and reconstruction from the damage of major earthquakes and so forth as quickly as possible.

Vulnerability of the atoll’s environment, culture, and society to natural disasters	Resilience of the atoll’s environment, culture, and society to natural disasters
Existing values for disaster preparedness in international approaches tend to focus on technical or bureaucratic aspects, or abstract concepts like “resilience.” But these tend to be top-down. This project elucidates values emerging from the ground up, specifically from playful activities in Japan and Chile. For example, the value of “resourcefulness” in households seems to be one finding.	The project examines new values for disaster preparedness emerging across Japan and Chile from playful methods such as games with children.

New Values for Society: “Cooperation Aimed at Building Peace”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
The “existing value” refers to conventional ways of thinking and educational methods. The “issues” are methods of developing human resources able to respond to a new era, and a globalized society in particular, and the wisdom for building an inclusive society.	The “New Values for Society” are the wisdom for human coexistence across borders, race, and ethnicity and new ideas and educational methods for resolving conflict and promoting interaction between nations, races, and ethnicities.
The issue is that collaborating only with liberal local partners who share the Western values of governance, human rights, and rule of law (e.g. NGOs and Western-educated middle classes) in the conflict resolution observed in existing Western European studies label people who do not match those values (the poor and armed groups).	In the field of conflict studies and conflict resolution, my project aims for locally-specific methods of conflict resolution that involve the actors in the conflict or the actors causing the conflict. Inclusion of armed groups and residents who are armed without unilaterally regarding them as evil and excluding them.
In Japan’s policy planning processes and practices, particularly in international cooperation, there was a strong tendency to objectify the people involved and make the aid providers the subject. Many people were unaware of hidden colonialist assumptions and ideas.	Policy planning and practice led by the people involved, international cooperation.

New Values for Society: “Other New Perspectives”

“Existing Value” and/or “Issue”	“New Values for Society”
Values and institutions based on the 20th century system, including the focus on states, power, capital, and accomplished facts.	Searching for initiatives to address new phenomena from an outlying are, peripheral, non-state perspective that transcends the existing nation state-centered values.
Modern values are divided into an active/passive duality and have continually said, “Be independent.”	A new form of independence (way of living) for people living in future society through the practices of rock festival organizers.
A way of living that renders the present meaningless and focuses on an uncertain future in order to acquire knowledge and skills that will be useful in a future role as quickly and efficiently as possible.	Placing emphasis on the knowledge gained in the lifelong process (time) of accomplishing development with others and self-development in the specific spaces where people live.
A way of thinking that confirms one’s own position and maintains adversarial relationships by emphasizing the difference between self and other.	Local knowledge that transcends the existing dichotomy in human relationships and creates new relationships with others.
A society based on competition and independence and glorification of them.	The project presented the values of independence and competition which underlie modern society as “existing,” and “mutual dependence” as the alternative new value.
The existing value was for assistance providers to determine and standardize the content of assistance for those facing difficulties in a top-down manner. Although this method may be required in the event of disaster or urgent need, there was the issue of things being decided in the absence of the people involved.	Expressing the needs, scheme, and wisdom of the people involved and using them in the future society by carefully clarifying the experiences of those receiving assistance.
Colonization of the sensitivities, namely, the tendency for culturally-specific ways of perceiving things to be lost due to control by another culture, was rarely the theme of research. The issue is that it can lead to loss of culture and mutual misunderstanding.	Clarifying ways of internally understanding and expressing things and activities that depend on different sensitivities in a way that other people will understand rather than relying solely on one’s own sensitivities to understand things.
At present, there is widespread research on agriculture-welfare collaboration in Japan and similar cases overseas, and there is a tendency to assume an unconditional win-win relationship between the agriculture and	At the root of the project is the question of why “welfare” must collaborate with “agriculture” despite the difficulties. It will be possible for workers to experience the real enjoyment of farming. In that very moment,

