



Toyota Foundation International Grant Program

I attended the presentation ceremony for Toyota Foundation’s International Grant Program Fiscal 2015. It was a golden opportunity for communication and learning about various international projects. The ceremony opened with a speech by Ms Atsuko Toyama, President of the Foundation.

Grants were approved for a total of 15 projects, eight on the theme of “Aging society: key players for sustainable aging communities” and four on “Multicultural society: international migrations and diversified communities”. Three others were selected for forum grants.



Previously available only to Japan and four Southeast Asian countries, grant eligibility has been expanded this year to 18 countries and regions in East and Southeast Asia." This should lead to broader international communications. Prior to the award ceremony, some of the past winners made presentations.

For a joint project by Saku City (Nagano Prefecture) and Saen Suk (Chonburi Province, Thailand), Professor Yoshiko Tsukada of Saku University presented on the introduction of care for the elderly in Saen Suk. Their efforts have developed the skills and awareness of local caretakers; understanding among local people of the importance of healthcare data was the key to their success.



Ms Shizuyo Yoshitomi, Head Representative of the World Kids Community, explained the importance of Japanese language education for second-generation immigrants living in immigrant communities. She emphasized the effectiveness of bilingual education in Japanese and the native language. Notably, she commented that respect for children’s mother tongue plays an important role in their Japanese learning and personality development.

At the Toyota Foundation, program officers take an active role in ensuring that beneficiary projects achieve the intended objectives. I look forward to their future achievements.