

Report for Fiscal 2011

The Toyota Foundation



THE TOYOTA FOUNDATION

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This annual report was compiled on the basis of the Japanese-language reports of activities for fiscal 2011 (April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2012) and approved at the fifth meeting of the Board of Trustees held on June 25, 2012. Please refer to our website (<http://toyotafound.or.jp/english>) for a list of grant recipients for each of our programs. Please also refer to the website for detailed accounting data as well as the names of Toyota Foundation officers and trustees.

Foundation Activities

I. Overview

Based on the spirit of “Vision 2010: Building a Better Future” and the outcomes of the previous year’s activities, the Toyota Foundation conducted the following activities in order to respond to various issues confronting contemporary society and to fulfill our role as a grant-making foundation.

In particular, the Toyota Foundation developed and launched grant programs this fiscal year aimed at helping victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake rebuild their lives and affected communities recover and rebuild, from a medium- to long-term perspective.

Major Focal Points

- 1) Keep a close eye on the fast-changing contemporary society, strengthen linkage among present and past grantees, and promote activities to build a better future.
- 2) Analyze and utilize results of each grant program to achieve further improvements.
- 3) Investigate and implement measures in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake as befits our role as a grant-making foundation.
- 4) Strive to conduct ordinary business in a manner suitable to a public interest incorporated foundation.

II. Grant Programs

1. Grant Program for Community Activities

Originally the program was to be implemented in accordance with the previous year’s program but the entire program was reviewed to deal with issues arising from the Great East Japan Earthquake.

As a result, the Toyota Foundation established a new program theme, “Inheriting, Constructing and Tying the Local Community: Cultivating Self-Supporting Communities,” and developed and implemented the following two activities based on the theme.

Main Program

A grant program to support projects that seeks to foster independent initiative, forge mutual ties, and help resolve local issues, while being firmly grounded in the character of the community.

Special Subject

This program, exclusively intended for areas and residents impacted by the Great East Japan Earthquake, aims to support activities to rebuild people’s lives and to revive and reconstruct local communities.

- 1) Theme: “Inheriting, Constructing and Tying the Local Community: Cultivating Self-Supporting

Communities”

2) Application period: October 7 to November 7, 2011 (Main Program); October 7 to November 30, 2011 (Special Subject)

3) Grant results:

		Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)	Acceptance rate (%)
Main Program	Fiscal 2011	364	15	60.0	51.6	4.1
	Fiscal 2010	709	37	120.0	119.98	5.2
Special Subject	Fiscal 2011	236	28	60.0	59.05	11.9
	Fiscal 2010	—	—	—	—	—
Total	Fiscal 2011	600	43	120.0	110.65	7.2
	Fiscal 2010	709	37	120.0	119.98	5.2

2. Asian Neighbors Program

Since 2009, this program has been supporting projects that seek to overcome various challenges facing Asia. For the 2010 selection, however, the number of projects that passed our selection process was low. By taking this into account and clarifying various challenges Asian countries are facing, the Toyota Foundation reviewed and implemented the program as outlined below during fiscal 2011. The special subject “Preservation, Utilization, and Transmission of Indigenous Documents in Asia,” which we had implemented until fiscal 2010, was suspended for a year and we took this opportunity to consider how the program should be implemented in the future.

1) Theme: Changed to “Shared Actions to Build Our Future Asia” in line with the “Vision 2010.”

2) Project areas: Added “Fostering mutual understanding and social actors” to the two existing project areas “Enhancing sustainable communities” and “Forging social systems to address local issues”

3) Grant frameworks: Changed from two (“Small-scale” and “Regular” in 2010) to three (“One Asian Country,” “Two or More Countries,” and “Special Grant”)

4) Application period: April 1 to May 16, 2011

5) Grant results

		Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)	Acceptance rate (%)
Main Program	Fiscal 2011	245	22	120.0	71.15	9.0
	Fiscal 2010	354	19	120.0	62.01	5.4
Special Subject	Fiscal 2011	—	—	—	—	—
	Fiscal 2010	68	12	30.0	30.0	17.6
Total	Fiscal 2011	245	22	120.0	71.15	9.0
	Fiscal 2010	422	31	150.0	92.01	7.3

Breakdown of results for fiscal 2011

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Acceptance rate (%)
One Asian country	123	13	10.6
Two or more countries	109	9	8.3
Special grant	13	0	0
Total	245	22	9.0

3. Research Grant Program

In line with the “Vision 2010,” the Toyota Foundation set “Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future” as the new theme, altered the application solicitation frameworks as outlined below, and provided grants to thought-provoking, front-running research projects that are rooted in unfettered thought and have great social significance. As for the Individual Research, number of applications and grants awarded both increased as a result of clearly placing emphasis on encouraging young and non-established researchers.

