About the Asahi Glass Foundation

Profile
The Asahi Glass Foundation was established in 1933 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Asahi Glass Co., Ltd., which was celebrated in 1932. For more than half a century, the Foundation's research assistance program focused on providing financial assistance solely in the field of applied chemistry.

In response to major industrial, economic and social changes in recent years, and recognizing that new research is becoming increasingly advanced, globally oriented and interdisciplinary, the Foundation in 1990 restructured its activities by expanding its research assistance program and introducing a commendation program. These activities are designed not only to further the study of the applied sciences but also to promote advanced research that will serve the world community into the future.

Research assistance is no longer limited to applied chemistry, but now encompasses all natural sciences, in addition to supporting research in the human and social sciences fields. In all areas, assistance is given for advanced research with the potential to benefit the future of humankind.

The Foundation's commendation program, which focuses on the increasingly relevant issue of the global environment, sponsors the annual Blue Planet Prize, an international award inaugurated in 1992 to commend individuals and organizations working toward the solution of environmental problems.

The Foundation strives to contribute to the creation of a richer, more vibrant society. To this end, it supports research in leading-edge scientific and technological fields and recognizes individual and organizational efforts to solve issues of concern to people around the world.

The Asahi Glass Foundation's home is in Tokyo's Science Plaza Building.
Program Overview

1. Grant Program
   a. Natural sciences research assistance
   b. Human and social sciences research assistance
   c. Comprehensive research assistance
   d. Overseas research assistance
   e. Support for international conferences

2. Commendation Program
   a. The Blue Planet Prize, an international environmental award
   b. Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind
   c. Information about environment-related events and publications

3. Other Activities
   a. Publications
   b. Internet-based information compilation and dissemination

http://www.af-info.or.jp

Financial Information
Total assets of the Foundation at the end of fiscal 2000 amounted to more than ¥11.8 billion, and the budget for activities in fiscal 2001 is ¥630 million.
History

1933  To commemorate its 25th anniversary (1932), the Asahi Glass Co., Ltd., establishes the Asahi Foundation for Chemical Industry Promotion.

1934  The Asahi Foundation for Chemical Industry Promotion gains recognition as a non-profit organization. The Foundation begins providing research assistance to university researchers in the field of applied chemistry.

1961  Name change to the Asahi Glass Foundation for Industrial Technology.

1982  Begins providing overseas research assistance to Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

1988  Begins providing overseas research assistance to the Institute Technology Bandung in Indonesia.

1990  Revises its funding program to support the expansion of its activities. Name change to the Asahi Glass Foundation to reflect this revision. Begins offering comprehensive research assistance.

1991  Diversifies its research assistance to the field of natural sciences.

1992  Begins providing research assistance in the fields of the human and social sciences.

1993  Holds a seminar covering petrochemical technology at Chulalongkorn University—now an annual event.

First annual Blue Planet Prize awards ceremony.

First annual “Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind.”

1994  Holds first annual seminar presenting findings from Foundation-assisted research in Tokyo.

First seminar on Foundation-assisted research in Indonesia at the Institute Technology Bandung. Five seminars presented to date.

Holds lecture program at the University of Oklahoma to commemorate the Foundations’ endowment of a chaired professorship.

1996  Moves to current office and inaugurates its Internet web site.

1997  Issues a five-year commemorative publication, A Better Future for the Planet Earth: Lectures and Essays by the Winners of the Blue Planet Prize.

1998  Issues a Six-Year Synopsis of its environmental survey.

2000  Issues an Eight-Year Synopsis of its environmental survey.

2001  Issues a Blue Planet Prize brochure.

2002  Commemorates the 10th anniversary of the Blue Planet Prize.

• Publication: Toward the Future of the Blue Planet—10-Year History of the Blue Planet Prize

• Commemorative lectures
Directors

Chairman
Hiromichi Seya
Chairman, former President, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

Senior Executive Director
Kimihiko Sato
Former Member of the Board, General Manager, Research Center, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

Trustees
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Shinya Ishizu
President, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

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Professor, Meiji University; Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

Shigeru Ito
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Honorary Advisor, former Chairman, Japan Broadcasting Corporation

Yukiharu Kodama
President, Japan Information Processing Development Corporation;
former Administrative Vice Minister of International Trade and Industry

Jiro Kondo
Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo;
former President, Science Council of Japan

Akio Morishima
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Chairman, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

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Professor Emeritus, former President, Kyoto University

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Professor Emeritus, former President, Kyushu University

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Honorary Chairman, Toyota Motor Corporation;
Honorary Chairman, Federation of Economic Organizations

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former Chairman, former President, The Mitsubishi Bank, Ltd.

Kiyoshi Tazawa
Former Auditor, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

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Executive Vice President, Chief Technology Officer, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

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Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

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Director, Honorary Chairman, former President, Kajima Corp.
Kazuo Kamiya  
Advisor, National Association for Subcontracting Enterprises Promotion;  
former Senior Executive Vice President, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

Ryohachi Kusaba  
Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Nobuo Matsunaga  
Vice Chairman, The Japan Institute of International Affairs;  
former Ambassador to the United States of America

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