Toray Science Foundations around the World

Social Initiatives

Toray Science Foundation

Toyo Rayon Science Foundation (now called Toray Science Foundation) was established in 1960 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the company's founding. Toray Industries, Inc. contributed 1 billion yen when it was established, and has continued to donate funds to cover operating costs through the present.
The Foundation was much talked about when it was first established as a pioneering corporate foundation. Its support activities such as grants and prizes for basic science have continued to win high praise. Five[1] of the recipients of the Foundation's Science and Technology Prizes or Science and Technology Grants have gone on to win Nobel Prizes.

1 Reona Esaki (recipient of the Foundation's Science and Technology Prize in 1961 and the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1973), Ryoji Noyori (recipient of the Foundation's Science and Technology Prize in 1990 and the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2001), Isamu Akasaki (recipient of the Foundation's Science and Technology Prize in 2000 and the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014), Shinya Yamanaka (recipient of the Foundation's Science and Technology Grant in 2004 and the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2012) and Tasuku Honjo (recipient of the Foundation's Science and Technology Grant in 1981 and the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2018).

Main activities of Toray Science Foundation[2]

(1) Toray Science and Technology Grant: This grant provides financial assistance to young researchers engaged in exploratory research in science and technology.
(2) Toray Science and Technology Prize: This prize is awarded to scientists for their distinguished achievements in science and technology.
(3) Toray Science Foundation International Research Grant: This grant is awarded to young researchers engaged in basic research on science and technology in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand.
(4) Toray Science Education Prize: This prize is awarded to commend junior and senior high school teachers who have given creative and innovative lessons in science with good results. Japan's Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology backed the program in fiscal 2006 by establishing the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Prize. The Foundation publishes a booklet collecting the description of the prizewinner's works and circulates about 16,000 copies of it to junior and senior high schools every year for teachers to use.

2 The prize and grant recipients are selected by a third-party committee made up of experts.

Cumulative achievements, fiscal 1960-2018

Category	Number awarded	Amount (million yen)
Toray Science and Technology Grant	647	6,755
Toray Science and Technology Prize	123	458
Toray Science Education Prize	684	213
Japan total	1,454	7,426
Grants for researchers outside Japan [3]	727	443
Total	2,181	7,869

3 Including direct grants to universities in 1989-1993 (61 cases, totaling 68 million yen)

59th Toray Science Foundation Presentation Ceremony

The 59th Toray Science Foundation Presentation Ceremony was held in March 2019. The Foundation awarded Eiji Yashima and Hitoshi Kuninaka the Toray Science and Technology Prize, and science teachers the Science Education Prize, and all received certificates, medals, and prize money. Also given was a total of 130 million yen in grants to recipients of the Science and Technology Grants.
Dr. Yashima was recognized for his research into the precision control and function of helical molecules, while Dr. Kuninaka was recognized for his R&D into the microwave discharge of micro ion engines and promoting solar system exploration.

The foundation is known for the Toray Science Education Prize and Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Prize, which was awarded to Shogo Takano, who teaches at Hiramatsu Junior High School in Asakura City, Fukuoka Prefecture. His students have experienced a heavy rain disaster in the city. He used upper air weather charts to three-dimensionally replicate the meteorological phenomena that caused the heavy rain and helped his students focused on the causal relationship of atmospheric movement to understand common meteorological phenomena.



Dr. Eiji Yashima, recipient of the Toray Science and Technology Prize (right)



Dr. Hitoshi Kuninaka, recipient of the Toray Science and Technology Prize (right)



Shogo Takano, recipient of the recipient of the Toray Science Education Prize (right)



Toray Science and Technology Grant recipients at 59th presentation ceremony

Related Information

› Toray Science Foundation

Toray Science Foundations outside Japan

Toray Industries has established science foundations in three Southeast Asian nations where it has started businesses since the 1960s. These foundations aim to contribute to the advancement of science and technology and promote science education in each country. The science foundations in Malaysia and Indonesia were established in 1993, followed by the establishment of a foundation in Thailand in 1994.

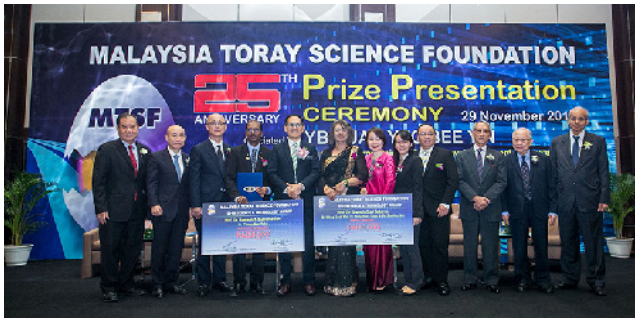
Since their establishment, the foundations have provided awards for outstanding achievements in science, technology and science education, and grants for research in the natural sciences, using funds raised by interest income from endowments, grants from Toray Science Foundation, and annual donations from group companies in various countries. The award winners and grant recipients include outstanding science researchers, young researchers in the basic sciences, and science educators. These activities have earned great social respect in the countries of each foundation. In January 2018, Toray Industries established Korea Toray Science Foundation.

