

# **Report for Fiscal 2008**

The Toyota Foundation

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This annual report was compiled on the basis of the Japanese-language reports of activities for fiscal 2008 (April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009) and approved at the 125th meeting of the Board of Directors held on June 8, 2009. The information on individual grants is current as of the date the grants were approved. Please refer to our website <<http://www.toyotafound.or.jp/english>> for detailed accounting data and the names of Toyota Foundation officers and trustees.

# Report for Fiscal 2008

## Overview

In fiscal 2008, the Toyota Foundation focused on three priority areas in an effort to raise the social impact of our programs.

(1) In order to improve the ability of the programs to communicate their messages, we established two common goals for our three publicly solicited programs: “realizing a sustainable society” and “community revitalization and coexistence.” The aim was to reassess the themes and fields of the programs and to standardize their management.

(2) We worked to promote the new Communication with Society Program, in order to improve the frameworks in place for communicating project results to society.

(3) In addition to existing grant programs, we worked to promote and strengthen the Initiative Program to allow us to focus on the medium- to long-term aims of the Foundation and respond appropriately to the changing needs of society.

### 1. Main Activities

#### (1) Publicly Solicited Programs

In fiscal 2008, the publicly solicited grant programs had been running for two to three years after reorganization. We made changes and additions to program themes and established priority fields to improve the ability of programs to deliver their messages, based on common goals. As a result, there was an increase in the number of proposals that met the objectives of the program.

Under the newly established common goals, we also made efforts to standardize management of the publicly solicited programs and to ensure that program officers played a part in the selection process of programs other than their own. We also had grant recipients give presentations on their projects before the start of the grant period and monitored the progress of projects throughout their duration. These changes were designed to encourage greater discussion among pro-

gram officers and to allow all those involved in the grant programs to share information. We also worked on improving the administration of our programs by promoting more integrated management.

#### A. Grant Program for Community Activities

We carried out a comprehensive review of projects funded over the three years since the reorganization of the program. Based on the results of this analysis, we revised the basic theme of this publicly solicited program for fiscal 2008 to “Forming a Sustainable Framework Within the Locality: Toward a New Community of Self-Support and Symbiosis.” Three grant areas were established (revitalizing the local community, promoting symbiosis in the community, and fostering young generations to carry the community forward), with an emphasis on using projects to form frameworks.

#### B. Asian Neighbors Network Program

In addition to emphasizing support for the creation of problem-solving networks, we established five new priority fields (movements of people, peace building, international medical cooperation, resources management, and creation and recreation of culture) under the basic theme “Ties Between People Will Unlock Asia’s Potential.”

#### C. Research Grant Program

Six new priority fields (human resources development, systemic change, creation and recreation of symbols and culture, new capital flows, forming bases for community restructuring, and new flows of human resources) were established under the basic theme “The Search for the Richness of Human Life and Activity.”

#### (2) Initiative Program and Communication with Society Program

In order to combine improvements in our ability to deliver our message with improvements in our ability to develop new programs, an Initiative Program was established this fiscal year with its emphasis on the independence of the Toyota Foundation.

Projects must meet three conditions in order to receive grants under this program. They must be (1) projects undertaken in partnership with the Foundation's own survey activities or study groups, (2) projects judged by the Foundation through monitoring and other means to have the potential to produce greater results, or (3) joint projects aimed at creating broad networks with other organizations. The Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program has been incorporated into this program as reflecting the three conditions named above.

We also established the Communication with Society Program to communicate and disseminate the results of all our programs more effectively to a wider audience. This new program replaces the Research Report Grant Program that previously awarded grants to projects under the Research Grant Program and the former Southeast Asian National Research Program.

### (3) Addressing Program Development

A Commission on the Foundation's Vision made up of the president of the Toyota Foundation and a number of newly appointed board members and trustees was launched to improve our ability to deliver our message and to serve as a forum for discussions on the Foundation's medium- and long-term vision and on themes deserving priority focus.

In order to strengthen the deliberation process regarding new Special Subjects and priority fields, an independent Foundation research group was established with the theme of a "low-carbon society." The study group includes program officers as well as experts and business people from outside the Foundation.

### (4) Adapting to the New System for Japanese Public Interest Corporations

In accordance with the aims of our reorganization efforts, we reassessed the objectives and activities that are the Foundation's mission. We drafted new Articles of Association that focused on stronger governance by the board of directors and board of trustees, with the aim of allowing the Foundation to make a greater contribution to society. Following the approval in January 2009 of the supervising government ministry (the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications), we organized our first new board of trustees selection

committee and appointed our first new trustees since the transition to the new system. (All the previous trustees were reappointed.)

### (5) Strengthening the Framework of the Organization

A number of experts in various fields, business figures, and former Foundation employees were invited to give lectures at a series of 11 program officers' training workshops. Foundation representatives were also dispatched to workshops and seminars offered by outside organizations. These activities underlined the necessity of improving our ability to evaluate project results.

In terms of public relations, we carried out a review of the Grant Program for Community Activities newsletter, the Toyota Foundation Report, and our annual report. We also moved ahead with plans for a new publicity journal.

## 2. Main Independent Activities

- Explanatory presentation on the Research Grant Program and Asian Neighbors Network Program (Research Grants and Asian Neighbors Network Program)  
Date: April 14 (Monday)  
Location: Arcadia Ichigaya (Tokyo)  
  
(Cultural Creation in Maritime East Asia)  
Date: April 21 (Monday)  
Location: Toyota Foundation meeting room (Tokyo)
- Explanatory presentation on the Grant Program for Community Activities  
Date: October 13 (Monday)  
Location: Osaka NPO Plaza  
  
Date: October 17 (Friday)  
Location: Shinjuku Mitsui Building meeting room (Tokyo)  
  
Date: October 19 (Sunday)  
Location: Iwate NPO Center  
  
Date: October 27 (Monday)  
Location: ACROS Fukuoka  
Nagano NPO Center

Date: November 3 (Monday)

Location: Hiroshima NPO Center

- Symposium: Grant Program for Community Activities  
“Building Communities Where Residents Play a  
Leading Role—Creating Community-Based Frame-  
works”

Date: December 6 (Saturday)

Location: Tenjin Building, Main Building meet-  
ing room (Fukuoka)

- Symposium: Grant Program for Community Activities  
“Learning from the Past! What We Can Do to Solve  
Community Challenges”

Date: March 27 (Friday)

Location: Iwate Prefecture Citizens’ Cultural  
Exchange Center (Aaina)

### 3. Topics for Future Consideration

#### (1) Program Development

We need to strengthen further the relationship between selection committee members and program officers in order to boost the results of grant projects. With this in mind, the Commission on the Foundation’s Vision is designed to provide a forum for in-depth discussion of subjects such as the Foundation’s vision, program review and development, and suitable themes for the Foundation to address in the future. We will also use the independent research group established in the previous fiscal year to consider in greater depth and detail the theme of a “low-carbon society.”

#### (2) Improving Our Ability to Deliver Our Message

It is essential that we develop our ability to demonstrate clearly the concept behind each program, in order both to improve our ability to get our message across and to encourage projects that will have a greater impact on society. With this in mind, we will thoroughly reassess the basic themes and priority fields of our grant programs. There have been cases in which projects have not adequately embodied the aims of the program. We will therefore hold explanatory presentations and symposiums to ensure that applicants are provided with all the information they need, and will work to increase understanding of our programs.

#### (3) Program Overview

In the fourth year following the reorganization of the Asian Neighbors Network Program and the Research Grant Program, we will conduct a thorough review of our entire grant program based on results from the previous three years. This will be used to develop and improve our programs.

We will also conduct a review and evaluation of the two Special Subjects within the Grant Program for Community Activities (Remote Island Grants and Youth Grants) and grants for priority support zones, and will consider more effective ways of providing grants in the future.

#### (4) Strengthening Our Organizational Framework

More than ever, there is a need for ongoing training for secretariat staff and greater coordination among staff members to allow the Foundation to carry out activities that will bring greater value to society in accordance with our mission and ideals. We will put together a system to achieve these ends, implementing further reforms of our programs and pushing ahead with training for program officers.

We will work to make further improvements to our public relations framework through better coordination among general staff and program officers. We will work to foster a publicity-focused mindset in all staff members to allow us to carry out systematic and strategic PR activities in support of the Foundation’s projects. We will also move ahead with plans to publish a new publicity journal and upload its contents to our website, and will continue to provide information to the media in a timely manner.

The accumulated knowledge of previous grant recipients represents a valuable asset for the Foundation. Informing these individuals about the Foundation’s activities and inviting them to Foundation events can help us to build a network of grant recipients.

In partnership with the relevant organizations, we will work to ensure a smooth transition to the new system for governing Japan’s public interest corporations.

## Overview of the Financial Report for Grant Activities

The table below provides a breakdown of grant activities for fiscal 2008. The number of projects and total expenditure for each program were as follows. Asian Neighbors Network Program: 14 projects, ¥109.34 million; Grant Program for Community Activities: 48 projects, ¥118.19 million; Research Grant Program and Special Subjects: 39 projects, ¥179.95 million; Initiative Program: 2 projects, ¥58 million (SEASREP: Comparative and Collaborative Research Grants: 17 projects, \$189,155; Training program: 1 project, \$32,000); Communication with Society Program: 1 project, ¥4 million. These programs comprised a total of 122 grant projects. The total expenditure for all projects was ¥439,318,096.

The total number of grant projects funded over the past 34 years is 7,131; the total value of grant assistance to date is ¥15,263,452,387. The amounts given above are as determined at Board of Directors meetings and do not reflect any subsequent adjustments (such as partial returns of grant money).

\* Grant amounts were determined in US dollars to minimize fluctuations in the values of local currencies. This accounts for the precision of the yen-denominated figures given in the table.

## Expenditures for Grants

	1975–2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
Asian Neighbors Network Program	—	—	58.6 16	100.0 31	120.0 39	109.3 14	387.9 100
Grant Program for Community Activities	—	55.0 56	54.5 47	80.0 73	100.0 90	118.2 48	407.7 314
Research Grant Program	6,327.6 1,983	160.5 71	157.1 67	180.0 68	205.0 70	180.0 39	7,210.1 2,298
Communication with Society Program	—	—	—	—	—	4.0 1	4.0 1
Initiative Program	—	—	—	—	—	5.8 2	5.8 2
SEASREP (Part of the Initiative Program as of fiscal 2008)	299.4 249	25.0 17	73.0 21	28.0 21	25.9 24	22.0 18	473.4 350
Citizen Activities	573.4 386	(Through fiscal 2003)					573.4 386
Projects on Civil Society	104.5 22	(Through fiscal 2003)					104.5 22
Citizen Research Contest	372.6 198	(Through fiscal 1994)					372.6 198
SEANRP	2,331.8 1,428	58.1 40	(Through fiscal 2004)				2,389.9 1,468
Young Indonesian Researchers Program	125.2 601	(Through fiscal 2000)					125.2 601
“Know Our Neighbors” Program Translation-Publication Program	1,013.5 519	(Through fiscal 2003)					1,013.5 519
Foundation Initiative Grant Program	810.6 276	55.8 16	59.6 17	72.8 20	23.5 7	(Through fiscal 2007)	1,022.2 336
Research Report Grant Program	621.1 418	11.1 7	14.6 15	21.4 19	10.1 9	(Through fiscal 2007)	678.2 468
Special Grants, etc.	495.0 68	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	495.0 68
Total	13,074.5 6,148	365.5 207	417.4 183	482.2 232	484.5 239	439.3 122	15,263.5 7,131

Notes: Amounts for programs are in millions of yen and are the amounts decided upon at Board of Directors meetings; later adjustments are not included. Figures may not add up to totals because of rounding. The figure below the amount indicates the number of grants awarded. Special Grants include the Fellowship Program and grants for commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Toyota Foundation.