Category A: Joint Research

1. Practical research that contributes to addressing challenges facing society
2. Value-creation research aimed at forging a new society

Category B: Individual Research

- 1) Theme: “Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future”
- 2) Application Period: April 1 to May 16, 2011
- 3) Grant results

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Value of grants (¥ million)	Acceptance rate (%)
Fiscal 2011	862	47	150.0	141.3	5.5
Fiscal 2010	939	45	150.0	126.7	4.8

Breakdown of the results for fiscal 2011

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Acceptance rate (%)
Joint Research 1	242	12	5.0
Joint Research 2	121	11	9.0
Individual Research	499	24	4.8
Total	862	47	5.5

4. Communication with Society Program

For fiscal 2011, this program aimed to provide grants to 1) discover and support past projects with strong potential for the further development, and to 2) subsidize publication for disclosing

the selected projects' research results. Under the program, each project received \$15,500 during the fiscal year for publishing its results.

However, in order to make the program more socially beneficial, a structure is needed to locate capable projects whose results can have a social impact when disclosed to the public. This requires measures such as strengthening information gathering capabilities to find more projects suited to this grant program.

Grant Results

	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Grant amount (¥ million)
Fiscal 2011	1	20.0	1.289 (\$15,500)
Fiscal 2010	1	20.0	0.478 (\$5,750)

5. Initiative Program

The aim of the program was to support 1) initiatives that tackle socially important issues which are difficult to be addressed through the Toyota Foundation's three publicly offered programs, and 2) to foster young Asian researchers through a program run by the Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP).

With regard to the former aim, the Toyota Foundation strongly emphasized supporting sustainable activities aimed at rebuilding the lives of people affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and revitalizing the affected local communities. Toward that end, the Toyota Foundation provided grant funds in consultation with the individuals and parties concerned.

Grant results

Project title	Grantee	Grant amount (¥ million)
In response to the Great East Japan Earthquake		
Nurturing and training life-support coordinators to assist the recovery of areas affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake	(Specified nonprofit corporation) Japan Volunteer Coordinators Association	9.79
Enhancing opportunities for play and study in temporary housing communities to create a child-friendly atmosphere rooted in people's lives	(Specified nonprofit corporation) Beans Fukushima	17.77
Preserving and nurturing the mountain and ocean areas of Sanriku	(Specified nonprofit corporation) Kirikirikoku	8.65
Supporting the empowerment of children through the provision of educational support and amenable places where they can pursue their dreams*	General incorporated association Empowerment through Participation and Challenge	8.0
Launching the Kodomo Miraikan Museum at	(Specified non-profit corporation)	7.25

temporary housing communities in Miyagi prefecture	Human Security Forum	
Southeast Asian Studies Regional Exchange Program (SEASREP)		
Providing grants for initiatives conducted by the SEASREP Foundation such as fellowship forum activities	SEASREP Foundation	10.0
Total		61.460

*Joint grant scheme conducted with the Panasonic Education Foundation

III. Other Activities

1. Public relations

The Toyota Foundation website was completely redesigned, improving its operability and adding information-sharing functions. Two issues of the publicity newsletter *JOINT* (only Japanese) were published (listed below), in line with the publication framework of the previous year.

	Theme	Copies
Issue 7 (Aug. 2011)	What can we do to assist disaster recovery?	5,000
Issue 8 (Dec. 2011)	Special dialogue: The future outlook—Japan, the World, and the Toyota Foundation	5,000

Fiscal 2011 grants

	Number of applications	Number of grants	Budget (¥ million)	Grant amount (¥ million)
Public Offering Grant Programs				
1) Grant Program for Community Activities				
Main Program	364	15	60.0	51.6
Special Subject (in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake)	236	28	60.0	59.05
2) Asian Neighbors Program	245	22	120.0	71.15
3) Research Grant Program	862	47	150.0	141.3
Non-Public Offering Grant Programs				
4) Communication with Society Program	—	1	20.0	1.289
5) Initiative Program				

Support and grants related to the Great East Japan Earthquake	—	5	100.0	51.46
SEASREP	1	1	23.0	10.0
Total	—	119	533.0	385.849

IV. Meetings

Board of Directors

Sixth meeting of the Board of Directors (Thursday, June 2, 2011)

1. Approval of business report (draft) and financial statements (draft) for fiscal 2010 (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011)
2. Appointment of selection committee members—Asian Neighbors Program
3. Plan of operation (draft) and budget change (draft) in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake
4. Specifying the date, location, and agenda of the third meeting of the Board of Trustees
5. Selection of candidates for directors (draft)
6. Selection of committee members for the Board of Trustees Selection Committee

Reports:

1. Status of Asian Neighbors Program and Research Grant Program applications for fiscal 2011

Seventh meeting of the Board of Directors (Monday, June 27, 2011)

1. Selection of representative directors and executive directors
2. Selection of the chairman and the managing director
3. Selection of the honorary chairman
4. Compensation of directors for fiscal 2011

