

September 7, 2015

## **Young Asian Researchers to Discuss Pollution at Honda Y-E-S Form 2015**

The Honda Foundation (established by Soichiro and Benjiro Honda; chairman: Hiroto Ishida) is to hold the Honda Y-E-S Forum 2015 on Wednesday November 18, 2015 at Ichijo Hall, Yayoi Auditorium on the University of Tokyo campus in Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. The Forum will invite the awardees of the Young Engineer and Scientist's Award (Y-E-S Award) from various countries in Asia to engage in discussion with experts in various fields on issues in modern society examined from the perspective of young scientists and engineers.

The Honda Y-E-S Award was started in 2006 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Foundation. It is an award program for students studying science and engineering in various Asian countries, aimed at fostering future leaders in these disciplines. The Award currently covers the five nations of Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar and grants incentive awards to university students who have shown high levels of academic performance.

The Honda Y-E-S Forum has been organized as an extension of the award program to promote friendly exchanges among the Y-E-S Awardees and Japanese university students, interaction with academic experts and researchers in Japan, feedback to countries covered by the program and ultimately to contribute to the development of young scientists and engineers in Asian countries who are expected to lead the science and technology fields in the future. It is the first time to gather representatives of the past Y-E-S Awardees to discuss with experts in Japan. This Forum is open to the public.

The theme of this year's Forum is "Tackling Pollution through Ecotechnology." It will feature presentations by the Y-E-S Awardees on the pollution issues in their respective countries, along with keynote addresses by Dr. Masanori Fujita, Professor Emeritus of Osaka University, and Dr. Yoshifumi Yasuoka, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo. In the later part of the program, a panel discussion involving audience will be held with Dr. Atsushi Sunami, professor of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies and Executive Director of the Honda Foundation, serving as facilitator.

Alongside the Forum, a research poster contest on the theme of pollution will be held. It is aimed at sharing Japan's research results and knowledge on pollution countermeasures for emerging countries and at expanding the network of participants in tackling these issues.

Through these programs, the Foundation hopes to explore, from the perspective of young scientists and engineers, what roles science and technology can play in the face of the pollution issues in emerging countries. Also it endeavors to search for the path to problem-solving, including identifying what research, technologies and ideas in Japan can contribute to the subject in transnational cooperation.

This year's Forum is supported by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), the Interdisciplinary Consortium on Urban Environment and Health in Asia (UEHAS), and the Science and Technology Leadership Association (STeLA) Japan.

The Honda Foundation was established in 1977 by donations from Honda Motor's founder Soichiro Honda and his younger brother Benjiro.

Although the rapid technical innovation in modern society has achieved high economic growth and dramatic prosperity, bringing revolutionary changes in our lives, it has created serious and complex issues such as environmental destruction, pollution, urban concentration, population and food issues, and growing consciousness-gap between nations and races.

In order to provide the opportunity for scholars, researchers, and specialists to meet together and freely discuss the present state and the future of our civilization, the Foundation sponsors international exchange, symposia and study groups, offers prizes and awards for the promotion of research, education and other such activities, carries on its own study and research utilizing the achievements of modern civilization, thus aims to contribute toward the creation of a truly humane civilization.

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