

**- Science, Technology, and Innovation for Sustainable Development Goals (STI for SDGs) -
The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award 2026**

Application Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award was launched in fiscal year 2020 to promote science, technology and innovation that would solve societal issues and achieve a sustainable society in the ASEAN region. This Award recognizes individuals and groups that served public interests through their outstanding achievements in research and development 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 UN's SDGs.



2. SDGs, targets, and R&D theme

Applicants are asked to choose one goal out of 17 goals and one target out of 169 targets to which they can most contribute through their R&D and social implementation plan, and then determine their R&D theme. For details on the 17 goals and 169 targets, please refer to Appendix 1 or the following United Nations' official website:

> Goals and Targets

<https://sdgs.un.org/>

> Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

3. Eligible countries, universities, and research institutes

Each year, eligible countries are selected from the ASEAN countries, and then eligible universities and research institutes in the countries are selected based on some of the criteria. Please check the list of the eligible universities and research institutes for 2026 in Appendix 2.

4. Applicants

Applicants may be an individual or a group. In the case of a group, one member must be appointed as the representative applicant. Applicants shall meet the following criteria.

- 1) The applicant shall be a faculty member, researcher or student who belongs to one of the eligible universities or research institutes and conduct research in the country where the affiliation

is located.

- 2) The applicant shall have made an outstanding achievement in R&D in the fields of science and technology, including published research papers, conference presentations, acquired patents, and an accompanying social implementation plan.
- 3) The applicant shall be endorsed by his or her affiliation.

5. Application documents

Applicants shall prepare the following documents in English, and English translation shall be attached if any submitted document is written in your local language.

1) Application form

- Please complete the application form, and any application missing required information will not be accepted.
- The application form should not exceed five pages from the section of “Applicant Details” to “Biography.”
- Please create an R&D introduction video, up to five minutes, upload the video to Google Drive, and indicate a web link of the video in the application form. We expect applicants to explain their research and development in their own words. The purpose is to inform the selection committee about your research and development, so video editing skills will not be evaluated. A video recorded on a mobile phone is acceptable.
- Please update the browser to the latest version as old versions may cause an error.
- Please make sure that the video does not violate any copyright laws or rights of publicity.
- The application form shall be submitted in the Word format.
- Please make sure that the applicant has read the precautions for handling personal information at the end of the application form and checks the box if they agree.
- Please refer to the “How to fill in the application form” document for further details.

2) Recommendation letter

- Please have the letter prepared and signed by the head (director or above position) of the department of the applicant. The letter shall include the reason for the recommendation, the selection process (whether it is an institutional or individual nomination), and expectation to the applicant’s R&D and social implementation plan.
- The letter shall be submitted in PDF.

3) Attachments

- Please attach up to three PDF files as evidence of the applicant’s achievements. Include one achievement in each file. Each file should be approximately ten pages or less.
- It is recommended that at least one research paper be submitted as evidence of the applicant’s R&D achievements.

6. How to apply

The application documents shall be authorized and submitted through the online application system by the designated office of the applicant’s affiliation. The maximum number of applications per university or research institute is three for 2026.

An application shall be made with all the required documents. The Hitachi Global Foundation may request additional documents or information if necessary.

7. Selection and evaluation criteria

The selection has two parts – document screening and online interviews by an external selection committee. The following points are evaluated in both parts.

1) Relevance to Societal Issues and R & D

Whether the applicant can explain how their R&D will contribute to addressing current societal issues.

2) Utilization of Science and Technology, and Innovation

Whether science and technology play a crucial role in research and research development outcomes, and whether there is innovation. Innovation is assessed in terms of both scientific and technological advancements and social and institutional innovation.

3) Feasibility of the Social Implementation Plan

Whether the social implementation plan is specific, feasible, and tailored to the actual conditions of the target region or country. It is also assessed whether there are plans to ensure that the solution is not limited to being temporary and whether it can be transferred, replicated, or adapted in other regions as well. (For example, whether the plan includes human resource development for technology dissemination, proposals for sustainable lifestyles, awareness-raising, policy recommendations, records of or plans for collaboration with local governments, and business plans including demonstration experiments.)

4) Relevance to SDG Goals

Whether the research and research and development results, as well as the social implementation plan, significantly contribute to the improvement of selected SDGs.

8. Schedule

April 1 - June 30 <call for applications>

July - August <document screening>

September – October <online interviews and selection committee meetings>

9. Notification of results

The result will be communicated to the designated office of each of the eligible universities or research institutes by email in November 2026.

10. Awards

- Best Innovation Award: monetary prize of 3,000,000 JPY per awardee
- Outstanding Innovation Award: monetary prize of 1,000,000 JPY per awardee

If applicable, the Encouragement Award(s) with approximately 500,000 JPY per awardee will be presented.

11. Announcement of the awardees

The awardees will be requested to prepare the research overview, which will be introduced on the Hitachi Global Foundation's website in January 2027.

The past awardees can be found in the URL below.

<https://www.hitachi-zaidan.org/global/activities/award/list/index.html>

12. Conferment of the awards

The prize money will be remitted directly to the awardee's bank account. The award certificate and trophy will also be mailed to the awardee's postal address in January 2027.

13. Important note

The Hitachi Global Foundation will cancel the application when a false statement in the submitted documents or the award when an illegal activity by an awardee is found.

<Contact>

The Hitachi Global Foundation

Office of The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award

6-1, Marunouchi 1-choome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8220

Email: r-kasai@hdq.hitachi.co.jp