

“The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award”
Frequently Asked Questions

■ About the Award

1. Purpose

Q. What is the purpose of The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award?

A. The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award is an award program launched in 2020 to promote science, technology, and innovation that contributes to solving social issues and realizing a sustainable society in the ASEAN region.

This 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 the United Nations' SDGs.

2. Application Details

Q. Do you have a set of SDG goals, targets, and examples of themes for research and R&D?

A. We select two goals and several targets each year from a list of 17 goals and 169 targets and set examples of research and R&D themes that would contribute to these goals and targets.

Q. What are the goals and targets for FY2022?

A. Goal 6: "Clean Water and Sanitation" and Goal 11: "Sustainable Cities and Communities."
The targets are 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 11.1, 11.3, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.b respectively.

Q. How did you choose two goals?

A. Two goals have been selected by a working group consisting of university professors and experts from research institutions. The two goals for FY2022 have been selected since many issues remain in the ASEAN region and that these issues can be achieved through research and development. In particular, Goal 6 is an important theme related to the basic human life of "water," and Goal 11 was also selected for its urgent issues such as urban environmental problems and cities resilient to climate change.

Q. Are the eligible countries, universities, and research institutions determined in advance?

A. Eligible countries, universities and research institutions are selected from among the 10 ASEAN countries each year according to the SDG goals, targets, and examples of research and R&D themes. Applicants must be faculty members, researchers, or students who are enrolled in a target university or research institution in their home country and are conducting research or R&D in their home country and must have a letter of recommendation from their department or division head or above.

Q. Can I apply if I am just starting my research?

A. This program is an award, not a research grant, so applicants who are just starting their research are not eligible to apply. We require R&D achievements. However, the level of achievement can be ranged from research papers and conference presentations to patents.

Q. Can I apply for research and development that is currently in progress?

A. You can apply for this award. The level of achievements required for this award varies, for examples, research papers and conference presentations are also accepted as achievements. Even if the work is still in progress, you can apply if you attach proof of certain achievements.

Q. Does the title of the research I submit for the award have to be exactly the same as, for example, a research paper I have already published?

A. It doesn't necessarily have to match everything as long as it is an appropriate title. Just make sure it has something to do with the achievements you are submitting for the award.

Q. Can I apply for a patent pending technology?

A. If you are submitting a patent as an outcome, the patent should have been already granted. But if it is pending, please indicate its status.

Q. For FY2022, only research achievements in the field of science and technology that contribute to SDGs Goal 6 and Goal 11 and their social implementation plans can be submitted?

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. Could you be more specific about the social implementation plan?

A. The focus of this award is on how to make use of existing achievements in society. For this reason, please write about the achievements you have already accomplished and how you would like to implement the technology-to improve your society. Examples of social implementation could be commercialization of your developed results, knowledge provision, providing data and policy recommendations to governments and local governments, and educating local communities. The term "Social Impact" is one of the key words.

Q. Does the Hitachi Global Foundation have any programs to support social implementation plans in addition to the awards for achievements?

A. No, not currently.

Q. Has the scholarship program of The Hitachi Global Foundation been terminated?

A. The scholarship program closed to new applications several years ago. We launched current award program in response to requests from scholarship recipients to provide support that would enable them to conduct research while in their home countries.

3. Contents of the Award

Q. What are the details of the award?

A. As follows.

Best Innovation Award: Monetary prize of 3,000,000 yen per recipient

Outstanding Innovation Award: Monetary prize of 1,000,000 yen per recipient

Encouragement Award: Monetary prize of 500,000 yen per recipient

Q. Is the prize money in total? Per awardee?

A. It is per awardee.

Q. Can applicants choose which prize they want to apply for? What is the difference?

A. The selection committee will decide which award is appropriate. The Best Innovation Award will be given to the research with the highest evaluation by the selection committee, and the Outstanding Innovation Award will be given to the research with the next highest evaluation. However, the Encouragement Award is given to the research results that we would like to encourage, taking into consideration the country and region. The number of winners for each award varies each year, as the selection committee decides based on the applications received that year.

■ About Applications

1. Number of Applications

Q. Is there a limit to the number of applications that can be submitted by each university?

A. The number of applications is limited to five per university for FY2022. Applications can be submitted by a single person or a group. If applying as a group, an applicant on behalf of the group must meet the requirements of the applicant.

Q. What should we do if we receive more than the maximum number of applications within our university?

A. Please select five good applications within the university before submitting them.

Q: Do we need to rank the five applications we submit?

A: No, you do not. Even if you rank them, they will not be considered, and our selection committee members will review based on our evaluation criteria.

2. Application Requirements

Q: Can I apply as a group?

A: You can apply as a group, but please make sure to choose a representative and have that representative apply. Interviews and awards (presentation of commemorative gifts and remittance) will be given to the representative.

Q. When applying as a group, such as for joint research, do all group members need to meet the requirements for applicants?

A. If applying as a group, an applicant on behalf of the group must meet the requirements of the applicant.

Q. Can I apply for other awards at the same time? Also, can I apply even if I have already won an award elsewhere?

A. Yes, both are possible.

Q. Can applicants from any faculty apply?

A. There is no restriction on the department of the applicant, if the achievements of research and development in the field of science and technology that contributes to the target goal of the application and its social implementation plan are met. For example, joint research across faculties is also welcome.

