

akira  
foundation  
japan



2010  
SOCIAL INNOVATION SCHOLARSHIP





**SIS Fellows 2009**

### What is the Akira Foundation Japan?

The Akira Foundation Japan (AFJ) is a charity, named after and in honor of our late father, Akira Yokoi. Established in December 11, 2009, the charity is non-religious and non-political and fosters a meaningful ecosystem for social change between Japan and the world.

### What are our aims? – 3 pillars

AFJ aims to fill an alarming gap which we have observed between the social entrepreneurship and innovation in other nations and in Japan. Our projects and solutions center on: *social/economic issues, experiential learning, and foreign students* (3 pillars). These focuses are *mutually inclusive* and play integral parts in sustaining creative, collective and cooperative development in our global village.



### Core Message

- "Make it Personal"
- "Students as "Missionaries"
- "Live with and for Others"

### Framework

- Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Education and Experiential Learning
- Global Networking
- Community Development

### Where are we heading? – Positioning

AFJ currently undertakes a charitable project, called "*Social Innovation Scholarship (SIS)*," which provides financial support, networking opportunities and advice and information to foreign students who come for study in Japan from the developing worlds. AFJ operates this program with the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES).

Since its inception, AFJ has crossed several international organizations including, but not limited to: Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation, Architecture For Humanity, Grameen Foundation, MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Enterprise Forum, Tripoli Youth Forum, and TU Delft (Delft University of Technology).

"*Inclusive Society*" represents our core messages and we are relentlessly pursuing meaningful opportunities to embody the messages and live up to them, in a sustainable and interactive way.

### Our Late Father, Akira Yokoi

Akira Yokoi had nurtured and empowered our family during his remarkable life. He acted on the "Level 5 Leadership" and one of his hallmark feats, "the Kijan Project" in Indonesia (in 1970' s at Toyota Motor Corporation), presented his most personal challenge.

But it also demonstrated what one person could do to advance interweaving societal values with economic development in an emerging part of our world.



- Prior to his death, he was awarded the Ranju-hosho (the Medal with a Blue Ribbon) from the Emperor of Japan in honor of his lifetime achievements.



## Activities (SIS)

- Social Innovation Scholarship (SIS), Japan
  - Launched in August 2009
  - 6 foreign students (PhD/Master) awarded
- The Study Group of the Asia Pacific Institute (API), Japan
  - Tasmia Persoob, an SIS Alumni, presented her current research, "Identity and Human Rights."
- First Luncheon Gathering, Japan
  - Hosted it for our fellows at Happo-en in 2009
  - Aimed to create a meaningful platform to share perspectives together beyond their own silos

## People

- SIS Fellows
  - Awardees at the Social Innovation Scholarship (SIS)
- SIS Alumni
  - Former awardees who reinforce the relationship
- Supporters
  - Seniors, mentors and other professionals and social workers who voluntarily support AFJ's development
- Affiliated Networks
  - Abdul Latif Jameel Foundation
  - MIT(Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Enterprise Forum
  - TU Delft (Delft University of Technology)

## Activities (Others)

- First Tripoli International Half Marathon, Lebanon
  - Invited by Ms. Baria Daye, founder of Tripoli Youth Forum
  - Discussed some possibilities to join forces of a social tourism
- Architecture for Humanity, USA
  - Provided a financial support to the "Haiti Earthquake Rebuilding" program
- First Global Grameen Meeting, Germany
  - Hosted by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Creative Lab
  - Participated there through the association with Abdul Latif Jameel Group

## Social Innovation Scholarship (SIS) Application Guide

Each year, Akira Foundation Japan (AFJ) awards both annual and one-time scholarships to international students who research at a master or doctoral level, and believe to "make a difference" by addressing social issues no matter what kind of challenge and wall face them. We expect their value-driven action researches would be conducive to filling an alarming gap which we have observed between the social entrepreneurship and innovation in other nations and in Japan, not to mention to eradicating any social issues which remain rampant.

If you wish to apply this scholarship program, please contact our partner organization, Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (JEES). You will need to submit the application form along with any supporting documents if necessary.

### Qualifications:

- Take any graduate courses in designated Japanese universities
- Originated from the following developing worlds: Asia, Latin America, Middle East and Africa
- Not selected to receive any other scholarships before applying
- Match your area of research to, but not limited to: Economic Development, Health/Sanitation, Environment, Education/Learning, Civic Participation, Social Justice
- Demonstrate your approach and action are unique, innovative and systemic
- Scholarship Amount: 80,000 yen per month (annual); 200,000 yen (one-time)
- Number of Awards: Limited



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This information in this leaflet is based on the "Application to the 2nd SIS 2010" and is subject to change. For updated information, please email at [info@akira-foundation.org](mailto:info@akira-foundation.org) or visit <http://akira-foundation.org>.