

Cover photograph
Paya Indah Wetlands Nature Reserve
AEON Forest, Malaysia

2004



2022



From 2004 to 2009, we planted 57,400 trees with 2,515 volunteers at this former tin-mining site.

AEON Environmental Foundation

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Website



Facebook



Instagram



2026.8

AEON
Environmental
Foundation

 Planting Seeds of Growth
For the Children of the Future

Living in Harmony with Nature

AEON Environmental Foundation

Overview 2026-2027



Aya Town AEON Forest, Miyazaki Prefecture
Designated as a “Nationally Certified
Sustainably Managed Natural Sites” in 2024

Message from the Chairman

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support of the AEON Environmental Foundation's activities.

Founded in 1990 as Japan's first private-sector foundation dedicated to global environmental issues, 2026 marks our 36th year of activities.

The Foundation now focuses on four core programs: tree planting, grants, environmental education and joint research, and awards. Our tree-planting program aims to restore forests lost to natural disasters, logging, and conflict, while conserving biodiversity and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. Last year, we worked with local volunteers to create AEON Forests at two sites abroad and five sites in Japan, including tree planting to help protect the Cambodian World Heritage site Angkor Thom from wind and rain.

Under the theme of conserving and sustainably using satoyama landscapes, including satochi, satokawa, satoko, and satoumi (i.e., rural lands, rivers, lakes, and coastal areas), our grant program provides partial funding to nonprofit organizations engaged in environmental activities worldwide. In FY2025, we approved applications from 111 organizations and provided grants totaling 100 million yen, bringing our cumulative support to 3,657 organizations and 3.29 billion yen.

As part of our environmental education and joint research program, we co-host the annual AEON SATOYAMA Forum with all our partner universities. This year's forum, held under the theme "The Resilience of Satoyama and Local Communities," offered learning opportunities on key issues and fostered environmental specialists.

As for our awards program, we will hold the award ceremony and laureates' forum for the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity in Tokyo in August 2026. The prize recognizes outstanding achievements in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Even amid significant social changes, we will continue to work with local communities to address environmental challenges and create a society rich in biodiversity, where people and nature coexist. To pass on our one and only Earth to the future generations in a healthy state, we remain committed to advancing environmental initiatives and greatly appreciate your continued support.

Motoya Okada

Chairman

AEON Environmental Foundation

Purpose

The AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1990 by Takuya Okada, Honorary Chairman and Executive Adviser of AEON Co., Ltd., to address environmental crises, such as global warming, deforestation, and marine pollution, which require global solutions and the active involvement of private companies and civil society organizations. Today, these efforts continue through collaborations between the public and private sectors.

Based on AEON's fundamental principle of "pursuing peace, respecting humanity, and contributing to local communities, always with the customer as our starting point," the Foundation has undertaken tree-planting and resource recycling initiatives. It was established to carry out activities to protect the global environment and also provide support and grants to organizations that share this commitment.

Overview

Public Interest Activities

1. Tree Planting
2. Grant Program
3. Environmental Education
4. Awards Program

Basic Asset

JPY 123,358,724,165 (March 2026)



Tree Planting

Angkor AEON Nature Park (Cambodia)

