

# Preface

Now at a time after a half century since mankind first saw the blue planet shining in the great universe, on this blue planet called Earth with more than seven billion people living, the results of their activities are showing various impacts on the earth itself. Atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide continued to rise and now has reached 400ppm, not only influencing climate change in the form of global warming but also causing acidification of oceans, which gives us great concern on our ecosystems.

Twenty years ago from now in 1992, the world in recognizing the issues surfacing around the status of the earth held the “Earth Summit” in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the aim of creating a sustainable environment for all living things to live prosperously, made a declaration toward resolving the global environmental problems. At the same time, the Asahi Glass Foundation established the Blue Planet Prize and announced the first winners in Rio de Janeiro, and since has awarded the prize for twenty consecutive years to those who made significant contributions in resolving the global environmental problems and by doing so the Foundation has actively let the public become aware of the problems through learning the achievements made by the winners and hearing their thoughts. But now after twenty years from the Earth Summit, global environmental problems deepened, becoming further a grave concern and there are no easy solutions in sight. Under these circumstances in 2012, the Blue Planet Prize Laureates responding to a call made from the Foundation gathered to create a joint paper in issuing a message to the world that it is now imperative to act toward preserving the global environment. The joint paper and the message were presented at the UNEP Governing Council in Nairobi, Kenya and at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio + 20).

The publication of “Better Future for the Planet Earth Vol. IV” lists the lectures given by the Blue Planet Prize winners of (from) 2007 to 2011. We wish the readers to revisit the thoughts and messages given by the winners and act to make a move in

resolving the global environmental problems. The Asahi Glass Foundation is committed to making contributions however small they may be in securing the global environment through its commendation program, environmental survey and other activities.

August, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Tanaka', with a large, sweeping flourish at the beginning.

Tetsuji Tanaka

Chairman

The Asahi Glass Foundation



**The Earth is a precious ecosystem,  
sustaining every living thing.**



At the Asahi Glass Foundation, we hope that people  
around the world will work toward protecting our planet from destruction,  
ensuring our treasured  
inheritance continues to exist for future generations.



The Blue Planet Prize  
Trophy and Certificate

The Blue Planet Prize symbol, top left, represents our responsibility toward our fragile home. It is a symbol of hope for our children, of coexistence with and intimate connection to our environment. This design depicts the delicate balance and dynamic interrelationship of our world: the pristine blue sky and sea, people, nature and the universe.

## Inaugural Blue Planet Prize Winners Announced at UNCED (1992)



### ■ Announcement of Winners

The winners of the inaugural Blue Planet Prize were announced during UNCED, which took place in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 to June 14, 1992. On June 4, the Foundation held a media reception at the Meridien Hotel in Rio de Janeiro. On June 8, the winners were announced in the Briefing Room of the Rio Centro Convention Center, the same room in which the United Nations held its UNCED press conference. The Foundation also sponsored a display booth spotlighting its activities at Global Forum '92, an event organized by a number of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and held during UNCED in Rio's Flamengo Park.



Professor Jiro Kondo, president of the Science Council of Japan and a director of the Asahi Glass Foundation, makes a speech at the media reception.



Attending the awards announcement were, from left, Richard Sandbrook, executive director of the IIED; Maurice Strong, secretary-general of UNCED\*; Dr. Saburo Okita, former minister of Foreign Affairs and a director of the Asahi Glass Foundation; Hideaki Yamashita, chairman of the Asahi Glass Foundation; Ambassador Masaki Seo; and Osamu Shiragami, senior executive director of the Asahi Glass Foundation.



Press conference at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

Media reception prior to the press conference on the announcement of the awards.

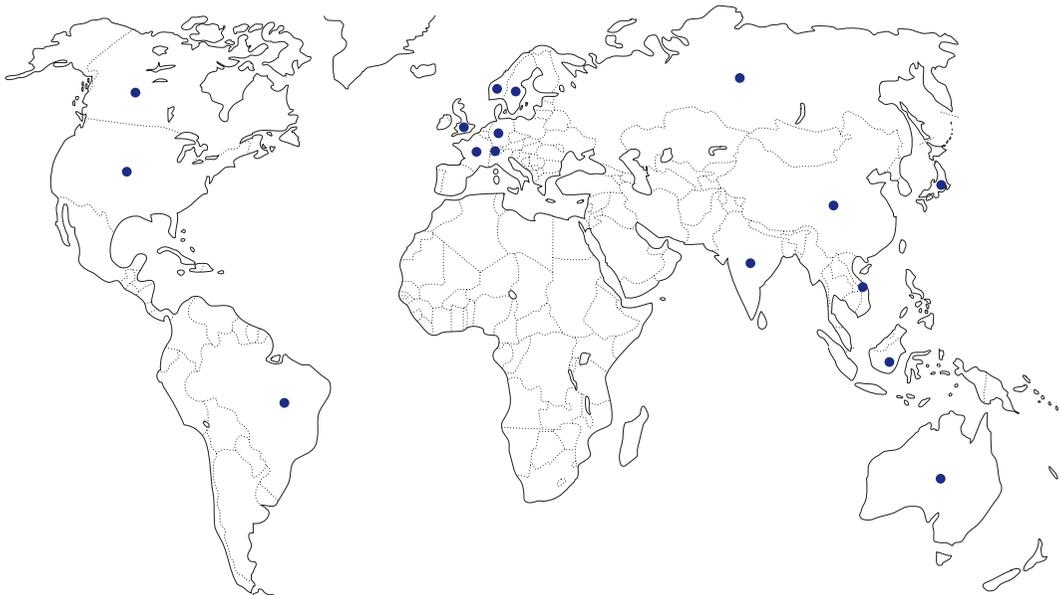


\* UNCED = United Nations Conference on Environment and Development  
All personal titles refer to positions held at the time.

