



Cover photo (courtesy of Chiba Zoological Park)
Toco Toucan

We have partnered with Chiba City in 2023 to preserve biodiversity in Chiba Zoological Park.



Satoyama.

A place where people and nature coexist.

A place that leads us into the future.

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Greetings

AEON Environmental Foundation, established in 1990 as Japan's first independent corporate foundation focusing on the global environment, has been conducting environmental conservation activities in Asia and other parts of the world.

AEON Forest Program has reached a total of over 12.68 million planted trees*, including 1 million trees along the Great Wall of China. Regenerated forests have become home to a wide variety of living creatures.

In recent years, as a new initiative following AEON Forest Program, we have started AEON Satoyama Program. Satoyama, a natural environment that used to be close to people who were using and protecting it as a shared asset, is now becoming increasingly degraded as a result of economic growth and social change.

Our Foundation intends to build a new sustainable relationship where people and nature coexist in harmony. In addition to the traditional Satoyama, we aim to build a new Satoyama filled with smiles, where preserving and utilizing the nature ties in with the human well-being and the sustainability of local communities and the global environment.

*As of February 2024

Motoya Okada

Chairman
AEON Environmental Foundation

Purpose of Establishment

AEON Environmental Foundation was established by Takuya Okada (Honorary Chairman and Advisor of AEON Co., Ltd.) in 1990, when environmental issues were not that widely recognized by society as they are today.

Global warming, deforestation, ocean pollution, and other crises in the natural environment required efforts by private companies and civic organizations from a global environmental perspective, rather than waiting for government-led measures.

Based on AEON Basic Principles of "pursuing peace, respecting humans, and contributing to local communities, always with customers as our starting point," the Foundation has been involved in various activities, such as tree-planting and resource-recycling. It was established to carry out its own activities to protect the global environment, as well as to provide support and grants to like-minded organizations.

Outline of the Foundation

■ Programs for the Common Good

- (1) Grant/Assistance Program
- (2) Tree Planting Program
- (3) Award Program
- (4) Environmental Education Program
- (5) Other programs necessary to achieve the organization goals

■ Basic Assets

[AEON Co., Ltd.] 21,811,100 shares
[Market value] 77,974,682,500 yen (as of the end of February 2024)

■ Fiscal Year

April 1 to March 31 of the following year

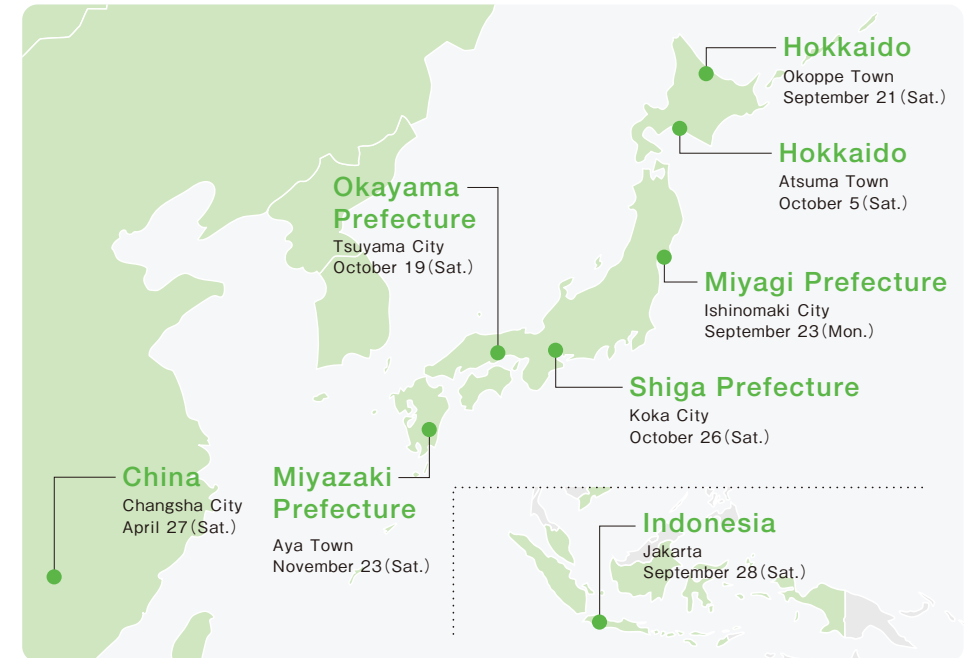
Continuing to pass on forests, home to a wide variety of living creatures into the future



Jakarta, Indonesia

We plant trees together with local volunteers around the world, mainly in Japan and Asia, with the aim of regenerating forests that have been lost due to natural disasters or logging, restoring disaster-resistant forests, and addressing climate change. We are also implementing tree nurturing activities such as pruning and brush clearing, as well as environmental education and workshops to deepen understanding of the areas where we plant trees.

Plan for FY2024



Activities in FY2023

- **Tree planting in Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture** (April 22)
"Regeneration of devastated forests"
- **Tree planting in Bidar, Malaysia** (May 20-21)
"Regeneration of devastated forests"
- **Tree planting in Minamifurano Town, Hokkaido** (May 20)
"Regeneration of devastated forests"
- **Tree planting in Watari Town, Miyagi Prefecture** (June 18)
"Creation of reconstruction memorial forests after the Great East Japan Earthquake"
- **Tree planting in Jakarta, Indonesia** (August 5)
"Regeneration of urban disaster prevention forests"
- **Tree planting in Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture** (September 23)
"Creation of reconstruction memorial forests after the Great East Japan Earthquake"
- **Tree planting in Aya Town, Miyazaki Prefecture** (October 7)
"Creation of forests where people and nature coexist in harmony"
- **Tree planting in Kimitsu City, Chiba Prefecture** (October 28)
"Creation of forests where people and nature coexist in harmony"
- **Tree planting in Koka City, Shiga Prefecture** (November 12)
"Regeneration of devastated forests"



