

Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

Guideline

(Revised February 2022)



1 About the Niwano Peace Foundation (NPF)

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 (Newly launched)
- (3) Grants (for activities and research for peace based on the spirit of religious principles)
 - Activity grants
 - Non-Public Grants (NPF Program)

2 'Niwano Peace Prize' and 'Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award'

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 2021, the prize has been awarded to 30 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, this year, 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.

The objective of 'The Awarding program' 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 and the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award are awarded.

Note: The 'Niwano Peace Prize (NPP)' and the 'Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA)' are independent projects with their own objectives and aspirations.

Aspirations of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA)

The aspiration of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award 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.

To further clarify, our concept of activities stated above indicates relatively small-scale activities planned by gathering new ideas and suggestions from people's daily lives for the purpose of solving social problems. The activity should also obtain the approval, agreement, support, and participation from the community, and produce concrete short-term results. In addition, the individual or groups undertaking the activities should maintain openness and flexibility, in which the results and issues are made public and people's criticisms and constructive opinions are accepted. The achievements of the individual or organizations engaged in such activities will be recognized based on the extent to which said activities have social ramifications that contribute to the well-being of people and the building of a peaceful society, such as leading to the planning and formulation of specific institutions and policies in the medium to long term.

3. **Outline of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA)**

The Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA) is given to individuals or organizations that have made achievements in promising new, pioneering and experimental activities for building a peaceful and harmonious society by addressing specific issues germane to the lives of community members. The Niwano Peace Foundation confers this award to encourage the further development of the activities of such individuals and groups who are deeply connected to their communities by their activities and research for peace that are based on the spirit of religious principles.

Recipients are selected annually through a prescribed selection process.

First, Recommenders are asked to recommend suitable persons or organizations.

The Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award Committee (NPPVAC) selects up to three recipients each year based on prescribed selection criteria, in principle by reviewing submitted documents and holding several selection meetings.

Recipients will be presented with a certificate and prize money (2,000,000 Japanese Yen). In addition to attending the presentation ceremony, recipients will also give lectures or participate in symposiums sponsored by the Niwano Peace Foundation.

4. **Operating structure**

(a) Recommenders for the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

Recommenders shall recommend individuals or organizations suitable for the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award. Recommenders shall be experts in Japan and from abroad.

(b) Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award Committee (NPPVAC)

The Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award Committee (NPPVAC) shall select and choose the recipients of the Visionary Award in accordance with the "Regulations of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award Committee".

(c) Designated Award Committee cooperating partners of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