Eighth meeting of the Board of Directors (Tuesday, September 20, 2011)

1. Determination of fiscal 2011 Asian Neighbors Program grant recipients
2. Determination of fiscal 2011 Research Grant Program grant recipients
3. Determination of fiscal 2011 Initiative Program grant recipients
4. Determination of fiscal 2011 Communication with Society Program grant recipients
5. Review of fiscal 2011 Grant Program for Community Activities
6. Appointment of selection committee members—Grant Program for Community Activities
7. Compensation in fiscal 2011 for audits conducted
8. Compensation (bonus) of directors

Reports:

1. Miscellaneous

Ninth meeting of the Board of Directors (in writing) (Friday, February 17, 2011)

1. Specifying the date, location, and agenda of the fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees
2. Determination of fiscal 2011 Initiative Program grant recipients

Tenth meeting of the Board of Directors (Friday, March 23, 2012)

1. Determination of fiscal 2011 Grant Program for Community Activities grant recipients
2. Plan of operation (draft), budget for income and expenditure (draft), and other documents for fiscal 2012 (April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013)
3. Compensation of directors
4. Choice of selection committee members—Grant Program for Community Activities, Asian Neighbors Program, Research Grant Program

Reports:

1. Opening of the Board of Trustees Selection Committee Meeting
2. Grant Award Ceremony for Grant Program for Community Activities
3. Miscellaneous

Board of Trustees

Third meeting of the Board of Trustees (Monday, June 27, 2011)

1. Approval of business report (draft) and financial statements (draft) for fiscal 2010 (April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011)
2. Selection (change) of directors

Reports:

1. Plan of operation and budget change in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake
2. Status of applications for fiscal 2011 Asian Neighbors Program and Research Grant Program

Fourth meeting of the Board of Trustees (Friday, March 23, 2012)

1. Selection of auditors

Reports:

1. Plan of operation (draft), budget for income and expenditure (draft), and other documents for fiscal 2012 (April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013)
2. Opening of the Board of Trustees Selection Committee Meeting
3. Grant Award Ceremony for Grant Program for Community Activities

Board of Trustees Selection Committee Meeting

Selection Committee Meeting Thursday, March 1, 2012

Grant Program for Community Activities Selection Committee Meeting

Preliminary Evaluation Meeting Friday, December 16, 2011

Selection Committee Meeting Thursday, January 31, 2012

Asian Neighbors Program Selection Committee Meeting

Preliminary Evaluation Meeting Thursday, June 9, 2011
Selection Committee Meeting Thursday, July 21, 2011

Research Grant Program Selection Committee Meeting

Preliminary Evaluation Meeting Monday, June 6, 2011
Selection Committee Meeting Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Grant Award Ceremony

Asian Neighbors Program and Research Grant Program
Wednesday, October 19, 2011 (at AMLUX Tokyo)

Expenditures for Grants

Upper row: Number of grants awarded
Lower row: Grant amount (¥ million)
As of March 31, 2012

	1975-2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Grant Program for Community Activities	266	48	36	37	43	430
	289.5	118.2	106.6	120.0	110.7	744.9
Asian Neighbors Program	86	14	34	31	22	187
	278.6	109.34	138.5	92.01	71.1	689.6
Research Grant Program	2,259	39	44	45	47	2,434
	7,030.2	180.0	145.0	126.7	141.3	7,623.1
Communication with Society Program		1	1	1	1	4
		4.0	3.8	0.5	1.3	9.6
Initiative Program		20	2	1	6	29
		27.8	11.9	3.0	61.5	104.2
Citizen activities grants*	606					606
	1,050.4					1,050.4
Southeast Asia grants**	2,941					2,941
	4,111.4					4,111.4
Other grant programs***	851					851
	2,064.0					2,064.0
Total	7,009	122	117	115	119	7,482
	14,824.1	439.3	405.8	342.1	385.8	16,397.2

Notes: Because the figures above are rounded to the nearest decimal point, they may not add up precisely to the totals.

* Grants for citizen activities, civil-society projects, and citizen research contests

** International Grants, SEANRP, Young Indonesian Researchers Program, "Know Our Neighbors" Translation-Publication Programs, and SEASREP

*** Fellowship Program, Foundation Initiative Grant Program, and Research Report Grant Program

Comments by Selection Committee Chair

Yasuhide Nakamura

1. Inheriting, Constructing and Tying the Local Community: Cultivating Self-Supporting Communities

For its fiscal 2011 Grant Program for Community Activities, the Toyota Foundation promptly decided to allocate ¥60 million of a total budget of ¥120 million to a Special Subject program in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake. This program aims to help rebuild the lives of people affected by the March 2011 disaster and to revive and rebuild local communities.