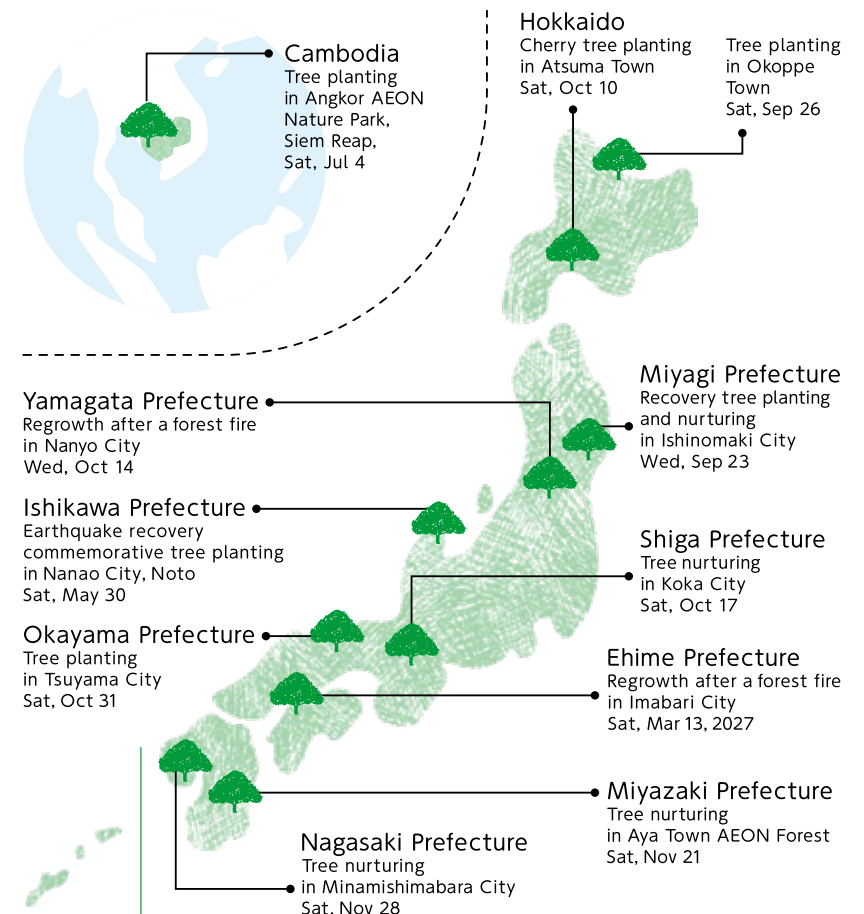
Total Trees Planted by AEON

Approximately **12.87** million

(As of February 2026)

We conduct tree-planting activities with local volunteers around the world to restore forests lost to natural disasters and logging, regenerate disaster-prevention forests, and address environmental challenges, such as climate change and biodiversity loss. We also carry out tree-nurturing activities, such as pruning and undergrowth clearing, in addition to environmental education to deepen understanding of local traditional cultures.

2026-2027 Tree Planting Activities



Planting Trees Outside of Japan

Total Trees Planted

1,748,985

Total Volunteers Involved

64,681

(As of March 2026)

The Great Wall Reforestation Project—One Million Trees Planted



With the aim of restoring greenery along the Great Wall of China, where forests had disappeared after centuries of logging, the project began in 1996 following a proposal by Chairman Takuya Okada at the second Japan-China Environmental International Symposium in November 1995. As a joint initiative with the Beijing Municipal People's Government, this tree-planting project continued for more than a decade, through Phase 1 (1998–2000), Phase 2 (2003–2006), and Phase 3 (2007–2010). In 2013, the Foundation also conducted tree-nurturing activities along the Great Wall of China.

Planting 44,000 Trees in Cambodia

Protecting a World Heritage Site from Wind and Rain



The first Angkor AEON Nature Park Tree Planting was held in July 2025. The AEON Environmental Foundation, in cooperation with 800 volunteers from both countries, including 450 from Japan, planted 10,000 trees around the Angkor Thom ruins in Siem Reap, Cambodia, to protect the World Heritage from wind and rain and conserve biodiversity. The Foundation has been conducting tree-planting activities across Cambodia since 2002, with more than 44,000 trees planted to date.

Planting and Nurturing Trees in Japan

Total Trees Planted

807,045

Total Volunteers Involved

74,853

(As of March 2026)

Atsuma Town, Hokkaido



Over three years from 2015, we planted 16,400 native trees to restore the water-source conservation function of the upper Atsuma River. Since 2021, we have planted 3,130 cherry trees in the Yoshino district, which was affected by the 2018 Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake, and on former logging sites in town-owned forests.

Nanyo City, Yamagata



Over four years from 2010, we planted 5,100 native trees, including Japanese zelkova, around Mt. Jubuichi. In 2025, to help restore Mt. Akiha after a forest fire the year before, we planted 1,000 trees, including ginkgo trees.

Ishinomaki City, Miyagi



Together with local volunteers, we planted 15,000 trees at Kamigama Fureai Park in 2012. Since 2019, we have planted 45,000 trees, including disease-resistant Japanese black pines, at Minamihama Tsunami Memorial Park in the area affected by the 2011 off the Pacific coast of Tohoku Earthquake.

Koka City, Shiga



To restore satoyama, we planted 3,200 trees over two years, including kunugi oak, konara oak, and Japanese red pine. We also conduct tree-care activities to promote seedling growth, and provide environmental education programs.

