



Blue  
Planet  
Prize

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 18, 2015

**2015 BLUE PLANET PRIZE:  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZE WINNERS**

■ **Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta FBA FRS ( UK )**      ■ **Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs ( USA )**

This year marks the 24th awarding of the Blue Planet Prize, the international environmental award sponsored by the Asahi Glass Foundation, chaired by Kazuhiko Ishimura. Two Blue Planet Prizes are awarded to individuals or organizations each year that make outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application, and in so doing help to solve global environmental problems. The Board of Directors and Councillors selected the following recipients for this year.

**1. Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta FBA FRS ( UK )**

Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge



Professor Dasgupta's pioneering work on welfare economics and environmental economics unified the concepts of intergenerational equity and sustainable development and pointed to their equivalence. He also pioneered the study of rural poverty in developing countries in the context of a deteriorating environmental resource base; and thereby brought together previously disparate fields: development economics and environmental economics. In a wide ranging book on human well-being and the natural environment he showed that the coin by which economic progress should be judged is a comprehensive measure of a nation's wealth, and not GDP or the many ad hoc indicators of well-being in common use today. He has used those findings to develop an ideal system of national economic accounts, which is being implemented in India and several other countries. His lifelong aim of bringing nature seamlessly into economic reasoning has had a huge impact on contemporary thinking.

**2. Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs ( USA )**

Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University



Professor Sachs has an impressive record of helping economies to overcome economic crises and achieve sustainable development. He has furthered human equality by applying his interdisciplinary and innovative "clinical economics," to resolve issues of governance, poverty, public health, education and the environment, helping to promote smallholder agriculture, social services, and economic development to overcome extreme poverty. As a scholar, practitioner and senior advisor to governments and the United Nations he continues to have an enormous impact on the world.

Both recipients will be awarded a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy and a supplementary award of 50 million yen.

The awards ceremony will be held on October 14, 2015 (Wednesday) at the Palace Hotel Tokyo (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo). The commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held at the United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) on October 15.

\*This press release may also be viewed on our web site at [www.af-info.or.jp](http://www.af-info.or.jp) from 15:00, June 18, 2015.  
The photos of the recipients are available from the web site of the Asahi Glass Foundation.

**THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION**

2nd Floor, Science Plaza, 5-3 Yonbancho Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0081 Japan  
Tel +81-3-5275-0620 Fax +81-3-5275-0871  
E-mail: [post@af-info.or.jp](mailto:post@af-info.or.jp) URL: <http://www.af-info.or.jp>

## **Report on the Selection Process (24th Annual Prize, 2015)**

A total of 554 nominators from Japan and 694 nominators from other countries recommended 129 candidates. The fields represented by the candidates, in order of number, were ecology (33), multidisciplinary field (23), environmental economics and policy making (19), atmospheric and earth sciences (18).

The candidates represented 32 countries; 29 persons, 22 percent of the total, were from developing countries.

After individual evaluation of the 129 candidates by each Selection Committee member, the committee was convened to narrow down the field. The results of their deliberation were examined by the Presentation Committee, which forwarded its recommendations to the Board of Directors and Councillors. The Board formally resolved to award the Prize to **Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta FBA FRS**, and to **Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs**.

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For more information, please contact: **Tetsuro Yasuda**

**THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION**

2nd Floor, Science Plaza, 5-3 Yonbancho Chiyoda-ku,

Tokyo 102-0081 Japan

Phone +81-3-5275-0620 Fax +81-3-5275-0871

e-mail: [post@af-info.or.jp](mailto:post@af-info.or.jp)

