

- Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals (STI for SDGs) -

The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award 2020



Application Guidelines

The Hitachi Global Foundation, with its long-term commitment for the promotion of academic research, science and technology and strong, long-lasting relationships with ASEAN countries through our support in human resource development in science and technology, has launched a new program called The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award.

Today, in a globalized world experiencing rapid changes in technology and digitalization, countries including those in the ASEAN region face a growing number of complex and interrelated challenges such as population explosion, economic inequality, and climate change. In an era of such challenges, sustainable development goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, provide a blueprint for the creation of a better and more sustainable future and require all stakeholders to collaborate and take action to achieve these goals by 2030, and science, technology and innovation are an essential means of implementing these goals.

The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award recognizes outstanding achievements in research and development in the fields of science and technology and encourages the social implementation of these achievements with the aim of contributing to the SDGs.

With its various political and social systems, economic and technological differences, and cultural, linguistic, and religious diversity, ASEAN represents the world as a beacon of hope in the great experiment of humanity to strive for diversity, inclusion, economic development, and environmental sustainability. Through this award, the Hitachi Global Foundation aims to promote science, technology and innovation as a means of building sustainable societies in the ASEAN region.

1. Conferment of the Award

The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award recognizes individuals and groups that undeniably served public interests through their outstanding achievements in research and development (R&D) in the fields of science and technology, including their visions of an ideal future society and social implementation plans for R&D as a means of achieving SDGs.

2. SDGs, Targets and R&D Themes

Each year, two goals and several relevant targets are selected from the seventeen goals and 169 targets. In order to achieve these goals and targets, examples of R&D themes will be established by the Hitachi Global Foundation. See Appendix 1 for details.

- ▶ Appendix 1: Goals, targets and examples of R&D themes for 2020

3. Contents of the Award

A maximum of two (2) Best Innovation Awards and ten (10) Outstanding Innovation Awards are presented each year.

- Best Innovation Award: Commemorative gift and monetary prize of 3,000,000 yen per recipient
- Outstanding Innovation Award: Commemorative gift and monetary prize of 1,000,000 yen per recipient

If applicable, a maximum of ten (10) Encouragement Awards comprising of commemorative gifts and approximately 500,000 yen per recipient will be presented in addition to above awards.

4. Applicants

Applicants can be individuals or groups. For groups, a group representative will be the applicant.

Applicants must satisfy all the following criteria:

- (1) The applicant is a faculty member, researcher, or student who belongs to the eligible universities or research institutions in his or her country and conducts research in his or her home country.
- (2) The applicant has made an outstanding achievement in R&D in the fields of science and technology. Achievements include the publication of a research paper, a conference presentation, a patent acquisition, etc. and an accompanying social implementation plan.
- (3) The applicant must be recommended by the eligible university or research institution with which he or she is affiliated.

5. Eligible Countries, Universities and Research Institutions

Eligible universities and research institutes are selected from ASEAN countries to meet the selected goals and targets for each year. See Appendix 2 for details.

- ▶ [Appendix 2: Eligible Universities and Research Institutions for 2020](#)

6. Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following documents in English.

- (1) Application Form
 - Complete the application form, including a web link of R&D introduction video and a list of evidences of achievement in R&D. See the application form for details. Submit in the form of original Microsoft Word Format (Please do not convert the file into any other formats).
- (2) Recommendation Letter
 - Written and signed by a person in charge (director or senior position) of the department with which the applicant is affiliated. Submit in PDF format.
- (3) Attachments
 - Attach evidences of achievement in R&D in PDF format. The maximum number of attachments is three.

7. How to apply

The designated office of eligible universities and research institutions must submit the application documents through the online application system.

8. Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

The selection process is conducted in two stages—document screening and Skype or telephone interview. The following items are evaluated in each process:

- (1) Relevance of the R&D to the achievement of an ideal future society
- (2) Contribution to the relevant SDGs
- (3) Inclusiveness
- (4) Utilization of science and technology
- (5) Innovativeness
- (6) Feasibility of the social implementation plan
- (7) Sustainability and scalability of the social implementation plan

9. Selection Schedule

April 1 st – June 30 th	< Call for applications >
July – August	< Application document screening >
September	< Interviews with applicants conducted through Skype or telephone >
October	< Selection committee held >

10. Notification of Results

The results will be sent to all applicants through each eligible university and research institution by e-mail in October 2020.

11. Award Ceremony

The award ceremony will be held in Tokyo, Japan, in January 2021. Recipients (or group representatives) of Best Innovation Award will be invited to the ceremony and asked to present their achievements in R&D and their social implementation plan to the audience.

< Contact Details >

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*Regarding Handling of Personal Information

All personal information will be used only for the purpose of carrying out procedures relating to the The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award (selection, result notification, presentation of awards). Personal information will not be shown to third parties or used for other purposes without consent.