# I. Grant Program for Community Activities

## Overview and Grant Results

Various adjustments were made to this program in fiscal 2008. We changed the basic theme to “Forming a Sustainable Framework Within the Locality: Toward a New Community of Self-Support and Symbiosis,” and established three areas to be prioritized in allocating funding: revitalizing the local community, promoting symbiosis in the community, and fostering young generations to carry the community forward.

To get a clear picture of the previous achievements and weaknesses of the program in advance of making these changes, we reviewed activity reports for the 125 grant projects funded between fiscal 2004 and 2006, carried out onsite monitoring of projects in progress, and invited discussion and deliberation from program officers.

In order to ensure that details of the revised program were clear to applicants and other interested parties, we organized explanatory presentations in six locations throughout Japan (Tokyo, Osaka, Iwate, Nagano, Fukuoka, and Hiroshima) and participated in seminars sponsored by intermediary support organizations in other parts of the country. As it turned out, the total number of applications fell by approximately 11% from the previous year to 578. This was probably the result of a decision to narrow the focus of the program in order to communicate our message more clearly.

Despite this overall trend, we received a substantially higher number of applications than in previous years from all of the Priority Support Zones established for fiscal 2008 (Chugoku, Hokuriku, and Koshin), with the result that more projects were selected for grants from these areas. Every region in Japan has now been designated as a Priority Support Zone at least once, and we will therefore need to consider changes to this system in the future.

The Remote Island Grants that were treated as Special Subjects under this program through fiscal 2007 were integrated into the main program and designated as Priority Grant Subjects. We will continue to make assistance to Japan’s smaller islands a priority, and will work to find ways of encouraging activities that will bring about more tangible and sustainable results in terms of overcoming the challenges facing these regional communities.

We held workshops designed primarily for grant recipients and two symposiums (in Fukuoka and Iwate) aimed at a wider range of the local population. We will continue to carry out similar activities in order to increase knowledge and understanding of the program, and to strengthen networks between the Foundation and the organizations and individuals working on community development in the regions.

### Grant Program for Community Activities

Figures in parentheses are for fiscal 2007

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)
Grant Program for Community Activities	537 (591)	28 (70)		108.2 (90.0)
Priority Grant Subjects (Remote Island Grants)	68 (86)	4 (16)		12.5 (15.0)
Priority Support Zones (Chugoku, Hokuriku, Koshin)	159 (55)	9 (10)	110.0 (90.0)	36.6 (12.7)
Chugoku	83 (26)	3 (6)		14.5 (7.5)
Hokuriku	22 (13)	1 (2)		5.0 (2.5)
Koshin	54 (16)	5 (2)		17.1 (2.7)
Youth Grants (Special Subjects)	41 (58)	20 (20)	10.0 (10.0)	10.0 (10.0)
Total	578 (649)	48 (90)	120.0 (100.0)	118.2 (100.0)

Note: Figures may not add up to totals because of rounding.

## Comments by Selection Committee Chair Yasuhide Nakamura

### 1. Creating Sustainable Frameworks Rooted in the Community

Local communities form the basic environments in which people live their lives, supported and nurtured by those around them. For some time there has been a widely acknowledged need for restructuring and revitalizing local communities throughout the country. Amid the turbulent changes caused by globalization and the twin problems of an aging population and dwindling birthrate, communities in many regions are threatened with exhaustion and decline. Nevertheless, there are numerous examples of successful attempts to create thriving, energetic communities.

The basic theme of the Toyota Foundation's Grant Program for Community Activities in fiscal 2008 was "Forming a Sustainable Framework Within the Locality: Toward a New Community of Self-Support and Symbiosis." We stressed three priority areas of particular concern: revitalizing the local community, promoting symbiosis in the community, and fostering young generations to carry the community forward. In addition to making the most of the rich resources (people, commodities, funding, information, etc.) lying latent in local communities, we need to form a new framework that will allow local communities to effectively incorporate resources from the outside.

We chose to support practical projects that promised to find solutions to important issues in local communities by forming a sustainable framework within the locality. The hope was that by supporting projects with well-defined timetables and clearly laid-out aims and methodologies, we would be able not merely to supplement bureaucrat-led activities but also to provide meaningful support for the restructuring and revitalizing of local communities.

Particular consideration was given to projects that were partly self-funded or had an independent source of support and that included measures to ensure sustainable, ongoing framework creation and a ripple effect on society at large. We were also eager to ensure an appropriately wide range in terms of geographic areas covered and the ages of the team members.

### 2. Toward a New Community of Self-Support and Symbiosis

Explanatory presentations were held in Osaka, Tokyo, Morioka, Nagano, Fukuoka, and Hiroshima during the application period, which ran from October 8 to November 17, 2008. A total of 537 applications were received in the main program, and 41 applications for Youth Grants. Within the main program, there were 68 applications for Remote Island Grants. In the areas designated as Priority Support Zones, there were 83 applications from the Chugoku region (Hiroshima, Okayama, Shimane, Tottori, and Yamaguchi Prefectures), 22 from the Hokuriku region (Fukui, Ishikawa, and Toyama Prefectures), and 54 from the Koshin region (Nagano and Yamanashi Prefectures). Applications were also received from every one of Japan's 47 prefectures. We received numerous applications from ambitious projects led by local residents that aimed to create frameworks providing concrete solutions to problems and contributing to restructuring and revitalizing the community. Starting this fiscal year, applications for the Remote Island Grants program were made using the same criteria and the same application forms as the main program for the first time. This program too received many applications from meaningful projects well tailored to the needs of the local community.

A selection committee of five members gave careful consideration to the applications received. There were many applications from attractive and realistic projects for the main program, and committee members found it unusually easy to come to an agreement on which projects to recommend. Several projects that received particularly high praise from the selection committee are introduced below.

#### Marginal Community Support Program *Yoshio Kitayama, Sēno! Kaifu-gun*

Based in Kaifu in southern Tokushima Prefecture (comprising the towns of Kaiyo, Mugi, and Minami), an area in danger of becoming a "marginal community" (*genkai shuraku*) in which 50% or more of the

population is made up of people aged 65 and over, this project is an attempt to build a framework that will allow the region's many elderly residents to live as long as possible in the places to which they have grown accustomed. In concrete terms, the project looks to use the human resources of Tokushima Prefecture to the full, providing small-scale multi-purpose care facilities, shared transportation, emergency call centers, and other services. A disused nursery school will be re-designed to serve as a central base for these facilities. It is hoped that the results of the project will prove useful as reference points for marginal communities in other parts of the country.

Establishing a Multicultural Children's Learning Together Center to Foster Social Skills of Children Within the Community

*Yoshiko Shiki, Multicultural Children's Learning Together Center Project*

This project aims to provide an environment in which multicultural children in Kobe, a city that is home to large numbers of children with cultural roots outside Japan, can grow up together. In concrete terms, the project will establish a planning committee made up of local residents and people involved in childcare and education. As well as assisting school-age children by setting up a multicultural Learning Together Club (a multicultural educational facility for schoolchildren), the project will also provide support to mothers and help to nurture talent to support people with cultural roots outside Japan. A Multicultural Children's Learning Together Center has been set up to build a framework to support these diverse activities. In the long term, it is hoped that this will help to nurture the leaders of a shared multicultural society in the future.

Red Brick Project: Preserving and Restoring Old National Railway Tunnels Straddling Kasugai and Tajimi  
*Masayoshi Murakami, Committee for the Preservation and Restoration of Old National Railway Tunnels*

An eight-kilometer stretch of the disused Kokutetsu (National Railways) Chuo Line still runs parallel to the present Japan Railways (JR) line along the boundary between Aichi and Gifu Prefectures. This project will

gather data to provide a clear picture of the state of preservation of the line, and will encourage debate with residents and local governments on preservation activities with the aim of promoting wise reuse of the line. In concrete terms, the project aims to reopen a series of tunnels along the Aichi-Gifu boundary as an "AiGi Tunnel Nature Road" and to use the tunnels to spur local revitalization with the participation of local governments and the JR rail company.

Tsuchizawa Fund Project for Independent Sustainable Community Building

*Fumihiko Takemasa, Tsuchizawa Revitalization Association*

A citizens' group in the Tsuchizawa area of Hanamaki city in Iwate Prefecture has been carrying out efforts aimed at revitalizing the central area of the town. These efforts have included setting up a citizen-led local planning organization, and special events making use of local streets and homes, such as a "Street Corner Museum" and a "Tsuchizawa Little Market." This project will establish a local Tsuchizawa Fund to support a reliable circle of funding within the local area and to help develop a framework that will allow these efforts to develop into sustainable, ongoing projects in the future. It is hoped that this project will succeed in establishing a steady presence in the area as a model of sustainable framework development.

In addition to the projects introduced above, many other attractive proposals were received from all areas of the country. Without exception, these ambitious and energetic projects established networks to unite diverse groups of people living inside and outside the region, making use of unique local buildings, agricultural products, and historical characteristics to restructure and revitalize the region. There were also large numbers of applications from modest, long-term projects, many of them designed to share and pass on to future generations the accumulation of local experience and wisdom.

Criteria for Youth Grants were somewhat different. Instead of concentrating on efficiency and results as we did for the main program, we preferred to look for evidence of youthful energy and potential for the

future. Our aims were set out in the application guidelines, where we asked for applications from projects featuring “activities using youthful energy to revitalize a community” and “original activities pointing toward a bright future.” Two successful applications are introduced below.

#### Town and Train Station Rejuvenation Project

*Sayaka Watanabe, Town and Train Station Rejuvenation Project Team*

The JR Uzen-Komatsu station in Yamagata Prefecture has been run by local residents since 1982. News of plans to convert the station to an unstaffed facility prompted students at the nearby Okitama Agricultural High School to recruit volunteers for a Town and Station Rejuvenation Project Team, which started work on revitalizing the station and the surrounding area in 2006. The present project aimed to widen the scope of these efforts. The students are involved in a wide range of activities that include running a station-front shop selling produce from local farms, organizing a group of volunteers to work on tidying up the route to school, and developing original foods using distinctive local produce from the school and town. This is a promising project in which high school students shoulder the responsibility for bringing renewed vitality to their town.

#### Project to Form a Relaxed Intracommunity Network

*Yoshiki Tamaki, Committee to Form a Relaxed Intracommunity Network*

Despite numerous opportunities to take part in interesting events and activities in the town—community and volunteer activities and local festivals—very few high school students participate. Aware of this, a group of local high school students in Okinawa established this project to build a relaxed intracommunity network of connections extending beyond the school and encouraging young people to participate in activities in the wider community. We hope that this effort to get young people involved in the community outside school can help revive the town and bring about a local community in which people from different backgrounds can come together for exchange.

In addition to the projects described above, there was no shortage of applications from ambitious projects brimming with youthful feel and enthusiasm.

Following careful deliberations by the selection committee, a decision was taken to recommend for grants 28 applications for the main program (for a total of ¥108,190,000 in grant money) and 20 applications for Youth Grants (for a total of ¥10,000,000).

### 3. The Future of the Grant Program for Community Activities

Over the course of the selection process, there was considerable discussion regarding issues for the future and the potential of the Grant Program for Community Activities in the years to come.

Activities to restructure or revitalize communities by making effective use of locally available resources are ultimately the responsibility of government authorities. There are already a number of projects involving local government representatives. However, projects aiming to form frameworks within a limited period of time differ from government projects that are run from a more long-term perspective. In the years to come there will be a need for ongoing cooperation between regional community programs and local governments, leading to an organic relationship that can take advantage of the strong points of both.