URL: <http://www.af-info.or.jp>

## Profile of the 2015 Blue Planet Prize Recipient

**Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta FBA FRS ( UK )**

### Achievements of Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta

Professor Dasgupta pioneered the unification of what had been two distinct subject areas of economics: environmental and resource economics on the one hand, and the economics of poverty and development on the other. In order to successfully conduct the unification, he studied the allocation of goods and services not only at the level of the macro-economy, but also in household and village economies. Bringing together new insights and techniques of analysis in the study of institutions within whose contours people extract resources, produce and consume goods and services, engage in trade, plan against risk, and save and invest for their own future and for the future of their children and grand-children, Professor Dasgupta introduced nature as an essential object of interest into economic reasoning. And he did that with rigor and sensitivity. In two highly influential books, "Human Well-Being and the Natural Environment" and "Economics: A Very Short Introduction", he offered a summary of that work and also provided an account of sustainability analysis and policy analysis by demonstrating that they involve the same reasoning. Policy analysis is founded on the ethical requirement that chosen policies will be based on an equitable allocation of goods and services across the generations. Sustainability analysis in contrast aims to assess whether a development path can be depended upon not to jeopardise the well-being of future generations. Today it is customary to judge economies by studying movements in their GDP, which is the market value of the final goods and services produced there annually. Reporting work conducted jointly with Professor Karl-Goran Maler of Sweden, he showed in contrast that to judge whether an economy's development path is sustainable, it is necessary to study instead the movement of an inclusive measure of the economy's wealth, which is the social worth of its entire stock of assets, including not only manufactured capital and human capital, but environmental capital as well. Wealth, which is a stock, measures an economy's overall productive capacity. Professor Dasgupta showed that sustainable development amounts to growth of wealth (adjusted for population and wealth distribution), not GDP nor any of the many ad hoc indicators of economic performance that are currently in use. He showed that a country can increase GDP over a period of time by mining its natural resources and degrading its environment, but that it would not be able to that on a sustained basis, because its wealth would inevitably decline. A Report ("Green National Accounts for India: A Framework") by an Expert Group that was convened in 2011 by the former Prime Minister of India, and which Professor Dasgupta chaired, provided a detailed picture of the steps that need to be taken to create wealth accounts, much as private firms construct balance sheets. The theory underlying wealth accounts has also been put to empirical work on 120 countries in two successive Inclusive Wealth Reports (2012 and 2014), issued by the International Human Dimensions Programme of the United Nations University. Those publications have confirmed Professor Dasgupta's worst fears, that in recent decades a number of countries have enjoyed increases in GDP, even while they have de-cumulated their wealth.

### Biographical Summary

1942	Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh
1962	B.SC.(Hons.) in Physics, University of Delhi
1965	B.A.(Hons.) in Mathematics, University of Cambridge

- 1968 Ph. D. in Economics, University of Cambridge
- 1968~1971 Research Fellow, Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge
- 1971~1985 Taught at the London School of Economics as Professor of Economics (and  
Professorial Fellow of St John's College)  
(Lecturer 1971–1975; Reader 1975–1978; Professor 1978–1985)
- 1985~present Moved to the University of Cambridge
- 1989~1992 Professor of Economics, Professor of Philosophy, and Director of the Program  
in Ethics in Society at Stanford University
- 1991~1997 Served as Chairman of the (Scientific Advisory) Board of the Beijer  
International Institute of Ecological Economics of the Royal Swedish Academy  
of Sciences, Stockholm
- 1994~2010 Frank Ramsey Professor of Economics, University of Cambridge
- 1997~2001 Chairman of the Faculty of Economics at Cambridge
- 2010~ Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Cambridge
- 2007~2013 Andrew D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell University
- 2008 Professorial Research Fellow at the University of Manchester's Sustainable  
Consumption Institute (SCI)
- 2010~2011 President of the European Association of Environmental and Resource  
Economists (EAERE)
- 2011 Chairman of the Central Government Expert Group on Green National  
Accounting for India

## **Awards**

- 1989 Fellow of the British Academy
- 1991 Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences  
Foreign Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 1997 Member of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences  
Honorary Member of the American Economic Association
- 2001 Fellow of The World Academy of Sciences (formally the Academy of Science  
for the Developing World)  
Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences
- 2002 Named Knight Bachelor for his services to economics  
Volvo Environment Prize (joint with K.-Gmäler)
- 2004 Fellow of the Royal Society
- 2007 Recipient of the PEN/John Kenneth Galbraith Award, 2007, of the American  
Agricultural Economics Association  
Co-recipient (with Erik Maskin) of the Erik Kempe Award in Environmental  
and Resource Economics/Kempe Foundation
- 2009 Member of Academia Europaea
- 2010 Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge  
Zayed International Environment Prize (Category II : scientific and technological  
achievements)