Aya Town, Miyazaki Prefecture

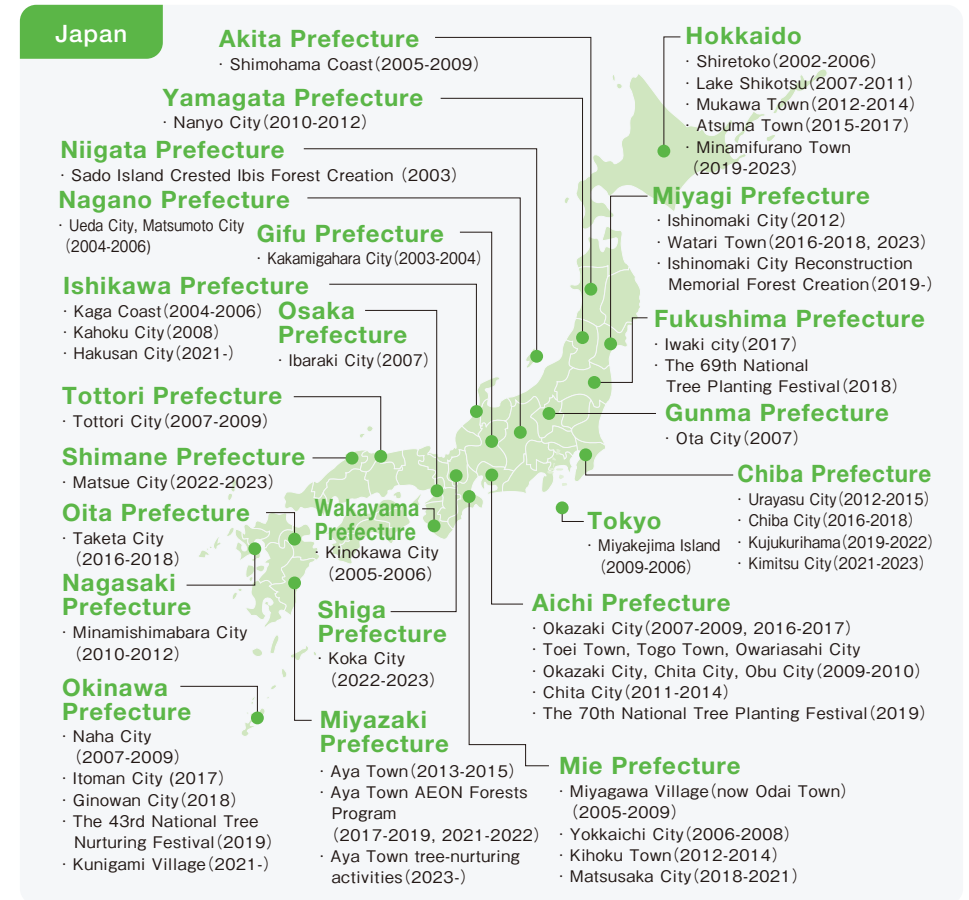
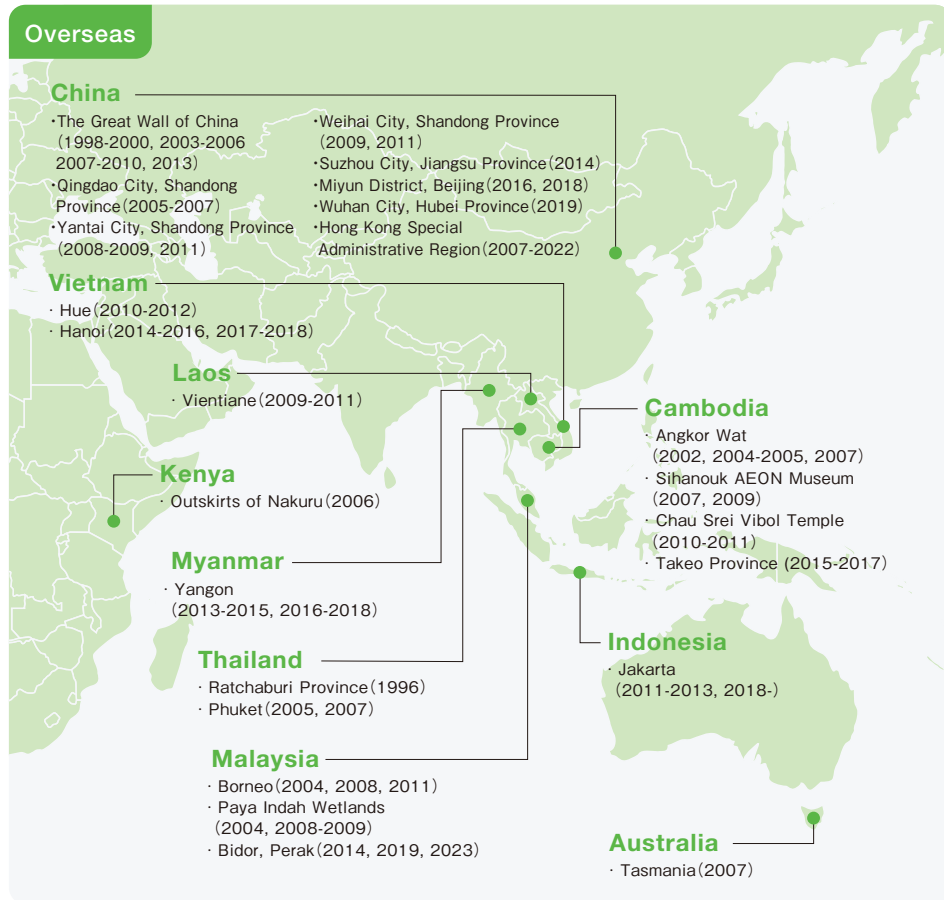


Ishinomaki City, Miyagi Prefecture



Koka City, Shiga Prefecture

Tree Planted Sites



Tree Planting at the Great Wall of China

We carried out a project lasting more than 10 years with the aim of "reviving a green forest on the Great Wall of China, where logging had wiped out forests". A total of 15,000 volunteers from Japan and China planted 1 million trees, and we held tree nurturing in 2013.



