



Recipients of the Fifth Nakasone Yasuhiro Award

Mr. Masahito WATANABE, MA
Award of Excellence

Born: February 6, 1975

Japan

Affiliation: Visiting Scholar

Sigur Center for Asian Studies, The George Washington University, Washington DC

Mr. Watanabe was involved in grassroots activities in the election campaign of a female US representative and contributed to the presence and political participation of an Asian American group. Upon his return to Japan he became a journalist. In the recent US presidential election, Mr. Watanabe analyzed the outreach efforts and accurately foresaw that the Democrat party would win the election. After the inauguration, he has closely observed the Obama administration and the complex relationship between various racial and religious groups in systematic research into the democratic process in the US.

Mr. Watanabe has conducted research and activities toward improving mutual understanding between Japan and the US which will form a foundation for peace and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region. We look forward to his continued work toward this effort.

Ms. Yuki TATSUMI, MA
Incentive Award

Born: February 15, 1971

Japan

Occupation: Senior Associate, East Asia Program

Henry L. Stimson Center, Washington DC

Ms. Tatsumi has had experience working at policy research institutes in the US and the Embassy of Japan through which she has developed exchange with US government agencies for her research in Japan-US relations. She has positively and clearly explained Japanese diplomacy and security matters including exercise of collective defense, UN peacekeeping activities, the relationship with neighboring countries of China and Korea and other Asian countries, and other issues in an endeavor to increase understanding of Japan. She has conducted research and activities to reduce misconceptions and portray accurate representation of Japan and Asia to eliminate discrimination and thereby contribute to peace and stability in the Asia Pacific region.

Mr. Tae-Hyo KIM, PhD
Incentive Award

Born: February 23, 1967

Republic of Korea

Occupation: Principal Secretary to the President for National Security Strategy

Office of the President, Blue House, Seoul, Korea

Dr. Kim has conducted political science research regarding the US and Japan as a foundation for his analysis of the reciprocal relationships between Korea and the US, Korea and Japan, and the US and Japan, and issues they face from each of their perspectives. He researched Northeast Asia from a realistic standpoint and offered recommendations for effective ways to foster a cooperative relationship to maintain peace and stability in the region. This award is meant to recognize his research and recommendations toward peace and stability in Asia to date and express expectations for future progress.

Mr. Fumihiko IMAMURA, PhD
Incentive Award

Born: September 24, 1961

Japan

Occupation: Professor, Tsunami Engineering Laboratory

Disaster Control Research Center, Tohoku University

Dr. Imamura has conducted research, education, and promoted further understanding of tsunami tidal waves both in Japan and internationally, and promoted the dissemination of technology and education. In particular, he actively worked for technological support to be provided after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and accepted students from affected areas to study such technologies as assessment of damage, reconstruction, and signal warning systems. This award is meant to recognize his activity to significantly advance efforts in analyzing and reducing disaster from a tsunami in the Asia Pacific region.