

## Hitachi Future Innovator Program

### FY2023 Lecturer Exchange Event and Teacher Meeting

The Hitachi Global Foundation has collaborated with Hitachi Group companies since 2016 to implement the Hitachi Future Innovator Program.

Designed for fifth graders, the program supports inquiry-based learning at school by offering on-site lessons by Hitachi employees and educational materials, with the aim of fostering students' abilities to find and solve problems.

The FY2023 program was conducted at five schools in Toda City in Saitama Prefecture, Bungotakada City in Oita Prefecture, Akita City in Akita Prefecture, Tamamura Town in Gunma Prefecture, and Hitachi City in Ibaraki Prefecture. For this fiscal year's program, the Foundation initiated new approaches by organizing an exchange event among 26 on-site lesson lecturers from seven Hitachi group companies in January 2024 and a cross-regional meeting among teachers at three schools in February 2024.

#### FY2023 Lecturer Exchange Event (January 17, 2024)

The lecturer exchange meeting was attended in-person and online by 30 people, including CSR officials who served as coordinators.

The participants shared various ideas from mindsets for giving students advice on problem solving to successful cases and areas of lesson improvement.

The event proved very meaningful with the prospect of continuing next fiscal year.



#### FY2023 Teacher Meeting (February 9, 2024)

The Foundation held an online meeting for teachers who took part in the Hitachi Future Innovator Program to review the outcomes of this fiscal year's program and share the program's value, areas of improvement, and above all, student growth in the participating schools. The teachers spent valuable time exchanging tips on how to address common issues and promote inquiry-based learning connected with their program experiences.



##### Sasame Elementary School Toda City

Target skills

##### Initiative and problem-solving skills

Mr. Kurihara and Ms. Kobayashi, 5th-grade teachers

"Based on the program's activities, we taught methods for holding discussions, interviewing, summarizing ideas, and other skills learned in Japanese classes. While securing the time for these lessons, we adopted various approaches that enabled the students to immediately apply what they had learned to their group work."

##### Oomika Elementary School Hitachi City

Target skills

##### Initiative and analytical skills

Ms. Kobayashi, 5th-grade teacher

"As teachers we questioned how to proceed with the program, but as we conduct the activities, the children's attitudes began to change. We realized that the initiative was not about the teachers thinking about how to proceed, but about the students themselves thinking about activities and preparations needed."

##### Keiyo Elementary School Bungotakada City

Target skills

##### Initiative and compassion skills

Ms. Hanasaki and Mr. Yuuki, 5th-grade teachers

"We saw some students thinking they had completed their tasks after presenting their ideas to the lecturers in the mid-program presentations, so we had time for discussing the meaning of the mid-program presentations and the content of the feedback, and provided an opportunity to specifically check what they were lacking in order to achieve their goals."

# News Letter Vol. 48 / 2024.04

The Hitachi Global Foundation publishes news letters featuring its many activities. We offer various types of news about our Foundation, ranging from activity reports on symposiums, seminars, awards ceremonies, and other events to our latest topics. Please take a look to find out more.

## Promotion of Academic Research, Science and Technology

### Hitachi Fund Support for Research Related to Infectious Diseases

#### Second Interim Report Meeting

The second interim report meeting of the Hitachi Fund Support for Research Related to Infectious Diseases took place on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

The Hitachi Fund Support for Research Related to Infectious Diseases is a grant program supporting evidence-based research projects that conduct academic research, analyses, and reviews on various issues that have arisen following the COVID-19 pandemic, and share their research findings and knowledge internationally. The fund was established with donations from Hitachi, Ltd., its executives and employees, as well as Hitachi Group company executives. After the selection of five grant projects, research activities began in December 2021, and are scheduled to continue for three years.

At the second interim report meeting, the representatives of each research project reported on their research activities conducted between April 2023 and March 2024, along with their future plans.



Dr. Hiroshi Suzuki,  
The University of Tokyo



Dr. Isao Kamae,  
The University of Tokyo



Dr. Akira Kaneko,  
Osaka Metropolitan  
University



Dr. Mikihiro Tanaka,  
Waseda University



Dr. Kazuyo Hanai,  
The University of Tokyo



Dr. Eiji Haramoto,  
Yamanashi University

#### Second Interim Report Meeting

##### Comprehensive Research

"International Joint Study on Public Health Economics and Value Assessment of Prevention in Pandemic – Lessons learned from COVID-19 and evidence-based recommendations for future crisis"

**Speaker:** Dr. Hiroshi Suzuki, Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo,  
Dr. Isao Kamae, Project Professor, Graduate School of Public Policy, The University of Tokyo