The Great Wall of China

Sponsoring the National Tree-Planting Festival

In support of the mission of the National Tree Planting Festival, which is held to deepen the public's understanding of forests and greenery as the foundation of a prosperous nation, we have been a continuous sponsor of saplings, etc. since 2018.



73rd National Tree Planting Festival Iwate 2023 satellite venue (Iwate Prefecture)

Passing on the irreplaceable wealth of nature to future generations

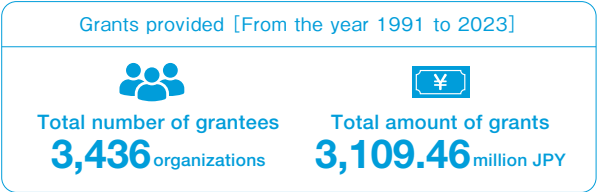


Activity area of Onoko-no Sato Tanada Hozon-kai (Onoko Farm) (Fukuoka Prefecture)



Bamboo grove maintenance by grantee Mizusawa Morindo no Kai (Kanagawa Prefecture)

We provide grants totaling 100 million yen annually to non-profit organizations around the world that are actively engaged in environmental activities.



Regeneration of Satoyama Commons


Satoyama, which used to be cherished by local communities, is now facing various challenges led by changes in the energy cycle and neglect by people. The harmonious relationship between people and nature is on the verge of collapse and activities on preservation, restoration, and utilization of Satoyama are urgently required. By restoring an ideal balance between people and nature in cooperation with a diverse range of stakeholders from within and outside of the local community we aim to create an open Satoyama that will contribute to the sustainability of the global environment.

Overview

The 34th (FY2024) Grant Program
Theme : Regeneration of Satoyama Commons

- **Field of activities: Preservation and utilization of Satoyama (including both lands and seas)**
 - ① Tree planting and other Satoyama restoration activities
 - ② Preserving traditions of Satoyama
 - ③ Restoration of Satoyama in disaster-stricken areas
 - ④ Nature-based environmental education
 - ⑤ Protection of wild animals, plants, and endangered species
- **Total grant amount : 100 million JPY**
- **Eligible organizations**
 Non-profit organizations engaging in environmental activities with local volunteers to realize sustainable society.
- **Open application period : June 1 - July 31, 2024**
- **Activity period : April 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026**

For more information, check our website by using the QR code.



Grantees of the 33rd Grant Program (FY2023)

Theme **Regeneration of Satoyama Commons**

103 organizations/ Grants total amount 79.85 million yen
Activity period: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

1 Preservation, maintenance and management of Satoyama (including both lands and seas)

■ PARCIC (Malaysia) and 49 other organizations

2 Tree planting and other Satoyama restoration activities

■ Chikyu-Ryokuka-Club (China)
■ NPO of Institute For Forestry and Pasture Conservation Central Asia (Tajikistan)
■ IKAW AKO, Japan Philippines Partnership for Environmental Protection (Philippines)
■ Pride of Asia Preah Vihear Association Japan (Cambodia)
■ Manis Fun Club Institute (Indonesia)
■ NPO VERSTA (Brazil) and 13 other organizations

3 Protection of wild animals, plants, and endangered species

■ NPO Eology and Regional Culture Studies Association (Vietnam)
■ Salamandovu Society (Kenya)
■ Volunteer Southern cross Japan Association (Madagascar) and 12 other organizations

4 Utilization of natural resources

6 organizations

5 Nature-based environmental education

■ NPO Mongolia Ecology Information Center (Mongolia)
■ Nagoon Ulaanbaatar Greening Technical Assistance Committee (Mongolia)
and 7 other organizations

6 Preserving traditions of Satoyama

1 organization

7 Restoration of Satoyama in disaster-stricken areas

■ NGO NEKKO (Philippines)
■ NPO Halo-Halo (Philippines) and 1 other organization

Grantee-organizations` activities

■ Specified Nonprofit Organization Yamasaki-Yato no Kai (Kanagawa Prefecture)



Satoyama preservation, maintenance and management

In order to preserve the landscape and ecosystem of the valley in Kamakura Central Park, they carry out recycling-oriented farming activities and provide environmental education for future generations.

■ Specified Nonprofit Organization Sea Plus Sou (Shizuoka Prefecture)



Protection of wild animals, wild plants, and endangered species

They work on protecting and restoring rare halophila ovalis (seagrass) and Japanese eelgrass in the anchorage and non-anchorage areas of Nishi Izu (Nishiura area).

■ Specified Nonprofit Organization Pride of Asia Preah Vihear Association Japan (Cambodia)



Satoyama restoration activities including Tree planting

In the area around the World Heritage Site Preah Vihear Temple, they cooperate with local people to preserve the natural environment by planting trees, clearing the underbrush, and supplying water.

■ Seginaokai (Shiga Prefecture)



Preserving traditions of Satoyama

Aiming to create a village with a prosperous livelihood, they carry out activities to preserve terraced rice paddies and practice traditional farming methods that do not rely on machinery.

For more details on activities of our grantees, check our website



Aiming to develop human resources to tackle environmental issues



Shiga-highland UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Eco Tour (Nagano and Gunma Prefectures)

In cooperation with universities and other various institutions, we conduct joint research on Satoyama and provide programs to develop human resources who will play an active role in the environmental field.

Collaboration with Universities

To create a sustainable society, we work on researching and creating Satoyama for local communities in collaboration with five universities: Waseda University, the University of Tokyo, Tohoku University, Kyoto University, and Chiba University.

