



**THE SUMITOMO FOUNDATION  
FISCAL 2023 GRANT FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PROJECTS**

**Application Guide**

The Sumitomo Foundation (hereafter “Foundation”) offers this grant program to promote the resolution or improvement of any environmental issue, one of the most critical issues that humankind faces on the earth in accordance with the following terms and conditions.

**I. Eligible Research Projects**

**1. Research Category**

**(1) General Research**

Any research project, mainly in the field of social sciences, humanities, or natural science that is related to environmental issues.

Notes:

- Researches related to earthquake disaster such as the Great East Japan Earthquake and to nuclear accidents such as radioactive contamination are welcome.

**(2) Special Subject Research**

Any research project, the object of which matches the research subject designated by Foundation set forth herein.

Research Subject for this fiscal year

“Interdisciplinary research and/or international collaborative research to address the environmental problems under the challenging situation”

In addition to continued COVID-19 pandemic, we are facing further challenging situation which includes food and energy supply crisis caused by territorial expansion action and natural disasters more frequently occurred by unusual climate changes. Approaches from different perspectives are required for the solution of environmental problems. For examples, conducts such as re-use and sharing regarded as environmentally friendly before have been reconsidered for infection prevention, which is producing excessive disposable plastics. Pandemic and digital transformation have heavily changed work style, making some companies remote work usual, which is creating new environmental issues such as the extravagant consumption of electricity by

using big data storage and super-computer, while it might reduce some transportation energy and air pollution. On the other hand, environmental problems are getting worsen and more complicated by combining global warming, air/marine pollution on a regional or global scale, environmental deterioration caused by microplastics and hazardous chemicals, shortage of waters, foods and energies, and uneven distribution of metallic elements like rare metals supporting high technology. Many subjects such as restoration of ecosystem, sustainable use of recycled resources and energies and achievement of SDGs toward the realization of decarbonized society, and realization of disaster-resistant safe society are left unsolved.

In this context, the Grant Program calls for creative and interdisciplinary research proposals which seek for the solution of environmental problems under the challenging situation based on the understanding of their structures from different perspectives. If it is a world-wide issue or an issue related to certain overseas area, internationally cooperative research is expected. The Grant Program also welcomes not only natural scientific approach but human/social scientific approach which explores the change of human conducts and socio-economic system, or combined approach.

Notes:

- Regardless of the explanation above, even basic or individual researches following the principle of the Research Subject are acceptable.
- Researches by young researchers are also eligible regardless of age or job title of the applicant.
- The following projects are not eligible:  
-Research projects for profit making or

those conceivably conducive to profit making.

- Contracted research projects for a third party.
- Research projects which have been already substantially completed.

## 2. Type of Research

Individual or Joint Research available.

## 3. Qualifications of Applicant

Anyone who falls under either (1) or (2) described below is qualified to apply.

- (1) Regardless of the nationality, anyone who belongs to a university, a college or a research institution in Japan with an approval from an authorized person representing the affiliation to apply for this grant program.
- (2) Anyone other than (1) above who has Japanese nationality or a permission for permanent residence in Japan.

Notes:

- The application forms must be prepared in either Japanese or English.
- But, in case of English application, its research subject should be written in Japanese as well as in English.
- “Contact Person” is the person whom the Foundation can contact for inquiry of the application when the Applicant is away from the office. For English application, designate the person whom the Foundation can contact in Japanese language.
- Any applicant who belongs to a university, a college or a research institution even outside Japan should also acquire an approval from an authorized person representing the affiliation to apply for this grant program.
- Anyone who belongs to a profit-making organization fully or even partially is not eligible to apply.

## 4. Applicable Expenses

Direct expenses for the proposed research that fall under the list of ‘Applicable Expenses’ on ‘Instruction Sheet for Application Form.’

Notes:

- The following expenses are not applicable:
  - Remuneration for services rendered by the applicant and/or his/her collaborator(s). (The term “collaborator(s)” here refers to any researcher(s) who carry (ies) out the proposed research in collaboration with the

applicant and be considered co-author(s) when the results of proposed research are published.)