3. Application Documents

Q. What is the language of the application documents?

A. Application documents should be written in English. Please be sure to attach English translations of any materials in the local language.

Q. Should I submit the application form in Word format?

A. Please do not convert the application form to PDF format, but submit it in Word format.

Q. Do I need to submit a photo for the application form? What resolution should the photo have?

A. Yes, it is required. We recommend that your file has at least 300 dpi.

Q. Are papers under review included in the achievements?

A. Papers under review are not accepted as achievements, but they may be considered as a reference for evaluation purpose.

Q. How many years ago can I include the achievements?

A. There is no limit. However, since this is an innovation award, either the research and development achievements or the social implementation plan must be innovative, so even if the paper is 10 years old, it is OK if the content or the plan is still innovative. The reason for this is that we believe that old technologies that are not yet used in society can be good ideas for social implementation.

Q. If the achievement is a paper, does the applicant have to be the first author? Can the applicant be the second or last author?

A. The order of authorship is not important.

Q. How should I submit the Social Implementation Plan?

A. There is a section in the application form where you can fill in the social implementation

plan. For specific instructions on how to fill in the form, please check the "Application Form (How to Fill in)".

Q. What level of social implementation plan is required?

A. Any level is acceptable if it contributes to the SDGs. For example, it can be ranged from promoting local activities, to making recommendations to local governments and government policy makers, and to making recommendations to industry. Please check the application form (How to Fill in) for more details on specific examples.

Q. Can I submit not only the social implementation plan but also the social implementation achievements?

A. Of course it is OK, but please submit your achievements of the research and development as well.

Q. Do I need to submit a video introducing my research and development?

A. It is mandatory to create and submit one.

Q. What is the maximum length of the R&D introduction video?

A. The maximum length is 5 minutes. Please do not make it longer than this.

Q. Can I make a simple video introducing my research and development that can be shot with a cell phone?

A. Yes. The method of filming and editing skills are not required. We request that the applicant submits an introduction video to make up for the fact that the selection committee cannot visit the site. The video should convey to the selection committee the actual state of your research, including the state of your laboratory, experiments, and field studies, which cannot be understood from the application form.

Q. Can I use footage that already exists to make a video introducing my research and development? Since my research activities are currently restricted due to the Covid-19, it is difficult for me to film new research.

A. You may use footage that already exists. The purpose of a video introducing your research and development is to confirm the actual status of your research, which cannot be determined from the application form, so it does not matter when or how the video was shot. Editing skills are also not required. All that is required is to be able to confirm the necessary contents.

Q. Can I submit two videos to introduce my research and development?

A. It is not acceptable to submit two. Please submit them together in advance.

Q. What is the list of achievements to be filled out in the application form, and what do I need to write about in the CV?

A. Outcomes refer to papers, conference presentations, patents, etc. The list is different from the CV in the sense that, for example, in the case of a thesis, it is a list of the author(s), title of the thesis, publication, volume, year of publication, pages, etc. There

is a separate column for writing the Biography.

Q. How many recommendation letters do I need to submit?

A. Please submit one.

Q. What should we include in the recommendation letter?

A. The recommendation letter should include the reasons for the nomination and the selection process (whether it is an institutional or individual nomination).

Q. What are the attached documents? Do I need to submit them?

A. Attachments are documents that prove the achievements of your research and development. They must be submitted, and you can attach up to three in PDF format. If possible, please attach one of your publications as an attachment.

4. How to Apply

Q. How do I apply?

A. Applications are submitted through the application system by a designated department at the university. The Hitachi Global Foundation will provide the URL of the application system to the person in charge at the university. Applicants cannot apply directly, so please ask the designated department at your university for more information.

5. Evaluation Criteria

Q. What are the selection criteria?

A. The selection process is based on the following seven criteria, which are document screening and remote interview. In addition to having achievements, we are placing more emphasis on the social implementation part.

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

6. Schedule

Q. What is the selection schedule?

A. The schedule is as follows.

April 1 -June 30<Call for applications>

July -August <Document screening>

September -October<Online interviews and selection>

January<Conferment of the award>

Q. Is the deadline for applications June 30?

A. Yes, that is correct. This award is not a research grant, but an award program for research and R&D achievements. Therefore, please do not create a research plan from now on, but rather select an existing achievement that is suitable for this application and fill in the social implementation plan.

7. Announcement of the Awardees

Q. How will the selection results be announced?

A. Applicants will be notified of the results by e-mail in November through the person in charge at the eligible university.

8. Award Ceremony

Q. Will the award ceremony be held in FY2022?

A. Originally, the award ceremony was scheduled to be held in Tokyo in January of the following year after the winners were selected, but it was cancelled for FY2020 and FY2021 due to the spread of the COVID-19. We have not yet decided whether to hold an award ceremony for the next year and beyond.

Q. Will only the Best Innovation Award winner be invited to the award ceremony?

A. Due to budget constraints, only the Best Innovation Award winner and one accompanying person will be invited.

9. Others

Q. Do I need to submit any reports or other documents after receiving an award?

A. The Asia Innovation Award is an award (commendation), so it is not mandatory to submit a report after receiving the award. However, we would like to keep the network with you even after receiving the award; therefore, sharing your research progress would be greatly appreciated.

■ Contact

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact the person in charge at your university.

If you have any other questions, please contact the office below.

The Hitachi Global Foundation

Office of The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award

E-mail: award@hdq.hitachi.co.jp