Waseda University

In September 2020, we established AEON TOWA Research Center to address environmental issues. Its initiatives include forest creation, sustainable community development, and developing future global environmental leaders. In 2022, we started endowed courses to conduct research in major Satoyama-fields based on the theory of sustainable community development.



Endowed Course in Aya Town
(Miyazaki Prefecture)

Plan for FY2024

We will hold debriefing sessions and annual report meetings as the culmination of our endowed course and Environmental Leader Course, "Satoyama, created and nurtured together with multiple generations"

- Sustainable Community Lecture
- Fieldworks

The University of Tokyo

From 2017 to 2021, we collaborated with the Institute for Future Initiatives of The University of Tokyo to hold AEON-Future Earth Forum. In March 2022, we co-founded AEON-Todai Satoyama Lab to enhance local economies and promote harmony with nature. Our research in Hadano City explores Satoyama's role in frailty prevention and healthy aging.



Frailty check in Hadano City (Kanagawa Prefecture)

Plan for FY2024

We will track multifaceted frailty assessments that link Satoyama activities with frailty prevention activities, in Satoyama-fields and AEON stores in Hadano City, Kanagawa Prefecture.

- Practical training in Satoyama in the Naganuki district of Hadano City

Tohoku University

In June 2021, we partnered with Tohoku University International Research Institute of Disaster Science and AEON Mall Co., Ltd. to launch joint research lab. focusing on creating resilient communities. With elementary students, we nurture native seedlings to create a disaster-resistant urban landscape.



Acorn Picking (Miyagi Prefecture)

Plan for FY2024

Under the theme of "Forest Design," we will revise our greening plan manual and engage in dialogue with local residents to green the area.

- Environmental education for elementary school students in Sendai City
- Seed-collection and seedling-nurturing in AEON Forest in Miyagi

Kyoto University

In July 2022, we launched the New Satoyama-Satoumi Cocreation Project with the Kyoto University Field Science Education and Research Center to promote education and collaboration for Satoyama and Satoumi preservation.



Satoyama Open Lab (Kyoto Prefecture)

Plan for FY2024

We will hold events together with local citizens.

- "New Satoyama and Satoumi Study Meeting" (online)
- Beach cleanup and ecosystem observation (Hatakejima, Wakayama Prefecture)
- Observation of fish-bearing forests and seashore creatures in Oura, Maizuru City (Maizuru Fisheries Research Station, Kyoto Prefecture)
- Study session on Satoyama (Kamigamo Experimental Station, Kyoto Prefecture)
- "Satoyama and Satoumi Connecting Festival" (AEON MALL Takanohara, Kyoto Prefecture)

Chiba University

In 2021, we began research on creating Satoyama considering landscape, biodiversity and utilization at the Graduate School of Horticulture. We conduct research from tree planting to nurturing, biomass accumulation, biodiversity, and compile the results of the practicum.



Field work (Chiba Prefecture)

Plan for FY2024

We will use Kimitsu AEON Forest as a fieldwork site for graduate students to enhance their knowledge of vegetation and forestry, and create a model for Satoyama regeneration.

- Kimitsu AEON Forest Landscape Practicum

AEON SATOYAMA Forum

In order to create new possibilities and values of Satoyama, we hold the forum together with the universities that we collaborate and conduct joint research with - Waseda University, the University of Tokyo, Tohoku University, Kyoto University, and Chiba University. The forum is aimed to study the ideal balance between people and nature, discover new possibilities of Satoyama, and share the knowledge and results of our collaboration work.

■ First Forum (2023)

The first event was held on December 12 at the United Nations University U Thant International Conference Hall under the theme "New Value Creation of Satoyama = Nature Positivity and Well-Being". In addition to the five universities, the United Nations University and the Satoyama Initiative joined the forum to discuss the potential of Satoyama for a sustainable future.



Plan for FY2024

We will continue joint research with each university and collaborate with our grantees and local governments to consider the best forms of Satoyama from a broad perspective.

- February 18, 2025 (Tuesday) at the United Nations University U Thant International Conference Hall

Japanese Biosphere Reserves

In support of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve's philosophy of focusing on the coexistence of nature and human society as well as the protection and preservation of ecosystems, we joined forces with the Japanese Biosphere Reserves Network in 2017.



■ Cooperation Agreement Items

- ① Biodiversity preservation and utilization of Biosphere Reserves
- ② Implementation of environmental education in Biosphere Reserves
- ③ Creation and sharing of new values of Biosphere Reserves
- ④ Collaboration for building sustainable communities in Satoyama and Satoumi



Shiga-highland Eco Tour
(Nagano and Gunma Prefectures)

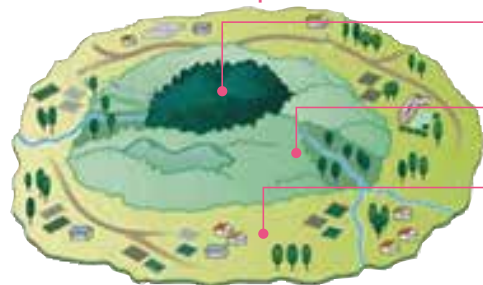
■ What is Biosphere Reserve?

It is a model region that has a rich ecosystem and promotes sustainable economic activities that utilize the region's natural resources.

Three functions of Biosphere Reserves

- Conservation (preservation of biodiversity)
- Economic and social development
- Academic research support

Three zones of Biosphere Reserves



- **Core area**
Strictly protected; Preserved over the long term
- **Buffer zone**
Protect core area; Zone for education, training and ecotourism
- **Transition area**
Area where people live and achieve sustainable development in harmony with nature

*Materials provided by the Japanese National Commission for UNESCO

Plan for FY2024

● Biosphere Reserve Events

Introducing biodiversity conservation activities and widely convey the attractions of Biosphere Reserves.