welfare sectors. Generally, in discussions around social inclusion and welfare, expecting that the recipients of assistance will increase their skills is regarded as dangerous. This means it is not possible to directly refute the “productivity” comments of a certain Diet member or the eugenic thoughts behind the Sagamihara incident.	the special characteristic of agricultural work, which is interpreting the look of livestock and crops directed at oneself who could seize the right of life and death, may be elevated into the development of new social welfare. The project will socially demonstrate the potential true value of such agriculture-welfare collaboration.
This research challenges existing values around family relations, patrilineage and gender relations in Rwanda, which negatively affect the lived experiences of youth born from rape. New values it introduces is how social relations and families were reconstructed 25 years after genocide, and how old value systems have been reformed into values that allow the acceptance of these children.	My research project explores the social worlds and family relations of young people born from genocide rape in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. These young people have been stigmatized and excluded from parts of society due to the way they were conceived and their relation to past trauma of their mothers and communities. This research looks into ways they are included and accepted by their families and communities to show “new values for society” which can serve as an example to other conflict affected regions in the world where children are born from sexual violence.
International human rights law has limited impact at the level of grass roots society. In the example of child marriage in Indonesia, even though the Indonesian government has ratified international law prohibiting child marriage, there are many cases in which child marriage is legally permitted as the norms of religious law and customary law, which are closer to the values of the public than the norms of international law, are used in religious courts.	All law, including international human rights law, has an “invisible” function in addition to those enforced through governments and courts. This is a function of social change by bringing international legal norms to a locality to reconstruct people’s morals and the social norms of a community. My research studies this “invisible” function of law to uncover new value for international human rights law using the example of norms relating to marriage and sexual relations, including child marriage.
Stereotypes and common sense that is not usually consciously believed.	Redefining the theme from a perspective that has not been evaluated previously, by reflecting the values of the past.
The value perspective that economic activity is what creates value in society, and finance should be utilized to maintain endless economic growth.	Through a study of financial institutions that put an emphasis on transparency, solidarity, and donations, I considered the new significance of donations. The study deepened the idea that donations are essential for qualitative improvements in society.
Things that are unknown create conflict and problems. Understanding is the first step toward coexistence. However, in many cases, the unknown is “invisible,” and it is difficult to	Bringing attention to what has been ignored and neglected in the past. The value created by placing something that already existed into a different context and looking at it from a

understand the “invisible.”	different perspective.
Economic value	Supplementing any decline in economic value in the market economy with the non-economic value that everyone possesses.

Next, Q. 17 asked about the society that the project conducted was aiming for in a free response format. We will present excerpts from these comments below. The responses will show that grants are provided to projects which aimed to build a better society through diverse approaches.



What kind of society did you intend to realize through the funded project?

- Realization of a society with textured implementation that can respond to individual parties and stakeholders rather than an ideal peaceful or coexisting society.
- Coexistence with people who have different histories, beliefs, and customs. A society that recognizes and respects differences with other people as abundance rather than ostracism.
- “Asia” and the World that aim to have a dialogue and coexist.
- Directly, a society that can roll out public participation-based community development in Vietnamese villages, and the keyword was inter-local. In other words, I considered mechanisms to create interrelations of knowledge between regions facing similar issues even across borders (it is not international because the unit is smaller than countries).
- Realization of coexistence between cultural assets, local community, and government.
- Realization of a society in which there are diverse types of people, including people who are good at creating economic value and people who are good at creating cultural value, with each of them able to reach their full potential using finance.
- A society with more tolerance in building relationships between self and others.
- A society that can make the most of the ecosystem services provided by the natural environment.
- Realization of an inclusive society that respects and equally embraces differences.
- A society in which indigenous people can assert their own rights and values relating to nature and space in the urban environment.
- A society that encourages an increase in tourists, permanent settlers, and migrants to solve population decline by focusing on diverse “regional assets,” including local people, tangible goods, finance, and intangible goods and uncovering, linking, circulating, and accumulating those local

assets, rather than exogenous development aimed at major cities.

- A society that recognizes everyone is an individual person as a matter of course.
- A society that realizes sustainable biodiversity conservation and deep local understanding in regions with marked forest fragmentation by playing a role in connecting people who live in a region with visitors.
- Realization of a society without disparities between urban and regional areas in cultural and educational infrastructure.
- While social development cannot be permanent, it intended to realize a society in which people are enriched in ways other than money.
- Realization of a society in which people recognize the environment surrounding themselves (the Old City of Cairo with its rich historical heritage), which becomes their pride and identity, and are able to break away from the units of self and family to consider a larger community with the environment as its ties.
- The aim was to promote mutual understanding to realize societies that can coexist in the Asia Pacific region.
- A society that can check on the frailty of local residents at barbers and hairdressers to prevent elderly nursing care.
- A society in which immigrants and foreign workers who do the hardest work at the bottom of society are not treated like second class citizens.
- Realization of a society in which the diverse actors that support local governments and communities face issues with a perspective that is open to others and try to coexist while consciously questioning the human and social functions of familiar landscapes and scenery.
- Realization of a society that expands the concept of a “person involved” in a disaster to also embrace people who spatially and temporarily distant as a kind of “person involved” to widely open up social problems and allow diverse people to consider them while sharing.
- Rock festival organizers create festivals in individual local communities, which eventually become “local festivals.” What is realized is a new local community where everyone can be creative and interact with others.
- The project aimed for a society that prevent from giving status to a certain language that exists in a certain community to also establish the position of the ethnic group using that language or does not allow a language connected to the identity of a certain person to be taken away by the institutions of the society.
- A very ordinary society in which the three areas of “safety of life,” “stability of life,” and “livelihood” are sustained without incidents. I think there is distortion and bias in these three points in the

current situation, and their sustainability is being impaired.

