

Niwano Peace Prize (NPP)

Guidelines

Niwano Peace Foundation

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1. About the Niwano Peace Foundation (NPF) (General)

The Niwano Peace Foundation (NPF) was established in 1978 to promote the development of activities and research for peace based on the spirit of religious principles, and to contribute to world peace and human coexistence.

The late founder of Rissho Kosei-kai, Rev. Nikkyo Niwano, advocated the "Movement for the Creation of a Brighter Society" in Japan, and internationally Rissho Kosei-kai has been engaged in a series of activities for peace based on religious cooperation, such as the World Conference of Religions for Peace (WCRP) and the International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF).

However, in order to achieve peace, it is essential that humanity transcend the boundaries of specific religions, welcome the participation of many people from the religious world, as well as people active in various fields of society, and benefit from their collective wisdom. In December 2010, the Niwano Peace Foundation became a public interest incorporated foundation, and to achieve the objectives of the foundation, it operates the following activities.

Main Activities

- (1) Promotion of peace activities (promotion of activities and research for peace based on the spirit of religious principles)
 - Social surveys and data collection on activities conducted by religious and civic organizations.
 - Encourage and promote activities and research for peace based on the spirit of religious principles.
- (2) Awards (for those who have distinguished themselves in activities and research for peace based on the spirit of religious principles)
 - The Niwano Peace Prize
 - The Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award
- (3) Grants (for activities and research for peace based on the spirit of religious principles)
 - Activity grants
 - Non-Public Grants (NPF Program)

2. Two kinds of award programs: 'Niwano Peace Prize (NPP)' and 'Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA)'

The Niwano Peace Foundation operates two kinds of award, the 'Niwano Peace Prize' and the 'Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award'.

The objective of 'the awarding programs' of the Niwano Peace Foundation (NPF) is to honor individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to peace activities and research based on the spirit of religious principles, and to publicize their achievements globally through domestic and international media. Honoring such individuals and groups encourages people working for the creation of harmonious and peaceful societies and, ultimately, world peace, and contributes to enlarging the community of people engaged in similar activities. To achieve these objectives, the Niwano Peace Prize (NPP) and the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA) are awarded.

The first presentation ceremony of the Niwano Peace Prize (NPP) was held in 1983, and since then, the prize has been awarded yearly to a single person or one group. As of 2023, the prize has been awarded to 32 individuals and eight groups. The Niwano Peace Prize (NPP) is presented to individuals and organizations that have already made outstanding achievements in activities for peace based on the spirit of religious principles.

In addition to the NPP, the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA) was established to encourage the activities of individuals or organizations that are engaged in activities for peace based on the spirit of religious principles and are expected to make outstanding achievements in the future.

3. Outline of the Niwano Peace Prize (NPP)

The Foundation established the Niwano Peace Prize to honor and encourage those who are devoting themselves to interreligious cooperation in the cause of peace, and to make their achievements known as it is Foundation's hope that this prize will further promote interreligious cooperation for peace and lead to the emergence of ever more people devoting themselves to this cause.

Selection for the recipient is implemented by the Niwano Peace Prize Committee (NPPC) made up of religious leaders of international stature from among candidates nominated by religious leaders and other persons of intellectual stature around the world.

The recipient is awarded;

1. A certificate (Main prize)
2. A gold Medal
3. Monetary prize (20,000,000 yen)

The presentation ceremony is held in Tokyo in May.

4. Operating structure of the NPP

(a) Recommenders for the Niwano Peace Prize

Recommenders shall recommend individuals or organizations suitable for the Niwano Peace Prize. Recommenders shall be specialists in the fields of religion, academia, journalists, or activists for peace.

(b) Niwano Peace Prize Committee (NPPC)

The Niwano Peace Prize Committee (NPPC) shall select and choose the recipient of the award in accordance with the "Regulations of the Niwano Peace Prize Committee".

(d) Secretariat

A Secretariat for the award shall be established within the Niwano Peace Foundation to ensure the smooth operation of the award program.

5. Selection process (general overview)

The selection of the Niwano Peace Prize recipients will be based on recommendation by Recommenders, followed by a "First screening," a "Second screening," and lastly, a "Final selection" held by the Niwano Peace Prize Committee (NPPC).

Request recommenders to recommend a suitable candidate

Secretariat of the NPP sends requests to designated recommenders by E-mail and postal mail to recommend a suitable person or organization for the prize.



1st Screening

Members of the NPPC analyze recommendations, and nominate (by vote) three candidates from all recommendations, who/which are worthy of 2nd screening.



2nd Screening

Votes held at 1st screening by all members are tallied by the Secretariat, and the result is showed to the NPPC.

The members of the NPPC review the candidates chosen by vote at the 1st screening and choose from among them three candidates



Final Screening

Votes done at 2nd screening by all members are tallied by the Secretariat, and the result is showed to the NPPC.

The NPPC holds the General Assembly, and nominates the 'Prospective recipient'



Notification and confirmation of the Prospective recipient of the NPP

The Prospective recipient will be informed about the award and his/her/their willingness to accept the award will be confirmed by the Secretariat.



Formal Determination of prize recipient.

If the Prospective recipient agrees to accept the prize, they formally become the Recipient of the prize.

6. Notification of award to the recipient

An official letter will be mailed or directly hand-delivered to the recipient to notify them of the award.

7. Announcement of the recipient

The name of the recipient of the prize will be officially announced at a press conference organized by the Niwano Peace Foundation.

8. Award presentation ceremony

The presentation ceremony is held in Tokyo May. The recipient is awarded a main prize, and two others. The recipient delivers a commemorative speech following the presentation ceremony.

9. Remittance of prize money

The Niwano Peace Foundation will remit the prize money following the presentation ceremony.

Appendix

Selection criteria for the Niwano Peace Prize

Nominees may be;

- Individuals or organizations
- Any nationality or religion
- Any gender identity

Criteria;

A. Peace orientation

Nominee should be engaged in peace-oriented fields such as:

- Disarmament, conflict transformation, Arms control,
- Human rights, Rights of minority, Refugee assistance
- Rural development, Education, Spiritual advancement
- Social welfare, Medical care, Community health, Disaster relief
- Nurturing a culture of peace
- Environmental and ecological protection

※ Remark:

Ideally, nominees will exhibit a well-balanced combination of all the above.

B. Spirituality & religious faith

If an organization

- The majority of members conduct activities in a religious spirit
- The leader has an identifiable religious motivation

If an Individual

- Believes in: self-sacrifice, moderation, nonviolence
- Character: right conduct, consistency in words & deeds, and a modest life style

※ Note:

- > An attitude of religious tolerance is important.
- > Individuals should meet these criteria and need not be clergy.

C. Interreligious cooperation

- Solidarity with peace-oriented religious group(s) or ecumenical group(s)
 - a) Cooperation with other religious groups
 - b) Cooperation to achieve goals, regardless of partners' religious identity
- Links with inter-religious organizations such as Religions for Peace (Former World Conference on Religion and Peace

D. Quantitative/Qualitative activities

If an organization

- Quantitative: Scale, Durability, and Continuity
- Qualitative: Originality, Creativity, Future potential, Organizational cohesion

If an individual

- Quantitative: scale, potential for continuation
- Qualitative: Originality, Creativity, Future potential, Cohesion

Balance: Organizations and individuals engaged in activities that combine A, B, C & D above.

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