

2025 International Grant Program ***Project Proposal Guidelines***

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



Application Period: April 1 to May 31, 2025 (until 11:59 p.m. JST)



THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

The Toyota Foundation's Guiding Principles for Grants

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

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

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1. Program Objective

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

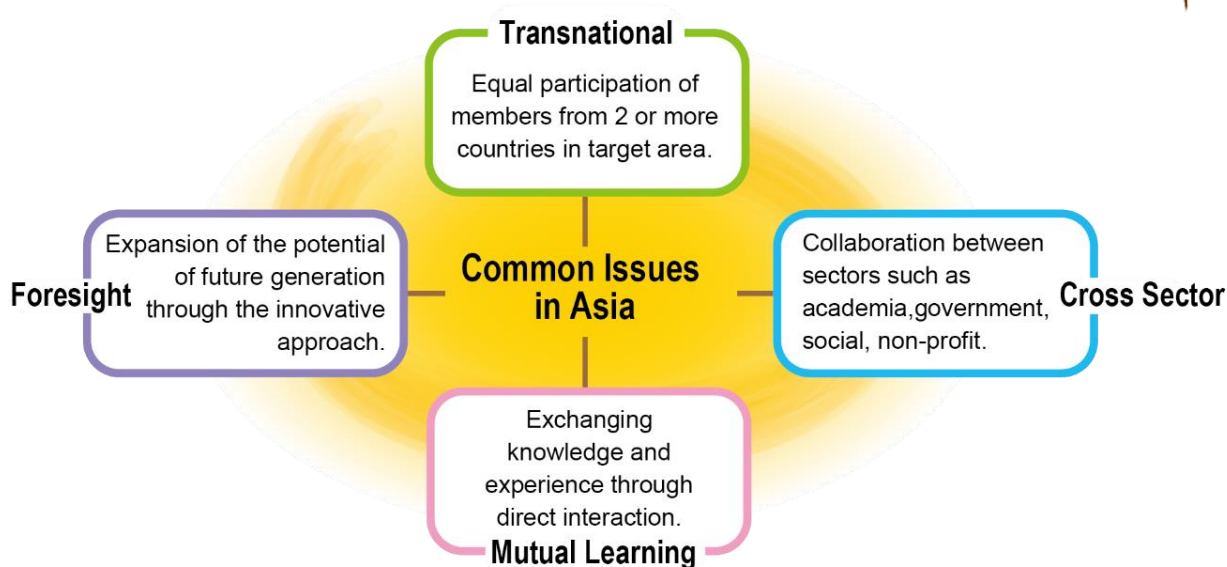
The grant program aims to acquire a new perspective which will expand the possibility for the future of the next generation by promoting mutual understanding and knowledge-sharing among people on the ground in target countries working on the common issues, through gaining deeper analysis and multi-faceted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

● Expectation for Projects: Four keywords

Proposals are expected to include **the Four Keywords** indicated below.

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

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



● **Eligible Thematic Areas**

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

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

2. Outline of the Grant

	Grant Period	Grant amount per project (maximum)
Two-Year Grant	November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2027	10,000,000 yen
One-Year Grant	November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026	5,000,000 yen

● Target Countries and Regions

The target countries and regions of this program are listed below.

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

As the aim of this grant is to share knowledge and deepen mutual understanding about the common issues in Asia, projects must be conducted in two or more of the target countries. Projects including only one target country will not be considered. In addition to two or more target countries, project may also include additional countries not specified above.

It is not mandatory to include Japan (e.g., Thailand - Cambodia - Vietnam). To include non-target countries/regions in addition to two or more target countries/regions is accepted (e.g., Japan - Taiwan - Nepal - Australia).

● Languages

English or Japanese

● Qualifications for Application

1. **The project representative must have a contact address in Japan.**
2. The representative and members must be individuals who have practical experience in multiple target countries such as conducting research, carrying out activities, producing creative works, and making policy proposals in regards to the focused issues.

3. The representative and members must have a broad network in the target countries composed of people in various sectors such as practitioners, project participants, researchers, creators, policy makers, journalists and other media representatives.
4. The representative and members must be capable of carrying out a project with a diverse network of participants across multiple target countries.

