

## About the Asahi Glass Foundation

### Profile

The Asahi Glass Foundation was established in 1933 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Asahi Glass Co., Ltd., which was celebrated in 1932. For more than half a century, the Foundation's research assistance program focused on providing financial assistance solely in the field of applied chemistry.

In response to major industrial, economic, and social changes in recent years, and recognizing that new research is becoming increasingly advanced, globally oriented, and interdisciplinary, the Foundation in 1990 restructured its activities by expanding its research assistance program and introducing a commendation program. These activities are designed not only to further the study of the applied sciences but also to promote advanced research that will serve the world community into the future.

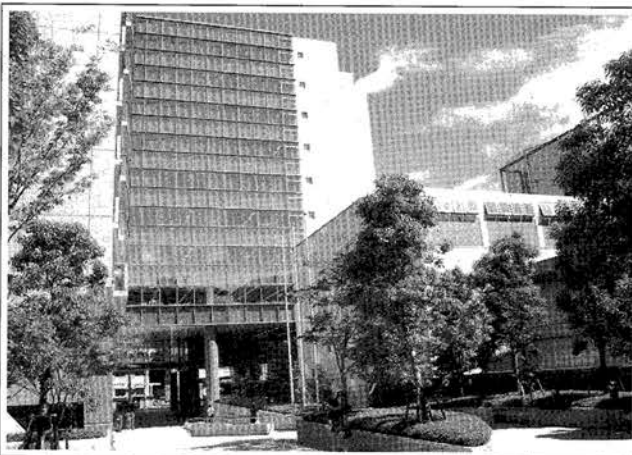
Research assistance is no longer limited to applied chemistry but now encompasses all natural sciences, in addition to supporting research in the human and social sciences fields. In all areas, assistance is given for advanced research with the potential to benefit the future of humankind.

The Foundation's commendation program, which focuses on the increasingly relevant issue of the global environment, sponsors the annual Blue Planet Prize, an international award inaugurated in 1992 to commend individuals and organizations working toward the solution of environmental problems.

The Foundation strives to contribute to the creation of a richer, more vibrant society. To this end, it supports research in leading-edge scientific and technological fields and recognizes individual and organizational efforts to solve issues of concern to people around the world.

### Program Overview

The Foundation's support programs in the field of science, technology, and human and social sciences include:



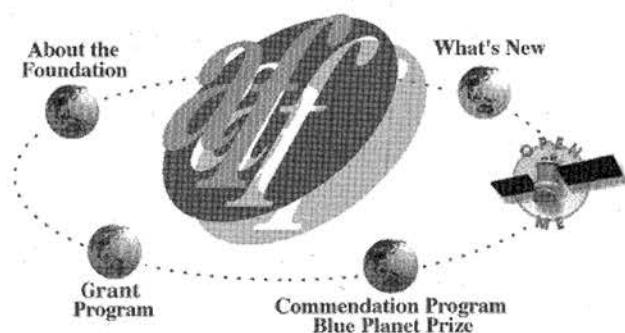
**The Asahi Glass Foundation's new home is in Tokyo's Science Plaza Building.**

- assistance for research projects conducted at universities and research institutes;
- assistance for international conferences held in Japan;
- collection and publication of related data.

Programs encouraging efforts to solve key global issues encompass

- the Blue Planet Prize, an international award commending contributions to the solution of global environmental problems;
- an annual opinion survey on global environmental awareness and activism;
- dissemination of related data.

The Foundation also engages in a variety of other activities aimed at achieving its stated objective, such as production of publications to make information about its activities available to people around the world. In 1996, the Foundation opened a home page on the World Wide Web of the Internet. Through this Web site, the Foundation hopes to promote dialogue and gain feedback on its activities, as well as make the results of its activities available to a wider audience. Also in 1996, the Foundation moved its offices to a new location.



<http://www.af-info.or.jp>

### Financial Information

Total assets of the Foundation at the end of fiscal 1996 amounted to more than ¥11.5 billion, and the budget for activities in fiscal 1997 is ¥620 million.

### History

- 1933 To commemorate its 25th anniversary (1932), the Asahi Glass Co., Ltd., establishes the Asahi Foundation for Chemical Industry Promotion.
- 1934 The Asahi Foundation for Chemical Industry Promotion gains recognition as a non-profit organization. The Foundation begins providing research assistance to university researchers in the field of applied chemistry.
- 1961 The Foundation changes its name to the Asahi Glass Foundation for Industrial Technology.
- 1982 The Foundation begins providing overseas research assistance to Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.
- 1988 The Foundation begins providing overseas research assistance to the Institute Technology Bandung in Indonesia.

- 1990 To support the expansion of its activities, the Foundation revises its funding program. In line with this revision, the Foundation changes its name to the Asahi Glass Foundation.  
The Foundation begins offering comprehensive research assistance.
- 1991 The Foundation diversifies its research assistance to the field of natural sciences.
- 1992 The Foundation begins providing research assistance in the fields of human and social sciences.  
A seminar covering petrochemical technology is held at Chulalongkorn University.  
The first annual Blue Planet Prize awards ceremony is held.  
The first annual "Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind" is conducted.
- 1993 A seminar on the topic of new organometallics is held in Tokyo.  
A seminar on the topic of technology to protect the environment is held at Chulalongkorn University.  
The first seminar on Foundation-assisted research in Indonesia is held at the Institute Technology Bandung.  
A lecture program is held at the University of Oklahoma to commemorate the Foundation's endowment of a chaired professorship.
- 1994 A seminar on glass sciences is held in Tokyo.  
A seminar on public health and biochemistry is held at Chulalongkorn University.  
The second seminar on Foundation-assisted research in Indonesia is held at the Institute Technology Bandung.  
A public conference on environmental problems is held at Charles University in the Czech Republic.
- 1995 A seminar on molecular biology and biological engineering is held in Tokyo.  
A seminar on the topic of glass and inorganic materials is held at Chulalongkorn University.  
The third seminar on Foundation-assisted research in Indonesia is held at the Institute Technology Bandung.
- 1996 The Foundation's home page is opened on the World Wide Web of the Internet.  
A seminar on physical properties is held in Tokyo.  
A seminar on the topic of chemical engineering is held at Chulalongkorn University.  
The fourth seminar on Foundation-assisted research in Indonesia is held at the Institute Technology Bandung.

## **Directors**

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Former Managing Director, Mitsubishi Motors Corp.

Senior Executive Director

Osamu Shiragami

Former President, Asahi-Penn Chemical Co., Ltd.

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Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University

Gaishi Hiraiwa

Chairman Emeritus, Japan Federation of Economic Organizations;  
Senior Adviser, former Chairman, former President, Tokyo Electric Power Co., Inc.

Shigeru Ito

Professor, Keio University;  
Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

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President, The Shoko Chukin Bank;  
former Vice Secretary, Ministry of International Trade and Industry

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President, Central Environment Council;  
former President, Science Council of Japan

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Chairman, Mitsubishi Corp.

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Chairman, Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc.

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President & CEO, Asahi Glass Co., Ltd.

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Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

Kenzo Tanaka

Chairman, International Center for the Study of East Asian Development;  
Professor Emeritus, former President, Kyushu University

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former Chairman, former President, The Mitsubishi Bank, Ltd.

Kunio Iino

Former President, Iwaki Glass Co., Ltd.

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Commentator

Takemochi Ishii

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Professor Emeritus, University of Tokyo

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Honorary Chairman, Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
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President, University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan

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Professor Emeritus, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music

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