- Administrative expenses of universities, colleges, research institutions, or other organizations to which the applicant belongs.
- Expenses for procurement of any instrument, apparatus or equipment for general use such as PC, Server, Printer, Fax and so on, except the ones including PC which are particularly needed for the proposed research.

## II. Outline of this Grant

### 1. Total budget for fiscal 2023

General Research ¥70,000,000  
Special Subject Research ¥30,000,000

Note:

- Total budget for Special Subject Research shows its max amount. Left over amount would be used for General Research.

### 2. Grant Amount for Each Project

General Research Max ¥5,000,000  
Special Subject Research  
Max¥10,000,000

### 3. Number of projects to be selected

General Research  
Approx. 40  
Special Subject Research  
Approx. 3

### 4. Duration of Grant

General Research  
One (1) year  
(November 2023-November 2024)  
Special Research  
Two (2) years  
(November 2023-November 2025)

Note:

- Both may be extended by 2 years maximum if required with a specific reason during the course of the project with Foundation’s prior permission.

### 5. Duties of Applicants (as Grantees)

- (1) The applicant is required to agree on and follow the provisions stipulated in Foundation’s standard “Agreement” (but in Japanese form only), once his/her application for the grant is approved by the Board of Directors of Foundation.
- (2) Written reports on research results and on a final accounting of funds spent shall be submitted to Foundation when the grant period has expired. The reports on

research results shall be posted on Foundation's website etc.

- (3) When a thesis or any similar document is to be published based on the results of proposed research, it is required to acknowledge Sumitomo's grant by clearly mentioning on such published material that the research was made possible by this grant from Foundation. One set of photocopies of the material needs to be submitted to Foundation.

### III. Selection and Approval of Eligible Projects

#### 1. Selection Process

Applications for this grant will be evaluated for selection by the Selection Committee of Foundation. The Board of Directors of Foundation, scheduled to meet in October 2023, will give the final approval to the selection of the projects eligible for this grant. Results of the selection will be notified to the applicants by e-mail.

#### 2. Selection Criteria

Selection shall put weight on the following perspectives;

- (1) Sociality
- (2) Feasibility
- (3) Originality
- (4) Interdisciplinary
- (5) Necessity

Notes:

- The amount of grant applied for may be reduced as a result of the evaluation by the Selection Committee.
- Foundation may not reply to any inquiries regarding the reasons for selection/rejection of the proposals.

### IV. Procedure for Application

#### 1. Documents and Steps

The Applicant should apply for this program through the website of the Foundation in Japanese or English. The Applicant should submit two application documents, (1) Application, (2) Approval from a research institution including university /college (if applicable). For details, please refer to "Procedure & Instruction for Application". Access to URL for the application is not available until the Commencement Date. Neither the application document nor other

material submitted shall be returned to the Applicant.

#### <Personal Information>

The personal information provided in the application is to be used strictly for the purposes of selection as well as notification of the results of evaluation to the applicants. The Applicants will be asked to show their consent on the website to the Foundation's policy of the protection of personal information. Please note, however, that the name of grantees (successful applicants), their affiliation, title, theme of research project and grant amount will be announced to the public in due course.

#### 2. Application Term

Commencement Date: April 15, 2023

Deadline Date : June 30, 2023

Japan Time(JST): 17:00

After the acceptance of application documents, the registration number will be notified to the Applicant by email. Unless the Applicant receives it within one day after the submission through the web-site, please inquire to the Foundation by email, or the Applicant would fail in the registration.

Please take note that even if the registration number has been assigned, the Foundation may cancel its registration of the application which does not comply with Application Guide and/or Procedure & Instruction for Application

Notes:

- The new subject for FY2024 Special Subject Research will be disclosed around October, 2023.

### V. Where to contact

Please contact the address below for any inquiries concerning the application.

#### **The Sumitomo Foundation**

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