There was also discussion regarding the relationship between people living in local communities and supporters from outside the region, and between individual projects and the Toyota Foundation’s Grant Program for Community Activities. Some projects have been steered in a new direction by hearing reports of other projects at the grant award ceremony. I hope that the Foundation will continue to bring together individual projects from around the country. We also need to consider the possibility of making positive moves to provide emergency funding in urgent cases where a community faces an economic crisis or a collapse in the provision of medical treatment that the community cannot solve on its own.

### 4. People of the Earth and Wind

In August 2008, a team of academics, international groups, NGOs, and media organizations conducted a survey on humanitarian aid in Aceh, Indonesia, an area

that suffered unprecedented destruction in the Sumatra earthquake and tsunami of December 2004. The study team learned of visits by a Japanese missionary to a farming village in northern Aceh that had sustained serious damage. Under the guidance of the missionary, local farmers introduced organic farming methods and began to look forward to his visits. A Japanese missionary teaching organic farming methods to a village of pious Muslims—this is a truly remarkable example of the connections that can grow up between people. Similarly, in a fishing village on the Straits of Malacca where a German aircraft crashed in 1978, a German NGO offered assistance in the aftermath of the tsunami by providing fishing boats and training to help reconstruction efforts. Two disasters nearly 30 years apart connected this village on the Straits of Malacca with Germany.

The earthquake and tsunami brought the inhabitants of the affected areas into contact with people from outside the region who participated in humanitarian aid efforts after the disaster. Joint efforts involving both local residents and outsiders brought together people who would almost certainly never have come into contact had it not been for the disaster.

The same might be said for *jimoto-gaku* or “community studies,” which started in Minamata in Kumamoto Prefecture. *Jimoto-gaku* involves a careful mapping of local resources to ascertain what exists in the community—both common objects and those that are found nowhere else—and assigns a high importance to the imagination necessary to combine these things into something new. This involves not just local residents (known as the “earth”) but, crucially, collaborative efforts with visitors from outside the region (the “wind”). The role of outsiders is not to lead or instruct but to act as a catalyst in bringing out the latent strengths of the region. They need to have the patience to wait and watch as the region changes steadily.

In terms of the present program, the grant projects might be compared to the “earth,” with the Foundation itself playing the role of the “wind.” Besides acting as a catalyst to help the growth and development of ambitious and energetic projects that work toward the restructuring and revitalizing of local communities, the Foundation also needs to watch patiently as the projects mature over a period of many years.

“Think Globally, Act Locally.” This is a common phrase, but one that we want to pass on to everyone involved in projects to build community-based frameworks aimed at restructuring and revitalizing local communities. It is our hope that patient, ongoing efforts in the regions will grow to transcend national borders and tribal attachments to connect with the outside world, incorporating the results of the latest activities at home and abroad and leading to the sustainable, long-term reenergizing of the regions. I hope that the Grant Program for Community Activities will produce results that can become a precious resource shared around the world.

## Funded Projects

### Grant Program for Community Activities

Projects in their second year and beyond are designated with the symbol Y2 (Y3, etc.) below the project number

Grant # (Prefecture)	Title of project Project leader, project team name	Amount (¥)
1 D08-L-011 (Nagano)	Building a Permanent Model for “Normal Settlement” Through Systematic Management and Reuse of Abandoned Agricultural Lands <i>Matsuo Kobayashi, Misato Association</i>	1,690,000
2 D08-L-029 (Hokkaido)	Change the Community! Community Business Project Centered on the Elderly and Disabled <i>Eiichi Ueno, Kitami “Yorozuya” Net</i>	2,400,000
3 D08-L-047 (Tokyo)	Using Recycling Depots to Build a Zero-Waste City: Laying a Foundation for Cooperation Beyond Position and Generation <i>Tachishige Hirose, Machida Zero-Waste Promotion Committee</i>	3,490,000 (2 years)
4 D08-L-055 (Nagano)	Environmental and Productive Nagano: Fostering the Next Generation of Active Global Citizens! <i>Ken'ichiro Miyairi, Nagano Eco City Project Promotion Committee</i>	4,000,000 (2 years)
5 D08-L-066 (Osaka)	Project for Building a Network Base Connecting Young People, Seniors, and Foreigners in the Commercial District of Changing Kamagasaki <i>Kanayo Ueda, Kamagasaki Culture Beacon Project</i>	5,380,000 (2 years)
6 D08-L-074 (Y2) (Yamagata)	Project to Support Employment and Promote Early Independence of NEETs and Reclusive Youths in Depopulated Rural Communities <i>Koji Iwakawa, Yamagata Youth and Community Revitalization Support Network</i>	3,520,000 (2 years)
7 D08-L-111 (Y2) (Shiga)	Model Project for Activating Communities with Declining Populations and Restoring Japan's Original Landscapes <i>Hideo Takahashi, Dream Weaver Rechallenge Team</i>	4,000,000 (2 years)
8 D08-L-113 (Hiroshima)	Project for Developing a Harmonious Multicultural Community with Active Foreign Residents <i>Tamio Murata, Bingo Multicultural Community Building Team</i>	3,800,000 (2 years)
9 D08-L-120 (Hyogo)	Establishing a Multicultural Children's Learning Together Center to Foster Social Skills of Children Within the Community <i>Yoshiko Shiki, Multicultural Children's Learning Together Center Project</i>	3,000,000 (2 years)
10 D08-L-124 (Kochi)	Project to Create a Network for a Rural Future <i>Shota Inoue, Network for a Rural Future Project Team</i>	4,000,000 (2 years)
11 D08-L-130 (Y2) (Aichi)	Red Brick Project: Preserving and Restoring Old National Railway Tunnels Straddling Kasugai and Tajimi <i>Masayoshi Murakami, Committee for the Preservation and Restoration of Old National Railway Tunnels</i>	6,000,000 (2 years)
12 D08-L-136 (Iwate)	Tsuchizawa Fund Project for Independent Sustainable Community Building <i>Fumihiko Takemasa, Tsuchizawa Revitalization Association</i>	2,300,000

I. Grant Program for Community Activities

Grant # (Prefecture)	Title of project Project leader, project team name	Amount (¥)
13 D08-L-173 (Fukui)	“Restore Echizen Wakasa! Sharing Safe and Reliable Produce” Project <i>Yasuo Makino, Echizen Wakasa! Sharing Safe and Reliable Produce Club</i>	4,980,000 (2 years)
14 D08-L-204 (Y2) (Nagano)	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 <i>Hideyuki Tsuji, Inadani Anjane Support School</i>	4,600,000 (2 years)
15 D08-L-265 (Kochi)	Learn About Hata <i>Taisuke Ohara, Learn About Hata Association</i>	4,430,000 (2 years)
16 D08-L-290 (Gunma)	Project to Help Young People with Developmental Disabilities to Find Jobs with the Assistance of Active Seniors <i>Kyoko Ishikawa, Project Team for Helping Young People with Developmental Disabilities Find Jobs</i>	4,340,000 (2 years)
17 D08-L-310 (Tottori)	Project to Revitalize Shikano City and Its Empty Old Houses <i>Kiyoshi Kobayashi, Project Team for Revitalizing Inshu Shikano and Its Empty Old Houses</i>	4,400,000 (2 years)
18 D08-L-343 (Y3) (Hiroshima)	Creating a Mechanism and Base for Community Interaction as a Means to Revitalize Tomonoura <i>Hideko Matsui, Team Tomonoura: Son of the Sea</i>	6,310,000 (2 years)
19 D08-L-365 (Yamanashi)	Community Action Project: Creating Associations for the Seto and Komamiya Areas of Otsuki City After Closures of Elementary and Junior High Schools and Creating Sustainable Agricultural Communities Through Exchanges Between Cities and Farming Villages <i>Shin'ichiro Tsutaki, City-Village Exchange Community Action Project Team</i>	2,200,000 (2 years)
20 D08-L-373 (Fukuoka)	Development Project for Building Communities that Meet the Needs of Children Requiring Foster Care <i>Yoshiko Matsuzaki, The Children's Village Fukuoka Regional Action Team</i>	5,840,000 (2 years)
21 D08-L-386 (Miyagi)	Project to Reproduce the Traditional Cuisine of the Kurihara Region and Pass It on to the Next Generation <i>Kentaro Onodera, Project to Restore the Traditional Kurihara Cuisine of 150 Years Ago</i>	1,780,000
22 D08-L-398 (Nagano)	Conservation of Mountain Village Agricultural Lands Supported by Urban Residents Based on 100m <sup>2</sup> Per Person: A Model Plan for Settlement Management with a View to Self-Sufficiency <i>Kakeru Ueno, Keishi Sennin Village</i>	4,600,000 (2 years)
23 D08-L-443 (Kyoto)	Town Planning Based on Local Riverway Restoration Using Real-Time Environment Mapping <i>Nobuo Sakamoto, Save Hozu-River Project</i>	3,550,000 (2 years)
24 D08-L-456 (Y2) (Tokushima)	Marginal Community Support Program <i>Yoshio Kitayama, Sēno! Kaifu-gun</i>	5,050,000 (2 years)
25 D08-LI-019 (Ehime)	Shimanami Business Development Through Cycling Tourism <i>Yuko Yamamoto, Shimanami Slow Cycling Association</i>	6,000,000 (2 years)
26 D08-LI-024 (Miyagi)	Kesenuma Oshima “Oyster” Project <i>Masaru Sakai, Association for Revitalizing the Oshima Oyster Island</i>	1,740,000

I. Grant Program for Community Activities

Grant # (Prefecture)	Title of project Project leader, project team name	Amount (¥)
27 D08-LI-026 (Tokyo)	Taiko Drum for Every Child in Hachijojima Project <i>Yoshio Okuyama, Taiko Drum for Every Child in Hachijojima Committee</i>	2,790,000
28 D08-LI-063 (Hokkaido)	Modern Day Refuge Center: Building a Small-Scale Multifunctional Social Welfare Facility Connecting Okushiri Island and the Mainland <i>Kazue Makino, Supportive Station</i>	2,000,000 (2 years)
Total (28 projects)		108,190,000

## Funded Projects Youth Grants (Special Subjects)

Projects in their second year and beyond are designated with the symbol Y2 (Y3, etc.) below the project number

Grant # (Prefecture)	Title of project Project leader, project team name	Amount (¥)
1 D08-LY-003 (Y2) (Nagano)	Project to Promote Nagano Matsushiro as a Winter Olympics Site and Attract More Visitors <i>Shin'ya Kobayashi, Nagano Shun'ei High School Local Studies Group and Alumni Committee</i>	500,000
2 D08-LY-004 (Hokkaido)	Building a Kenebetsu Milkland Covered with Vibrant Flora and Greenery <i>Reishi Ota, Hokkaido Nakashibetsu Agricultural High School Horticultural Club</i>	500,000
3 D08-LY-006 (Kanagawa)	Bringing the Community Together Through Art: Designs to Warm the Heart <i>Takuya Sato, Sobudai High School/Joshi University of Art and Design Art Project Team</i>	500,000
4 D08-LY-008 (Nara)	Environmental Conservation Through Effective Use of Idle Land and Pheasant Farming <i>Yusuke Kida, Nara Prefectural Shikino High School Environmental Conservation Project Team</i>	500,000
5 D08-LY-009 (Yamaguchi)	Reutilization of Idle Lands Through Sheep Pasturing <i>Tomohito Isomura, Produce and Livestock Department, Yamaguchi Prefectural Tabuse Agricultural High School</i>	500,000
6 D08-LY-011 (Ishikawa)	Revitalizing Communities Through Restoration of Mountain Villages and Resource Utilization: An Agricultural High School's Attempt to Revitalize the Community Through Increased Cultivation and Harvesting of Mountain Flora, Restoration of the Natural Landscape and Preservation of Mountain Villages, and Sales of Mountain Flora <i>Nobuyo Hirano, Ishikawa Prefectural Suiseh High School Bioscience Research Group</i>	500,000
7 D08-LY-014 (Yamagata)	Town and Train Station Rejuvenation Project <i>Sayaka Watanabe, Town and Train Station Rejuvenation Project Team</i>	500,000
8 D08-LY-015 (Kanagawa)	Promoting Shonan City Through Video <i>Yui Honma, Shonan Video Festival Youth Group</i>	500,000
9 D08-LY-018 (Y2) (Okinawa)	Delivering Your Dreams! <i>Minami Oshiro, Haeburu Youth</i>	500,000
10 D08-LY-019 (Aomori)	Project for Rediscovering the Community Through Media <i>Keisuke Kubota, Create</i>	500,000
11 D08-LY-021 (Aichi)	Setoyogyo High School Challenge Fest <i>Kashiko Suematsu, Setoyogyo High School Challenge Fest Organizing Committee</i>	500,000
12 D08-LY-023 (Ishikawa)	Music Everywhere Program <i>Ami Hosotsubo, Terai High School Band "Great Challenger"</i>	500,000