Based on our medium- to long-term policy, titled “Vision 2010: Building a Better Future,” we aim to help bring about safe and secure societies where people support each other through the creation of “softer ties.” In concrete terms, this involves inheriting local history and culture, the relationship between people and nature, the wisdom gained from various experiences and ways of life, and ties with other communities. We are also constructing concrete results, providing places and opportunities for people to share their visions of the future and long-term goals regarding local problems, creating the organizations and networks necessary to sustain ongoing initiatives, and formulating the systems and measures needed to assist those initiatives. By forging ties and bringing people together, it is our hope that these results will play a useful role in helping to solve problems in local communities.

The aim of the Grant Program for Community Activities is to support projects that seek to tackle problems straight on, enhancing the autonomy of local communities and building bonds between people through the process of “inheriting, constructing and tying the local community.” We hope that the creativity of each project will make a contribution to resolving problems in local communities and inspire others to undertake similar efforts, thereby promoting local autonomy, forging ties between a diverse range of people, and helping to bring about vibrant local communities.

Similarly, the Special Subject program to assist recovery from the March 11 disaster takes a local perspective to deal with issues shared in common by many communities. A wide variety of activities are underway to assist Japan’s disaster recovery. Ideally, long-term efforts to rebuild people’s lives will involve the active involvement of community members. It was out of a fervent desire to help such efforts that the Toyota Foundation decided to invite applications for ambitious community-led projects to rebuild lives and regenerate local communities affected by the disaster.

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

The application period for the main Grant Program for Community Activities ran from October 7 to November 7, 2011. For the Special Subject program related to disaster recovery, the application

period was extended until the end of November, in consideration of the situation in the disaster areas of northeast Japan. The application procedures were also simplified to ease the burden on applicants.

A total of 600 applications were received, of which 364 were for the main program and 236 were for the Special Subject program. We received many applications via the online application system that has been in place since fiscal 2010, including a good number from people in the disaster areas.

The selection committee of five experts engaged in thorough discussions before choosing the grant projects. Despite the large number of interesting and practical proposals, the committee members reached a consensus with surprising ease. An introduction follows to several projects that were singled out for high praise by the selection committee.

Grant Program for Community Activities (Main program)

Head to the Hills!—A Hunters' Initiative to Preserve Upland Villages by Establishing a "Boar and Deer Department" (D11-L-0365)

Kenta Kouzen, Boar and Deer Department, Meta-Forest Headquarters

This is a project launched by young people in an upland community to deal with the twin problems of increasing damage caused to agricultural produce by wild animals and the aging population of local hunters. As well as allowing younger members of the community to learn skills at first hand from veteran hunters, the project is focused on using wild game as food. Members will work with culinary specialists to develop commercial food products from the game taken during hunts. We were particularly impressed by the project's ambitious and self-directed approach to solving the community's problems through cooperation between hunting, cuisine, NPOs, and academia, while respecting local traditions. We hope the project's unique idea for a Boar and Deer Department will bear fruit.

Promoting Local Revitalization and Multiculturalism Through a Joint Project Between a Foreigner-Support Group and Local Retail Association (D11-L-0454)

Jotaro Kato, Team for Promoting Community Revitalization and Multiculturalism, Ooyama, Itabashi Ward, Tokyo

The number of foreign residents is increasing in many communities in Japan. In Ooyama, in Tokyo's Itabashi Ward, a local association of shop owners has teamed up with a group supporting foreign residents of Japan to study the needs of foreigners living in the community. The diverse project team is made up of students, restaurant owners, businesspeople, and NPO workers. Six different nationalities are represented, and members range in age from their 20s to their 60s. This diversity of backgrounds makes us hopeful that the project will open up new possibilities. Instead of simply aiming to provide services to foreign residents, the project encourages them to become actively involved in a team effort. This approach struck a chord with us.

Disaster Recovery Projects (Special Subject)

Providing a Meeting Place for the Elderly in Disaster Areas (D11-LE-0023)

Hiroko Iwata, Kagayaki no Kai (Circle of Radiance)

“Kagayaki no Kai” (Circle of Radiance) was established 10 years ago to bring together people interested in traditional Japanese wooden dolls. The 20-member group mainly carried out its activities at a community center in Miyako, Iwate Prefecture—a city that was hit hard by the March 2011 tsunami. The disaster claimed the life of one of the group’s members and seriously impacted the lives of many others. This project aims to lift the spirits of elderly community members by setting up a workshop on making *negai kazari*—a traditional local ornament made by linking around 15 different prayer amulets with string. The workshop will take place in Miyako and in the neighboring municipalities of Otsuchi, Yamada, and Kamaishi. We hope that the event, by bringing people together to talk over tea and snacks and to share the pleasure of making the ornaments together, will bring enjoyment to those who take part.

