

Press Release

October 23, 2025

International Symposium in Bangladesh 2025 “Creating Sustainable Societies across Different Communities Through Eco-technology” to be held November 1 & 2 in Dhaka, Bangladesh

The Honda Foundation, a public interest incorporated foundation established by Soichiro Honda and his younger brother Benjiro and currently led by President Hiroto Ishida, will hold the International Symposium in Bangladesh 2025 in partnership with the NPO Grameen Communications on Saturday, November 1 & Sunday November 2, 2025, at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Researchers from Japan and host countries have been discussing social issues shared by both countries informed by local context at the Foundation's international symposia. This will be the first symposium in six years since the most recent one held in 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

This year's theme is “Creating Sustainable Societies across Different Communities Through Eco-technology.” Japan and Bangladesh in particular face social issues in the areas of healthcare and transportation. As such, Day 1 of the symposium will involve discussions on these two topics by researchers active in related fields of expertise. On Day 2, sessions will be held with young researchers and students, including awardees of the Honda Foundation's “Young Engineer and Scientist's Award” (Y-E-S Award) given to science and engineering students from Asia, as well as young researchers from Japan.

The symposium is scheduled to be live streamed for free on the Honda Foundation's official Facebook page, allowing anyone to watch. Please see page 2 of this release for the main sessions' times.

<https://www.facebook.com/hondafoundation/>

Overview

Event name: International Symposium in Bangladesh 2025

Host: Honda Foundation

Co-host: Grameen Communications

Dates: Saturday, November 1 & Sunday, November 2, 2025

Location: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka (107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Ave, Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh)

<https://www.panpacific.com/en/hotels-and-resorts/pp-dhaka/meetings/meet-venues.html>

Schedule of Main Sessions

■ Day 1 (November 1)

12:00-13:25 (JST)

Opening Remarks by representatives of the Honda Foundation, Grameen Communications, Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh and others

13:35-17:00 (JST)

Session 1-Panel Discussion 1 Theme: Healthcare

Dr. Yasunobu Nohara

Associate Professor, Faculty of Advanced Science and Technology (Engineering), Kumamoto University

Dr. Nohara has conducted research on the practical implementation of machine learning, the core technology of ChatGPT and other forms of artificial intelligence that have garnered attention in recent years, in healthcare and other areas of society. He previously worked for ten years at a university hospital involved in a variety of projects, including the development of a lifestyle disease prevention program that utilized information technology for use in developing countries.

Dr. Hiroko Akiyama

Visiting Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo

Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Visiting Professor, Institute of Gerontology, The University of Tokyo

An expert in gerontology, Dr. Akiyama has conducted a 30-year nationwide survey in Japan to track age-related changes in the physical and mental health, finances, and relationships of the old adults. In recent years, she has been engaged in urban planning for Japan's aging society in the Tokyo metropolitan area and two regional cities. In addition, she is involved in the Kamakura Living Lab, a collaboration between industry, government, academia, and the public. Through these and other efforts, she is working to improve the lifestyles of the older adults in Japan's aging society.

Mr. Sayedur Rahman

Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Dr. Nizam Ahmed

Chair, GAVI CSO Steering Committee

17:00-19:50 (JST)

Session 2-Panel Discussion 2 Theme: Transportation

Mr. Tatsuki Yamanami

President and CEO, scheme verge, Inc.

After graduating from The University of Tokyo's Faculty of Engineering in 2015, Mr. Yamanami was involved in analysis work related to research projects at the university's graduate school and with

ridesharing companies. From 2016, he was involved with social acceptance surveys by the Cabinet Office's Strategic Innovation Promotion Program "Automated Driving for Universal Services" (SIP-adus), which led him to envision a decentralized autonomous city based on the development of automated driving and platform strategies. He founded scheme verge, Inc. in July 2018.

Mr. Hisashi Kamio

President and Representative Director, iMago Co., Ltd.
Co-president, iQLab

After his involvement with new business planning and marketing at a major telecommunications company, Mr. Kamio became an independent journalist. He has covered advances in IT technologies, and their impact on the businesses, services and society from a variety of perspectives. His areas of expertise include mobile IT, automotive, transportation and cashless payments.

*Mr. Kaito Tashiro of iMago Co., Ltd. is scheduled to appear on Mr. Kamio's behalf on Day 1.

Dr. Shamsul Huq

Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

Dr. Mohammed Ziaul Haque

Additional Secretary, Road Transport and Highways Division, Bangladesh Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges

20:00-21:00 (JST)

Plenary Session (All participants will attend)

Speakers: Session 1 and 2 panelists, JICA experts

■ Day 2 (November 2)

12:10-13:10 (JST)

Panel Discussion Theme: Transportation

Panelists: Day 1 speakers, Y-E-S Awardees and young researchers from Japan

13:30-14:30 (JST)

Panel Discussion Theme: Healthcare

Panelists: Day 1 speakers, Y-E-S Awardees and young researchers from Japan

About International Symposia

In 1976, an international symposium named "DISCOVERIES" was held to offer a forum for frank, open dialogue among scientists from around the world related to the issues created by human activities. This symposium became the impetus for the establishment of the Honda Foundation. While the symposia were initially held in the developed countries of the West, after Soichiro Honda's passing the focus of the symposia shifted to Southeast Asia to solve social issues shared by Japan and the host countries while introducing Japan's leading-edge technologies.

For details about the international symposia, please visit the link below.

<https://www.hondafoundation.jp/en/symposium.html>

The Honda Foundation

The Honda Foundation was established in December 1977 with a donation from Soichiro Honda, the founder of Honda Motor Co., Ltd., and his younger brother, Benjiro. The Foundation defines approaches to resolve issues by harmonizing the human and natural environments in "ecotechnology." The Foundation focuses on the following three activities to develop and disseminate ecotechnology.

- (1) Honda Prize: An international award that acknowledges significant achievements in the field of ecotechnology
- (2) International symposia and colloquia: Providing opportunities for extensive discussions into various issues of modern society to search for resolutions
- (3) Honda Y-E-S Program: Various programs designed to develop young talented engineers and scientists for the next generation

The Foundation aims to contribute to "the creation of a truly humane civilization" through these activities.

For inquiries:

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