Okoppe Town, Hokkaido



Since 2024, we have been planting Sakhalin fir trees with local community members to sustainably conserve windbreak forests, which protect agriculture and dairy farming from the salty winds off the Sea of Okhotsk.

Tsuyama City, Okayama



Together with 200 local volunteers, we planted 1,400 trees at the former Daigasen Ranch site in the Aba district of Tsuyama City in 2025 to restore the broadleaf and coniferous forests.

Kimitsu City, Chiba



We carried out the Kimitsu AEON Forest project on former logging sites in national forests to create opportunities for biodiversity conservation, connecting people with forests, and environmental education through forest management activities, such as tree planting and maintenance.

Participation in the National Tree-Planting Festival and the National Tree-Care Festival



To support citizens participating in forest creation—a key objective of the National Tree Planting Festival and the National Tree Care Festival—and to foster a deeper understanding of the importance of forests and greenery, we provide seedlings and other materials for related events.

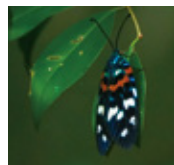
Forests of the future “Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites”

The activities at AEON Forests began with tree planting and have expanded through connections with diverse local stakeholders into a wide range of fields, including the creation of new satoyama landscapes and the preservation of traditional culture. At the Aya Town AEON Forest in Miyazaki and the Minamishimabara AEON Satoyama in Nagasaki, we conduct carbon stock surveys as part of our environmental education on mature forests, as well as tree-nurturing activities such as pruning. Both sites are certified as Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites.

■ Minamishimabara AEON Satoyama, Nagasaki Prefecture



To turn the former radio transmission station site in Minami-Arima Town, Minamishimabara City, which had been shut down and left to decay, back into a forest and restore its water-source conservation function, we began planting trees in 2010, and under a three-year plan, more than 55,000 trees were planted.



With the cooperation of the Minamishimabara City Citizens' Forest Council and local residents, the planted seedlings have grown into large trees, forming a forest that is now home to a variety of plants and animals.

■ Aya Town AEON Forest, Miyazaki Prefecture



Tree planting in Aya Town, which is designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, began in 2013. By 2025, more than 20,000 trees had been planted on a town-owned forest site, where cedar trees had been logged to build Aya Junior High School, to restore it to its original satoyama state.



Since 2023, we have engaged in multifaceted environmental activities with local volunteers, including forest maintenance and environmental education programs such as traditional plant-based dyeing.

In 2024, Aya Town and the AEON Environmental Foundation concluded a five-year partnership agreement. Based on this agreement, we will conduct activities including biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as environmental education that includes the preservation of local traditional culture and the creation of new culture to create a new satoyama where people and nature coexist.

“Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites”



As part of the effort to achieve nature-positive outcomes, the Ministry of the Environment of Japan has designated areas where biodiversity conservation is promoted through private-sector initiatives, such as corporate forests, satoyama landscapes, and urban green spaces, as Nationally Certified Sustainably Managed Natural Sites. The Act on Promoting Activities to Enhance Regional Biodiversity came into effect in April 2025.

“30by30” aims to protect or conserve at least 30% of land and sea areas by 2030.



Grant Program

35th Grant Recipient NPO CHARCOAL&AXE (Sanmu City, Chiba Prefecture)

Total Number of Grant Recipients

3,657 organizations

Total Amount of Grants

3.29 billion yen
from year 1991 until 2025

Each year, we conduct an open call for grants totaling 100 million yen for nonprofit organizations worldwide that work with local volunteers and actively engage in environmental activities to protect rich natural environments.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Satoyama



35th Grant Recipient: Small Earth Association (Kamogawa City, Chiba Prefecture)

In recent years, satoyama landscapes have faced significant challenges due to a decline in caretakers and changing patterns of land use. Through this grant program, we work with local organizations to promote the creation of sustainable communities where people and nature coexist in harmony.