A Grilled Oyster Café and Memorial Museum to Support Recovery Efforts in the Miyato Area of Higashi-Matsushima (D11-LE-0085)

Miho Tosa, Chiisana Ippo no Kai (A Small Step Forward)

This project involves renting part of the premises along a major road where a number of grilled oyster stands and souvenir shops operated before the disaster. The space will be made available as a casual meeting place where local residents and fishermen can drop by to chat informally over a meal. The project was launched by four women, professional oyster-shuckers who previously worked at Kaisendo, a seafood restaurant. The plan is to begin by offering light meals to volunteers and construction workers involved in rebuilding projects. The hope is that the space will develop into a local attraction that will help to bring tourists back to the area. We hope this first small step will continue to develop as the area’s fortunes are restored.

In addition to the projects outlined above, we received many proposals for interesting projects from people across Japan, including those areas impacted by the March 11 disaster. Many of these were proposals for ambitious, dynamic, and result-oriented projects to rebuild and revitalize local areas by involving a diverse range of people from inside and outside the community, and were built on the local history and culture and the distinctive local relationship between people and nature. After careful deliberation, the selection committee chose 15 projects for the main program (totaling ¥51.6 million in grants) and 28 for the Special Subject program for projects related to disaster recovery (totaling ¥59.05 million in grants).

3. “Build Back Better”

Intense discussions took place during the selection process among members of the selection committee and program officers with regard to the proper stance appropriate for the Grant Program for Community Activities and recovery assistance following the Great East Japan Earthquake. At first glance, the main program and the Special Subject might seem to be two separate issues. But after carefully reading the grant applications, many of which were full of enthusiasm for local communities, it became apparent that a number of shared issues confront communities across the country, whether they were directly affected by the earthquake and tsunami or not.

During the deliberations, I was reminded of my 2008 visit to coastal areas of Indonesia that were devastated by the massive tsunami of 2004. On that occasion, I was part of a group of scholars carrying out an analysis of disaster relief efforts. In Aceh, over a hundred thousand permanent residences were built within three and half years of the disaster. This was perhaps the first time in the history of humanitarian relief that intensive emergency relief efforts had been carried out on this scale. During my trip, I visited a resettlement village established by the Tzu Chi Foundation, called the Tzu Chi Great Love Village. I encountered a married couple living there with their two-year-old child; the couple had first met at an evacuation center after losing family members to the tsunami. This experience brought home to me the truth that despite the horrific losses that had taken place at the time, there were gains that came later. Those who had been affected by the disaster had been forced to start new lives in a new village—but despite these upheavals, I often saw residents enjoying a chat on the street underneath the rich foliage of trees they had planted themselves. I also saw new shops springing up in the village, alongside stylish cafes and other establishments. There was a palpable sense of a new type of life taking root that had not existed before the disaster.

I believe that the aim of disaster recovery should not be simply to restore living conditions to what they were before the disaster. Instead, it is important to work to provide whatever new elements the community needs in order to prosper. Within four months of the tsunami in 2004, the Indonesian government established the Aceh-Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR) to operate over a limited four-year period. The chairman of the BRR said that it was necessary to “build back better”—not just for the benefit of survivors but out of respect for the memory of those who lost their lives in the tsunami.

The “build back better” effort involves seeing a natural disaster anew from a global perspective. It is an attempt to rebuild sustainable local communities that involves consideration for the environment, fostering resilience in society, and incorporating measures to minimize disaster damage. As well as restoring industry and the economy, this approach also seeks the active participation of local residents, emphasizing the quality of their lives, and sets a high store on achieving equality for the socially vulnerable.

The condition known as “post-traumatic stress disorder” (PTSD) is a major problem in modern society, but in recent years some researchers have begun to point to the related concept of

“post-traumatic growth” (PTG). This idea recognizes that traumatic incidents such as major disasters can have positive repercussions for the individuals who experience them. Research has shown, for example, how people often form new relationships by working together following a disaster, developing a stronger sense of empathy. There is also evidence that grief and anguish can motivate people to seek out new paths and rebuild their lives.

This research, which demonstrates people’s ability not only to recover from a disaster but to achieve personal growth as a result, gives us hope for the future. It is in challenging times like this, when the whole society has been shaken by disaster, that people display the strength to confront not just natural disasters but also threats to civilization and regional problems. This can inspire a sense of trust and fellow feeling that leads to closer ties between people from inside and outside the community and can help to open up a new future for regional communities.

Comments by Selection Committee Chair

Takashi Shiraishi

Outline of 2011 Asian Neighbors Program

The origin of the Toyota Foundation's Asian Neighbors Program can be traced back to the distinctive "Know Our Neighbors" program of the 1980s. Since 2009, the Program has been supporting projects that seek to overcome various challenges facing Asia. For the 2010 selection process, however, the selection committee had to limit the number of grant-receiving projects due to a lack of proposals for projects deemed adequately feasible. In response to this situation, the foundation has amended the Program for 2011, as outlined below, based on an analysis of different issues and challenges in the Asian region.