● Eco-tours

Planning tours where participants will learn about Biosphere Reserves and other areas advanced in natural environment conservation and sustainable use.

Geoparks Japan

We joined forces with the Japanese Geoparks Network in 2022 to contribute to the coexistence of people and natural capital (geological heritage) and the development of the communities where the Geoparks are located, by utilizing their respective human and material resources to help create a sustainable society.



■ Cooperation Agreement Items

- ① Conservation of the natural environment, including geological heritage
- ② Environmental and disaster prevention education using Geoparks
- ③ Spreading awareness of the values and knowledge of Geoparks
- ④ Creation of a sustainable society where people and nature coexist in harmony through community cooperation

■ What is a Geopark?

It is a place where we can learn about the Earth's past through its geology and landforms, and work toward its future. It is an area where geological heritage and landscapes with geoscientific significance are brought together and managed according to a holistic approach that includes all aspects of conservation, education, and sustainable development.

■ Activities in FY2023



Hachinohe-Osuka Beach Cleanup at Sanriku Geopark
(Aomori Prefecture)



Sanriku Geopark Jodogahama
(Iwate Prefecture)

Plan for FY2024

● Geopark Event in Tohoku [May 3 - 4]

We brought together eight Geoparks of the Tohoku region in Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture, where we introduced activities of each Geoparks to general public.

● National Conference of Japanese Geoparks Network [August 30 (Fri.)-September 1 (Sun.)]

Geoparks from 46 regions will gather at Shimokita Geopark in Aomori Prefecture.



Morioka City (Iwate Prefecture)



Cát Bà Island biosphere reserve (Vietnam, 2015)



Angkor Wat Archaeological Site (Cambodia, 2019)



ASEP Closing ceremony (Japan, 2012)



Field survey of the Kubuqi Desert in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region (China, 2014)

Global Youth MIDORI Platform (GYM)

In collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) we aim to develop environmental leaders from Asia through a joint training program, with finalists presenting their recommendations at international conferences.

Plan for FY2024

- **Number of students to be accepted:** 20
- **Schedule:**
 - June : Recruit student participants
 - July : Preliminary training (online)
 - August : International joint training (online)
 - October : Dispatch two participants to international conference (COP16)
 - November onwards : Follow-up and spread education

Asian Students Environment Platform (ASEP)



In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, we held the program 11 times from 2012 to 2023 with a total of 847 university students from 10 countries. We provided fieldworks and lectures, where participants discussed global environmental issues while learning about difference in natural environment and values of each country.

Participating Universities (in order of year of initial participation)

Waseda University	Japan	Royal University of Phnom Penh	Cambodia
Korea University	South Korea	Universitas Indonesia	Indonesia
Tsinghua University	China	Chulalongkorn University	Thailand
Vietnam National University, Hanoi	Vietnam	Yangon University of Economics	Myanmar
University of Malaya	Malaysia	University of the Philippines	Philippines

Carbon stock survey

In 2019, we partnered with Remote Sensing Technology Center of Japan to use their satellite technology for forest management and environmental education. Local students in Aya Town and Minami-Shimabara participated in measuring CO2 absorption in AEON Forests.



Aya Junior High School (Miyazaki Prefecture)



Minami-arima Elementary School (Nagasaki Prefecture)

Donation of educational Materials

To raise awareness and promote the use of renewable energy, we have been providing environmental education to elementary and junior high schools since 2009, using solar power generation systems in a total of 56 schools in Japan, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Hong Kong.



Power generation awareness panel at Josei Junior High School, Kochi City (Kochi Prefecture)



Kowloon Bay St. John The Baptist Catholic Primary School (Hong Kong)

Educational events

Earth Day Tokyo



Yoyogi Park

In addition to introducing the Foundation's activities to visitors, we also offer workshops run by our grantee organizations.

World Environment Day



Chiba Prefecture

In line with the Environment Month every June and World Environment Day on June 5, we introduce our activities through exhibits and workshops.

Children's Forest Creation Forum



Chichibu City, Saitama Prefecture

We participate in an event to build interest in passing on the wealth of greenery to the next generation prior to the National Tree-Planting Festival.

Training programs

Chiba Entrepreneurship

We participated in "the Seedlings of Chiba Entrepreneurship Education Consortium" in 2021 to develop human resources who will lead future industries. In 2023, with Chiba City Zoological Park, we ran an environmental education program for local students to understand endangered species and to foster future entrepreneurs who will protect the global environment.



CHIBA-ZOOTUBE Project (Chiba Prefecture)

Use the QR code to access the Seedlings of Chiba website



Endowed course at Meio University

We offered the course to foster environmental leaders through field practicums in northern Okinawa and Iriomote Island registered as World Natural Heritage sites in July 2021.



Yanbaru Discovery Forest (Okinawa Prefecture)

Other activities

Future Earth



AEON Tokitsu Shopping Center (Nagasaki Prefecture)

Future Earth is an international research platform for global environmental research and sustainability science aimed at shifting to a sustainable society. We collaborated with Future Earth on AEON-Future Earth Forum for five years from 2017, and the Future Earth Dialogue Project in 2023.

World Natural Heritage



Amami Rabbit (Kagoshima Prefecture)

We are engaged in activities to preserve the natural environment at areas registered as World Natural Heritage sites. In July 2023 we started collaboration works in Amami Oshima and Tokunoshima.

Published books



A Town is Born and a Forest Spreads: Takuya Okada's Story

The SDGs Handbook for Creating a Bright Future

Miraikan The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation



We are cooperating with the permanent exhibition of the Planetary Crisis section following the renewal of the museum in 2023.

QuizKnock



We create quiz-based educational videos on environmental issues.

Use of environmentally friendly shirts



We wear slogan T-shirts designed by Katharine Hamnett and biodiversity T-shirts made of recycled materials for our activities.