I. Grant Program for Community Activities

Grant # (Prefecture)	Title of project Project leader, project team name	Amount (¥)
13 D08-LY-024 (Aichi)	Asahino Beautiful Sunshine and Smile Project <i>Shingo Ban, Aichi Prefectural Asahino High School EMC (Enjoy Music Club)/Orchestral Club/Tea Ceremony Club/Chorus Group/Student Council</i>	500,000
14 D08-LY-025 (Kanagawa)	Dream Town Mini-Yokohama City Development Project <i>Ayaka Miura, Mini-Yokohama City</i>	500,000
15 D08-LY-029 (Okinawa)	Project to Form a Relaxed Intracommunity Network <i>Yoshiki Tamaki, Committee to Form a Relaxed Intracommunity Network</i>	500,000
16 D08-LY-031 (Hyogo)	Revitalizing the Community with Yams from Tanba Sasayama <i>Ryuhei Okita, Shinonome Yam Team</i>	500,000
17 D08-LY-035 (Y2) (Kanagawa)	Heralding the Charms of Fujino, City of Yuzu: Developing and Popularizing Original Yuzu Products <i>Shoko Hikosaka, Kanagawa Prefectural Aihara High School Agricultural Club Sokokko Project Team</i>	500,000
18 D08-LY-036 (Yamaguchi)	Enjoying Community Exchanges Together with Horses <i>Takuya Sugiyama, Yamaguchi Prefectural Heki Agricultural High School Horse Club</i>	500,000
19 D08-LY-038 (Kagoshima)	2009 Amami Oshima Total Solar Eclipse Countdown Project: What Is Happening in Our World? (Four-Frame Art Project) <i>Kako Nakayama, 27H Doraemon Team</i>	500,000
20 D08-LY-039 (Hyogo)	ECO 2.0 Global Warming Prevention Activities and Cooperative Community Rejuvenation Project <i>Tatsuki Kishimoto, Hyogo Prefectural Mikikita Senior High School Environmental Studies Club ECO-P</i>	500,000
Total (20 projects)		10,000,000

## II. Asian Neighbors Network Program

### Overview and Grant Results

The program's basic theme for fiscal 2008 was "Ties Between People Will Unlock Asia's Potential." To support the construction of problem-solving networks, five priority fields were established (movements of people, peace building, international medical cooperation, resources management, and creation and recreation of culture). Other revisions to the program included increasing the grant ceiling from ¥5 million to ¥20 million per project.

In order to publicize the revised program and encourage a wide range of applications, explanatory presentations were held in Japan, South Korea, and Cambodia over the course of the application period. As a result, a record 241 applications were received: 159 from Japan and 82 from abroad.

Some of the proposals, however, were for projects only indirectly related to problem solving and network

building, and some demonstrated an insufficient understanding of the program's aims. Despite the inclusion of the word "Asia" in the program's title, moreover, there were relatively few outstanding applications from overseas. Of the 14 projects eventually selected, only 3 came from outside Japan.

We also carried out a review of the program's selection process. Among the measures implemented in fiscal 2008 were hearings for recommended candidates before the selection committee, project presentations by representatives of candidate projects receiving a high score during the screening process, and interim presentations by large-scale projects receiving grants of ¥10–20 million. The Foundation made efforts to be proactive in communicating with grant recipients and succeeded in improving mutual understanding.

#### Asian Neighbors Network Program

Figures in parentheses are for fiscal 2007

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)
Asian Neighbors Network Program	241 (175)	14 (39)	120.0 (120.0)	109.34 (120.00)

## Comments by Selection Committee Chair Takashi Shiraishi

The fiscal 2008 Asian Neighbors Network Program solicited applications in line with its goal of supporting the creation of problem-solving networks. Several changes were made to the program this year. Whereas project proposals in previous years were not required to correspond to any particular field, this year five fields were suggested: movements of people, peace building, international medical cooperation, resources management, and creation and recreation of culture. Furthermore, in light of the fact that the project topics have significant potential for expansion, the maximum amount of grants per project was increased from ¥5 million to ¥20 million.

This year we received 241 applications, comprising 159 from within Japan and 82 from overseas. This is the largest number in the program's history and significantly exceeds the 175 applications received in fiscal 2007. One factor behind this increase may have been the holding of seminars in Japan to explain the application process. After rigorously screening the applications, we selected 14 project proposals for recommendation to the Board of Directors. Many of the selected proposals fall into the categories "movement of people" and "creation and recreation of culture." Many of the applications pertaining to peace building and international medical cooperation were not selected because they sought to perform activities already being carried out through the assistance programs of the Japanese government and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

To maximize the impact of the program's purpose of supporting network formation, the selection committee paid particular attention to two factors: (1) whether a proposal would lead to the creation of a network hub and (2) whether, if a network hub already existed, a proposal would contribute to the development of the network through expansion and increased density. There are a variety of ways to create networks for solving problems; one thing all networks have in common, however, is that they are composed of nodes and links. The more dynamic the network, the more common it is for the nodes with the most links to form

new hubs as the network develops. Based on this standpoint, in selecting projects the committee paid particular attention to hub creation and network development. In recommending the 14 selected proposals to the Board of Directors, the selection committee hopes that such network formation will spur activities aimed at achieving the desired objectives and will cultivate individuals capable of undertaking such activities.

Here I would like to introduce two projects that the selection committee deemed particularly worthy of mention. The first, led by Naoko Hashimoto, is entitled "Facilitation of Sustainable Migration/Return of Japanese-Filipino Children and Their Mothers from the Philippines to Japan: Through Multisectoral Networking and Pilot Cases" (grant amount: ¥20 million; period: two years). With this project, the International Organization for Migration aims to take advantage of its international reach and neutrality to establish a network among foundations, institutions, businesses, and other organizations concerned with issues relating to children of Japanese-Filipino descent. In so doing, the project seeks to establish a system whereby such children can live in Japan while achieving financial independence. While the project will face such difficult challenges as following up on each person's status after the project's conclusion and mediating with their employers, this is an issue that needs to be resolved. The selection committee was impressed by the potential for applying the results of this project to other situations concerning immigrants and refugees.

The second project I wish to highlight is "Multilingual Support for Education Through Information and Communication Technology: Toward a Multicultural Society with Asian People from Overseas," led by Chigusa Kita (grant amount: ¥19.73 million; period: two years). In recent years, schools throughout Japan have been encountering language problems in teaching non-Japanese children. This project aims to provide a solution by creating an information network that will allow schools nationwide to reuse the various multilingual course materials and other documents that have been created by schools and boards of education. It is

hoped that a hub will be formed to centralize information that was previously scattered throughout the country and that similar movements will develop in medicine and other fields.

The selection committee also held discussions on the challenges faced by the Asian Neighbors Network Program and the action that should be taken to address them.

### **1. Program Direction and the Concept of Networks**

This is the sixth year of the Asian Neighbors Network Program. Over the course of the program's short history, our thinking regarding networks has gradually evolved. In its early days, the program emphasized two-way connections and communication between different regions, cultures, or other entities that transcended established frameworks. But now, as I noted earlier, we are seeking to develop networks by strengthening the bases of activity and cultivating the individuals who act as network hubs.

At the same time, debate has arisen within the committee regarding the relationship between networks and the objective of this program, problem solving. We must consider this issue, including from the perspective of whether the program needs to be reviewed.

### **2. Overseas Applications**

Of the 14 proposals recommended for grants this fiscal year, only three are from overseas applicants. Moreover, only one proposal from Southeast Asia was selected. This may be due to a variety of factors; it is conceivable, for example, that this program is not widely known in Southeast Asia or that its themes and application guidelines are in some way incompatible with the region. In light of this, we need to consider how to identify and support projects that contribute to solving the problems faced by the people of Southeast Asia through this program.

### **3. Post-Selection Follow-Up and Partnerships**

A number of proposals selected for grants in fiscal 2008 requested large amounts of funding. Cooperation

between grant recipients, the selection committee, and Toyota Foundation program officers will be essential if these projects are to be administered effectively. I hope that in two years' time the Foundation will hold a symposium, workshops, and other events to facilitate information exchange with the aim of assessing the results achieved by each project and their impact on society.

Increasing flows of people, goods, capital, and information in Asia have been accompanied by problems in many areas, including migration, the environment, infectious disease, and human security. Solving problems in many of these fields will undoubtedly require a variety of exchange and cooperation. By laying the groundwork for this effort, including by cultivating human resources, we hope that this program will make a major contribution to overcoming the challenges facing people in the Asian region.

## Funded Projects

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
1 D08-N-006	Building a Network for Pandemic Influenza Response in a Resource-Poor Rural Population in Northern Thailand <i>Hiroshi Nishiura, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Utrecht</i>	4,000,000 (2 years)
2 D08-N-022	Multilingual Support for Education Through Information and Communication Technology: Toward a Multicultural Society with Asian People from Overseas <i>Chigusa Kita, Associate Professor, Faculty of Informatics, Kansai University</i>	19,730,000 (2 years)
3 D08-N-060 (South Korea)	Establishing a Model for Connecting Networks of Human Rights Lawyers in Asia: Addressing Systematic Human Rights Issues Concerning Emigration Processes from the Philippines to the Republic of Korea and Japan <i>Pill-Kyu Hwang, Lawyer, Korean Public Interest Lawyers' Group "Gong-Gam"</i>	6,000,000 (2 years)
4 D08-N-063 (Vietnam)	Network Formation for Publishing a Textbook and a General Introduction Book and for Publicizing Information on Archaeology <i>Nguyen Kim Dung, Head, Department of Ancient Technology Research, Vietnam Institute of Archaeology</i>	4,000,000 (2 years)
5 D08-N-067	Discovering New Possibilities in Asia: Bringing Together a Diverse Region Through a Combined, Integrated Approach Among Diverse Partners <i>Sakura Sasano, Student, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University</i>	1,500,000 (2 years)
6 D08-N-100	An Alternative Rural Development Model on the Basis of Rural History and Culture: Action for Mutual Learning on the Significance of Rural Culture Through Networking of People in Asian Developing Countries and Japan <i>Kazuo Ando, Associate Professor, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University</i>	8,20,000 (2 years)
7 D08-N-117	Mural Conservation and Enhancement Through Passing on Restoration Techniques: Saving Korean Cultural Heritage <i>Akira Yamauchi, Chief, Center for Conservation Science, Gangoji Institute for Research of Cultural Property</i>	6,400,000 (2 years)
8 D08-N-124	Networking with Asia-Pacific Media Partners to Develop Sustainable Society <i>Koizumi Shukichi, Chair, TVE Japan</i>	6,000,000 (2 years)
9 D08-N-136	Building a Network for Reconstructing Techniques of Thai and Laotian Traditional Wall Paintings: Using the Research and Education Systems of Bundit Pattana Silapa Institute <i>Yosuke Niwa, Professor, Faculty of Art and Design, University of Toyama</i>	6,200,000 (2 years)
10 D08-N-146	Creating a Peace-Building Network for the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh <i>Takashi Shimosawa, Chairperson, Jumma Net Japan</i>	12,000,000 (2 years)
11 D08-N-152	Forming Local Community Networks Toward the Creation of a Regional Disability Rights Tribunal for the Asia-Pacific Region <i>Yoshikazu Ikehara, Lawyer, Tokyo Advocacy Law Office</i>	6,000,000 (2 years)