## Blue Planet Prize Laureates since 1992

Year	Laureate	Country
1992	Dr. Syukuro Manabe	USA
	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)	Founded in UK
1993	Late Dr. Charles D. Keeling	USA
	IUCN-The World Conservation Union	Headquartered in Switzerland
1994	Prof. Dr. Eugen Seibold	Germany
	Mr. Lester R. Brown	USA
1995	Late Dr. Bert Bolin	Sweden
	Mr. Maurice F. Strong	Canada
1996	Dr. Wallace S. Broecker	USA
	M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation	Founded in India
1997	Dr. James E. Lovelock	UK
	Conservation International (CI)	Headquartered in USA
1998	Late Prof. Mikhail I. Budyko	Russia
	Late Mr. David R. Brower	USA
1999	Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich	USA
	Prof. Qu Geping	China
2000	Dr. Theo Colborn	USA
	Dr. Karl-Henrik Robèrt	Sweden
2001	Lord (Robert) May of Oxford	Australia
	Dr. Norman Myers	UK
2002	Prof. Harold A. Mooney	USA
	Prof. J. Gustave Speth	USA

Year	Laureate	Country
2003	Dr. Gene E. Likens & Late Dr. F. Herbert Bormann	USA
	Dr. Vo Quy	Vietnam
2004	Dr. Susan Solomon	USA
	Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland	Norway
2005	Late Prof. Sir Nicholas Shackleton	UK
	Dr. Gordon Hisashi Sato	USA
2006	Dr. Akira Miyawaki	Japan
	Dr. Emil Salim	Indonesia
2007	Prof. Joseph L. Sax	USA
	Dr. Amory B. Lovins	USA
2008	Dr. Claude Lorius	France
	Prof. José Goldemberg	Brazil
2009	Prof. Hirofumi Uzawa	Japan
	Lord (Nicholas) Stern of Brentford	UK
2010	Dr. James Hansen	USA
	Sir Bob Watson	UK
2011	Dr. Jane Lubchenco	USA
	Barefoot College	Founded in India



## **Some Background on the Blue Planet Prize**

Humankind has only one home, the Earth, and we all bear responsibility to leave it in a habitable condition for future generations. In recognition of those whose efforts help provide solutions for global environmental problems, the Foundation established the Blue Planet Prize, an annual international award presented to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward that aim. The year the prize was first awarded, 1992, was the year that the world turned its attention to environmental issues at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. In keeping with the spirit of that conference, the Foundation hopes to help raise awareness of and interest in environmental issues throughout the world while expressing its appreciation for the achievements of the winners.

Each year, the Foundation chooses two individuals or organizations whose pioneering achievements represent major contributions to sustainable development and to solving such environmental problems as climate change, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, ecosystem destruction in tropical rainforests, species extinction and desertification. The Foundation is also keen to recognize work in areas related to energy, food, population, waste treatment, recycling, as well as environmental management, ethics, philosophy and education. The work of the award winners must in some way contribute to the harmonious coexistence of people, society and the environment.

They should contribute to humankind's pool of scientific knowledge as well as to the realization of a global community that uses science and technology for the good of all. Candidate nominations are received from more than 120 countries worldwide. Living citizens of all nations, irrespective of gender, race or religion, are eligible.

A short list of nominees is compiled by the Selection Committee. Final decisions are made by the Presentation Committee and nominees are approved by the Foundation's Board of Directors and Councilors.

The winners are presented with a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy and a supplementary prize of 50 million yen at an awards ceremony. The ceremony takes place in Tokyo and is attended each year by members of the Japanese royal family, government officials, foreign diplomats, academics and researchers, as well as representatives from many fields of endeavor. On the day following the awards ceremony, the laureates present lectures on their work to an audience at the United

Nations University in Tokyo. This lecture event is well attended by the general public, journalists, environmental specialists and academics from related fields. For the past twenty years, the Foundation has published a full transcript of the lectures. In 1997, 2002, and 2007, to commemorate the fifth, tenth and fifteenth anniversaries of the prize, respectively, “A Better Future for the Planet Earth” books were published. Volume IV is a five-year compilation of the prize winners’ lectures and essays from 2007 to 2011.

The Blue Planet Prize was so named in the hope that our blue planet will be a shared possession capable of sustaining all life time far into the future. The Earth is a precious ecosystem, home to every living thing. At the Asahi Glass Foundation, we sincerely hope that people around the globe will work toward protecting our planet from environmental deterioration, ensuring that the natural environment continues to exist for future generations. We believe wholeheartedly that through the ingenuity and earnest efforts of humanity the serious environmental problems we now face will someday be solved.

Information on the laureates and their achievements is also available online on the Foundation’s web site: <http://www.af-info.or.jp>.

### Blue Planet Prize Selection Process