Passing on this Beautiful Earth, home to a wide variety of living creatures to the Next Generation



2nd Midori Prize Award Ceremony (Hyderabad, India, COP11 venue; 2012)

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity



In cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity was established on the occasion of the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) held in Japan in 2010, which marked the 20th anniversary of the Foundation's establishment. The award recognizes individuals for their outstanding environmental activities, and to date, 19 individuals from 17 countries have been awarded.



1st Award Ceremony Prize Winners Forum (Aichi Prefecture 2010)



3rd Award Ceremony at the venue of COP12 in Pyeongchang, South Korea, 2014



5th Prize Winner Abdul Hamid Zakri (Tokyo 2018)



5th Prize Winner, Kathy MacKinnon (Tokyo 2018)

Plan for FY2024

Following the COP16 Cali, Colombia in October, we will hold the 8th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity Award Ceremony and promote the activities of the winners over the next fiscal year.

- **Schedule :**
**October 21 (Monday) to
 November 1 (Friday)**
- **Number of awardees: 2**
- **Prize amount : \$100,000 USD each**

Japan Awards for Biodiversity (2009-2021)

We presented the Japan Awards from 2009 to 2021 to 38 organizations that have carried out initiatives for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and dissemination and awareness-raising in Japan. In 2022, the names of both the international and domestic awards were unified into the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity.



7th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity award ceremony (Tokyo 2022)

2009 1st Japan Awards for Biodiversity (Domestic Prize)

■ **Grand Prix Award:** The Asaza Fund (NPO) (Ibaraki) / Shiragiku Shuzo Co., Ltd./Tanaka Shuzo Co., Ltd.

Conservation of Paddy Fields in a Ravine through Cooperation with Local Businesses

■ **Excellence Award:**

Shiretoko Nature Foundation (Hokkaido) / NPO Agriculture and Nature Research Institute (Fukuoka) / Kajima Corporation (Tokyo) / White Stork Conservation Rice Production Group, Japan Agriculture Tajima, NPO White Stork Wetlands Net, Toyooka City, Toyooka Agricultural Extension Center (Hyogo) / Sekisui House Corp. (Osaka Prefecture) / The Chunichi Shinkin Bank (Aichi) / Saraya Co., Ltd. (Osaka)



2010 1st MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity (International Prize)



Jean Lemire
Biologist, Explorer, Filmmaker

Biologist Mr. Lemire created a film on the biodiversity crisis and spent 430 days in Antarctica starting in 2005 to make a global impact.



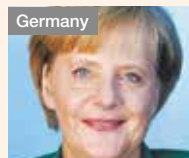
Emil Salim
Chairman of the Advisory Council to the President of Indonesia, Former Minister of State for Population and the Environment

Dr. Emil Salim pioneered integrating environmental perspectives into development planning, earning international acclaim. He now promotes combining traditional wisdom with science and technology and advocates for changing industrial structures.



Gretchen C. Daily
Professor, Stanford University

Dr. Daily introduced "ecosystem services," viewing the natural environment as an asset. She studied Satoyama biodiversity's impact on agriculture and quantified the environmental services' value.



Angela Merkel
Chancellor of Germany
Special Prize for the International Year of Biodiversity

As Chancellor, Dr. Angela Merkel leveraged her environmental background to lead global efforts on climate change and biodiversity, drawing on her experience as former Federal Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety.

2011 2nd Japan Awards for Biodiversity (Domestic Prize)

■ **Grand Prix Award:** Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection (Miyagi)

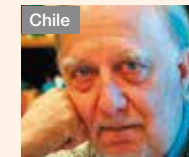
Toward Coexistence with Humans: Protection of Wild Geese as an Index Species of the Wetland Environment

■ **Excellence Award:**

Kumagai Master Thatchers Co. Ltd. (Miyagi) / NPO Picchio (Nagano) / NPO Tama Genryu Kosuge (Yamanashi) / Noda Natural Symbiotic Farm (Chiba)

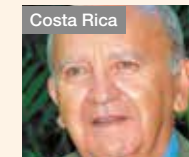


2012 2nd MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity (International Prize)



Juan Carlos Castilla
Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Dr. Castilla demonstrated that collaborative management of small marine protected areas by governments and communities fosters a green economy in South American marine ecology.



Rodrigo Gámez-Lobo
President, Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio)

Dr. Gámez-Lobo showed a creative and tangible vision of biodiversity by creating an inventory of biodiversity in INBio. He presented a successful model for the conservation and use of biodiversity.



Vo Quy
Honorary President, Center for Natural Resources Management and Environmental Studies (CRES), Vietnam National University, Hanoi

Dr. Quy's greening of war-torn lands showed that regenerating destroyed nature is possible, providing a model for conservation in developing countries.

2013 3rd Japan Awards for Biodiversity (Domestic Prize)

■ **Grand Prix Award:** TNPO Tambo (Miyagi)

Restoration of Rice Paddies Devastated by the Tsunami of the Great East Japan Earthquake Using Resilience of the Ecosystem

■ **Excellence Award:**

Ajinomoto Co., Inc. (Tokyo) / Chuetsu Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd. (Tokyo) / TERUHA Forest Association (Miyazaki) / Society for Nature Technology (Miyagi)



2014 3rd MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity (International Prize)



Kamal Bawa
President, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) / Distinguished Professor, University of Massachusetts, Boston

In his research on tropical forests, Dr. Bawa has led important research in the field of conservation biology by devising new methods for forest regeneration and showing that forest fragmentation depletes biodiversity.



Alfred Oteng-Yeboah
Chair, Ghana National Biodiversity Commission

Dr. Oteng-Yeboah, a key African biodiversity leader, has significantly impacted global biodiversity through roles at international institutions such as Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).



Bibiana Vilá
Director, Vicuñas, Camelids and Environment (VICAM) Principal Researcher, National Research Council (CONICET) Argentina

Dr. Vilá led the implementation of conservation measures for wild vicuñas in the Andean region, integrating traditional knowledge of indigenous communities in the region with modern science, such as ecology.