The 36th (2026) Grant Program

Theme: Conservation and sustainable use of satoyama (satochi, satokawa, satoko, and satoumi)

Total amount of grants:
100 million yen

Activity fields

- Restoring satoyamas (including tree planting)
- Passing on satoyama traditions
- Restoring satoyamas in disaster-affected areas
- Environmental education
- Conserving wild flora and fauna and endangered species

For more details



Activity Sites of the 35th Grant Recipients

Total Number of Recipients

111 organizations

Overseas Grants

11 organizations

Domestic Grants

100 organizations

■ Grant Period: Apr 2026–Mar 2027

21 organizations / Chubu Region

Otari Nature Conservation Society



Nagano Prefecture

NPO Izu Miraijyuku



Shizuoka Prefecture

19 organizations / Kinki Region

Yoshidayama no Satoyama
wo Saisei suru Kai

Kyoto Prefecture

Risoukai for the
Rarity Plants

Nara Prefecture

9 organizations / Kyushu, Okinawa Region

Certified NPO Fukuoka Wetland
Conservation Research Group

Fukuoka / Oita Prefecture

11 organizations / Chugoku, Shikoku Region

NPO Clean Ocean Ensemble



Kagawa Prefecture

1 organization / Hokkaido

Daisetsuzan Maruhanabachi
Citizen Network

Hokkaido

10 organizations / Tohoku Region

NPO Association of
Shirakami Nature

Akita Prefecture

29 organizations / Kanto Region

Association to Protect Flowers
and Trees of Komorebinomori

Kanagawa Prefecture

NPO Satoyama
Kankyo Sanazawa

Gunma Prefecture

Overseas

- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Taiwan
- Tajikistan
- China
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Brazil



NPO Ikaw Ako (Philippines)

Activities of the 35th Grant Recipients

Shizuoka Prefecture



Hachikubo-kai

In the Chino district, which is designated as part of the Tsunagu Tanada Heritage, the group works on regional revitalization through rice farming and the maintenance of forests and bamboo groves. In collaboration with university students, it promotes the succession of agriculture and forestry, as well as community building through exchanges.

Tokyo



Certified NPO Edogawa Eco Center

Working with residents and government agencies, the organization conducts environmental education, cleanups, and conservation activities at Kasai Marine Park, a Ramsar-listed wetland, to protect wild birds and other animals that live on the tidal flats.

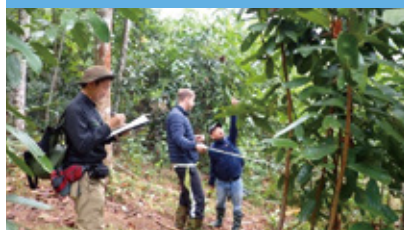
Hebei Province, China



Certified Specified Nonprofit Corporation Green Earth Network

Through cross-border tree planting, the organization protects soil and restores natural environments to improve local livelihoods and promote sustainable development.

Nghê An Province, Que Phong District, Vietnam



NPO Ecology and Regional Culture Studies Association

Focusing on yellow camellias, among the diverse natural resources of this satoyama, the association aims to restore its ecosystems and promote sustainable regional development.

Collaboration Activities

To address common challenges faced by organizations, such as labor shortages and developing future leaders, we promote exchanges and information sharing with grant recipients, and we work together to strengthen activities across regions.

Satoyama Eco-Tour



33rd Grant Recipient NPO Shiroy Kankyojuku, Shiroy City, Chiba, December 2024

One of our collaborations is the Satoyama Eco-Tour we hold at the activity sites of grant recipients. Through these tours, participants learn about the challenges and values of Satoyama landscapes while reflecting on more sustainable lifestyles for the future.

Satoyama Eco-Tour

Theme: Protecting, enjoying, and savoring the nature of Minakami

Participants learned about the satoyama activities of a local organization, and they explored the natural beauty of Minakami Town.

Date: Mar 2026 **Participants:** 23 people

In Cooperation with: Grant Recipient NPO Satoyama Kankyo Sanazawa in the 34th year