II. Asian Neighbors Network Program

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
12 D08-N-155	Facilitation of Sustainable Migration/Return of Japanese-Filipino Children and Their Mothers from the Philippines to Japan: Through Multisectoral Networking and Pilot Cases <i>Naoko Hashimoto, Program Coordinator, Special International Organization for Migration Liaison Mission in Tokyo</i>	20,000,000 (2 years)
13 D08-N-178 (South Korea)	Building an Asian Network of Refugee Organizations <i>Ho-Teag Lee, President, Refuge Pnan</i>	5,500,000 (2 years)
14 D08-N-232	Stories of Cross-Border Lives: Contemporary Oral Histories of Undocumented Migration from Myanmar (Burma) to Thailand <i>Masao Imamura, Doctoral Student, National University of Singapore</i>	3,810,000 (2 years)
Total (14 projects)		109,340,000

# III. Research Grant Program

## Overview and Grant Results

As in the previous fiscal year, the basic theme of the Research Grant Program remained “The Search for the Richness of Human Life and Activity.” In addition to the main program, grants were awarded for projects addressing three Special Subjects: “Preservation, Compilation, and Annotation of Indigenous Documents in Peripheral Regions of Asia,” “Making Grants Come Alive,” and “Cultural Creation in Maritime East Asia.”

In order to clarify the aims of the program’s basic theme, a new subtheme, “Revitalizing Local Communities Under Globalization,” and six priority fields were established (human resources development, systemic change, creation and recreation of symbols and culture, new capital flows, forming bases for community restructuring, and new flows of human resources). In inviting applications, we emphasized that particular attention would be given to three criteria during the selection process: the relevance and clarity of the designated topic, the appropriateness of the methods, and the project results and their impact on society.

As a result of these changes, the majority of applications we received were from practical, applicable problem-solving research projects, and there were fewer applications than in previous years from projects addressing fundamental research.

This was the fourth and final year of the Special Subject “Preservation, Compilation, and Annotation of Indigenous Documents in Peripheral Regions of Asia.” While continuing to solicit new applications, we

worked to establish a framework for disseminating the results of grant projects from previous years.

This was also the fourth and final year for “Making Grants Come Alive.” In summarizing the program, we worked to communicate the results of past projects to a wide audience throughout society.

Based on discussions with the selection committee, a decision was taken to progressively reorganize last fiscal year’s Special Subject “Jiangnan, Young-Honam, Setouchi” into a new subject titled “Cultural Creation in Maritime East Asia.” In fiscal 2008 the number of target regions was increased and applications were solicited for projects capable of making proactive contributions to exchange within the East Asia region.

In the previous fiscal year we had been aware of a need to do more in both the main program and Special Subjects to promote the sharing of information among grant recipients, the Foundation, and the selection committee, and to communicate results at the program and project levels to society. We addressed this problem by introducing study groups and presentations by representatives of candidate projects receiving a high score in the screening process, in order to improve communication between grant recipients and the Foundation and to encourage sharing of information. The Foundation also worked to introduce particularly promising projects to a wider audience by publicizing them in the media as well as via the Foundation’s website.

### Research Grant Program

Figures in parentheses are for fiscal 2007

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)
Research Grants	437 (751)	26 (53)	150.0 (150.0)	139.2 (150.0)
Preservation, Compilation, and Annotation of Indigenous Documents in Peripheral Regions of Asia (Special Subject)	31 (46)	8 (10)	25.0 (25.0)	25.0 (25.0)
Making Grants Come Alive (Special Subject)	4 (15)	2 (3)	10.0 (10.0)	4.7 (10.0)
Cultural Creation in Maritime East Asia (Special Subject) (previously Jiangnan, Young-Honam, Setouchi)	15 (19)	3 (4)	20.0 (20.0)	11.1 (20.0)
Total	487 (831)	39 (70)	205.0 (205.0)	180.0 (205.0)

Note: Figures may not add up to totals because of rounding.

## Research Grant Program

### Comments by Selection Committee Chair Shiro Kuniya

#### 1. Overview of Selection Process

The selection process (preliminary evaluations) for the Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program has been completed for this, the third fiscal year since the program adopted “The Search for the Richness of Human Life and Activity” as its basic theme. A total of 437 applications were received, which represented a significant decrease on the number of applications received in fiscal 2006 and 2007 (795 and 751, respectively). The Foundation secretariat attributes this to the narrowing of the program’s focus. This fiscal year the program’s principal subject was “Revitalizing Local Communities Under Globalization,” with equal weighting given to local communities in Japan and overseas. Six priority fields were established: (1) human resources development, (2) systemic change, (3) creation and recreation of symbols and culture, (4) new capital flows, (5) forming bases for community restructuring, and (6) new flows of human resources. Each of the 437 applications received was assigned to one or more of these fields; 254 were classified under (1) human resources development, 201 under (3) creation and recreation of symbols and culture, and 204 under (5) forming bases for community restructuring.

During the first round of screening, the selection committee scored each application on a five-point scale according to the following criteria: (1) the relevance and clarity of the designated topic, (2) the appropriateness of the methods, (3) the project results and their impact on society, and (4) innovativeness (this applies to proposals that are expected to help the program progress, apart from the applicability of the three previous criteria). Following a preliminary evaluation of proposals recommended by each of the five committee members, the selection committee met to discuss its findings. The committee approved grants for 26 projects—a selection rate of 5.9%. To boost the program’s public profile and increase the impact of sponsored projects, the policy for this fiscal year was to reduce the overall number of projects and provide larger grants per project where necessary. Consequently, the number of selected projects was only

around half the total approved the previous fiscal year (53 projects). The largest grant was ¥9 million, and the smallest was ¥1.8 million; the average was approximately ¥5 million.

#### 2. Trends in Topics, Results, and Methodologies

Among the 26 successful proposals, a majority (17) came from professors, associate professors, and others affiliated to universities. Proposals with abstract topics or unrealistic methodologies were assessed critically. But many academic proposals featured project teams that included government officials, NPO workers, politicians, and business people in an attempt to ensure the feasibility and wider-society ripple effects of the project. The committee felt this showed that applicants had taken heed of advice provided in the program guidelines regarding the makeup of project teams. A perusal of the project proposal forms persuaded the selection committee that a healthy number of the proposed projects promised effective results.

An outline follows of some of the characteristics of the projects approved for grants, in terms of topics, communities, and the format and method of utilization of the results.

##### Topic and Community Chosen

High-scoring proposals ultimately approved for grants had certain characteristics in common: a topic with contemporary relevance, the promise of helping to bring about social or systemic reform, and a strong and specific link between the topic and community.

Three proposals approved for grants came from outside Japan (one each from South Korea, China, and Cambodia). In addition, many proposals submitted from within Japan focused on communities outside the country. There were no restrictions on whether the community should be in Japan or overseas, but the committee tended not to approve overseas-based projects without any direct impact on the designated community or any connection to Japan. There was no ex-

licit requirement that proposals be related to Japan, though this was one factor taken into consideration when assessing the project's overall feasibility and its potential ripple effects.

A brief discussion follows of two projects that came in for special commendation by the selection committee.

Proposals on Environmental Upgrading of Residential Districts in Suburban Areas for Enhancing Self-Supportiveness and Healthy Aging for Senior People: Based on Measurements of Walking Mobility and Estimates of Medical Care Costs in Tama New Town  
*Jun Matsushita (Professor, Shibaura Institute of Technology, Tokyo)*      ¥9 million, 2 years

This ambitious project addresses a topic of contemporary relevance: the rapidly increasing numbers of elderly people living in the Tokyo metropolitan area. The project is designed to identify problems in the modern residential environment based on empirical data showing the walking habits of the elderly residents in the local community, and to construct an up-to-date model for revitalization of the residential environment, with the aim of influencing future plans for reviving New Town communities to make them better suited to the health needs of the elderly. We have high expectations for this project and hope that its findings will be widely applicable to other areas.

Strategies for Hokkaido Devolution: Lessons from Scotland

*Mikine Yamazaki (Professor, Hokkaido University)*  
¥2 million, 1 year

This project is an effort to study the results of recent devolution legislation passed in Scotland, where geographical conditions are somewhat similar to those in Hokkaido, and to encourage autonomous revitalization in Hokkaido through similar reforms. We hope that this project will make a significant contribution to the debate regarding Japan's regional government and will yield practical results by providing positive encouragement to residents and voters.

### Issues Addressed by Projects and Forms of Output

As in the previous fiscal year, project results have been presented in diverse formats. In addition to academic theses, specialist publications, and other written works, these include DVDs and other visual media, handbooks, and databases. The committee is reluctant to award grants to academic proposals that seem unlikely to yield discernable results beyond furthering the applicant's own research. The content of the proposals received suggested that only a few proposals fell into this category.

### 3. Recommendations for Forthcoming Fiscal Years

I would like to offer the following suggestions for the years to come based on my experience of the selection process for this fiscal year.

(1) One objective of this year's selection process was to reduce the total number of grant projects somewhat and to increase the amount given to each project awarded a grant. We made some progress in this regard, but further study is needed to determine whether the current levels of funding are adequate. We received numerous proposals that we deemed unlikely to produce the intended results unless larger grants were awarded. Ongoing attention should be given to whether the Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program should support such projects, given the Foundation's grant philosophy. (It would seem more appropriate for some such projects to be supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency or funded by the national government.)

(2) While efforts have been made in this regard in the past, there is still a need to ensure more empirical verification of the link between grant projects and their purported results. To enable more effective evaluation of projects, advice should be given to project participants at the planning stage on effective ways to narrow the focus of their research topics and make them more realistic. Guidance provided to applicants by the Foundation regarding project content already helps to produce positive results, and we look forward to further progress in this regard in the future. Despite the difficulties involved, when a project fails to deliver the expected results, it is essential to analyze thoroughly the reasons why it failed. This kind of analysis can serve

as a valuable resource if it is made available to selection committee members in following years. (One approach might be to examine the list of project participants included in the project proposal form and determine who ended up performing which functions and whether any of the listed participants were simply lending their names to the effort.)

(3) The Foundation's high-caliber program officers clearly take the time to evaluate projects seriously and to follow up on projects to assess how their tasks are carried out. Until last fiscal year, the views and statements of program officers were withheld from evaluation discussions among selection committee members. This fiscal year, an effort was made to incorporate into committee meetings as much as possible of the various observations made by the program officers during the preliminary screening process, prior requests for improvements, analyses related to tightening budgets, and so on. This input was highly beneficial in terms of enhancing the deliberations and analyses of the committee members. In forthcoming years, efforts should be made to use the resources offered by the Foundation's program officers as effectively as possible, to maintain the independence of selection committee members to ensure that more suitable projects are selected, and to make further improvements to the follow-up system to ensure that the projects selected are actually carried out according to plan.

