

Press Release

December 24, 2025

International Symposium in Bangladesh 2025 Event Report **Approximately 200 Experts and Young Researchers from Japan, Bangladesh, and Asia** **Discuss Healthcare and Transportation**

The Honda Foundation, a public interest incorporated foundation established by Soichiro Honda and his younger brother Benjiro and chaired by President Hiroto Ishida, co-hosted the “International Symposium in Bangladesh 2025” with the Bangladeshi non-profit organization Grameen Communications on Saturday, November 1, and Sunday, November 2, 2025 at a hotel in Dhaka, Bangladesh.



The international symposium, held for the first time in six years since its previous edition in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 2019, was organized under the theme “Creating Sustainable Societies across Different Communities Through Ecotechnology.” The discussions focused particularly on healthcare and transportation—two critical social challenges facing both Japan and Bangladesh. Approximately 200 participants engaged in active dialogue, including experts from universities, corporations, and government institutions in both countries, as well as young researchers from Japan and students from Asia—among them the previous awardees of the Honda Foundation’s Y-E-S Award (Young Engineer and Scientist’s Award”), which recognizes excellence among science and engineering students from Asia.

The symposium was opened on the first day with remarks by Hiroto Ishida, President of the Honda Foundation. This was followed by the guest speech delivered by Mr. Naoki Takahashi, Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh. In addition, a video message from Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, founder of Grameen Bank, and the laureate of 2006 Nobel Peace was presented.

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)



(From left)

- Panel discussion on healthcare and transportation
- Mr. Hiroto Ishida, President of the Honda Foundation
- Mr. Naoki Takahashi, Minister of the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh
- Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the Interim Government of Bangladesh

【Main Session Highlights】

■ Day 1 (November 1)

Session 1: Panel Discussion 1 — Theme: Healthcare

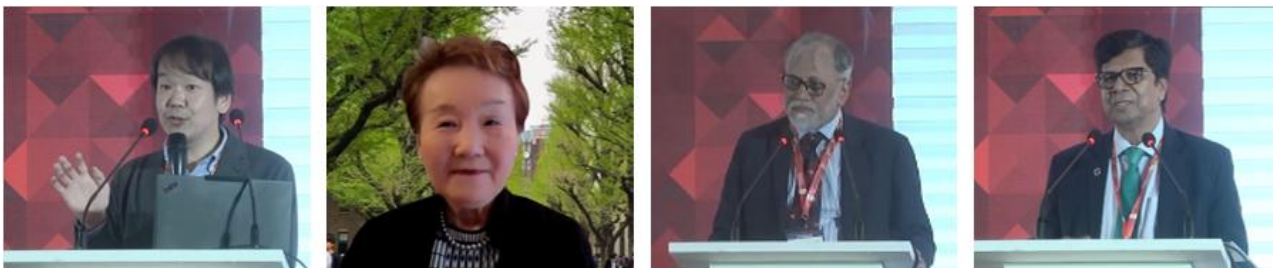
[Panelists]

Dr. Yasunobu Nohara — Associate Professor, Faculty of Advanced Science and Technology (Engineering), Kumamoto University

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

Mr. Sayedur Rahman — Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser, Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Dr. Nizam Ahmed — Chair, GAVI CSO Steering Committee



Dr. Yasunobu Nohara

Dr. Hiroko Akiyama

Mr. Sayedur Rahman

Dr. Nizam Ahmed

Session 2: Panel Discussion 2 — Theme: Transportation

[Panelists]

Mr. Tatsuki Yamanami — President and CEO, scheme verge, Inc.

Mr. Hisashi Kamio — President and Representative Director, iMago Co., Ltd.; Co-president, iQLab
(Presented by Mr. Kaito Tashiro of iMago Co., Ltd. on behalf of Mr. Kamio)

Prof. Dr. Shamsul Hoque — Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)

Dr. Mohammed Ziaul Haque — Additional Secretary, Road Transport and Highways Division,
Bangladesh Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges



Mr. Tatsuki Yamanami



Mr. Hisashi Kamio



Prof. Dr. Shamsul Hoque



Dr. Mohammed Ziaul Haque

■ Day 2 (November 2)

Panel Discussions — Themes: Transportation / Healthcare

[Panelists]

Day 1 speakers

Past awardees of the “Young Engineer and Scientist's Award” (Y-E-S Award)

Young researchers from Japan



About International Symposia

In 1976, an international symposium named "DISCOVERIES" was launched as a forum for frank, open dialogue among scientists from around the world on issues arising by human activities. This symposium became the impetus for the establishment of the Honda Foundation. Initially, the symposia were held primarily in the developed countries of the West. Following the passing of Soichiro Honda, the focus of the symposia shifted to Southeast Asia, where the symposia have aimed to address social challenges 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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