● Expected Activities and Outputs

[Early stage of the project period: Identify issues and conduct reviews]

Surveying and analyzing the situation in more than two target countries/regions.

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

[Middle stage of the project: Exchange and mutual learning]

Engage in practical activities for solving the issues through mutual learning, by exchange between members from two or more countries and sectors.

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

[Last stage: Disseminate results and findings]

Produce deliverables, such as policy recommendations, videos, websites, teaching materials and exhibitions, and disseminate them to the society.

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

Prospects: Potential for being spread over other countries and regions

It is expected that the knowledge obtained and network of people developed through exchanges and mutual learning are spread and developed across other regions and countries in different

forms during the grant period or in the near future. Also, the knowledge and network are expected to exert an impact on society in many regions, irrespective of whether the regions are covered in the project.

● **Project budget**

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

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

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

● **Total Amount of Grants**

80 million yen

*For reference, **8 projects** were approved out of **189 applications** in 2024. For details, please see the comments by Selection Committee Chair.

<https://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english/grant/international/2024comment.html>

3. Applications

● Application Period

From April 1 until May 31, 2025 (until 11:59 p.m. Japan Standard Time)

Note: We will not respond to any inquiries regarding application process after **May 30, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Japan Standard Time.**

● Steps for Application

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

● Prior Consultation (not compulsory)

Applicants can consult with the program officers of the Toyota Foundation in advance of applying. If you wish to have the prior consultation, please send a “Concept Note (outline of the project)” of no more than two pages length, summarizing i) Tentative project title, ii) Project Period (Two-Year Grant or One-year grant), iii) Targeted issue and objective, iv) Main activities, v) Main project members, vi) Outline of the budget, etc., via E-mail.

Note: prior consultation is available only until **May 20, 2025.**

● Online Briefing Session (not compulsory)

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

● Notes on Application

1. Please carefully follow the instructions provided on the Toyota Foundation website or in these guidelines when submitting the application.
2. Applicants must choose either English or Japanese for applying. This means if registered from the English page of our website, you must use English Application Form. Likewise, if registered from the Japanese page, use Japanese Application Form. **Please do not change languages in the midst of application process. When failed to follow this instruction, you may not be able to submit (upload) application forms via the web system.**
3. Applications must be submitted before the deadline. Please be aware that as the deadline approaches traffic on the Toyota Foundation website is likely to intensify, potentially making it

difficult to upload applications. For this reason, applicants are asked to submit applications as early as possible. The Toyota Foundation will not take any responsibilities for failure to upload application forms.

4. Applicants must only use the space provided and submit the form without any page extension. Also, no additional documents should be included with or attached to the application.
5. Applications cannot be replaced or re-submitted.
6. If any aspect of an application is found to be untrue or misleading, the application will be automatically rejected. In a case where such a proposal has been approved, the grant will be cancelled.

4. Selection of Projects

● **Process and Criteria of Selection**

- Final selection will be made in late September 2025 at the meeting of the Toyota Foundation's Board of Directors from among the candidates presented by the Selection Committee comprised of external experts and chaired by Ms. Mari Suzuki, Vice President and Executive Secretary of the Asian Community Center 21 (ACC21).
- The selection committee will review proposals from the perspective of consistency with the "The Toyota Foundation's Guiding Principles" and the program purpose, appropriateness of the members, feasibility of the implementation plan and budgets, expected results and ripple effects, etc.
- As part of the selection process, the Selection Committee may contact applicants to obtain additional information. The Selection Committee may also suggest proposals be modified with regard to method, budget, or output, etc.