### III. Research Grant Program

## Funded Projects

Projects in their second year and beyond are designated with the symbol Y2 (Y3, etc.) below the project number

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
1 D08-R-0007	Preservation of Endangered Traditional Culture of the Regions: A Preservation and Succession of Regional Culture (PRAS) Project with Schoolchildren <i>Goro Murahata, Professor, Research and Education Faculty, Kochi University</i>	8,200,000 (2 years)
2 D08-R-0012 (China)	A Study on AIDS and Tuberculosis Among Cross-Border Floating Populations in the Triangle Area of Asia <i>Guoxi Cai, Project Researcher, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature</i>	4,200,000 (2 years)
3 D08-R-0062	Saving the Lives of Akita Citizens with Extensive Suicide Prevention Knowledge Acquired Through Counseling Experience <i>Hisao Sato, Director, NPO Kumo No Ito</i>	4,960,000 (2 years)
4 D08-R-0065 (South Korea)	Evaluation of Biodiversity Potential for the Sustainable Development of the Toki-Shonai River Basin: Building an Information Infrastructure to Spark the Intellectual Curiosity of Basin Residents About Biodiversity <i>Motoyasu Minami, Associate Professor, College of Bioscience and Biotechnology, Chubu University</i>	4,500,000 (2 years)
5 D08-R-0105	Practical Research on a Local Revitalization Strategy for Okagaki Town: Community Development Utilizing the Power of University Students <i>Shusaku Yoshida, Dean, Faculty of Humanities, Fukuoka Jo Gakuin University</i>	1,800,000 (2 years)
6 D08-R-0135 (South Korea)	A Study on the Planning of Energy Self-Sufficiency in a Rural Area and the Development of Public Education Content <i>Jin-Hee Park, Steering Committee Chairperson, Center for Energy Politics</i>	4,500,000
7 D08-R-0139	Organization of Local Knowledge by Participatory Research, “Fureai Research,” and Sustainable Local Community Design: The Formation and Empowerment Model of Local Community Agencies Linked with Forest Regeneration, Aya, Miyazaki <i>Shuichi Kito, Professor, Department of Socio-Cultural Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo</i>	6,000,000 (2 years)
8 D08-R-0145	Developing Social Capital to Replace Donors: A Study on the Changes in the Structure and Functioning of Coastal Communities of Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Indonesia in the Post-Tsunami Period <i>Masahiro Yamao, Professor, Graduate School of Biosphere Science, Hiroshima University</i>	3,000,000 (2 years)
9 D08-R-0149	Strategies for Hokkaido Devolution: Lessons from Scotland <i>Mikine Yamazaki, Professor, Public Policy School, Hokkaido University</i>	2,000,000
10 D08-R-0158	A Social Experiment for the Reconstruction of Resilience in <i>Satoyama</i> Social-Ecological Systems <i>Keiko Kuroda, Regional Research Coordinator, Kansai Research Center, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute</i>	5,000,000 (2 years)

### III. Research Grant Program

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
11 D08-R-0163	A Study on the Issues of Education and Support for Immigrant Children in Widely Scattered Areas: Focusing on Raising and Solving Problems and Cultivating Leaders for Their Education and Support in Yamagata and Iwate Prefectures <i>Chihiro Tsuchiya, Professor, Faculty of Liberal Arts, Teikyo University</i>	4,990,000 (2 years)
12 D08-R-0165	Practical Research on Reforming Local Assemblies from the Perspective of Free Debate, Citizen Participation, Information Disclosure, and Policy Creation <i>Motoki Nagano, Director, Citizens' Legislation Research Council for Local Governance</i>	6,000,000 (2 years)
13 D08-R-0169	Proposals on Environmental Upgrading of Residential Districts in Suburban Areas for Enhancing Self-Supportiveness and Healthy Aging for Senior People: Based on Measurements of Walking Mobility and Estimates of Medical Care Costs in Tama New Town <i>Jun Matsushita, Professor, College of Systems Engineering, Shibaura Institute of Technology</i>	9,000,000 (2 years)
14 D08-R-0201	Assistance to Facilitate the Settlement of Foreigners in Japan: Improvement of Infrastructure to Provide Mental Health Assistance to the Foreign Population in Order to Revitalize Japan amid Globalization <i>Tsuyoshi Akiyama, Director, Department of Psychiatry, Kanto Medical Center, NTT EC</i>	3,500,000 (2 years)
15 D08-R-0227	Restoration of a Sustainable City Based on a "Heritage of Alternative Modernization": Restoration of Symbiotic Life with a Tokugawa Irrigation Ditch <i>Taro Hirai, Lecturer, Faculty of Integrated Arts and Social Sciences, Nihon Women's University</i>	4,000,000 (2 years)
16 D08-R-0237	Practical Research and Development of Suitable Rural Economic Gain Systems Based on Local Carbon Sequestration of Carbonized Waste Biomass in Agricultural Land: Integrating CO <sub>2</sub> Emissions Trading, Eco-Brand Marketing, and Eco-Points Systems to Achieve Long-Term Emission-Reduction Global Goals <i>Hidehiko Kanegae, Director, Regional Information Research Center, Ritsumeikan University</i>	8,200,000 (2 years)
17 D08-R-0252	Film Archive Project on "Revived Memories as a Cornerstone of Rural Medicine and Local Regeneration": New Learnings from Old Film Records Produced by the Film Division of Saku Central Hospital <i>Ken'ichi Wakatsuki, Representative, Preservation Society for Film Records of Rural Medicine, Film Division, Saku Central Hospital</i>	8,200,000 (2 years)
18 D08-R-0256	Aquatic-Life Knowledge in Everyday Life: A Comparative Study of Fishing Villages on Lake Albert, Uganda, and Kumano, Mie Prefecture, Japan <i>Noriko Tahara, Associate Professor, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiten-noji University</i>	5,000,000 (2 years)
19 D08-R-0285 (Y2)	Development of a Methodology to Expand Model Activities Nationwide: A Nationwide Expansion Program for the Maternal and Child Health Handbook by the Vietnamese Ministry of Health <i>Akemi Bando, Graduate School Student, International Collaboration Division, Department of Global Human Sciences, Osaka University</i>	4,500,000 (2 years)
20 D08-R-0289	Improving Quality of Life Through Malaria Prevention During Pregnancy in Solomon Islands: Designing an Educational Program and Materials Focusing on Malaria Prevention for Pregnant Women <i>Miyuki Horiuchi, PhD Candidate, Graduate School of International Cooperation Studies, Kobe University</i>	4,000,000 (2 years)

### III. Research Grant Program

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
21 D08-R-0321	Re-Inventing the Taste of Japan: Tsukiji and Its Cultural Branding for the Fish Market Relocation After 2012 <i>Ayu Majima, Postdoctoral Fellow, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University</i>	5,950,000
22 D08-R-0331	An Intervention Study on Iron Deficiency Anemia and Food Intake Among Women and Schoolchildren in HIV/AIDS High Prevalency Areas in Coast Province, Kenya <i>Kayako Sakisaka, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Medicine, University of Tokyo</i>	5,500,000 (2 years)
23 D08-R-0337	Farmers Improving Their Lives Through Their Own Endeavors in Rural Areas of Africa: An Approach to Empower Rural People in Africa Through Technical Transfers Based on the Japanese Traditional Spirit and Technology <i>Makoto Kimura, Professor, Innovative Collaboration Center, Kyoto University</i>	5,000,000
24 D08-R-0391 (Cambodia)	The Use of Banned Pesticides on Vegetables: The Effects of Borax, Formalin, and Salicylic Acid on Foods and Health in Cambodia <i>Chek Sotha, Deputy Head, Department of Chemistry and Food, Institute of Science and Technology, Royal Academy of Cambodia</i>	7,500,000 (2 years)
25 D08-R-0393	An International Strategic Collaboration Project for Cultural Heritage Conservation and Area Activation in the Forefront of a Developing Area: Emergency Urban Conservation Planning and the Formation of a Study Base in Tianjin, the Northern Economic Center of China <i>Nobuo Aoki, Professor, School of Architecture, Tianjin University</i>	5,000,000 (2 years)
26 D08-R-0415	Search for a System to Establish Sustainable and Stable Local Governments: Investigations into the Socioeconomic Resources in Sanuki City, Kagawa <i>Akiko Fuke, President and CEO, Shikoku Citizens' Organization for Policy-Making Co., Ltd.</i>	8,700,000 (2 years)
Total (26 projects)		139,200,000

## Special Subject: Peripheral Asian Documents

### Comments by Selection Committee Chair Christian Daniels

#### 1. Overview of the Screening Process

The number of applications fell this fiscal year for the first time since the introduction of the Special Subject “Preservation, Compilation, and Annotation of Indigenous Documents in Peripheral Regions of Asia.” The table below shows the number of applications received over the past four years.

These figures reflect the ongoing demand for this Special Subject. The members of the selection committee are united in their belief that interest in the purpose of this Special Subject continues to grow.

#### Applications for “Peripheral Asian Documents” grants from 2005 to 2008, by origin

	Fiscal 2005	Fiscal 2006	Fiscal 2007	Fiscal 2008
Japanese applicants	18	10	17 (3)	13 (1)
Overseas applicants	10	22	29 (1)	18 (2)
Total	28	32	46 (4)	31 (3)

Note: Figures in parentheses represent the number of applications received for Result-Diffusion Grants.

Eight grants (two of them Result-Diffusion Grants) were awarded, including four to applicants from countries other than Japan. The Result-Diffusion Grant program for this Special Subject, established in fiscal 2007, supports the dissemination of results from particularly outstanding completed projects. There were three applications this fiscal year; after a rigorous screening process, two were approved for grants. In the previous fiscal year, the four grants approved under this program made up a large portion (40%) of all grants awarded for this Special Subject; this fiscal year they accounted for only 25% of the total.

Although the total number of grant applications was somewhat down this fiscal year, we nevertheless received a number of excellent proposals well suited to the objectives of the Special Subject. The demand for the Special Subject evidently remains substantial, and the committee is confident that there is considerable interest in its aims, both in Japan and overseas. In the previous fiscal year, we concentrated on ensuring that grant projects were widely distributed across Asia

while giving due emphasis to the output of promising ongoing projects and the dissemination of project results. This fiscal year geographical distribution was not a concern; the focus was on identifying excellent new proposals and on disseminating project results. The fact that so many of the selected projects are based in Southeast Asia and southwestern China merely reflects the fact that a large number of outstanding proposals were received from these regions.

#### 2. The Urgency of Preservation Efforts and Contributions to Cultural Identity

Many of the proposals were concerned with the preservation of privately held indigenous documents. The project proposals convincingly communicated the fact that indigenous documents are in danger of disappearing and that the urgent need to preserve them is a compelling problem. This was pointed out in the previous fiscal year’s post-selection evaluations, and the screening process for this fiscal year confirmed that an element of urgency is always present, a point that I would like to underline again here. While economic development and political integration are advancing, indigenous documents are not being preserved in regions of Asian countries considered peripheral—regions inhabited by minority ethnic groups—due to insufficient funding and the absence of expert personnel. To confront this reality, projects devoted to preserving, compiling, and annotating indigenous documents in these regions are urgently needed; the members of the committee were unanimous in feeling a keen sense of the need to continue providing these grants.

This was the second year of the Result-Diffusion Grant program. We have confirmed that communicating the output of preservation efforts not only promotes academic research but also plays an important role in enabling local residents to deepen their identities. As in the previous fiscal year, the proposals submitted this year frequently incorporated participation by local residents. It is extremely significant that many of the applicants, whether in Japan or overseas, submitted proposals that seized on the local population’s strong

desire to have indigenous documents preserved. This is important because, to local residents, indigenous documents represent a precious resource for reconstructing their own histories and cultures; the preservation of traditional documents helps maintain and develop local cultures and provides a basis for local residents' cultural identities.