First, the theme has been changed to "Shared actions to build our future Asia," in line with the foundation's "Vision 2010: Building a Better Future." Second, the new project area "Fostering mutual understanding and social actors" has been created, with a focus on fostering young leaders. The other two project areas for the two categories "environment" and "social systems" remain, as in 2010, "Enhancing sustainable communities" and "Forging social systems to address local issues." Third, grant frameworks have been changed from two ("Small-scale" and "Regular" in 2010) to three ("One country," "Over two countries," and "Special grant"), based on consideration for the scope of projects and of project participants.

Overview of Applications

There were 245 applications for the 2011 Program, 30.6% decrease from the 353 applications in 2010. As in the previous year, applications from non-Japanese nationalities (162) exceeded those from Japanese applicants (83); in 2010 there were 254 non-Japanese applicants compared to 99 Japanese ones. This trend may be an effect of holding briefing sessions in Asian countries.

The project area "Enhancing sustainable communities" had the largest number of applications, (106), followed by "Fostering mutual understanding and social actors" (75) and "Forging social systems to address local issues" (64). Still, it should be noted that the concept and activities of projects were not necessarily limited to one of the three project areas, and in many cases spanned more than two project areas.

Selection Process Results

The selection committee conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the applications, with a particular focus on (1) the significance of the issue addressed by the project, (2) the feasibility of activities and implementation processes, and (3) the originality and creativity of the project design. We also highly evaluated projects that were deeply rooted in local communities and respected the

ownership of their residents. As a result of the evaluation, the committee has selected 22 grant-receiving projects for the Program (9 for the Over two countries grant framework; 13 for the One country grant framework) as the recipient of the Program grant. There was no project selected for the Special grant framework.

The impression among the selection committee members was that there were more applications in 2011 for projects that have concrete structure and can be expected to have future potential and bring significant benefits to the targeted communities. The selection rate for applications was 9%, an increase over the 6.2% rate in 2010.

In terms of each project area, eight projects were selected for “Fostering mutual understanding and social actors,” seven for “Enhancing sustainable communities,” and seven for “Forging social systems to address local issues”; and 12 of the projects selected had a non-Japanese representative.

Turning to the project frameworks, we received many applications for original projects in the One country grant framework. For the Over two countries grant framework there were some applications for projects regarding two or more Asian countries (not including Japan), but after reviewing the feasibility of project activities and management, most of the projects finally selected for a grant were projects involving a partnership between Asian countries and citizens of Japan (or some other developed country). No project was selected for the Special grant framework, but an effort was made for the Toyota Foundation to develop higher quality projects together with potential applicants, and we aim to undertake further considerations and improvements in the future.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the program officers of the foundation, who made a significant contribution to the selection process by offering applicants introductory sessions and guidance, and collecting additional information related to the project applications.

Profile of Selected Projects

Here we will introduce one project selected for a grant this fiscal year in each of the project areas.

1. Fostering mutual understanding and social actors

Kochsamrong Padungsak

“Power kids: Migrant youth from Burma living in Thailand use applied arts to promote entrepreneurship in multi-ethnic migrant and non-migrant youngsters” (One country grant framework, 1.7 million yen)

The youngsters of Burmese migrants (including ethnic minorities) living in northern Thailand often do not proceed beyond the primary level of school. This project aims to empower these migrant youngsters to develop a better future for themselves by providing them training on fabrication and handicraft techniques, designing, and basic business skills. In various Asian

countries, migrant youngsters lack educational opportunities and start working quite early in their lives, including work performed at home. This youngster labor has become a serious social problem. The project's attempt to educate the youngsters of migrants in areas that include not only handicrafts and business skills but also foreign languages and IT skills is the sort of effective measure that can serve as an example for other communities to follow.

2. Enhancing sustainable communities

Cleofe Jovelyn

"Sustainable social enterprise on seaweed in Lavezares, Northern Samar, Philippines" (One country grant framework, 1.8 million yen)

In coastal regions of the Philippines, income in fishing communities is declining due to low fish catches and the degradation of coastal resources. This has forced communities to illegally log mangrove forests, causing further damage to the ecosystem. This project aims to generate income and stabilize the livelihoods of fishing community members by introducing seaweed production. The project was highly evaluated by the Selection Committee for its feasibility: namely the fact that it is based on a partnership between a local NGO involved in environmental protection for many years and the local fishing community members, and that it lays out the overall process over two years leading from seaweed production to actual sales. We anticipate that the project will help to improve and diversify sources of income in the community, and also to protect the area's natural resources.

3. Forging social systems to address local issues

Isao Aoyama

"Developing human resources, organizations and communities through the use of know-how of COINN's NGOs and Kominkan: Community development and rebirth through non-formal education in developing countries" (Over two countries grant framework, 7 million yen)

This project utilizes Community Learning Centres (CLCs) in Nepal to provide non-formal education to women and children who find it difficult to attend schools.