Venue: Minakami Town, Tone District, Gunma Prefecture



Lecture on satoyama disaster prevention



Survey of Japanese brown frog eggs



Firewood splitting experience

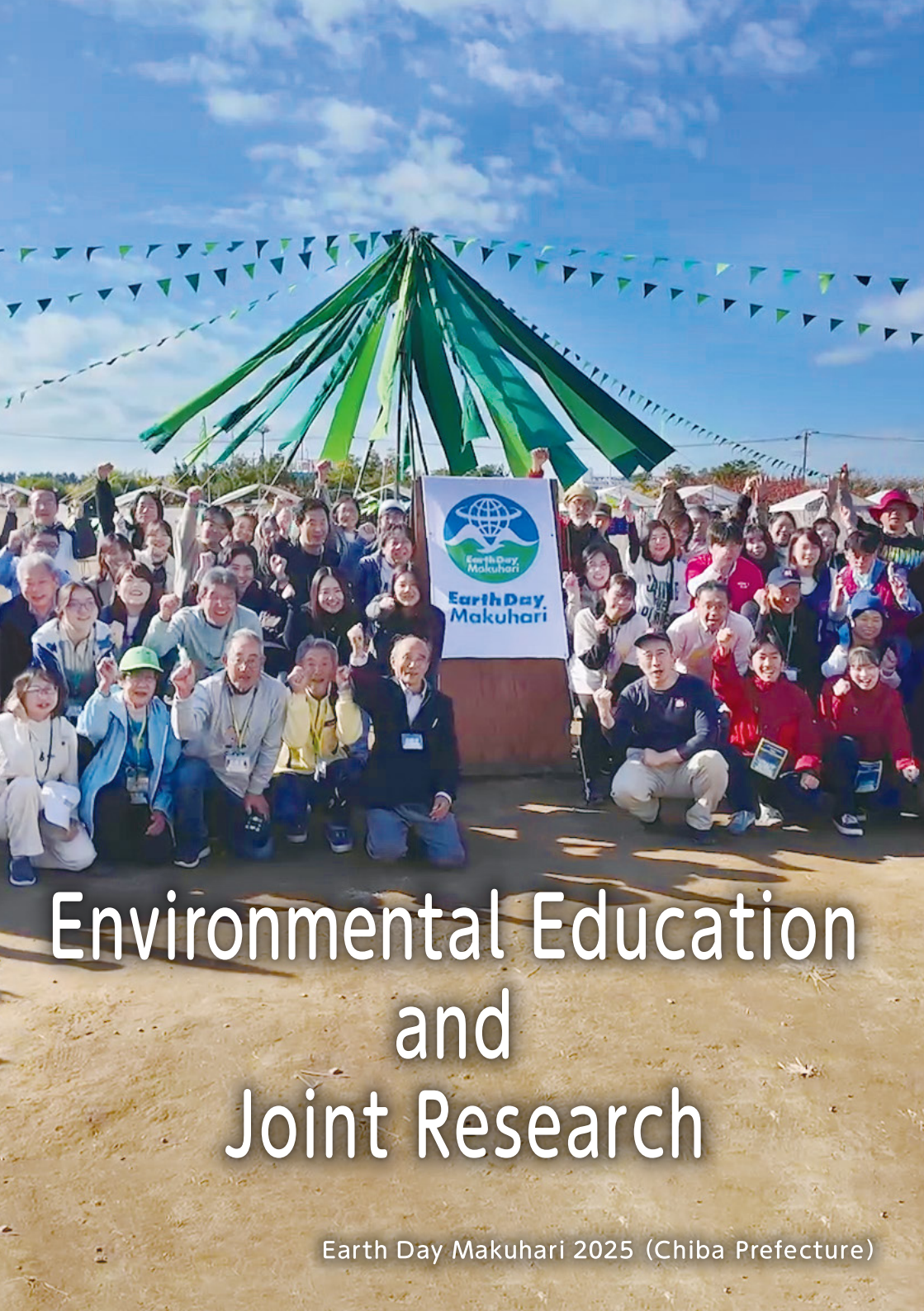
Upcoming activities

FY2026 Satoumi Eco-Tour / Date: Sep 2026

Venue: Nojima Coast, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture

Co-hosted by: NPO Umi no Mori Yama no Mori Secretariat

***Applications can be made on the Foundation's website.**



Environmental Education and Joint Research

Earth Day Makuhari 2025 (Chiba Prefecture)

Forum
Participants

5,234

Participants

796

Youth Program
Number of Participating
Countries

16

In partnership with universities and various other specialized institutions, we conduct joint research on satoyama, develop programs to cultivate environmental leaders and provide learning opportunities.

AEON SATOYAMA Forum



Since 2020, we have collaborated with universities to restore, conserve, and utilize satoyama. In 2026, we held the 3rd AEON SATOYAMA Forum under the theme “The Resilience of Satoyama and Local Communities.” The importance of the resilience of local communities and satoyama landscapes is growing in disaster preparedness, recovery, and reconstruction. Diverse stakeholders, including Aya Town in Miyazaki, Minamishimabara City in Nagasaki, universities, and the General Incorporated Association Fukko Lab, which conducts practical activities in the field, shared recommendations and exchanged views on the challenges facing satoyama.