## **Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs ( USA )**

### **Achievements of Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs**

Professor Sachs has re-appraised and proposed concrete solutions to the persistence of extreme poverty<sup>\*1</sup> in various parts of the world, and the common problems that accompany it, such as lack of education, heavy disease burden, societal fragmentation, human insecurity, and violent conflict. As advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), he has helped to shape the global effort to fight extreme poverty, hunger, and disease during the past 15 years. He has developed a unique standpoint of “Clinical Economics” to show how to evaluate challenges and devise appropriate economic and environmental policies in specific geographic and historical contexts<sup>\*2</sup>. Professor Sachs seeks for humanity to put an end to the unbalanced pursuit of wealth in favor of a holistic approach of sustainable development, one that integrates economic, social and environmental dimensions. He calls on the wealthy to acknowledge their responsibility to society and shoulder their fair share of the tax burden. Based on this, in order to achieve sustainability and fairness, Professor Sachs proposes for governments, the private sector and individuals to cooperate, transform their values, and work to build societies filled with a new “mindfulness”<sup>\*3</sup> for humanity and for the natural world. He also put forward a concrete eight-item proposal in the U.S. context as “goals for humanity to regain its richness”<sup>\*4</sup>. Now, at a time long since questions were first raised about environmental problems, and when it has also become clearly apparent that the root cause of environmental destruction lies in the economic activities of humanity and its lack of consideration of the consequences for the future, there is great significance in the presenting of the Blue Planet Prize to Professor Sachs, who is calling for concrete economic reform through the transformation of values pushed forward by “Mindfulness.” It is also timely for the professor to receive this award in 2015. This is the year in which the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for which Professor Sachs has advanced the construction and substantiation of principles of sustainable development, and which stand as a signpost for the whole world, are to be adopted by the 193 United Nations member states.

Annotations follow below:

#### **\*1 Poverty**

Professor Sachs’ comprehensive recommendations for enabling the residents of poverty-stricken regions to escape from the snare of extreme poverty, including pioneering investment in health, and the transformation of agriculture from the seeds up to fertilizer and irrigation, have delivered strong results. This is evident in the gains in public health, education and other achievements under the Millennium Development Goals. These gains have reflected in several areas specific recommendations put forward by Professor Sachs and the UN Millennium Project, which he directed for Secretary-General Kofi Annan from 2002-2006. In recent years, through the Millennium Villages Project (MVP), which he directs, he has demonstrated progress in increasing agricultural production and improved rural health systems, including progress against malaria, AIDS, and other killers, in rural sub-Saharan Africa.

#### **\*2 Clinical Economics**

Clinical economics is a method of development economics created by Professor Sachs that is modeled in part on clinical medicine. Clinical economics carries out a detailed “differential diagnosis” of case-specific development challenges, including the political systems, geography, geopolitical conditions and cultures of each particular country or region; and then aims to design and implement appropriate aid and support policies that are science-based and evidence-based. In the case of extreme poverty, it firstly places emphasis on the importance of impoverished nations taking their first steps towards economic development through

reforms and public investments that are grounded in local ecological, environmental, and economic conditions, and that are implemented with the support of development assistance.

Clinical economics was born out of the thorough re-examination of problems with the prescribed methods implemented during the 1980s and 1990s by international organizations such as the IMF and World Bank with respect to the development of impoverished countries, based on over-generalizations unresponsive to specific conditions. Clinical economics, by contrast, aims at a more effective approach that matches the policy response to the specific conditions (historical, economic, and ecological) of poor countries.