The plan is to provide technical support to the Women Awareness Centre Nepal (WACN) for their projects to elevate the status of local people, especially women, and improve their living standards, and to assist the management of women's savings and credit cooperatives.

The area covered by the plan includes 13 villages (in 5 districts) within a roughly 100km radius of Katmandu. Each village has one WACN supported facility. The project for non-formal education will benefit the general public as well as villagers, members of the 40 groups belonging to the cooperatives, leaders of the cooperatives, children between the ages of eight and 14 who find it difficult to attend school, and women between the ages of 15 and 45. The number of people targeted

by the program is around 80,000 (equivalent to 20,000 4-member families). The project aims to improve management of the CLCs. The overall goals are (1) to educate women and their spouses and children, (2) to create organizations that foster village communities, and (3) enhancing the capacity of women's savings and credit cooperatives.

Conclusion

For the past four years I have chaired the Program selection committee. During that time, I have tried to emphasize not only the feasibility of the proposed projects but also their medium- to long-term sustainability and their potential for future expansion. My impression is that over the four years, judged by these standards, we have seen an increase in quality not only for the grant projects but even for the project proposals not selected.

Under the leadership of the new chair of the committee, I look forward to the proposal and selection of new initiatives aimed at cross-border cooperation in order to build a better future for Asia.

Comments by Selection Committee Chair

Toshio Kuwako

For fiscal 2011, the Toyota Foundation Research Grant Program, titled “Exploring Knowledge to Build a Better Future,” saw a change to its previous application solicitation frameworks. The various research areas have been consolidated into a total of three frameworks in two categories, in line with the characteristics of each research project and the stages at which the research is being carried out:

Category A: Joint Research

1. Practical research that contributes to addressing challenges facing society
2. Value-creation research aimed at forging a new society

Category B: Individual Research

This is a departure from the organization of the Research Grant Program as it was conducted previously; we are no longer defining research areas in advance. This year all the selection committee members felt that the Foundation’s thinking behind this new approach had been clearly transmitted to grant applicants. This is because we received an impressive number of applications from younger researchers and women whose work is not bound by traditional research frameworks, as well as from people taking part in activities transcending national borders. It was with great interest and enjoyment that the committee members examined the wide variety of research proposals during the selection process.

The first framework in Category A (Joint Research), “Practicing research that contributes to addressing challenges facing society,” represents a further advance in the same direction that the Toyota Foundation’s Research Grant Program has focused on in recent years. Here we seek to support joint research aimed at boldly addressing various issues confronting communities in Japan and elsewhere, as well as the international community as a whole, and coming up with solutions to them. In selecting grant recipients within this framework, we prioritized issue-setting and methodology, in addition to specific factors including whether the results could be put to use or returned to society in some way.

The second Category A (Joint Research) framework, “Value-creation research aimed at forging a new society,” is a particularly striking example of our new overall program organization. It aims to broaden the perspective of supported research from the socially applicable work that has been prioritized in the past to encompass more basic research and investigations of fundamental theory. Furthermore, this framework defines no fixed areas of study, clearly soliciting proposals for work based on free-ranging, diverse thinking. Here we examined applications from the

perspective of whether the proposals represented joint research projects aimed at creating value through intellectual creativity; we also looked beyond the prospects for short-term results to focus on the thinking and dedication of the researchers involved, whether the angles they took were thought-provoking, and whether they showed front-running, original approaches rooted in unfettered thought.

In both of these Category A frameworks, we found our expectations met by many of the proposals we received, which engaged on a deep level with the plurality and diversity of values in contemporary society and were marked by a motivation to pioneer new areas of research.

The Toyota Foundation has provided Research Grants in the past for area studies projects resulting from a diverse range of proposals. With respect to the ties between Japan and the rest of Asia, too, there has been much research prompting consideration of the paths Asia has taken in the past and its future direction. It has been my great pleasure as a member of this selection committee to be able to provide support for such research.

The applications we received for individual research projects in Category B were of high quality across the board and featured rich variety. The proposals covered a wide range of fields, from traditional performing arts to social media; many were for challenging projects that went beyond conventional research frameworks.

It was of special note that some of the research topics were deeply connected to the researchers' own lives. Examples included proposed projects on Japan's relations with China or the Korean Peninsula, inspired by an earnest motivation on the part of people with roots in these regions to explore aspects of their own identities. In the area of medical care and welfare issues, meanwhile, proposals came from people working in the field, directly addressing the issues they face. These researchers' deep empathy with the people they come into contact with in the course of their work was a vital motive inspiring their research, but at the same time they remained committed to academic objectivity. In examining these proposals, the selection committee members took note of and highly evaluated this balance of objectivity and passion, which was a memorable part of the selection process. We were deeply moved by the way these researchers' passion for their work was so deeply ingrained in their lives.