The foundations seek to support the medium- and long-term development of science and technology in the host countries, by generating interest among science and technology researchers, youth, and science educators. The foundations also contribute to mutual understanding, friendship, and goodwill between Japan and each country, and foster economic development there, as well.

Malaysia Toray Science Foundation (MTSF)

Since its inauguration in August 1993, MTSF has extended awards and grants totaling 10.23 million ringgit to 744 researchers and science teachers. MTSF holds an annual award presentation ceremony with the attendance of guests from the Government of Malaysia and the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia. The awards are a badge of honor for the award winners and grant recipients.

The 25th Malaysia Toray Science Foundation Award Ceremony was held in November 2018, and a total of 350,000 ringgit in prize money (equivalent to about 9.5 million yen) and grants were awarded to two Malaysian scientists, 12 young researchers and 15 science teachers (a total of 29 recipients). Deputy Secretary General Dr. Ramzah Dambul, speaking on behalf of the Malaysian Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, expressed his appreciation to Toray Group for giving Malaysian scientists inspiration and actively helping to elevate the research culture in Malaysia since MTSF was founded in 1993.



25th presentation ceremony of Malaysia Toray Science Foundation with Science and Technology Prize winners

Related Information

› Malaysia Toray Science Foundation

Thailand Toray Science Foundation <TTSF>

Since its inauguration in June 1994, TTSF has extended awards and grants totaling 129.38 million baht to 716 researchers and science teachers. TTSF holds an annual award presentation ceremony. From the inaugural ceremony in 1995 through 2009, the ceremony has been attended by President of the Privy Council His Excellency General Prem Tinsulanonda, and since 2010 has been attended by the Privy Councillor His Excellency General Surayud Chulanont. The ceremony is always a big moment for award and grant winners.

The 25th Thailand Toray Science Foundation Award Presentation Ceremony was held in Bangkok in March 2019, and two Science and Technology Awards, 20 Science and Technology Research Grants and nine Science Education Awards were presented to the winners, for a total of 5.335 million baht (equivalent to about 18.3 million yen) in prize money and grants. After the awards were presented, His Excellency General Surayud Chulanont took to the podium and encouraged the awardees to advance research for the technological growth of Thailand.



25th presentation ceremony of Thailand Toray Science Foundation with Science and Technology Award winners

Related Information

› Thailand Toray Science Foundation

Indonesia Toray Science Foundation <ITSF>

From the beginning, ITSF has enlisted the cooperation of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, whose Director-General also chairs the Foundation. Since its inauguration in December 1993, ITSF has extended awards and grants totaling 21.4 billion rupiah to 715 researchers and science teachers. ITSF has assisted many individuals who are contributing to the progress of science and technology in Indonesia. Many of the past recipients of research grants now teach as professors and associate professors at leading universities, including the University of Indonesia, Bandung Institute of Technology, Gadjah Mada University, and Sekolah Tinggi Teknik Surabaya, and others conduct research at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences.
The 25th presentation ceremony of Indonesia Toray Science Foundation was held in Jakarta in March 2019; 18 scientists were awarded the Science and Technology Research Grant and 10 science teachers received the Science Education Award, for a total of 1.127 billion rupia (equivalent to about 8.6 million yen).
On the day before the ceremony, a briefing session by the winners of the fiscal 2018 grants was held along with a science education seminar. In the seminar, one education specialist delivered lectures and the 10 recipients of this year's Science Education Award gave presentations.



25th presentation ceremony of the Indonesia Toray Science Foundation, with science and technology grant recipients

Related Information

› Indonesia Toray Science Foundation

Korea Toray Science Foundation（KTSF）

KTSF was established in January 2018 to contribute to the promotion of science and technology in the Republic of Korea. The first award presentation ceremony for the KTSF was held in October 2018 at a venue in Seoul. Two Science and Technology Awards, four Science Technology Research Grants and four Technology Research Grants were presented to the winners, for a total of 400 million won (equivalent to about 40 million yen) in prize money and grants. Toray Industries President Akihiro Nikkaku addressed the audience and congratulated the award recipients on behalf of the Company. The guest speaker was Dr. Ryoji Noyori, 1990 recipient of Toray Science & Technology Prize and winner of the 2001 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, who currently serves an outside director of Toray Industries.