The catalyst for Professor Sachs' clinical economics was his experience in dealing with the severe 24,000% hyperinflation problem in Bolivia, triggered by years of political instability and global financial crisis. As an economic advisor to the Bolivian government in 1985, he helped Bolivia to achieve a swift resolution to the inflation crisis. (He also helped to halt a resurgence of hyperinflation that occurred immediately after this due to a plunge in the price of tin in October 1985. At this time he ran into a confrontation with the IMF.) In addition, with regards to problem of the payment of Bolivia's external debt, Professor Sachs recommended the rebuilding of the country's economy in a manner that made sense for both the indebted country and its creditors; upon which the Bolivian government pressed for debt cancellation instead of the debt servicing demanded by the IMF. Debt relief proved to be a vital step in rebuilding the nation's economy. In 1986, Professor Sachs proposed reforms for Bolivia's tax system, which were translated into the implementation of a higher tax rate for the country's wealthy classes, thereby helping to stabilize the nation's finances. Professor Sachs also successfully recommended the establishment of an Emergency Social Fund with the objective of providing direct monetary support to the country's most impoverished communities, and of driving the development of infrastructure such as in rainwater storage, irrigation and road construction and repair. Summarizing the professor's accomplishments in Bolivia, he helped to achieve the resolution of hyperinflation, the cancellation of external debt, stabilization of the country's economy and the introduction of social programs.

In addition, Professor Sachs has stated that in order for impoverished countries to rebuild their economies and go on to achieve prosperity, it is essential for clinical economics to properly analyze the state of each country from a geopolitical standpoint including natural resources, climate, terrain, topography, coastal and inland areas, political relations and/or wars with neighboring countries, internal political segmentation and ethnic minorities, relationship with global markets etc. Almost 10 years after his experiences in Bolivia, Professor Sachs worked as an economic advisor to governments in Eastern Europe, particularly in helping to design Poland's pioneering economic transition plan from communism to a market-based economy. He has worked in China, India, and sub-Saharan Africa, and has recently applied the lens of "clinical economics" to the United States, which continues to experience a colossal underinvestment in public goods, growing environmental crises, and an increasingly widening divide between the rich and poor.

### \*3 Mindfulness

Mindfulness refers to trust, sincerity and consideration for others with the aim of arriving at a source of profound, long-term happiness for humanity. Holding that "an economy that does not reflect upon itself cannot protect the happiness of the nation's citizens," Professor Sachs has argued that the idea that people have held until now that "the simple pursuit of wealth will cultivate a sound and healthy society" is an illusion, and has pointed out, raising the United States as a real-life example, that society has become exhausted scrambling in the

pursuit of wealth, and that the moral virtues of trust, sincerity and consideration for others have been dangerously diminished, notably in key elite communities such as finance. Professor Sachs advocates for a society built upon this concept of “mindfulness” that transcends differences in social class, race, religion and place of residence. Professor Sachs raises the following eight categories of “mindfulness” that are important as an individual human being, citizen and member of local society. The parentheses contain examples of paths to attaining them.

- 1) Mindfulness towards oneself (moderately disciplining oneself and freeing oneself from mass-consumerism)
- 2) Mindfulness towards work (maintain a balance between work and leisure)
- 3) Mindfulness towards knowledge (increasing opportunities for education)
- 4) Mindfulness towards others (exercising consideration and harmonizing with others)
- 5) Mindfulness towards nature (protecting the world’s ecosystems)
- 6) Mindfulness towards the future (taking responsibility to protect the wellbeing of future generations)
- 7) Mindfulness towards politics (encouraging public debate and sharing values regarding group activities)
- 8) Mindfulness towards the world (accepting diversity as the path to peace)

#### \*4 Goals for regaining richness

(In the case of the United States: detailed numerical targets have been omitted)

- 1) Raise employment and quality of work life
- 2) Improve the quality of access to education
- 3) Reduce poverty
- 4) Avoid environmental catastrophe
- 5) Balance federal budget
- 6) Improving governance
- 7) National security
- 8) Raise citizens’ happiness and life Satisfaction

Professor Sachs is widely considered to be one of the world’s leading experts on economic development and the fight against poverty. His work on ending poverty, promoting economic growth, fighting hunger and disease, and promoting sustainable environmental practices, has taken him to more than 125 countries with more than 90 percent of the world’s population. For more than a quarter century he has advised dozens of heads of state and governments on economic strategy, in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Sachs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including membership in the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Society of Fellows, and the Fellows of the World Econometric Society. He has received more than 20 honorary degrees, and many awards and honors around the world. Professor Sachs is also a frequent contributor to major publications such as the Financial Times of London, the International Herald Tribune, Scientific American, and Time magazine. He has twice been named among Time Magazine’s 100 most influential world leaders. He was called by the New York Times, “probably the most important economist in the world,” and by Time Magazine “the world’s best known economist.” A recent survey by The Economist Magazine ranked Professor Sachs as among the world’s three most influential living economists of the past decade.