2015 4th Japan Awards for Biodiversity (Domestic Prize)

■ **Grand Prix Award:** Yezo Deer Association (Hokkaido)

The Advanced Promotional Project on the Appropriate Resource Use of Hokkaido Sika Deer Meat

■ **Excellence Award:**

Itoen, Ltd. (Tokyo) / River Cheering Squad in Kyushu, Watershed Management Laboratory of Kyushu University (Prof. Shimatani) (Fukuoka) / NPO Groundwork Mishima (Shizuoka) / Kesenuma City Ohya Junior High School (Miyagi)



2016 4th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity (International Prize)



Alfonso Aguirre-Muñoz

Executive Director, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C.

Dr. Aguirre-Muñoz has worked tirelessly in the Mexican islands to promote conservation efforts, including removing invasive species, in an area that is home to an abundance of endemic species and a rich and diverse ecosystem.



Yury Darman

Director, Amur Branch, WWF Russia

Dr. Darman has led five campaigns against dam construction in Russia's Amur region to protect freshwater ecosystems. He has also contributed to recover rare species like the Amur tiger.



Vandana Shiva

Founder and Director, Navdanya

Dr. Shiva established grassroots initiatives in agriculture, promoting traditional organic farming that supports farmers' rights and biodiversity under the principle of "Earth Democracy."

2017 5th Japan Awards for Biodiversity (Domestic Prize)

■ **Grand Prix Award:** NPO Kuroshio Jikkan Center (Kochi)

Building a Sustainable Satomi by Making Kashiwajima Island in Kochi a Living Museum

■ **Excellence Award:**

Miyagi Prefecture Fisheries Cooperative (Miyagi) / Japan Business Initiative for Biodiversity (JBIB) (Tokyo) / Forum on How Far Do Dragonflies Fly (Kanagawa) / Geography and History Club, Sanyo Gakuen Sanyo Girls Junior High School and High School (Okayama)



2018 5th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity (International Prize)



Kathy MacKinnon

Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

Dr. MacKinnon, after researching tropical ecology in Indonesia, led biodiversity projects at the World Bank to improve conservation and resource management.



Assad Serhal

Director General, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (SPNL)

Mr. Assad Serhal founded SPNL during Lebanon's civil war to protect natural heritage and revive the traditional "Hima" (protected area) conservation system.



Abdul Hamid Zakri

Former Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zakri has advanced assessment of global biodiversity and ecosystem services, promoting sustainable conservation and environmental protection.

2019 6th Japan Awards for Biodiversity (Domestic Prize)

■ **Grand Prix Award:** KOKUYO Product Shiga Co., Ltd. (Shiga)

ReEDEN Project – Protecting Lake Biwa by Promoting the Use of Reeds

■ **Excellence Award:**

Aleph Inc. (Hokkaido) / Monitoring Committee of Siebold's Beech Forest of Shirakami-Sanchi World Heritage Property (Miyagi) / Certified Non-profit Organization for Nature Conservation and History Transmission of Shishitsuka Satoyama (Ibaraki) / Okazaki Municipal Oidaira Elementary School (Okazaki City, Aichi)



2020 6th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity (International Prize)



Paul Hebert

Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph

Dr. Paul Hebert has made biodiversity more accessible by developing more than 10 million DNA barcodes that assign any organism to its proper species based on its DNA information.



Melina Sakiyama

Co-founder, Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)

Ms. Sakiyama formed a global coalition to empower youth and youth organizations, fostering cross-border collaboration to address various issues for a harmonious future with nature.



Wirsy Emmanuel Binyuy

Founder, Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)

Mr. Wirsy, with the slogan "think globally, act locally," conserved and regenerated forests by involving local communities in seed collection, tree nurseries, and patrols.

*The affiliations and titles of the award winners are current at the time the awards were presented.

■ Grand Prix Award: O2 Farm (Kumamoto)

Landscape Agriculture

■ Excellence Award:

Shiribetsugawa no Mirai wo Kangaeru Obirame no Kai (Hokkaido) / NPO Toume (Ishikawa) / Toyoda Iron Works Co., Ltd. (Aichi) / Nagano Ina Agricultural High School (Nagano)



Activities of award recipients

Dr. Bibiana Vilá (Argentina), winner of the 3rd MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

Vicuña Conservation and Management

Dr. Vilá integrates community support and environmental education by use of valuable vicuña fiber, achieving both wildlife conservation and stable community development.



30th Anniversary Project

Starting in 2021, the Foundation carried out projects to celebrate its 30th anniversary, including creating cherry blossom attractions, distributing saplings and offering sapling foster parents.



Creating a cherry blossom attraction in Sayama City, Saitama Prefecture



Creating a cherry blossom attraction in Atsuma Town, Hokkaido



Distributing saplings in Kisarazu City, Chiba Prefecture



Distributing saplings in Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture

■ Sapling Foster Parent Project

Starting in October 2020, the Foundation's Sapling Foster Parent Project encouraged fostering saplings at homes and schools. Over two years, 10,000 native saplings of 29 species were distributed to local volunteers at 100 locations, then planted in AEON forests after a year.



