



HE Yasuo Fukuda Receives the 4th Asia Cosmopolitan Award



From Left: Mr Shogo Arai (Governor of Nara), Ms Mieko Noguchi, Mr Toshiyuki Inoko (President of teamLab), HE Yasuo Fukuda, Prof Richard E. Baldwin, Mr Fuadi Pitsuwan, Prof Hidetoshi Nishimura (President of ERIA)

Nara—10 January 2019: Former Prime Minister of Japan HE Yasuo Fukuda received the Grand Prize of the 4th Asia Cosmopolitan Awards (ACA) this afternoon in recognition of his contributions and his leadership with a focus on diplomacy toward Asia to ensure specific actions are taken to achieve ASEAN’s economic integration.

In his acceptance speech, Yasuo Fukuda said, ‘The world has been paying attention to the recent stable development of Asia. I am pleased to be a member of Asia, and at the same time, I think that it is a great mission for Japan to build a relationship to cooperate with the development of the Asian region in the future.’

The award ceremony, held at Nara Kasugano International Forum IRAKA, Noh Theatre, was attended by 400 participants including diplomats. Secretary General of ASEAN, HE Dato Lim Jock Hoi, played a role in introducing Yasuo Fukuda and his speech.

‘In Southeast Asia, when I served as Prime Minister, I decided to open the Mission of Japan to ASEAN and establish an Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, and announced the establishment of The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), which are all based in Jakarta, Indonesia. I am looking forward to the activities of these organisations further contributing to the peace and prosperity of this region.’ Yasuo Fukuda added his comments in conclusion to the commemorative year marking the 45th anniversary of ASEAN–Japan relations.

The Economic and Social Science Prize was awarded to Richard E. Baldwin, Professor of International Economics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, for his work in the field of trade policy and economic integration, particularly his work on the ‘third unbundling’. The Cultural Prizes were given to teamLab, Art Collective, and Ms Mieko Noguchi, a glass artist. Dr Surin Pitsuwan (1949–2017), Former Secretary-General of ASEAN received the Memorable Prize for his significant contributions to ASEAN’s development.

On accepting his award, Professor Richard E. Baldwin stressed the growth of the Asian region. 'The rapid rise of Asia of the last few decades is a truly wondrous, truly historic thing. Hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty and a new global middle class has been created. Even more wondrous is the fact that this economic progress has been accompanied by peaceful and increasingly deep cooperation among Asian nations', he said.

Mr Toshiyuki Inoko, President of teamLab, mentioned that all of their artworks are connected to form a single, continuous, borderless world. 'We hope to create the beauty of borderlessness and continuity, to blur the boundaries between the world and oneself, and to broaden people's values, even just a little', Mr Inoko said. 'While making art works', Ms Mieko Noguchi noted, 'I always imagine that people in the world can share their values beyond ethnicity and religion if they have viewpoints, "overviewing the world", which is one of my understandings of the world incorporated into my art works.'

And last but not least, Mr Fuadi Pitsuwan, on behalf of his father Dr Surin Pitsuwan, introduced his contribution. 'What I am working on is to establish a foundation in my father's name which I hope will continue the work that my father had done in a private capacity.'

This award aims to recognise on a biennial basis individuals(s) or organisation(s) that have made substantial and significant contributions to the development of a peaceful and stable East Asian Community, to narrow the development gaps in the region, as well as to establish sustainable social growth towards cultural and economic integration within the region. 'The Asia Cosmopolitan award strives to become the East Asia Nobel Prize', commented Professor Hidetoshi Nishimura, President of the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

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◆ **Comment of HE Yasuo Fukuda**



“I am very honored to receive the Grand Prize of the Asia Cosmopolitan Awards. It is true that Japan and Asia have been inseparable from the prewar, postwar period of the World War II and historical circumstances. The world has been paying attention to the recent stable development of Asia. I am pleased to be a member of the Asia, and at the same time, I think that it is a great mission for Japan to build a relationship to cooperate with the development of Asian region in the future. In Southeast Asia, when I served as Prime Minister, I decided the opening of the Mission of Japan to ASEAN and the establishment of Ambassador of Japan to ASEAN, and announcing the establishment of The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), which are all based in Jakarta, Indonesia. I am looking forward to the activities of these organizations further contributing toward the peace and prosperity of this region.”

◆ **Comment of Professor Richard E. Baldwin**



“I feel lucky to have been selected for the Economic and Social Science award. This prize is an enormous honour for me. The rapid rise of Asia of the last few decades is a truly wonderful, truly historic thing. Hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty and a new global middle class has been created. Even more wonderful is the fact that this economic progress has been accompanied by peaceful and increasingly deep cooperation among Asian nations.”

◆ **Comment of Mr Toshiyuki Inoko, President of teamLab**



“Thank you all very much for your support. Since its establishment as an art collective in 2001, teamLab has been creating art using digital technology. In the “MORI Building DIGITAL ART MUSEUM: teamLab Borderless,” which opened in the summer of 2018 in Odaiba, Tokyo, all of the artworks are connected to form a single, continuous, borderless world. People become active participants in the art and physically explore that world. We hope to create the beauty of borderlessness and continuity, to blur the boundaries between the world and oneself, and to broaden people’s values, even just a little. As such, I am deeply honored that teamLab’s experiments have received such a prestigious award. Thank you again, and I look forward to your continued support.”

◆ **Comment of Ms Mieko Noguchi**



“ I am very honored and surprised to be given the Cultural Award of the Asia Cosmopolitan Awards to what I have continued with excitement so far. To my mind, my works are recognized in terms of both art works and art events which have been held more than 10 times in Indonesia. So I will be happy if this award is granted not only to me but also collaborative members who have set up charity events together with me. Since I feel that the award given to me this time would include expectations toward my further efforts, I would like to engage future activities to meet such expectations. I have engaged art activities by borrowing the power of beautiful and transparent glass materials. While making art works, I always imagine that people in the world can share their values beyond ethnicity and religion if they have viewpoints, “overviewing the world”, which is one of my understanding of the world incorporated into my art works. It is not until both art works and environments are embodied that we imagine the world. I am glad to share the wonderful future image with you through my art works.”

◆ **Comment of Mr Fuadi Pitsuwan**



“ I would like to express sincere gratitude from the Pitsuwan family to the Nara Prefecture and ERIA and extend my congratulations to other recipients. My father would have been delighted by this award. It is a recognition of his life long commitment and passion to work towards a better world. My father knew his work would never finish. But he saw his commitment towards international cooperation, towards less contentious international system, towards the liberal world order as a necessary calling to protect and promote human dignity. My father is not around to appreciate this recognition, but he has passed on at a time when my intellectual growth has reached a point where I realise my privilege and I'm ready to contribute. I recognise that my father was a giant figure in Asian diplomacy and it would be difficult for me to measure up to him. I'm hoping to find my own way to contribute and one of the initiatives I'm working on is to establish a foundation under my father's name which I hope for it to continue the work that my father had done in a private capacity. The Foundation will need to raise endowment fund for the next few years and its programs will focus on 3 areas that my father was passionate about: Education, Conflict Resolutions and Human Security within Southeast Asia. Thank you again to the Nara Prefecture, ERIA and all of the sponsors for recognising my father's lifetime contributions.”

For more information:

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