



Call for applications 2023: 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 2023 from groups and individuals in Asia pursuing “Citizen Science”. The deadline for submission of applications for this round is **5 September, 2022**.

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.

About Takagi Fund

The Takagi Fund was established in 2001 following the last will and testament of Jinzaburo TAKAGI (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 cultivating Citizen Science.

Grant Categories

Research Grants	To support research projects by individuals or groups that benefit Citizen Science as described below.	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	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.

What is “Citizen Science” as requested by the Takagi Fund?

Citizen Science may often be defined as crowd science or participatory science, because of the structured way for volunteers to assist professional scientists collect or explore huge data sets. Takagi’s concept of “Citizen Science”, however, has more profound perception. It came from his deep concern that present-day science and technology are generating and growing threats to life and the environment, and therefore to the human society as well. It was also his concern that conventional scientists and researchers lack a sense of social responsibility, failing to take 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.”*

Eligibility

This grant is for individuals or groups from Asian countries and regions who pursue “Citizen Science” as requested by the Takagi Fund. For individuals or groups in Japan, please visit <http://www.takagifund.org/apply/index.html>.

Evaluation Criteria

A proposal will be considered positive if some or all the following criteria is met.

- It tackles urgent issues in which science and technology are threatening civil society and environment, and related policy issues.
- It contributes to enhancing human rights, human security, conservation of nature, alternative economy and peace for all citizens without exclusion of the most disadvantaged.
- It has imagination and conceptual power, backed by expertise and appropriate methodology, with planning and budget adequately designed.
- It has a clear and practical vision of how to apply the findings to society or to calling for policy changes.
- It deals with issues for which the Japanese government and/or corporations are partly or fully responsible.

What we may not fund

- Project which allocates its budget mainly to outsourcing to other researchers.
- Project which allocates its budget mostly to administrative costs, salaries and campaigns.
- Project submitted by a large group or a well-established institution that has proper funding sources. In this regard, public entities such as governmental agencies, research institutes and universities are barely eligible. Also, major International NGOs with well-established financial basis are unlikely to be granted by the Takagi Fund.
- Project which does not clearly aim at resisting social/environmental threats or struggling for environmental justice. In this regard, we are not keen to fund academic pursuits without much social/environmental justice orientation, mere public awareness activities, development of environmentally friendly products/services, etc.

Grant Amounts

Maximum grant amount per application this year is US\$5,000. The total grant for the year 2023 is JP¥ 2,000,000, roughly equivalent to US \$15,000 (at August 2022 rate).

Term of support

The basic term of support is for one year (January to December, 2023) after the grant agreement. Applicants who wish to apply for a shorter or longer term should consult the Takagi Fund Secretariat before submitting the proposal. All grantees are required to submit an interim report and a final report with an accounting statement.

How to Apply

Please read through this application guideline and visit our website and if you feel your project fits within our funding policy, please download the form from <http://www.takagifund.org/e/apply/application.html>. After completing the form, please submit an application form to the email below. Please make sure that the proposal must be no longer than 16 pages and the maximum file size is 5 MB.

The submission deadline for this round of applications is **5 September 2022 23:59 (in Japan time, GMT +9)**. Please contact the secretariat if you do not receive the acknowledgment of receipt from the secretariat within three days. Applications are referred to the Selection Committee for citizen-scientific as well as logistic reviews, and then decided on by the Board of Directors meeting of the Takagi Fund. The review process usually takes three months. For questions, inquiry or consultation about this program, please contact the secretariat at anytime.

Applications and Inquires to:

Satoko Shirai /Shoko Murakami, Secretariat, Asia Program Officer

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