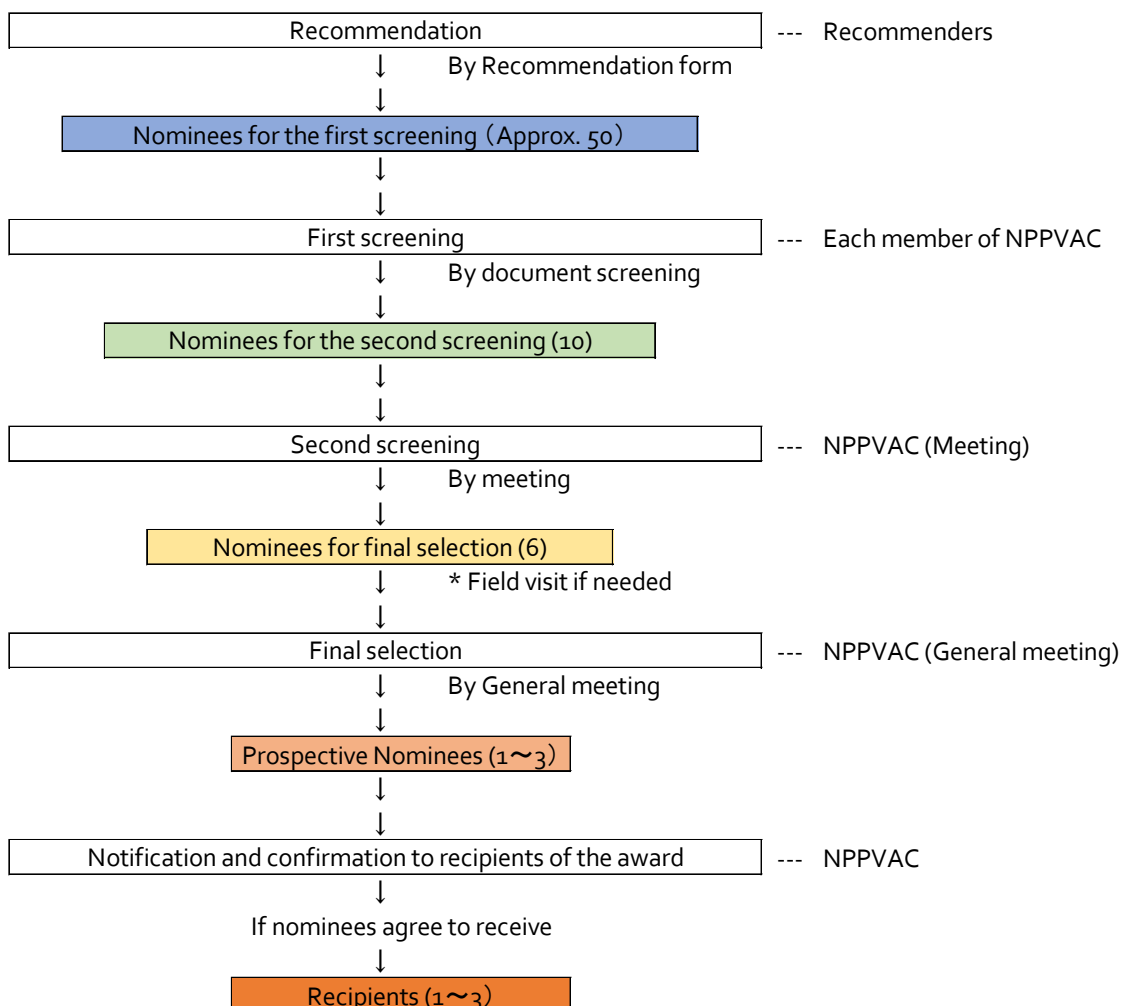
When the NPPVAC needs more detailed and practical information about a candidate, the Committee may request outside experts, specialists, activists, etc. to act as Designated Award Committee cooperating partners to visit or meet the candidate to gain additional information.

(d) Secretariat

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

5. Selection process (general overview)

The selection of the Visionary Award recipients will be based on recommendation by Recommenders, and then a "First screening" and "Second screening" based on document review as well as the "Final selection" held by the NPPVAC.



6. Selection process (in detail)

(a) Request for recommendation

The Secretariat at NPF shall through a formal letter officially request Recommenders to recommend a suitable individual or organization for the award.

(b) Recommendation of 'Nominees for the first screening.'

Recommenders shall recommend suitable individuals or organizations based on the "Selection Criteria for the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award". Each recommender may recommend one suitable person or organization. Recommendation should be made by completing the prescribed form "Recommendation Form for the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award" and submitting it to the Secretariat.

Recommended persons or organizations are called 'Nominees for the first screening.'

(c) The Secretariat will prepare a list of Nominees for the first screening.

The Secretariat will prepare a list of Nominees for the first screening and confirm eligibility using the selection criteria for the award. Inappropriate recommendations will also be eliminated.

The Secretariat will then share the list of nominees for the first screening and all recommendation forms with each member of the NPPVAC.

(The nominees on this list will remain eligible for consideration for three years with the year of initial nomination counting as the first year and will be removed from the list on the fourth year following initial nomination.)

(d) First screening (Select 'Nominees for second screening')

Each member of the NPPVAC shall review the Nominees for first screening and select two candidates. Members complete the prescribed "Nomination Form" with the reasons for their decisions and return it to the Secretariat.

The nominees selected in this First screening are called "Nominees for second screening". The Secretariat will compile a list including explanations for nomination and share those with the members of the NPPVAC.

(e) Second screening (Select 'Nominees for final selection')

The NPPVAC will hold a "Second screening" to select six 'Nominees for the Visionary Award' finalists. (The meeting may include the use of video conferencing and other communication technologies).