The 3rd Forum Overview / Date: Feb 18, 2026

Theme: The Resilience of Satoyama and Local Communities

Venue: United Nations University U Thant International
Conference Hall, Online

Participating Universities: Kyoto University, Chiba University,
The University of Tokyo, Tohoku University,
Waseda University

Supported by: Ministry of the Environment, United Nations University
Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

A visual record
of the forum
discussions



The 4th Forum Overview / Date: Thu, Feb 11, 2027 Time: 10:00-17:00

Venue: Tokyo International Forum (Hall D)

Partnerships with Universities and Joint Research

Waseda University



Earth Day Makuhari exhibition

AEON TOWA Research Center

Established in September 2020 to address contemporary environmental challenges the center enables us to collaborate with other organizations to respond to local challenges and foster the development of international environmental professionals. Since 2022, we have offered an endowed course and conducted research at representative satoyama sites in multiple regions to build a sustainable society through satoyama.

Upcoming activities

- Sustainable Community Course
- Field training

The University of Tokyo



Earth Day Makuhari exhibition

AEON-Todai Satoyama Lab AEON Environmental Citizens' University

We have been collaborating with the University of Tokyo's Institute for Future Initiatives since 2017, and in 2022, we established the research unit AEON-Todai Satoyama Lab to build a healthy society in harmony with nature and revitalize local economies. In 2026, we will launch the inaugural AEON Environmental Citizens' University.

Upcoming activities

- Year-round satoyama field training in the Naganuki district, Hadano City
- Launch of the AEON Environmental Citizens' University
September 2026 through August 2027 (10 sessions in total)

Kyoto University



Fieldwork, Kyoto

New Satoyama-Satoumi Co-creation Project

New Satoyama-Satoumi Co-creation Project Launched in 2022 with Kyoto University's Field Science Education and Research Center, the project advances joint research and activities within the framework of the interconnectedness of forests, rural communities, and coastal ecosystems. Activities include student field training and study sessions held in collaboration with local citizens.

Upcoming activities

- Satoyama Open Lab
- Hatakejima Beach Cleanup
- Satoumi Study Session at the Maizuru Fisheries Research Station

Tohoku University



Sendai Bosai Mirai Forum, Miyagi

AEON Resilient and Environmental City Creation

Established in 2021 by three partners, Tohoku University's International Research Institute of Disaster Science, AEON MALL Co., Ltd., and the Foundation, the Lab aims to create resilient communities.

Upcoming activities

- Kami-One Seminar (Kamisugi One Project Seminar)
- Sendai Bosai Mirai Forum: Sat, Mar 13, 2027
- Study on disaster risk reduction strategies for commercial facilities

United Nations University



Two top-performing participants gave presentations at the COP30 international conference in Brazil.

Global Youth MIDORI platform (GYM)

In 2024, to contribute to international targets such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, we entered into a partnership agreement with the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). Based on the latest scientific knowledge, we run the Global Youth MIDORI (GYM) platform to foster the next generation of global leaders in the environmental field.

Upcoming activities

- Global Youth MIDORI Platform Online Training Program:
Tue-Fri, Aug 4-7, 2026

Chiba University



Field research, Chiba

Landscape Practicum at Kimitsu AEON Forest

Since 2022, we have collaborated with the Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University. Through fieldwork-based research, we aim to deepen knowledge in botany and forestry and develop a model for restoring satoyama.

Upcoming activities

- Kimitsu AEON Forest Landscape Practicum (April to July)
- Research Results Reporting Session: Fri, Jul 31, 2026

Nagasaki University



Peace and the Environment dialogue meeting

Participatory Dialogue Project

In August 2025, at the Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims, we co-hosted with Nagasaki University and the Future Earth a participatory dialogue titled "Peace and the Environment: Connecting for the Future of the Earth 80 Years After the War." In December 2025, we also held a planetary health diet event themed "My Food, My Health, Planetary Health."

Upcoming activities

- Peace and the Environment: Sun, Sep 27, 2026
- "My Food, My Health, Planetary Health"
Planetary Health Diet: Sun, Oct 18, 2026

The University of The Ryukyus



Reporting meetings, Okinawa

Endowed Course: "The Environment and Peace"

In February 2026, we offered an endowed course on the environmental issues global peace at the university's Yona Field research facility. Centered on fieldwork in the Yanbaru Forest, students learned about the connections between ecosystems and local cultures, as well as the impact of being listed as a World Natural Heritage site.