The fact that roughly half of the applications received this fiscal year came from researchers in regions of Asia other than Japan illustrates the high level of local interest in the preservation of indigenous documents. To facilitate implementation of preservation, compilation, annotation, and result-diffusion efforts, high priority should continue to be given to proposals inspired by local requests or involving participation by local people.

### 3. Grant Projects Selected This Fiscal Year

First, I would like to say a word or two about the peripheral regions of Asia addressed by this Special Subject. Overlapping regions and cultural domains are often intertwined in the histories and cultures of Asian countries, and they often straddle multiple nations. A peripheral region in Asia is a flexible concept, but here the term *peripheral region* can refer to a region or an ethnic group located within a single country and considered peripheral from the vantage point of major civilizations and dominant cultural domains. This concept encompasses regions and cultural domains regarded as "minor" civilizations, as opposed to "major" civilizations, as well as regions inhabited by minority ethnic groups and regarded as peripheral within Asian nations, regardless of the nation's size.

Six of the eight projects recommended for grants this fiscal year were located in Southeast Asia, while the other two were located in southwestern China. The geographic range of the selected projects was not as wide this fiscal year, and there were no projects in Central and Western Asia, as there had been in fiscal 2007. This reflects the concentration in Southeast Asia and southwestern China of outstanding proposals that emphasized the return of project results to local residents.

A summary follows of several representative projects.

A. The project "Preservation, Compilation, and Reading of Lanten Yao Traditional Texts in Northern

Laos," led by Shinsuke Tomita, focuses on Chinese-language documents in the possession of the Lanten Yao people, who live in small communities. The project involves: (1) compiling and cataloging documents; (2) compiling data on the locations where the documents were collected; (3) digitizing and uploading the documents to the Internet, with links to a catalog of the data compiled in (2) above; and (4) publishing in Laos a book containing reproductions of the most important documents for distribution to Lanten Yao communities.

B. The project "Survey and Collection of Bai-Speech Documents Dubbed in Chinese Characters Found in Northwest Yunnan, China," led by Xilu Zhang, is concerned with Bai-language documents, some privately held and others housed in public institutions, that have been transcribed in Chinese characters. It entails the following efforts: (1) cataloging the documents; (2) preserving the documents digitally and providing public access to them by donating these images to major libraries; and (3) publishing an annotated collection of facsimile versions of representative documents, with the Bai-language readings phonetically rendered in the Latin alphabet, and donating the collection to major libraries.

C. The project "Publishing Catalogues of Mon Palm-Leaf Manuscripts, Publishing Translations of Old Mon *Parabaik*, Holding Workshops, and Giving Special Lectures at Mon Schools to Disseminate Project Results," led by Nyunt Han, is an effort to disseminate the results of a grant project completed in fiscal 2007. The project focused on ancient palm-leaf manuscripts stored in Mon villages in Myanmar's Mon State and elsewhere. As a way of disseminating the results of the project, the participants seek to raise awareness among local Mon residents, especially high school students, of the cultural value of ancient Mon palm-leaf manuscripts and the need to store them properly. They will also encourage local Mon scholars to have these documents translated into Burmese and English. The project consists of the following efforts: (1) producing and publishing printed and digital catalogs of ancient Mon palm-leaf manuscripts stored at the Mon State Cultural Museum and in rural temples in that state; (2) publishing facsimile versions of selected ancient Mon palm-leaf manuscripts concerned with traditional astronomy, with Burmese and English translations ap-

pended; and (3) publishing facsimile versions of selected ancient Mon palm-leaf manuscripts concerned with traditional medicine, including some with English translations appended.

As in fiscal 2007, the selection process for this fiscal year has confirmed that both researchers and local residents have high hopes for projects devoted to preserving indigenous documents in peripheral regions of Asia.

III. Research Grant Program

**Funded Projects**  
Special Subject: Peripheral Asian Documents

Projects in their second year and beyond are designated with the symbol Y2 (Y3, etc.) below the project number

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
1 D08-Q-001 (France)	Inventorying, Digitizing, and Cataloguing Myanmar Parabaik Illustrated with Maps and Architectural Records <i>Francois Tainturier, PhD Candidate, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London</i>	2,310,000
2 D08-Q-011	Preservation and Compilation of Popular Islamic Documents in the Province of Lanao del Sur, Mindanao Island, Philippines <i>Midori Kawashima, Professor, Faculty of Foreign Studies, Sophia University</i>	2,680,000 (2 years)
3 D08-Q-013 (Y3) (Laos)	Annotated Catalogue of Tai Nuea Manuscripts in Northern Laos <i>Nettavong Kongdeuane, Director, National Library of Laos</i>	1,500,000
4 D08-Q-017	Comprehensive Collection and Preservation of Local Documents of the Traditional Villages Surrounding Hue Citadel, Vietnam, and Their Cultural Context <i>Juji Azuma, Professor, Institute for Cultural Interaction Studies, Kansai University</i>	4,890,000 (2 years)
5 D08-Q-018	Preservation, Compilation, and Reading of Lanten Yao Traditional Texts in Northern Laos <i>Shinsuke Tomita, Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Tokyo</i>	4,530,000 (2 years)
6 D08-Q-019 (China)	Survey and Collection of Bai-Speech Documents Dubbed in Chinese Characters Found in Northwest Yunnan, China <i>Xilu Zhang, Vice Director, The Institute of Minority-Ethnic Culture, Dali University</i>	4,780,000 (2 years)
<b>Result-Diffusion Grants</b>		
7 D08-SQ-001 (Y3) (Myanmar)	Publishing Catalogues of Mon Palm-Leaf Manuscripts, Publishing Translations of Old Mon <i>Parabaik</i> , Holding Workshops, and Giving Special Lectures at Mon Schools to Disseminate Project Results <i>Nyunt Han, Advisor, Myanmar Department of Archaeology</i>	2,010,000
8 D08-SQ-003 (Y2)	Translation into Chinese and Diffusion of the Sacred Book of the Dead of the Yi People in Yunnan <i>Nobuo Fujikawa, Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University</i>	2,300,000
Total (8 projects)		25,000,000

## Special Subject: Making Grants Come Alive

### Comments by Selection Committee Chair Norio Ishida

This fiscal year marked the fourth and final year of the “Making Grants Come Alive” Special Subject. Everyone involved in the program—applicants, selection committee, and the Foundation secretariat—worked hard to produce some kind of conclusion (or direction) from this brief four-year period. We arrive at the post-selection evaluation uncertain whether we have succeeded in providing any convincing answers to the question of what it means to make “Grants Come Alive.” I would, however, like to thank all the applicants who took up the challenge of this difficult subject. I would also like to pay tribute to the efforts of the Foundation employees who provided grant recipients with unprecedented support.

Many academics working in the sciences in Japan today are worn out by evaluations. These include self-evaluations, internal evaluations within institutions, and external evaluations. Many researchers bemoan the working hours they have to spend on evaluations. In theory, academic research is ranked according to these evaluations, with the highest-ranked researchers receiving a greater share of funding to support further results. But is it realistic that one single perspective, focus, and venue should be considered appropriate for all evaluations? In many cases evaluations take an approach close to that of a citation index, assessing the value of research according to the number of papers a researcher has published. While academic papers should certainly not be ignored, it is doubtful whether papers alone can give an adequate picture of the quality of a project or the relationship between its costs and results. Evaluations need to take into account the different perspectives of all parties involved in research grant activities, including the providers and recipients of research grants and the institutions where the research is carried out. The challenge is to ensure that research has a constructive impact on society, both through the project and its results. The “Making Grants Come Alive” Special Subject program has operated on this basis since fiscal 2005.

Despite the difficulties of the challenge, the program received 8 applications in fiscal 2005 (of which

3 were approved), 31 in fiscal 2006 (5 were approved), and 15 in fiscal 2007 (3 were approved). For fiscal 2008, applications were accepted only from projects that had been approved for grants during the previous three years; four applications were received.

Throughout the program, fewer applications were received than anticipated, and surprisingly few applications dealt with really bold and ambitious subjects. Nevertheless, a number of applications did cast strong doubts on modern evaluation methods, making it clear that the significance of the program’s topic was well appreciated. In particular, these applications tended to come from young or mid-career researchers, and their willingness to express doubts about current evaluation methods is a positive sign.

This fiscal year, applicants gave presentations at the selection committee meeting as part of the selection process. In prior years the screening process had focused solely on written materials, but since applicants for grants this fiscal year had already received grants under this program, were producing results, and were now proposing to use the results of these projects to “make grants come alive,” we decided to allow applicants an opportunity to appear before the committee in person to offer a final summary of their results. The Foundation’s program officers were asked to attend these presentations. It was thought that having program officers in attendance to judge whether the applicants could meet the expectations of the grant provider—whether they could “make grants come alive”—would help generate ideas about what a grant-making foundation should be. Of course, this approach is feasible enough for a special subject with a small number of applications. It remains to be seen whether the same format would be practicable with a general program receiving large numbers of applications. In any case, this year’s process offered a model for a new screening method involving the participation of the Foundation itself, which produced lively debate by involving people with a variety of perspectives instead of restricting discussion to selection committee members only.

Two of the four applications submitted in 2008

were approved for grants and recommended to the Board of Directors. The grant recipients were Kazuhiko Hatano and Misuzu Asari; the titles of their projects and the amount of funding granted to each are given below. The committee determined that both projects were likely to produce results with relevance to the wider community beyond the academy; that both projects included efforts to ensure an impact on society; that the applicants understood and would endeavor to fulfill the aims of the Special Subject; and that they would strive for qualitative improvements in future research.

In the post-selection evaluations for the previous fiscal year, the following points were raised as issues to be addressed in the program's final year:

- Promotion of exchange among recipients of grants under this Special Subject;
- Discussion between selection committee members and project leaders;
- Detailed monitoring of projects;
- Discussion with researchers who work to support more pure academic research.

These are certainly important considerations for refining the original challenge of “making grants come alive” by exerting a constructive impact on society through research, though it can hardly be said that these recommendations have been given an adequate trial. Accordingly, it will be essential to ensure that communication continues between project representatives and the Foundation (program officers) and selection committee once the grants have been confirmed, and that the progress of the projects is closely monitored to enhance the social impact and maximize the significance of the efforts made by the program over the course of its four-year history.

Developing Content to Improve the Quality of Applications for Educational Aid: Research on Factors Affecting Grant Applications

*Kazuhiko Hatano* ¥1.4 million

Communication Through the Web and E-mail to Disseminate the Citizens' “Kyoto Protocol: A Book of Secrets”

*Misuzu Asari* ¥3.27 million

Total: ¥4.67 million (Total budget: ¥10 million)

## Funded Projects

### Special Subject: Making Grants Come Alive

Projects in their second year and beyond are designated with the symbol Y2 (Y3, etc.) below the project number

Grant #	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
1 D08-J-003 (Y3)	Developing Content to Improve the Quality of Applications for Educational Aid: Research on Factors Affecting Grant Applications <i>Kazuhiko Hatano, Associate Professor, National Institute of Multimedia Education</i>	1,400,000
2 D08-J-004 (Y2)	Communication Through the Web and E-mail to Disseminate the Citizens' "Kyoto Protocol: A Book of Secrets" <i>Misuzu Asari, Assistant Professor, Environment Preservation Center, Kyoto University</i>	3,270,000
Total (2 projects)		4,670,000

## Special Subject: Cultural Creation in Maritime East Asia

### Comments by Selection Committee Chair Abito Ito

Proposals for 15 projects under this Special Subject were submitted in fiscal 2008. After those that clearly did not accord with the aims of the program had been eliminated from consideration, written proposals for the remaining projects were considered by members of the selection committee, which then met to discuss the results of these preliminary evaluations.