1st presentation ceremony of Korea Toray Science Foundation, with science and technology grant recipients

Related Information

› Korea Toray Science Foundation

CSR Guidelines & Activity Reports - Social Contribution Activities

Environment and Communities

Priority Areas

Social Initiatives

Toray Group leverages the specialized technologies and human resources of its Green Innovation businesses to support environmental education. The Group is also working with community stakeholders on environmental preservation activities to encourage social efforts to foster biodiversity.

Raising Environmental Awareness, with a Focus on Water Issues

Toray Group has developed original environmental education programs for elementary and junior high school students. Group employees from diverse professional backgrounds including engineering, research, sales, and management give workshops. In fiscal 2018, the Group offered workshops at 29 schools in local communities.

In March 2019, the Company gave a workshop for fifth grade students at Toshima Municipal Nagasaki Elementary School in Tokyo. One student said, “It's amazing that the science we learn in the classroom becomes science and technology that is useful to our lives, helping people worldwide.”



An employee gives a lecture (Toray Industries, Inc.)

Local Environmental Preservation Activities

In addition to activities focused on preserving the natural environment around Toray Group production sites, employees also take part in river and coastline cleanup and tree planting campaigns in collaboration with municipalities, towns, villages, and non-profit organizations. The Group helps promote employee understanding of environmental and biodiversity issues by including talks by non-profit organizations in conjunction with these activities.



Mt. Fuji tree planting organized jointly by Toray labor and management



Toray employees clean up the shoreline in Tagonoura, Japan as part of the introductory training for new employees (Toray Industries, Inc.)



The Toray head office collaborates with the non-profit Arakawa Clean Aid Forum to clean up the shores of the Arakawa River, while educating participants about impacts on the global environment and ecosystems (Toray Industries, Inc.)



Environmental classes at a local middle school near its headquarters and plant in Tacoma, Washington, USA (Toray Composite Materials America, Inc.)



Employees plant mangroves to conserve a mangrove forest (Carbon Magic (Thailand) Co., Ltd.)



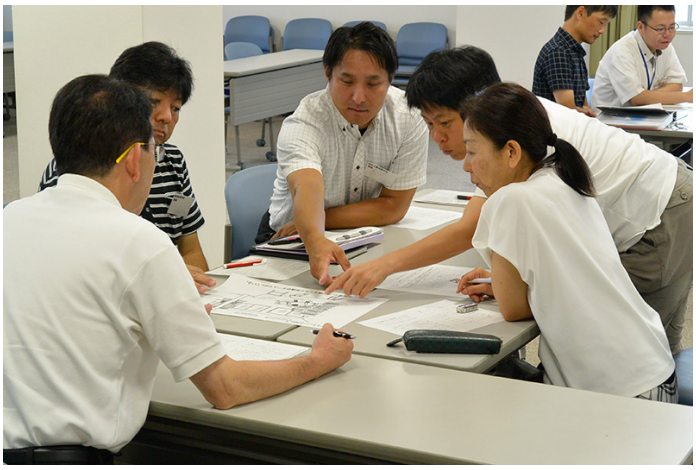
Coral reef conservation project at Yao Beach, Sattahip Province, Thailand (Toray Plastics Precision (Thailand) Co., Ltd.)



River bank conservation initiatives in Seoul, the Republic of Korea (Toray Advanced Materials Korea Inc.)

Promoting Communication Between Education and Business

As part of the Keizai Koho Center's Business Training for Japanese School Teachers program, Toray Industries has accepted around ten teachers each year in Shizuoka Prefecture since 1994. The participants learn about the Company's corporate philosophy and human resources development, and study research, production, safety, and environmental conservation at Toray Industries' Mishima Plant, as well as visiting the production floor. One participant said, "I learned about the efforts of a private sector company, which will make a big difference in the instruction that I provide to students." Complimentary feedback like this indicates that participants are using what they learn in this program in their classrooms.



Hazard-prediction training at Mishima Plant (Toray Industries, Inc.)

Ongoing Support in Areas Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake

Toray Group continues to provide support for areas affected by disaster through initiatives that make the most of its own resources.

Vocational Research Support for Junior High School Students (Toray Industries)

Since 2012, Toray Industries has sent researchers each year to Career Challenge Day[1], a career education event held in Ofunato City, Iwate Prefecture. Representatives from the Company speak with local junior high school students and explain the nature of the R&D work done at a manufacturer.

1 Career Challenge Day is an alternative program for the workplace experience education that was no longer possible after the Great East Japan Earthquake. In fiscal 2012, the program was awarded the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award.