Taketa Naoiri Elementary School



History

History of the Foundation

- Dec. 1990** The AEON Group Environmental Foundation (the present AEON Environmental Foundation) Promoters' Meeting was held.
- Jan. 1991** Foundation establishment was approved. Three million AEON Co., Ltd. shares were donated by Takuya Okada, as well as one million AEON corporation shares from Hidenori Futagi and ten million yen from Keiichi Yasuda, to comprise the Foundation's basic assets at establishment.
- Jun.** First public call for environmental activity grants (held annually thereafter)
- Jun. 1992** Supported the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit)
- Aug. 1993** Planted 500 cherry tree seedlings on the banks of the Charles River in Boston
- Oct.** Held the first Japan-China International Symposium on Environmental Issues (1993, 95, 97)

- 1995** 5th anniversary of establishment
- Jul. 1998** Began the Great Wall Reforestation Project in Beijing (-2010)
- Jan. 1999** Supported the Asia Pacific Mayors' Environment Summit

- 2000** 10th anniversary of establishment
- Oct.** Takuya Okada donated five million AEON Co., Ltd. shares
- Aug. 2001** Renamed to the AEON Environmental Foundation

- 2006** 15th anniversary of establishment
- Apr.** Takuya Okada donated 1.5 million AEON Co., Ltd. shares



The AEON Group Environmental Foundation Promoters' Meeting



Rio Earth Summit



Japan-China International Symposium on Environmental Issues



The Great Wall Reforestation Project



Asia Pacific Mayors' Environment Summit



15th Anniversary Speech by Professor Wangari Maathai

May 2009

Takuya Okada was awarded the title of Honorary Citizen in Beijing

Sep. Donated solar power systems to elementary and junior high schools (donated every year thereafter)

Oct. Held the first Biodiversity Japan Award (Domestic Prize) (held every other year thereafter)



The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity



The 1st Asian Students Environment Platform (ASEP)



Built a stone monument to commemorate 10 million trees planted

2010 20th anniversary of establishment

Apr. Tree planting at the Great Wall of China (one million memorial trees planted)

Sep. Changed registration to Public Interest Incorporated Foundation

Oct. Established the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity on the occasion of the Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10)

Dec. Takuya Okada was awarded the Grand Cross of Royal Order of Sahametrei in the Kingdom of Cambodia



Establishment of AEON TOWA Research Center

Aug. 2012 Held the 1st Asian Students Environment Platform (ASEP) (-2023)

Sep. 2013 Achieved 10 million trees planted

2015 25th anniversary of establishment

2017 Feb. Collaborated with Future Earth and the University of Tokyo to hold the 1st AEON Future Earth Forum (-2021)



30th Anniversary Ceremony Ceremony to commemorate the succession of the Chairman

Jul. Takuya Okada was awarded the title of Honorary Citizen of Hanoi

2020 30th anniversary of establishment

Sep. Established AEON TOWA Research Center in cooperation with Waseda University

Jun. 2022 Takuya Okada became Honorary Chairman
Motoya Okada became Chairman

Apr. 2023 Takuya Okada was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun

Dec. 2023 Held the 1st AEON SATOYAMA Forum

Directors and Trustees

Honorary Chairman

Takuya Okada

Honorary Chairman and Advisor,
AEON Co., Ltd.

Chairman

Motoya Okada

Chairman and Representative
Executive Officer,
AEON Co., Ltd.

Executive Director

Yuriko Yamamoto

Directors

Yoshiaki Ishizawa

Director, Sophia Asia Center for
Research and Human Development
Former President, Sophia University

Kunio Iwatsuki

Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo
Director Emeritus, Museum of Nature
and Human Activities, Hyogo

Naoya Okada

Executive Officer, AEON Co., Ltd.
Managing Director, AEON CO. (M) BHD.

Masaki Suzuki

Outside Director, Canon Inc.
Former Administrative Vice-Minister,
Ministry of the Environment
Former Chairman,
AEON Financial Service Co., Ltd.

Keiichi Tadaki

Guest Attorney, T&T Partners
Law Office
Former Attorney General,
Tokyo High Public
Prosecutors Office

Kiyoshi Higuchi

Former President, International
Astronautical Federation
Former Vice-President,
Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Hideki Minamikawa

President, Japan Environmental
Sanitation Center
Former Administrative Vice-Minister,
Ministry of the Environment

Juichi Yamagiwa

Director-General,
Research Institute for Humanity
and Nature (RIHN)
Former President, Kyoto University

Auditors

Toyoo Gyoten

Honorary Advisor, MUFG Bank, Ltd.

Toshiji Tokiwa

Director, Shibusawa Eiichi
Memorial Foundation
Former Chairman of the Board,
AEON Co., Ltd.

Akinori Yamashita

Corporate Advisor, AEON Co., Ltd.

Trustees

Akira Ichikawa

Chairman of the Board and
Representative Director,
Sumitomo Forestry Co. Ltd.
Chairperson, Wooden Home Builders
Association of Japan
Chairperson, 33rd Local Government
System Research Councils

Yasuhiko Okada

Former Senior Partner,
Kitahama Partners (Tokyo Office)
Former Administrative Vice-Minister,
Ministry of the Environment

Masato Kitamura

Honorary Advisor,
The Mainichi Newspapers Co., Ltd.

Masahiro Koezuka

Representative Director,
Chairman & CEO, Socionext Inc.

Takejiro Sueyoshi

Special Advisor to UNEP Finance
Initiative in the Asia Pacific Region
Chairman, WWF Japan

Teisuke Suzuki

Director and Advisor, Suzuhiro Kamaboko
Representative Director,
Network of Business Leaders
and Entrepreneurs for a Sustainable
Business and Energy Future

Masaya Takada

Former Deputy Editor-in-Chief,
The Chunichi Shimbun
Tokyo Head Office Co., Ltd.

Kazuhiko Takeuchi

President, Institute
for Global Environmental Strategies

Takashi Tsukamoto

Special Advisor,
Mizuho Financial Group
Director, AEON Co., Ltd.

Tohru Hayami

President, Owner of Hayami Forest

Hanami Futagi

General Director, The Japan Opera Foundation
Director, Japan R.G. Federation
Director, Futagi Scholarship Foundation

Koichiro Matsuura

8th Director General of UNESCO
Chairman, The Africa Society of Japan
Special Advisor, Pasona Group Inc.

Satoru Miyamura

Special Advisor, MIRAI Tax
Accountant Corporation
Former Japanese Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Kenya

*Honorifics omitted (as of July 2024)

