



Blue Planet Prize

The 19th Blue Planet Prize, an international environmental award sponsored by Asahi Glass Foundation, is awarded to the two scholars below.

Reasons for the selection:

The prize winners addressed issues of environmental preservation with keen insight and practice, and have shown us what we should do to allow future generations to enjoy the beautiful Earth.

Hiroyuki Yoshikawa, Chairman of the Selection Committee
(Director General of the Center for Research and Development Strategy, Japan Science and Technology Agency; former President of The University of Tokyo)

Mankind's insatiable economic activity is pushing environmental degradation close to the point of no return. We all need to fully understand the situation and take action together to give hope and an unlimited future to the Earth.

This year's award winners have consistently and widely alerted the world to the dangers of global warming based on thorough scientific research and helped to link science with the policies of governments and international organizations to resolve the critical environmental issue.



Dr. James Hansen (USA)

Director at Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA)
Adjunct Professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University



Dr. Robert Watson (UK)

Chief Scientific Adviser of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Chair of Environmental Science and Science Director at Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, the University of East Anglia

Predicted global warming using a climate model and called on the need for unprecedented international cooperation to take steps to prevent it.

Based on the concept of radiative forcing to indicate the flow of radiation energy in the atmosphere, Dr. Hansen pioneered the understanding and forecasting of the climate system based on weather observation data.

In 1982, he testified before the US Congress and predicted global warming and strongly called for action. Dr. Hansen called on governments and the public to take immediate action to mitigate climate change and emphasized the need for international cooperation.

Played a significant role in coordinating science and policy, and contributed to helping national governments develop and implement concrete policies.

Having worked for NASA, the IPCC, the World Bank and other international organizations, Dr. Watson has played an important role in linking science with policy.

He led scientific, technical and socioeconomic research and assessment on ozone layer depletion, global warming and other environmental issues that greatly influence mankind, and provided major assistance in helping national governments develop and implement concrete policies.

The Blue Planet Prize is awarded to those who have made outstanding achievements in the social sciences, natural sciences or technologies and their applications in solving global environmental problems. It was established with the aim of raising global willingness and awareness to confront these problems that affect all mankind. Two winners are chosen each year and each recipient receives a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy and a supplementary award of 50 million yen.
Commemorative lectures by the prize recipients will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, at the United Nations University in Shibuya Ward, Tokyo.
For details, please visit www.af-info.or.jp or e-mail post@af-info.or.jp

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