##### Field Expanding Research

"Malaria eradication in the era of COVID-19 pandemic: a study integrating sociological, economic, and medical approaches to overcome the challenges in tropical Africa"

**Speaker:** Dr. Akira Kaneko, Specially Appointed Professor, Department of Parasitology, Graduate School of Medicine,  
Osaka Metropolitan University

"Covid-19 and Society: Comparative Analysis of Risk Communication, Expertise, and Citizenship"

**Speaker:** Dr. Mikihiro Tanaka, Professor, Faculty of Political Science and Economics, Waseda University

"Exploration of Practical Wisdom and Resilience Overcoming Downside Risk  
-Collecting grassroots voices in Africa under COVID-19"

**Speaker:** Dr. Kazuyo Hanai, Project Assistant Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, The University of Tokyo

"Implementing wastewater-based epidemiology in Asian communities to strengthen resilience against pandemics"

**Speaker:** Dr. Eiji Haramoto, Professor, Interdisciplinary Center for River Basin Environment, University of Yamanashi



## The Kurata Grants

## FY2023 Grant Recipients – Presentation Ceremony and

The FY2023 (55th) Kurata Grants presentation ceremony was held at Keio Plaza Hotel Tokyo on Monday, March 4, 2024. This fiscal year’s grants were presented to 43 researchers selected after thoroughly reviewing the 279 applicants who submitted projects.

The Kurata Grants (research fund) was established with a donation by Hitachi, Ltd.’s second president, the late Chikara Kurata. The Foundation offers grants to next-generation researchers working to address global social issues in the natural sciences and engineering as well as the humanities and social sciences that underly an advanced technological society.

During the ceremony, Mr. Keisuke Hanaki, chairperson of the selection committee, reported on this fiscal year’s selection process. The Hitachi Global Foundation president handed each recipient a grant certificate and introduced their research themes. After the presentation, researchers representing each category and area talked about their future ambitions and plans. Please see the website below for the research themes of the 43 recipients.



<https://www.hitachi-zaidan.org/global/topics/topics012.html>



## Research Briefing Session

### Speeches by the Recipients' Representatives

#### Natural Sciences and Engineering

##### Energy and the Environment

Dr. Wakana Kubo, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology  
“Year-Round Thermoelectric Energy Harvesting for Powering IoT Devices”

##### Urban Development and Transportation

Dr. Taishi Yazawa, The University of Tokyo  
“Analysis of Socio-Hydrological Impacts of Plantation Based on Direct Observation of Soil Characteristics for Local Flood Management”

##### Healthcare

Dr. Tsutomu Nakazawa, Nara Medical University  
“Establishment of HIF1α Knockout Allogeneic NK Cells To Overcome Hypoxic Environment In Glioblastoma”

#### Humanities and Social Sciences

Prof. Nobu Ishiguro, Osaka University  
“How Can We Integrate Care Technology for Future Sustainability of Care System? From Perspective of Ethics of Care”



Dr. Wakana Kubo  
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology

Following the ceremony, a research briefing session was held at the same venue. Four representatives who had completed their research periods presented their research results.

With the closing of the ceremony and session, the participants moved to the reception held at a different venue, and deepened their interactions while exchanging information in a friendly atmosphere. The Foundation hopes this occasion will lead to further development of their research.

### The Kurata Grants Research Briefing Session

#### Presentation 1 : Energy and the Environment

Dr. Yasuhide Mochizuki, Tokyo Institute of Technology  
“Elucidation of Earth-Abundant Negative-Thermal-Expansion Materials and its Realization”

#### Presentation 2 : Urban Development and Transportation

Dr. Tomoyuki Takabatake , Kindai University  
“Influence of Road Blockage on the Number of Casualties from an Earthquake and Tsunami”

#### Presentation 3 : Healthcare

Dr. Hironori Hojo, The University of Tokyo  
“Development of Screening System for Disease-Associated SNPs by Integrating Genome Editing Technology with Single Cell RNA Sequencing”

#### Presentation 4 : Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Mayumi J. Okuno, Toyo University  
“Study of Legal Issues in Continuous Construction of Fiduciary Duties in Trusted AI”



Dr. Tomoyuki Takabatake  
Kindai University

## The Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award

## FY2023 Award Recipients and Research Outlines

The recipients of the FY2023 Hitachi Global Foundation Asia Innovation Award and their research outlines were published on the Hitachi Global Foundation website on Tuesday, January 30, 2024. Please visit the website to find out more.

<https://www.hitachi-zaidan.org/global/topics/topics011.html>