(f) Information collection by Designated Award Committee cooperating partners (as appropriate based on request by the NPPVAC)

If it becomes necessary to collect further information regarding the six nominees for final selection, the Designated Award Committee cooperating partners will conduct web-based interviews or field visits upon request by the NPPVAC.

The selection of Designated Award Committee cooperating partners will be made by the NPPVAC and the Secretariat.

After conducting information collection, the cooperating partners will record the results of their survey in the prescribed "Survey Report" and submit it to the Secretariat. The Secretariat will share the report with the NPPVAC.

(g) Final selection (selection of 'Prospective Nominees of the NPPVA)

The NPPVAC will hold a General meeting (Final selection meeting) to select the Prospective Nominees for the NPPVA. One or as many as three will be selected by the meeting.

(h) Notification and confirmation of the Prospective recipient(s) of the NPPVA

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

(i) Formal Determination of Visionary Awards Recipients.

If the Prospective recipient(s) agrees to accept the Visionary Award, they formally become the Recipients of the Awards.

7. Notification of award to recipients

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

8. Announcement of recipients

The names of the recipients of the Visionary Award will be officially announced at a press conference organized by the Niwano Peace Foundation.

9. Award presentation ceremony

A Visionary Award presentation ceremony will be held. The presentation ceremony will occur on a separate date from the presentation ceremony for the Niwano Peace Prize. In principle, the Visionary Award ceremony will be held approximately 7 to 14 days after the presentation ceremony of the Niwano Peace Prize.

1 0. Remittance of prize money

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

1 1. Dialogue and Exchange program with citizens (Draft)

During the recipients' stay in Japan for the presentation ceremony, the Niwano Peace Foundation will hold events to facilitate dialogue and exchange between the recipients and people from various fields working for peace in Japan, especially in local areas.

1 2 . Annual schedule

Recommendation requests

September	The Secretariat requests Recommenders for recommendations.
October	Recommenders submit their recommendation for 'Nominees for First screening' The Secretariat evaluates received recommendations and shares those with NPPVAC.

First screening

December [Early]	Start First screening (NPPVAC implements the First screening)
January [Early]	Complete First screening (NPPVAC proposes 'Nominees for Second screening' to the committee).

Second screening

January [Middle]	NPPVAC holds the 'Second screening' meeting. Selects 'Prospective Nominees.' (Collection of detailed information on finalists by the Designated Award Committee cooperating partners, if NPPVAC requires)
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Final selection

May [Early]	General meeting of the NPPVAC. Selects the Prospective recipient(s) of the award. Notification and confirmation from Prospective recipient(s).
May [Middle]	Final determination of Recipient(s).

Announcement of the award(s)

September	Official press announcement
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Presentation ceremony

October	Presentation ceremony of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Awards
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Note:

The annual schedule has been revised in February 2022 from the original schedule.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE NIWANO PEACE PRIZE VISIONARY AWARD

To achieve the objectives and aspirations of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA), the following criteria shall be used in the selection of award recipients.

- (1) Individuals or organizations that are rooted in the local community and based on the spirit of religious principles address concrete issues related to lives of community members.
- (2) Individuals or organizations that have attained achievements in promising new pioneering and experimental activities for the purpose of building a peaceful and harmonious society.
- (3) Recipients must be practically engaged in the activity at the time of the award and expect to continue the same kind of activity after receiving the award.
- (4) Recipients should have cooperative relationships with government administrations, civic organizations, and individuals or organizations working for peace.
- (5) The activities must not be aimed directly or indirectly at benefitting any particular religious sect, particular ideology, particular policy, or particular political party or organization.
- (6) The activities for peace based on the spirit of religious principles have the approval, agreement, and support of the local people, and can be passed down from generation to generation.
- (7) The activity has been introduced in the media.
- (8) In societies where prejudice against religion exists, the activity promotes the acceptance of religion and religious cooperation.
- (9) The scope of the activity also spiritually uplifts people.
- (10) There are no restrictions on a recipient's nationality or gender.
- (11) There are no restrictions on the location of the activity.
- (12) Self-nominations are not eligible.

- Aspiration of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award (NPPVA) -

The aspiration of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award 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. We seek to honor and encourage activities 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.

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