



Call for applications: Grant Opportunities for Citizen Scientists (groups and individuals) in Asia

The Takagi Fund for Citizen Science (the Takagi Fund, Tokyo, Japan) will invite grant applications for the year 2011 from groups and individuals in Asia pursuing "Citizen Science". The deadline for submission of applications for this round is 30 September, 2010.

About Takagi Fund

The Takagi Fund was established in 2001 following the last will and testament of Takagi Jinzaburo (1938-2000), who devoted his life to realizing a nuclear-free society, democratic public decision-making, and advocacy of "Citizen Science." His early career as nuclear chemist led him to question the basic rationale for utilizing atomic power. His research and engineering experience turned him into a strong critic of nuclear energy, both in military and commercial uses. His wish was to foster and support the next generation of "Citizen Scientists" by establishing as a personal legacy a fund for such purposes. The posthumous establishment of the Takagi Fund as a non-profit body was complemented by massive donations from a number of concerned individuals, as well as organizations, all sharing Takagi's sense of urgency about assisting Citizen Science.

What is Citizen Science?

Takagi's concept of "Citizen Science" came from his strong belief that present-day science and technology are leading to threats to life and the environment. It was also his concern that most conventional scientists and researchers lack a sense of social responsibility, failing to take any initiatives for constructing an alternative relation between science and people. The concept of "Citizen Scientists" presupposes that science should not be monopolized solely by specialists engaged in academic research. Citizens need to empower themselves by developing scientific knowledge, technical skills and critical abilities. According to Takagi, the mission of Citizen Science is *"to give science a direction with a focus on hope for a future and to present a concept enabling the construction of a sustainable future."* He also added that citizen science must *"sow the seeds of hope into the hearts of people, organize people, and generate a flow leading to a revolutionary change."*

Objectives

The purpose of Takagi Fund is to foster and support independent Citizen Scientists who propose well-founded criticism and scientific counterarguments about problems and threats caused by present-day science and technology. Such criticism and counterarguments can be based on independent research and analysis conducted by citizens themselves with appropriate support from committed experts. The Takagi Fund expects that a true spirit of science, one which opens the way for a sustainable future, should spring up from the voluntary acts of citizens equipped with social awareness, a sense of justice and some essential scientific training, rather than from the occupational activities of "professional" scientists controlled by governments and/or corporate interests. The Takagi Fund encourages applications from young researchers and grassroots groups, NPOs and NGOs in Asia who share in the spirit of Citizen Science and possess a practical mind about opposing technological threats to the people.

Grant Categories

Research Grants	Research grants are to support research projects by individuals or groups that benefit Citizen Science as described above.	The grant may cover research and travel expenses, printing and other outsourcing costs. It may also include funds to hold workshops or symposia to communicate research findings to the public.
Training Grants	Training Grants are to support an individual receiving training at educational institutions, NGOs, research institutes, etc. that will enhance his/her expertise as Citizen Scientists and help him/her gain hands-on experience.	The grant can be used to cover travel, accommodation, tuition or related costs.

Eligibility

There are no restrictions regarding the eligibility of individuals or groups as long as they pursue Citizen Science as defined by the Takagi Fund. Applicants are not required to have defined or designated themselves as engaged in Citizen Science prior to application.

Grant Amounts

The grant size offered to each successful applicant in the past has ranged from ¥100,000 to ¥1,000,000 annually. The total grant for the year 2011 is JP¥ 2,000,000, roughly equivalent to US\$23,293 / EUR17,701 (at August 2010 rate).

Term of support

The basic term of support is for one year after the grant agreement, which will be signed on in January 2011. Applicants who wish to apply for a shorter or longer term should consult the Takagi Fund Secretariat.

What we fund

- Projects which tackle urgent issues in which science and technology are threatening civil society and environment, and related policy issues.
- Projects which contribute to enhancing human rights, human security, conservation of nature, alternative economy and peace for all citizens without exclusion of the most disadvantaged.
- Projects which have imagination and conceptual power, backed by expertise and appropriate methodology, with planning and budget adequately designed.
- Projects which have a clear and practical vision of how to apply the findings to society or to calling for policy changes.
- Projects dealing with issues for which the Japanese government and/or corporations are partly or fully responsible.
- Projects which are implemented in a peaceful manner employing non-violent means only.

* A comprehensive list of previous grantees can be found at <http://www.takagifund.org/e/archives/index.html>

What we may not fund

- Project on a topic with a needed level of support which has a high possibility of receiving public funding or support from corporations.
- Project submitted by a relatively large group or a well-established institution that have the ability to secure their own funding sources.
- Project which allocates its budget mainly to outsourcing to other researchers.
- Project which allocates its budget mostly to administrative costs, salaries and campaigns.

Application Procedure

Applicants are required to submit an application form by Email. Please download the form from <http://www.takagifund.org/e/apply/application.html>. The submission deadline for this round of applications is 30 September 2010. Applications are referred to the Selection Committee for citizen-scientific as well as logistic reviews, and then decided on by the Executive Board of the Takagi Fund. The review process usually takes two to three months. The Takagi Fund recommends that you contact by Email the Secretariat with a brief summary of the proposal before submitting a full application.

Applications and Inquires to:

Shoko Murakami, Secretariat, Asia Program Officer

The Takagi Fund for Citizen Science

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