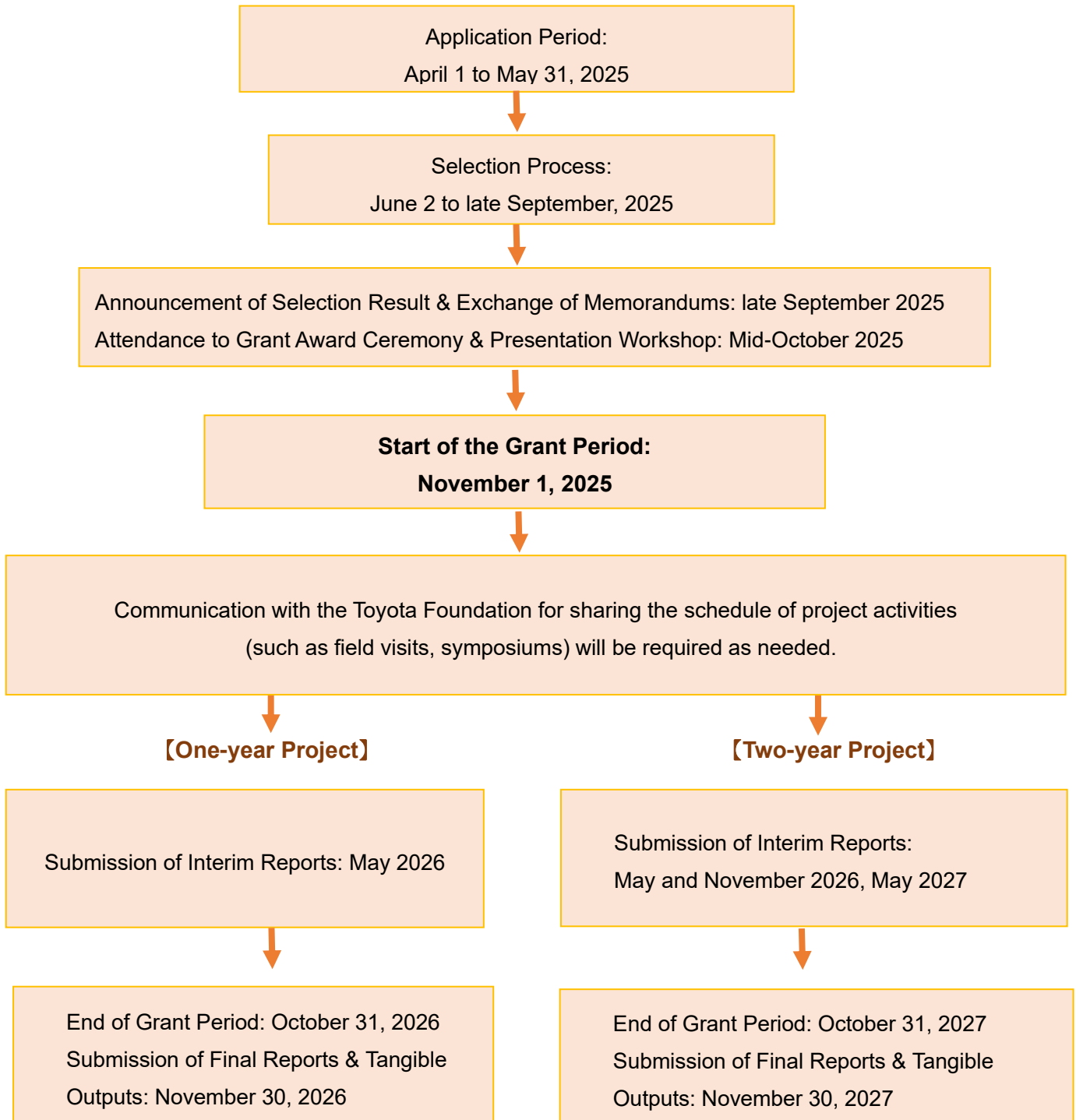
● **Announcement of the Result**

- Applicants will be informed of selection results via email by the end of September 2025, following the Board of Directors meeting. The Toyota Foundation will not respond to inquiries regarding the selection process.

5. Process from Application to the End of the Grant

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

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



6. Other

● Privacy Notice

Personal information provided on the application form and other modes of communication will be used by the Toyota Foundation for project selection, statistical analysis, and administrative tasks such as contacting applicants. This information will not be used for any other purpose without the applicant's consent, except in the cases provided for under the law.

● Copyright

All product copyrights resulting from the project belong to the grant recipients, including the project representative and members. However, in its own publications or other output, the Toyota Foundation may quote the report or any part of it, subject to agreement by the principal project member.

[Reference] Other Grant Programs of the Toyota Foundation (FY2025)

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

* For details of the other programs, please visit our website:

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

Contact Details

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