
Nominations open for The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2014

Tokyo/Montreal, 28 February 2014 – Bringing international recognition and a substantial monetary prize to three outstanding individuals, nominations are now invited for the MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2014. The call for nominations remains open from 1 March to 31 May 2014.

The MIDORI Prize, a biennial international prize co-organized by the AEON Environmental Foundation and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), honours individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Established by the AEON Environmental Foundation during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the Prize aims to encourage positive action for biodiversity and inspire others by showcasing the notable work of those it honours. This year marks the third time that the MIDORI Prize is being awarded.

Takuya Okada, Chairman of the AEON Environmental Foundation and Honorary Chairman of AEON Co., Ltd., said: “The prevention of climate change and the conservation of biodiversity are two of the greatest challenges of our time. We hope that the MIDORI Prize will contribute to meeting this global challenge, to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and to the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020.”

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, said: “The MIDORI Prize, the unique international prize dedicated to biodiversity, will contribute to raising public awareness on the essential role of biodiversity to humanity and to the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.”

The Prize will be awarded at a special ceremony organized in conjunction with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in October 2014.

Nominations are invited from members of the public through the MIDORI Prize website, www.midoripress-aeon.net/.

Notes for editors

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity

Organized by: The AEON Environmental Foundation, co-organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and supported by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

Establishment: The Prize was established by the AEON Environmental Foundation in 2010 to commemorate the International Year of Biodiversity, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Foundation's 20th anniversary.

The Prize: The MIDORI Prize is awarded to three individuals who will each be honoured at an award ceremony held in conjunction with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in October 2014, and who will each receive a monetary prize of US\$100,000. The prize winners will be announced in mid-September 2014.

Nominations: Accepted through the website: www.midoripress-aeon.net/

Nomination period: 1 March - 31 May 2014

Judging Committee (honorifics omitted)

Chairman

Takuya Okada, Chairman, AEON Environmental Foundation

Members (alphabetical order)

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity

Kunio Iwatsuki, Professor Emeritus, The University of Tokyo

Daizaburo Kuroda, Senior Fellow, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Anne McDonald, Professor, Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Sophia University

Hem Pande, Additional Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Representative of CBD COP11 President

Shiro Wakui, Professor, Tokyo City University and Vice Chairman, Japan Committee of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Former Prize Winners (honorifics omitted)

The MIDORI Prize 2010

Jean Lemire (Canada), Biologist, Explorer, Filmmaker

Gretchen C. Daily (USA), Professor, Stanford University

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

Special Prize for the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity

Angela Merkel (Germany), Chancellor of Germany

The MIDORI Prize 2012

Juan Carlos Castilla (Chile), Professor, Marine Ecology, Department of Ecology, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

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

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

AEON Environmental Foundation

The AEON Environmental Foundation was established in 1990 on a vision and quest for peace, respect for humans, and support to regions. Since its establishment, the Foundation has made diverse efforts in planting trees in Japan and abroad, supporting environmental NGOs and NPOs, organizing international congresses, awarding domestic and international prizes, and implementing environmental education. The Foundation, along with citizen volunteers, has planted more than 2 million trees around the world, including about 1 million around the Great Wall of China. In 2010 the Foundation established an agreement of cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Website: www.aeon.info/ef/

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 166 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information visit: www.cbd.int

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For more information, visit “The MIDORI Press”: www.midoripress-aeon.net/