- People with diverse cultures understand each other and live harmoniously.
- Instead of a society that only values efficiency and function, I hope I can contribute even a little to the realization of a society in which each person is aware of being able to nurture histories of growth and specific settings as “time for living” and “space for living.”
- Embodying an ideal of coexistence with nature thought up by local people. Realization of coexistence with wildlife that is rooted in the community and successful over the long term by shedding light on its value in the community rather than the values brought in by outsiders or foreign words such as “conservation.”
- It may be said that the realization of coexistence with the natural environment lacks concreteness. I want to consider coexistence as connections between nature and human beings. I want to think of biological culture as one of the tools that plays the connecting role for this.
- How we can now make the most of our spiritual wealth, which included anxiety and fear.
- The project aimed to realize a society in which everyone can age without anxiety, regardless of their sexuality or gender.
- A society in which everyone can engage in daily communication through gardening activities in the city.
- A society which accepts and respects diverse family forms (from traditional families through to families created through reproductive medicine, cohabiting couple families, and families composed of single parents and children).
- 1. Coexistence between humans and nature
2. Coexistence and cooperation between people
- A society that eliminates vertical divisions between medical care, nursing care, and welfare and provides integrated person-focused care.
- A society in which human beings are not disregarded. In other words, a society in which human effort and labor is not wasted (efficiency criteria) and no one wants to swap their own life with someone else's (fairness criteria) .
- Building local communities with autonomous and independent resilience (recovery capabilities).
- Realization of local communities that aspire to safety and happiness as well as providing mutual support while recognizing that human beings live in a natural environment that is difficult to completely control.

- An inclusive society that is tolerant of weakness and diversity.
- The project aimed to foster ways of thinking that are not enmeshed in a binary opposition between xenophobia and international cooperation and through this realize a society in which respect for one's own culture does not lead to the repudiation of other cultures.
- Realization of a society in which the potential resilience of the local environment, culture, and community is assessed and strengthened.
- Realization of a society in which everyone can freely exercise the right to study at an institution of higher education if they wish, regardless of a disability and its extent.
- Realization of a society free from discrimination and prejudice against people suffering from infectious diseases and their families.
- Enabling cancer patients and their families to continue receiving proper medical treatment and care after a disaster.
- A society in which new ways for overseas people of Japanese descent to connect with Japan are generated with the creation of knowledge that can contribute to reinvigorating a sense of belonging to an ethnic group and a region during collaborative activities to investigate, preserve, and hand on the memories of citizens by academic research and Nikkei communities.
- A society living in harmony with the peat land swamp forests.
- Because of immigration, families are being split up. We were exploring the ways in which families stay together despite being physically apart. Therefore, we were looking at a Caring Society despite distance.
- A society living in harmony with diversified religions and practices.
- A Colombian society more empathetic and willing to listen to the stories of war and armed conflict and to be touched by these stories.
- Through our project we aimed to help people better understand cultural, religious, and ethnic difference of people living in a certain area and compare them to those of Japan in order to learn how to better live together in peace and harmony with refugees, newcomers, and others. The findings are applicable in areas with similar dynamics around the world.
- A society with Mild Cognitive Impairment in Dementia Care Unit.
- The goal of this project has been the one of proving the importance of creating, especially in a post-war society, the condition to allow the society itself to live in harmony. Harmony can be achieved only when a clear, fair, balanced, and broad debate about history exists in the society itself. For countries responsible for war acts it has been very hard to achieve this kind of debate. The project has explored and presented new ideas and strategies to make this

engagement possible.