Researcher from the Toray Pharmaceutical Research Laboratories gives a talk (July 2018)

Volleyball Clinic (Toray Industries Tohoku Branch, Toray Arrows)

Since 2013, the Tohoku Branch of Toray Industries has used volleyball as a means of providing support for local reconstruction efforts. In June 2018, ex-national team member Kana Oyama and other former players of the Toray Arrows volleyball team taught children at Tomigaya Elementary School in Tomigaya City and Akai-minami Elementary School in Higashi Matsushima City, Miyagi Prefecture about the joys of physical activity and teamwork.



Kana Oyama teaches class at Tomigaya Elementary School

Assisting Areas Devastated by Heavy Rains in July 2018

In July 2018, heavy rains caused devastation in parts of western Japan, particularly in Ehime Prefecture and Hiroshima Prefecture, which are home to some of the Company's plants and offices. Toray Industries provided financial aid to these areas and donated Toray Group products made from advanced materials to aid in their recovery. The items included tents made of SUMMER SHIELD™ fabric with heat, light, and ultraviolet shielding, LIVMOA™ protective clothing that offers dust protection and breathability, and gloves made from Kevlar® that have excellent strength and superior resistance to cutting and heat.



LIVMOA™ protective clothing offers excellent dust protection and breathability



Gloves made from Kevlar®

Note: Kevlar® is a registered trademark of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

Diverse Community Initiatives

Toray Group engages in diverse initiatives to build better communities, as a responsible corporate citizen that is committed to the advancement of communities.



Desks are donated to students at nearby elementary and junior high schools in collaboration with other Japanese companies in the Sri City Industrial Site in India. (Toray Industries (India) Private Limited)



Donating relief supplies and aid for victims of the Sulawesi earthquake in Indonesia (Penfabric Sdn. Berhad, Malaysia)

CSR Guidelines & Activity Reports - Social Contribution Activities

Health and Welfare

Priority Areas

Social Initiatives

Engaged in Life Innovation businesses, Toray Group works on initiatives to contribute to health maintenance and longevity. These activities include promoting sports, cancer screening, support for childhood development and welfare at Group worksites.

Promoting Sports and Childhood Development

In addition to helping to promote sports through athletic activity, Toray Industries, Inc. also contributes to childhood development through sports instruction and training camps.



Boys' kendo class sponsored by the Toray Kendo Club (Shiga Plant)



Toray Arrows volleyball clinics held across Japan



Boating Club members give instructions to local junior high school boating club.

Supporting Physical Education at Elementary Schools

Since 2015, former players of the Toray Arrows men’s and women's volleyball teams have visited elementary schools to provide support by teaching soft volleyball clinics in physical education classes. In fiscal 2018, the clinics were conducted at two schools in Tokyo, and Toray Group supported training programs for elementary school teachers.



Teaching during an elementary school physical education class



Helping provide practical physical education training for elementary school teachers

Promoting Sports Participation by Sponsoring the Shanghai International Marathon

Toray Industries, Inc. and Toray Industries (China) Co., Ltd. are helping to promote sports in China by sponsoring the Shanghai International Marathon. The 2018 edition of this brilliant and spectacular Shanghai event, the 23rd, attracted 38,000 participants.



2018 Shanghai International Marathon takes runners through the streets of Shanghai

Supporting the Pink Ribbon Campaign

The Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis Tournament provides support for the efforts of the Japan Ladies Tennis Federation (JLTF) to eradicate breast cancer. A booth is set up in the arena to sell Pink Ribbon badges, with the money raised donated to help supply breast cancer screening equipment. A mobile mammogram bus is parked at the venue and provides screenings to those who have signed up in advance. Participating tennis players are also actively involved in promoting the campaign.



Mobile mammogram bus

Supporting Fureai Trio Concerts

To support culture, education, and welfare, Toray Industries co-sponsors concerts by the Fureai Trio for persons with disabilities, with Toray Group employees helping to organize and run the concerts. The Trio performs Fureai Concerts at venues across Japan including elementary schools and social welfare facilities, bringing music to the people through music instruction, mini-concerts, and audience participation. In fiscal 2018, the Trio performed 16 concerts in six cities, which were enjoyed by more than 4,000 people including around 250 people in Ishikawa Prefecture and some 700 people in Tokyo. The volunteers gave directions to the venue and helped people to their seats, as well as helping interested audience members to try playing a violin or come up to the stage to try body percussion.



Fureai Trio Concerts held in November 2018

Charitable Activities at Group Companies Outside Japan

Toray Group companies outside Japan work with outside organizations to carry out a variety of charitable activities designed to provide solutions to issues that local communities face.



USA: Employees collect donations for the needy (Toray Composite Materials America, Inc.)



Malaysia: Collaboration with St. Nicholas' Home, a non-profit, non-governmental organization that serves the visually impaired (Toray Malaysia Systems Solution Sdn. Bhd.)



Republic of Korea: "Santa Claus of Love" initiative to give presents to needy children (Toray Advanced Materials Korea Inc.)