A decision was taken to ask applicants to give presentations in order to provide an opportunity for the selection committee, the Foundation secretariat, and grant candidates to discuss suggestions made at the preliminary evaluation for improvements to the focus of study, the makeup of the research team, plans for utilizing results, and so on. This system was introduced on a trial basis for the first time this fiscal year. Jun Kimura, residing outside Japan, was not required to give a presentation.

In the oral presentations, applicants provided additional details to support proposals using PowerPoint slides, video materials, and handouts, while selection committee members and Foundation representatives asked questions and took part in discussions.

Koji Kobayashi's proposal was for a project to study Asian mother-of-pearl inlay traditions. In addition to looking at the forms, techniques, history, and distribution of these traditions, which had already been the focus of a museum survey and exhibition, he was asked to broaden his perspective to incorporate the social and cultural context and processes pertaining to the manufacture, use, and distribution of mother-of-pearl inlays. He was also encouraged to exhibit and publish his results in an attractive fashion involving people and the local community. It was decided to focus on Asia for the present, in keeping with the aims of the program, and not to include Europe.

At the presentation given by Hisahiko Kamizuru, comments and requests from selection committee members opened up potential ways to expand the project beyond the scope of the original proposal, tying it in with regional exchange and interaction between residents of Taiwan and Okinawa. A lively discussion was held regarding the makeup of the team and the ap-

proach necessary to make this possible, and on making the best use of the project results.

The selection process therefore consisted of four stages: preliminary screening, preliminary evaluations by selection committee members, discussion at the selection committee meeting, and presentations. The presentations provided an opportunity for constructive, concrete, and profitable discussions on ways to improve project proposals, through lively exchanges among applicants, selection committee members, and Foundation representatives, and provided an effective reminder that this program is a joint effort involving all three parties.

There remain issues to be addressed in the future, such as the balance to be struck between presentations and the preliminary proposal-based evaluations, and the question of how to deal fairly with overseas applicants who are unable to visit the Foundation. Nevertheless, I hope that presentations will continue to be used as an effective part of the evaluation process.

**Funded Projects**  
Special Subject: Cultural Creation in Maritime East Asia

Grant #	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
1 D08-RO-002	Rediscovering a Common and Diverse Iridescence: Mother-of-Pearl Inlay in Maritime East Asia <i>Koji Kobayashi, Curator, Collection Registration Section, Cultural Property Division, Independent Administrative Institution National Institutes for Cultural Heritage, Kyushu National Museum</i>	5,200,000 (2 years)
2 D08-RO-005	Analytical Study of Medieval Oceangoing Vessels in the East Asian Region Based on Shipwreck Data: Forwarding Further Developments of Underwater Cultural Heritage Management in the Region <i>Jun Kimura, PhD Candidate/Associate Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, Flinders University</i>	2,000,000 (2 years)
3 D08-RO-011	An Empirical Study of Living Space Construction and Practice in Boundary-Crossing: Towards a Breakaway from the Political-Economic Periphery in East Asian Societies <i>Kamizuru Hisahiko, Assistant Professor, Community Liaison Center, Prefectural University of Hiroshima</i>	3,880,000 (2 years)
Total (3 projects)		11,080,000

# IV. Initiative Program

## Overview and Grant Results

In fiscal 2008 the Foundation Initiative Grant Program was revised to become the Initiative Program. The program supports projects that are likely to contribute to the development of new grant programs, such as projects undertaken in partnership with the Foundation's own survey activities or study groups, current grant projects judged through monitoring and other means to have the potential to produce greater results, and joint projects to create broad networks with other organizations. In accordance with these aims, the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program carried out in collaboration with the SEASREP Foundation and

the Japan Foundation has been incorporated into the Initiative Program.

The Initiative Program awarded grants to two projects in fiscal 2008: "Activities for Determining and Proposing the Institutionalization of Accounting Standards at NPOs" and "Adapting to Systemic Reforms of Japan's Public Interest Corporations." Grants were also made to SEASREP's "Asian Emporiums Course" training program and in support of its Comparative and Collaborative Research Grants. Fiscal 2008 was the last year in which grants were provided for this latter program.

### Initiative Program

	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)
Initiative Grants	2	50.0	5.8

### SEASREP

Figures in parentheses are for fiscal 2007

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (US\$)	Value of grants (US\$)
Comparative and Collaborative Research Grants	46 (56)	17 (23)	190,000 (190,000)	189,155 (190,000)
Training program (Asian Emporiums)	–	1 (1)	32,000 (30,000)	32,000 (32,000)
Total	46 (831)	18 (70)	222,000 (220,000)	221,155 (222,000)

Funded Projects  
Initiative Grants

Grant #	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
1 D08-PI-001	Adapting to Systemic Reforms of Japan's Public Interest Corporations <i>Hiroshi Tanaka, Executive Director, The Japan Foundation Center</i>	3,000,000
2 D08-PI-002	Activities for Determining and Proposing the Institutionalization of Accounting Standards at NPOs <i>Akira Matsubara, Managing Director and Secretary General, Coalition for Legislation to Support Citizens' Organizations</i>	2,800,000
	Total (2 projects)	5,800,000

## Funded Projects

## Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (Regional Collaboration Grants)

Projects in their second year and beyond are designated with the symbol Y2 (Y3, etc.) below the project number

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (US\$)
1 D08-EC-01 (Y2) (Vietnam)	Vat Phu (Southern Laos) Sanctuaries: A Field Research on the Ancient Trading Routes in the Land Between the Eastern Coast and the Mekong River of Peninsular Indochina <i>Tran Ky Phuong, Senior Researcher, Vietnam Association of Ethnic Minorities' Culture and Arts</i>	15,100
2 D08-EC-02 (Y2) (Philippines)	Reconfiguring Digital Piracy Through Consumption: Case Studies in Indonesia and the Philippines <i>Maria Mangahas, Fellow, Third World Studies Center, College of Social Sciences and Philosophy, University of the Philippines, Diliman</i>	10,760
3 D08-EC-03 (Y2) (Thailand)	Pipat Traditions in Music Culture in Maekhong River Basin: Practice and Phenomena in Early Twenty-First Century <i>Manop Wisuttiapat, Associate Professor, Department of Music Education, Srinakharinwirot University</i>	12,050
4 D08-EC-04 (Y2) (Vietnam)	Sedentarization, Adaptation and Marginalization: A Comparative Study on the Kmhmu in Southeast Asia <i>Hoang Luong, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi</i>	17,200
5 D08-EC-05 (Singapore)	Cyberbullying and Cybervictimization Among Adolescents in Singapore and Malaysia: The Role of Approval-of-Aggression Beliefs, Empathy, Aggression, and Narcisism <i>Rebecca Ang, Associate Professor, Division of Psychology, Nanyang Technological University</i>	9,000
6 D08-EC-06 (Philippines)	Trade, Traders, Networks, and the State in the Philippine, Malaysian, and Indonesian Borders <i>Misael Racines, Visiting Researcher, Department of Southeast Asian Studies, University of Malaya</i>	15,000
7 D08-EC-07 (Y2) (Vietnam)	Similarities and Differences of Mjong's Immaterial Folklore in Vietnam and Cambodia in Contemporary Society <i>Do Hong Ky, Director, The Institute of Sustainable Development of the Central Region and Western Highlands</i>	15,000
8 D08-EC-08 (Vietnam)	Vietnamese-Thai Dictionary <i>Nguyen Tuong Lai, Vice Dean, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Vietnam National University, Hanoi</i>	10,000
9 D08-EC-09 (Y2) (Philippines)	Spill-Over Effect of Rural Industrialization on Community Transformation <i>Linda Penalba, Associate Professor, Institute of Agrarian and Rural Development Studies, University of the Philippines Los Banos College</i>	15,000
10 D08-EC-10 (Y2) (Philippines)	"The Battles for History" in Malaysia: A Comparison with the Case of Indonesia <i>Rommel Curaming, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore</i>	3,720

#### IV. Initiative Program

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (US\$)
11 D08-EC-11 (Philippines)	To Invite Dr. Adi Haji Taha to Lecture on Malaysian Archaeology and Southeast Asian Underwater Archaeology at the University of the Philippines Diliman <i>Victor J. Paz, Director, Archaeological Studies Program, University of the Philippines Diliman</i>	5,000
12 D08-EC-12 (Indonesia)	From Rural to Global Labor: Transnational Migration and Agrarian Change in Indonesia and the Philippines <i>Indrasari Tjandraningsih, Senior Researcher, Center for Social Analysis, AKATIGA</i>	15,000
13 D08-EC-13 (Philippines)	Workshop on Contemporary Dynamics of Marriage Migration in Southeast Asia <i>Zenaida Reyes, Professor, Philippine Normal University</i>	14,000
14 D08-EC-14 (Y2) (Indonesia)	Environment and Sustainable Development in Indonesia and Malaysia <i>Ali Alwi, Director, Research on Development, Tanjungpura University</i>	10,000
15 D08-EC-15 (Philippines)	White-Collar Labor Market and Human Capital in Thailand and the Philippines <i>Natenapha Yabushita, Visiting Research Fellow, School of Economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman</i>	3,000
16 D08-EC-16 (Y3) (Thailand)	The Architecture of Mon Buddhist Monasteries in Lower Burma <i>Chotima Chaturawong, Lecturer, Silpakorn University</i>	11,700
17 D08-EC-17 (Thailand)	Weaving the Tai Social World: the Process of Translocality and Alternative Modernities along the Yunnan-Burma Border <i>Aranya Siriphon, Researcher, Biodiversity and Indigenous Knowledge Studies Center for Research and Sustainable Development, Chiang Mai University</i>	7,625
Total (17 projects)		189,155

IV. Initiative Program

**Funded Project**

Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (Council-Related Grant)

Projects in their second year and beyond are designated with the symbol Y2 (Y3, etc.) below the project number

Grant # (Country)	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (US\$)
1 D08-ER-01 (Y6) (Philippines)	Travel Grants for the Asian Emporiums Course <i>Maria Serena I. Diokno, Executive Director, SEASREP Foundation</i>	32,000
	Total (1 project)	32,000

# V. Communication with Society Program

## Overview and Grant Results

In fiscal 2008, the Research Report Grant Program that previously disseminated the results of projects in the Research Grant Program and the former Southeast Asian National Research Program was reorganized into the new Communication with Society Program. This program aims to communicate and disseminate to a wider audience the results of selected projects from all the Foundation's programs.

The program provides grants allowing projects to communicate their results to society using a variety of means, including not only printed publications but also

visual media (films, videos, DVDs, manga, etc.), digital media (websites, e-mail newsletters, etc.), symposiums, workshops, and use of the mass media. The only grant awarded in fiscal 2008 was for a project titled "East Asia Publishers Conference: A Practical Program Focused on Developing Human Resources" (¥4 million). The Foundation will continue to consider the kinds of results that are likely to prove meaningful to society and that deserve to be communicated and disseminated to a wider audience by the program.

### Communication with Society Program

	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)
Communication with Society Program	1	40	4

## Funded Project

Grant #	Title of project Project leader, position, organization	Amount (¥)
1 D08-SC-001	East Asia Publishers Conference: A Practical Program Focused on Developing Human Resources <i>Keiji Kato, Trustee, Seki Memorial Foundation for the Promotion of Science and Technology</i>	4,000,000
	Total (1 project)	4,000,000