Upcoming activities

- Preliminary lectures: Sun, Nov 1, 2026
- Intensive lectures: Sat-Mon, Nov 21-23, 2026

Earth Day Makuhari

Earth Day Makuhari 2025, Living in Harmony with Nature — Let's Start from Makuhari —



In 2025 we held the inaugural Earth Day Makuhari in the Makuhari district of Chiba City, where AEON Environmental Foundation is based. At Toyosuna Park in Chiba City at AEON MALL Makuhari New City, 15 organizations, including NPOs, universities, research institutions, government agencies, and companies, that address environmental issues held exhibitions and workshops at 20 booths. On stage, the participating organizations introduced their activities. They also interacted with residents, making the event a valuable two-day opportunity to reflect on the future of communities living in harmony with nature.

At the Venue



Over the two days, approximately 3,300 people visited the event. In the visitor survey, about 90% said they would like to attend again next year, indicating high satisfaction. With exhibits by grant recipients, partner universities, and various other organizations, the event also became a lively venue for interaction. We hope that new initiatives will emerge from the connections made here.

Upcoming
Schedule

Earth Day Makuhari 2026 / Dates: Sat-Sun, Oct 3-4, 2026

Venue: Toyosuna Park, Chiba City / AEON MALL Makuhari New City

Other Activities

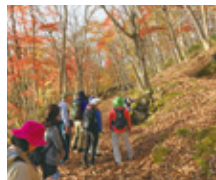
Eco-Tours

We conducted eco-tours to learn about the value of World Heritage sites, the appeal of nature and culture, and the importance of conservation. Through fieldwork, participants deepen their understanding of environmental issues and develop their ability to take proactive steps to realize a society that collaborates with local communities and fosters biodiversity-rich regions where people and coexistence with nature. The Foundation formed partnerships with the Japan Biosphere Reserve Network in 2017 and the Japanese Geoparks Network in 2022. Since 2021, it has also been engaged in environmental activities at World Natural Heritage sites across Japan.

Amami Oshima World Heritage Tour
Fri-Sun, May 22-24, 2026



Amami Oshima (Kagoshima)



Shiga Kogen BR Tour
(Nagano)



Choshi Geopark
Community-Based Tour
(Chiba)

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are model regions with rich ecosystems that leverage local natural resources to promote sustainable economic activities. While World Natural Heritage sites are based on the principle of strictly protecting nature, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves aim to harmonize conservation with regional development. 10 regions in Japan have been registered as Biosphere Reserves. (As of April 2026)

Geoparks

Geoparks are places to learn about the Earth's history through geology and natural formations and to contemplate our future. They are defined as integrated areas where geological heritage and landscapes of geological significance are managed holistically, encompassing protection, education, and sustainable development. In Japan, 48 regions have been designated as Geoparks. (As of April 2026)

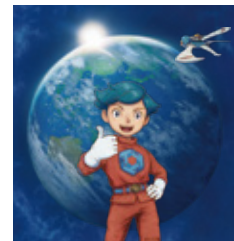
Eco-Tour Schedule 2026

- Minakami UNESCO Biosphere Reserve / Date: Wed, Jul 8, 2026
- Mount Odaigahara, Mount Omine and Osugidani UNESCO Biosphere Reserve / Dates: Sat-Sun, Oct 10-11, 2026
- Hakusan UNESCO Biosphere Reserve / Dates: Mon-Tue, Nov 2-3, 2026

*Applications can be made on the Foundation's website.

Upcoming
Schedule

"FUTURE KID TAKARA" Project



©Beyond C./Future Kid Takara
Production Committee

To commemorate the 35th anniversary of the Foundation's establishment, we participated in a project to produce FUTURE KID TAKARA, a short educational animated film about the environmental issues. Created by NHK Enterprises and animation studio Studio 4°C, it was presented at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, in September 2025. The story in episode 8, "Let's Grow Forests!" features trees being planted in Okoppe Town, Hokkaido.

Story

The story follows Takara, a child from the future who has traveled back in time from 2100. After meeting Sara and her friends living in the present day, he explores various parts of the Earth already experiencing the impacts of global warming. Through his journey, he learns about ways to address the climate crisis, such as renewable energy and forest restoration, and resolves to take action himself.

For more details



Environmental Education / Awareness-Raising



Chiba City Zoo (Chiba)

Chiba Entrepreneurship

We held the Chiba E-tube Project for elementary and junior high school students in Chiba City. Through video production based on environmental activities at local commercial facilities, the project fostered creativity, imagination, and an entrepreneurial spirit.