- This funded project intends to realize a society of women and their future generations who are empowered to make decisions that are more aligned to their personal values, goals and preferences through a new value of shared decision-making on breast cancer prevention in a safe environment. Improved decisions are expected to decrease the incidence and burden of breast cancer.
- Realizing a society that promotes individual and collective happiness to achieve sustainability and inclusion.
- Societies with less disparities.
- Realizing societies with citizens who are better prepared for disasters in their everyday life, facilitated by greater international cooperation.
- Realizing a society living in harmony with the natural environment.
- A society that is considerate and respectful in communicating with one another in online environments.
- We intended to realize a society that acknowledges individuals' experiences as part of communication efforts.
- I aimed to realize the decolonization of archeological and cultural heritage research. In former colonies, archeology was often introduced during the colonial era. In African countries, in many cases even today, the researchers at historical sites were foreigners, and the perspectives and knowledge of people who directly inherited the culture related to those historical sites could not be considered. However, the preservation of cultural heritage is a shared problem for local people and archeologists. Therefore, in this study, I aimed through collaborative work to change the social structure around archeology, which was established during the colonial era.
- A society in which international human rights law is not just empty idealism, but is useful for the people in each place that human rights law seeks to defend. In order to realize such international human rights law, creativity in law making and enforcement is required based on consideration of the effectiveness of international human rights law that is not only top down but also bottom up, that is, at the grass roots level of society.
- The hardships experienced by Hansen's disease survivors will not be repeated. The wisdom gained by Hansen's disease survivors at the risk of their lives will be passed on to future generations. → Human dignity

Summarizing the qualitative comments to Q16 and Q17, respondents aimed to achieve the following “New Values for Society” through the program.



Source: "The Report for Supportive Work of Survey and Analysis on Research Grant Program 2011-2018" of The Japan Research Institute, Limited.(2020)

Fields related to day-to-day well-being and the natural environment accounted for many of the “new values for society” that the projects aimed for, which also overlapped with the content of 4-4-1 “Grant Areas and Areas of Contribution for Output.”

As was mentioned in “Introduction,” the Research Grant Program, which has run ever since the Toyota Foundation was established in 1974, has set a theme for grants since 1984, indicating the vision of society pursued by the Foundation. We have aimed to achieve the theme we set out through grants to individual projects. “Exploring New Values for Society” was certainly an abstract theme. However, on reflection, it can be seen that we have provided grants for research that presents new images of society and the signs of these images with the aim of creating a society in which anyone can live happily by presenting new values in contrast to existing values, or revising mechanisms and systems created based on existing values.

To rephrase this, mutual recognition of the existence of diverse values was the starting point under the grant theme of “Creating a Society with Pluralistic Values,” set from fiscal 1994 to fiscal 2005. However, reflecting on the projects that received a grant under this program, many of the studies presented and

promoted diverse ways of living (ways of working, child rearing, studying, birthing, being born, aging, and dying) above and beyond the basic premise that each and every individual is different and has diverse values. We feel this indicates that mutual recognition of diversity has become socially established to some extent and that society has transitioned to the stage of considering how to live happily based on this mutual recognition. Studies exploring coexistence with things that are different from ourselves or difficult to relate to, such as other people, the natural environment, and animals, were also prominent. This seems to be based on a realization that recognizing diversity means there are various ways to coexist rather than accepting and going along with everything, with these studies seeking new values, so to speak, on how to engage (or not engage) successfully with things that are different or difficult to relate to on the basis of this. In addition, as methods of value creation, many studies involved devising and presenting new systems and mechanisms or discovering and studying emerging systems and mechanisms.

We have reviewed “Exploring New Values for Society,” the Research Grant Program which ran between 2011 and 2019 from a variety of perspectives.

In Chapter 1, we provided an overview of the program and its evolution over time as well as reviewing the workshops which were held for grant recipients in order to deepen understanding of the grant theme. The grant recipient workshops provided a forum for researchers and practitioners with diverse backgrounds to discuss the ideals for research and researchers. We found that this “Ba [workshop]” was valuable in its own right, and this led to a high evaluation of the Research Grant Program. This has reaffirmed the fact that providing such a forum is one of the strengths of the Toyota Foundation, and one that we will continue to place importance on going forward.

Dialogue with the Selection Committee Chairs in Chapter 2 discussed their thoughts on the establishment of the program, the process of trial and error, the achievements from grants for nine years, and the challenges that lie ahead.

As already mentioned, the Research Grant Program provided grants to a variety of projects under the theme of “Exploring New Values for Society.” As a result, one of the program’s achievements was the ability to come out ahead to grant pioneering research based on perspectives that would indicate values for society in the future. On the other hand, although it is important to connect the discovered values with practice in the field or to incorporate them into the societal systems as the next step, the grant program did not reach the stage of making such connections, and this point was raised as an issue. It was suggested that it could be achieved through further collaboration with the Toyota Foundation and other organizations, as there are limitations for individual projects to do it.

Third-Party Evaluations in Chapter 3 provided evaluations from three experts.

