



PRESS RELEASE

The 1st Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

The Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA) has been newly established by the Niwano Peace Foundation (Honorary President: Nichiko Niwano, Chairperson: Hiroshi Niwano) this year, in addition to the Niwano Peace Prize (NPP).

The aspiration of the NPPVA is to honor and encourage individuals and promote the further development of organizations that, based on the spirit of religious principles, make outstanding achievements in the creation of activities for building peaceful and harmonious societies that, while still emergent, we believe possess an as-yet-unrecognized promise of future development. We seek to foster the potential of such activities for peace that are pioneering, experimental, rooted in the community, and address specific issues that are germane to the lives of community members.

We are pleased to announce that the 1st Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award will be presented to the following three individuals.



Mr. Ruki Fernando (Sri Lanka)
Human right activist

During the Sri Lankan Civil War, the longest civil war in Asia, Mr. Fernando served as the Asian Coordinator of the International Youth Christian Student Movement and is now a freelance human rights activist. In the field where ethnic (Sinhala and Tamil) and religious (Buddhist and Hindu) differences divide the majority and minority, enemy and ally, Mr. Fernando listens to the voiceless voice of Tamils, who tend to be regarded as the rebels and oppressed, and Muslims, who are marginalized by both the majority and minority groups, and works to provide relief and protect human rights. At the same time, he is committed to building networks to foster democracy and continues to assist in the search for missing persons who have been lost in the war.



Ms. Jennifer Liang (India)
The Action Northeast Trust (The Ant) , Co-Founder

In the Bodo region of western Assam in northeastern India, where ethnic and political conflicts have led to armed struggle, Ms. Liang founded The Action Northeast Trust (The Ant), a nonviolent organization dedicated to rural development, vocational training, women's rights protection and empowerment, as well as mental and physical care for people in violent environments. The Ant works for people in violent environments' physical and mental health care too. She has also trained and organized people to resolve conflicts, facilitated the acquisition of peace-building capacities, and created strong groundwork for peace in the region.



Ms. Alissa Qotrunnada Munawaroh Wahid (Indonesia)
Gusdurian Network (Jaringan Gusdurian) , National Director

Ms. Alissa Wahid was born as the eldest daughter of the late President Wahid, the fourth President of Indonesia. She established the Gusdulian Network to inherit her father's legacy and to spread "pluralistic Islam" and "Islam of tolerance" in Indonesian society. She has embodied Islamic humanitarianism in her social activism and developed it into a nationwide movement by defending the rights of Muslim minorities subjected to prejudice and oppression by domestic extremists and by working to support farmers whose lands have been taken by corporations and whose living environment has been destroyed.

The 1st Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

Main prize:	Certificate of merit
Supplementary prize:	2,000,000 Japanese Yen
Presentation:	It will be conducted in the latter half of September 2022, visiting the areas where the recipients are active. The result will be posted on the Foundation's official website around mid-October.
Official Announcement:	16 September 2022
Contact:	Secretariat of the NPPVA in the Niwano Peace Foundation nppva@npf.or.jp
Details of the NPPVA	https://www.npf.or.jp/english/award_programs