Nagoya University (Aichi)

Future Earth

The 5th Future Earth Japan Summit was held over two days in March 2026 at Nagoya University. Under the theme "Imagining and Creating Future Societies," participants discussed solutions to global challenges, including climate change and biodiversity loss. The Foundation participated in the steering committee.

Upcoming
Schedule

The 6th Future Earth Japan Summit / Dates: Thu-Fri, Dec 3-4, 2026
Venue: Keio University



The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

8th Award Winners Press Conference 2025 (Tokyo)

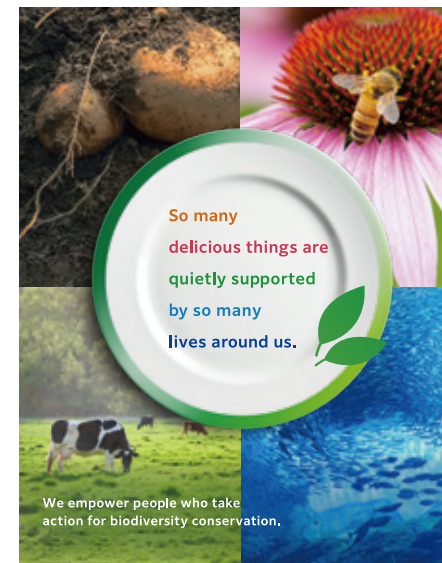


Total Number of Recipients
21 individuals, **38** organizations
Total Number of Countries
20

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

On the occasion of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) held in Japan in 2010, we established the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD). This international prize honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. To date, 21 individuals from 20 countries have been honored. From 2009 to 2022, domestic awards were presented to 38 organizations.

**The 9th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity
Award Ceremony & Laureates' Forum**
Date: Thu, Aug 27, 2026 Time: 16:00-17:30
Venue: Imperial Hotel Tokyo



Commemorative award plaque



Press Conference (Tokyo)

Past Laureates of the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

*Affiliations and titles are as of the time of the award.

2020



Canada
Paul Hebert
Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, University of Guelph



Brazil
Melina Sakiyama
Co-founder, Global Youth Biodiversity Network



Cameroon
Wirsy Emmanuel Binyuy
Founder, Cameroon Gender and Environment Watch (CAMGEW)

2014



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



Ghana
Alfred Oteng-Yeboah
Chair, Ghana National Biodiversity Steering Committee



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

2018



U.K.
Kathy MacKinnon
Chair, IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)



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



Malaysia
Abdul Hamid Zakri
Former Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia

2012



Chile
Juan Carlos Castilla
Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile



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



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

2016



Mexico
Alfonso Aguirre-Muñoz
Executive Director, Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas, A.C.



Russia
Yury Darman
Director, Amur Branch, WWF Russia



India
Vandana Shiva
Founder and Director, Navdanya

2010



Canada
Jean Lemire
Biologist, Explorer, Filmmaker



United States of America
Gretchen C. Daily
Professor, Stanford University



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



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

Award Winner Activities

In conjunction with the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP16) held in Cali, Colombia, in October 2024, the 8th MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity Award Ceremony took place at COP16. In addition to the award ceremony, a press conference and an exhibition booth were also organized.



Kazakhstan

Vera Voronova

Executive Director, Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan

As the leader of an organization specializing in nature conservation and restoration, she collaborates with governments and conservation groups across multiple countries, focusing on species recovery, the establishment of protected areas, and the development of conservation frameworks for Central Asia as a whole.



Peru

Ysabel Agustina Calderón Carlos

Founder and CEO of Sumak Kawsay, an environmental enterprise

She leads conservation activities to halt and reverse the decline of pollinators, and she allocates income from honey production and tourism to ecosystem restoration, promoting the socioeconomic development of local communities, including indigenous women and youth.

COP16, Colombia



Booth Exhibition



Award ceremony

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Former President, Sophia University

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Director, AEON CO.(M)BHD
Director, AEON Financial Service Co., Ltd.

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

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Former Attorney General, Tokyo High Public Prosecutors Office

Kiyoshi Higuchi

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Former Vice-President, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Hideki Minamikawa

President, Japan Environmental Sanitation Center
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Satoru Miyamura

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

A History of the AEON Environmental Foundation