Another feature of the Research Grant Program is the positive evaluations it gives to proposals from non-establishment researchers. The Japanese government's policy of increasing the number of doctorate-track researchers in graduate schools has made it more difficult for young researchers to obtain research employment after completing their degrees, and there are fewer opportunities for them to build up a track record in their fields. The competition is even fiercer when it comes to securing funding for their work. In the face of these circumstances, the Toyota Foundation has endeavored to make this program fully accessible to these researchers, giving their proposals a thorough examination in the selection process. The foundation's program officers play a particularly important role in this process. They are responsible for contacting grant applicants to relay queries from the selection committee and carrying out hearings: their tasks go well beyond

simple examinations to filter proposals, and their efforts are instrumental in helping us to gather top-quality, promising project proposals for consideration. This is something that only becomes possible through an accumulation of such efforts over time, and I wish to note the great contribution that program officers make to the selection process.

This year's application period opened just after the Great East Japan Earthquake. We were concerned that the content of the proposed research could be greatly affected by this epochal disaster. While there were some proposals dealing with disaster-related themes, the applications that received grants were those that had been prepared ahead of the March 11 disaster. I believe we will see wide-ranging, deep-probing research proposals in the years to come addressing aspects of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami and the nuclear power plant disaster that ensued.

At this time of major historic change, I believe that the research projects awarded grants this year demonstrate a good understanding of the purposes of the Toyota Foundation's Research Grant Program and I am confident that they will produce solid results. By results I do not mean solely the achievement of the objectives written on the application forms. Research is a creative and intellectual activity, and when we set out on a journey toward a goal we may encounter entirely new horizons along the way. The new insight and wisdom we achieve in this manner are also valuable results of our undertakings. I eagerly anticipate the reports to come of the rich harvest produced by this year's grant-receiving projects.

Below are brief overviews of some of the projects that received grants this year.

[Category A: Joint Research (1)]

Tokuko Munesue (Assistant professor, Kanagawa University of Human Services)

"Research on Construction of a Comprehensive Community-based Support System for Sexual Assault Victims: Focusing on Measures Undertaken in Kanagawa Prefecture" (¥5.2 million/two years)

This project aims to establish a support system for sexual assault victims in Kanagawa Prefecture. Through this endeavor, the research team hopes to help victims to recover their dignity and mental and physical health and to rebuild their lives. The team includes legal, medical, and gender equality specialists, among others. The project plan includes investigation of the needs of sexual assault victims, training of support specialists, improved access to the necessary information, and other measures to realize a support system that functions as part of the framework of society. This is a suitable project for the Joint Research (1) category, as it indicates concrete ways to achieve the project goals.

[Category A: Joint Research (2)]

Shinji Ogawa (Postdoctoral research fellow, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics)

“Project to Develop a Writing System for Ryukyuan Languages: Creating a Standardized, General-use System to Represent the Diverse Dialects Comprising Ryukyuan Languages and Laying the Foundation for Its Diffusion” (¥3.6 million/two years)

The research team, consisting of young linguists, is drawing on the views of local residents as it attempts to develop a writing system for Ryukyuan languages based on the Japanese kana syllabary, which is easy to understand for people who are not familiar with the local languages or are not linguistic specialists. This is a timely project based on an accumulation of new dialect dictionaries and heightened interest in dialect education in recent years. The team is carrying out creative research with emphasis on providing practical output for learners. If the project goes smoothly, it should serve as a model case for similar research in the future.

[Category B: Individual Research]

Xiaoping Yang (Graduate student, Graduate School for International Development and Cooperation, Hiroshima University)

“Comparative Study of Peace Exhibitions and Peace Practices in Asia: Peace Symbols in Japan and China” (¥1.7 million/two years)

This is an ambitious project by a young Chinese researcher living in Hiroshima. Based on the results of previous research concerning ideology and authority in connection with peace-related exhibitions, it takes a multifaceted look at exhibitions of peace in Japan and China, elucidating the implications of publicly aggregated peace symbols. This project is a clear sign of the passion and sincerity of the researcher, who is pursuing the potential of concepts of peace that go beyond regional or national boundaries. The grant should enable him not only to achieve results in an academic sense, but also to make an even greater contribution to the practical task of creating a forum for Sino-Japanese mutual understanding.

Finally, the data for the Research Grant Program for Fiscal 2011 are as follows.

	Applications	Grants	Selection Rate
Joint Research (1)	242	12	5.0%
Joint Research (2)	121	11	9.0%
Individual Research	499	24	4.8%
Total	862	47	5.5%

As the figures show, applications for Joint Research (1) grants accounted for about 30% of the total. Only about half as many applications were received for Joint Research (2) grants, but we selected almost the same number of projects for each type of grant within Category A, delivering the message that we place value on both frameworks. In Category B: Individual Research, which

was clearly positioned as a means of encouraging young and non-establishment researchers, we saw increases from the previous fiscal year in both applications and grants awarded.