## Biographical Summary

1954	Born in Detroit, United States
1976	Harvard University BA (summa cum laude), Economics
1978	Harvard University MA, Economics
1980	Harvard University Ph.D, Economics
1984-2002	Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade, Harvard University (Assistant Professor, 1980-82, Associate Professor, 1982-83, Full Professor 1984-2002)
1995-1999	Director, Harvard Institute for International Development
1998-2002	Director, Center for International Development at Harvard University
2000–2001	Chairman, Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, World Health Organization
2002-present	Director, The Earth Institute at Columbia University; Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University
2002-present	Special Advisor the UN Secretary General on the Millennium Development Goals (for Kofi Annan, 2002-2007; for Ban Ki-moon, 2007-present)
2002-2006	Director, United Nations Millennium Project
2005-present	Co-Founder and Director, Millennium Promise Alliance
2012-present	Director, UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

## Awards

1999	Commanders Cross Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland
2000	Bernhard Harms Prize, Kiel Institute, June 24
2002	The Distinguished Public Service Award of the Secretary of State's Open Forum, June 28
2004	Named one of 100 Most Influential People in the World, Time Magazine, April
2005	Named one of 100 Most Influential People in the World, Time Magazine, April Sargent Shriver Award for Equal Justice
2006	The Memorial Sloane-Kettering Medal for Outstanding Contributions to Biomedical Research, May 16,. Honorary Dean, Western China Poverty Reduction Program, Sichuan University, August 22, University of California Berkeley School of Public Health International Public Health Hero Award,
2007	Padma Bhushan Award, awarded by the President of India, January. BBC Reith Lectures, Winter/Spring The Centennial Medal, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of Harvard University, June.
2008	The Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution International Advocate for Peace Award
2009	Pro Bono Humanum Award, Prix Galien, September 30
2011	Named one of top 3 most influential economists of past decade, <i>The Economist</i> , February 10
2012	Dag Hammarskjold Inspiration Award, Dag Hammarskjold Fund for Journalists, November 13
2013	M.S. Swaminathan Award, Asia Initiatives, October 14



## **Remarks from the Award Recipients upon Notification of their Selection**

### **Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta FBA FRS ( UK )**

Humanity's engagement with Nature is the most significant feature of our lives and in need of urgent repair. And yet, we mostly avoid addressing it. The institution that is the Blue Planet Prize signals that sad fact annually and brings environmental problems, both in the large and in the small, to the world's attention. It is understandable that global environmental problems attract public interest, but the "large" is made of the myriad of "smalls". Ultimately, if Humanity is to make peace with Nature, the move will have to come from each one of us.

Understanding the way we at the individual level tread nature as we go about our lives is the necessary first step to any resolution of the problems we face. In my own work I have tried over the years to understand the ways in which poverty and wealth at the household level leave their distinctive marks on Nature. So, it is both a great honour and an enormous pleasure for me that the perspective I have tried to introduce into our collective thinking has been recognized by the award of the Prize.

### **Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs ( USA )**

I am deeply honored to receive the Blue Planet Prize and especially gratified to receive it in 2015, the year that the UN member states will adopt the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Blue Planet Prize represents the commitment of the Asahi Glass Foundation to the wellbeing of the planet, and the prize is recognized worldwide for helping to spur the public's awareness of the critical and urgent challenges of sustainable development. This year, the world's governments, businesses, and civil society organizations have the opportunity to build upon and expand the scope of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), by adopting SDGs to end poverty, promote social inclusion, and protect the natural environment in all countries. I am profoundly thankful that the Blue Planet Prize Committee has recognized my work in furthering the MDGs and in promoting the new SDGs through the application of science, technology, institutional innovation, and moral purpose. Rigorous economic analysis and demonstrated solutions around the world show that sustainable development is feasible. The Blue Planet Prize serves as a great spur to action on behalf of humanity, and I am thrilled therefore to be its co-recipient this year.