The feedback on the grant theme was that establishing “creating new values” as a different indicator was appropriate given that in 2011 when the theme was established, Japanese economic growth had declined, and people were beginning to search for values that would replace the emphasis on economy first. On the other hand, there was also a comment that the meaning of “value creation” may not have resonated well because when we talk about value today there is a tendency to focus on economic value only, which is but one aspect, and this may have been a limitation. However, the program did receive positive evaluations for the common elements found in the selected projects, including the idea of a “Commons,” “open ownership/participation,” and “new value creation, including the uncovering of forgotten values,” and these values were attributed to the efforts of the Toyota Foundation’s Program Officers to stimulate discussion through workshops and other events. Meanwhile, it was suggested that as grants were provided to research in widely diverse fields, the Toyota Foundation could have indicated its aims more effectively by presenting the research fields in a more organized manner. At the same time, it was observed that a little more time and effort may have been required to the foundation for research which was on the verge of “value creation,” and that the results produced from individual projects should have been compiled as the program results.

A variety of other comments were made by the three evaluators. However, it was very interesting to note that they all pointed out the importance of the Program Officers. Their common view was that the Program Officers play the role of facilitators connecting various aspects of the program, and are also expected to serve as good editors who can look at projects from various standpoints, not limited to the

submitted results, as well as to evaluate and disseminate project results from different perspectives. We felt this was an important observation not only in relation to the individual abilities and competence of the Program Officers, but also in relation to the Foundation’s policy on how much discretion Program Officers should have.

In Chapter 4, we reviewed the questionnaire results of the grantees, and we found that the program was rated highly by grant recipients. There was particularly high praise for the fact that the grant was open to a wide range of applicants regardless of their title or past achievements as well as aspects such as the flexible operation system and support system.

In addition, many grant recipients cited areas of contribution that have strong connections with society, such as daily life community, and education and culture. It was also found that the general public and stakeholders accounted for the majority of dissemination for project output. The provision of grants that have such strong connections with society was considered to be the Toyota Foundation’s unique feature and strength. The Toyota Foundation has established the Grant Program for Community Activities in Japan and the International Grant Program, which have a more practical focus, in addition to the Research Grant Program. In this respect, the Foundation has provided an environment that facilitates switching back and forth between research and society, and research and practice. We believe that continuing to design the Research Grant Program as a bridge between researchers and society will result in grants that capitalize on the strengths of the Toyota Foundation going forward.

With regards to the methods of returning research output to society, while a variety of results were disseminated, it was found that academic papers and presentations at academic conferences were the most common by far. With respect to this, we believe there are limits to what individual projects can achieve, and consider there is a need to examine methods of returning output in the future in terms of the grant program as a whole.

From the perspective of human resource development, although the grant program provided only short-term support for two years at most, it is considered that it contributed to the subsequent career development of grant recipients and young, joint researchers to a certain extent.

We received a variety of feedback on the grant theme “Exploring New Values for Society” through the free response column of the questionnaire. Although it is difficult to summarize the diverse array of research that has been funded in a few words, it can be said that we were able to provide grants for research that discovered, explored, and presented new values aimed at “a society in which everyone can live happily” from various perspectives.

We have summarized the Research Grant Program “Exploring New Values for Society” above. 2020 when we were working on our review was a year in which COVID-19 had a major impact on the whole world. The ways we live and work have changed significantly, and it has given us the opportunity to think about how we interact and follow up with grant recipients as a grant-making foundation. While the presentation ceremony held in Tokyo when grants are decided and the workshops held in Tokyo, Kansai, Fukuoka and other areas are postponed, through trial and error, we have been trying to engage in online “face-to-face” meetings with grant recipients and have also provided opportunities for grant recipients to interact with each other in online café meetings.*

In the past, we considered meeting and talking face-to-face to be important. However, we feel that meeting and talking online makes it possible to connect people who previously had difficulty meeting up. In particular, the Toyota Foundation has more opportunities to be present (online) when grant recipients from its multiple grant programs easily transcend grant frameworks and connect online, and we feel strongly that the potential of the Toyota Foundation, which has multiple grant frameworks, will

increasingly expand. A society in which people meet and connect through various ways is likely to continue in the near future, even after COVID-19 has been brought under control. As a Research Grant Program aimed at “Exploring New Values for Society,” we also hope that we will build our future grant programs in a flexible manner without overlooking this sign of the new society.

*<https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/research/2020/toyotafound/2020-1026-1046-7.html>

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the grantees (2011 to 2018) who answered the questionnaire survey, selection committee chairman, the experts of the third party and to all those who helped us making this report.



Research Grant Program Comprehensive Review

— Exploring New Values for Society —

Issued March 2023 (English version)

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