

NEWS RELEASE

December 8, 2022

AEON 1% Club Foundation

11th AEON Eco-1 Grand Prix Final Evaluation Committee and Award Ceremony

Six Schools Awarded for Tackling Eco-Activities

in their Regional Communities

On December 3 (Saturday), 2022, the AEON 1% Club Foundation hosted an Award Ceremony for the Prime Minister's Prize and other awards that were decided at the Final Evaluation Committee of the AEON Eco-1 Grand Prix.

The AEON Eco-1 Grand Prix is a program in which high school students present the results of their everyday eco-activities, in order to offer young people, who will inherit the future of our planet, with an impetus to think about environmental issues and take action. The program was launched in 2012, with the aim of helping high school students across Japan to develop their communicative abilities and self-expression, by making presentations to the Evaluation Committee and listening to other schools' presentations.

This year, which marks the 11th hosting of the program, Mie Prefectural Akeno High School was selected, from among the outstanding entries received from schools nationwide, to be awarded with the Prime Minister's Prize (Dissemination & Education Category) for their work on replacing import-reliant pig feed with feed made using malt lees, a local waste product, thereby reducing the cost and greenhouse gases required for transportation. In addition, Ehime University Senior High School was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize (Research Technical & Category) for their experiments to convert microplastic, a form of marine pollution, into environmentally-friendly biodegradable plastic, achieving a reduction in the cost of raw materials.

The Foundation will continue to provide various opportunities for the young leaders of the next generation to carve out the future with their own hands and develop as human talent with advanced communicative skills.

## **Prize-winning Schools**

■Prime Minister's Prize (Dissemination & Education Category): Mie Prefectural Akeno High School (Mie Prefecture)

“Regional Vitalization through Eco Feed! Dissemination Activities for a Sustainable Livestock Raising Model”

■Prime Minister's Prize (Research & Technical Category): Ehime University Senior High School (Ehime Prefecture)

“Fact-finding Survey on Marine Microplastic Pollution, and Activities Toward a Solution”

■Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Prize (Dissemination & Education Category): Saga Prefectural Imari Jitsugyou High School (Saga Prefecture)

“Imari Food Project: Constructing an SDGs Model through Regional Initiatives”

■Minister of the Environment's Prize (Research & Technical Category): Aomori Prefectural Nakui Agricultural High School (Aomori Prefecture)

“Research on Management of Salinity Damage to Arid Land, and Activities to Control Red Soil Erosion in Okinawa”

■AEON 1% Club Foundation Prize (Dissemination & Education Category): Kagawa Prefectural Sanbonmatsu High School (Kagawa Prefecture)

“Start with What We Can Do by Ourselves, When We Can: Creating an Eco-Town through School Meals”

■Judges' Special Prize (Research & Technical Category): Nagasaki Prefectural Isahaya Agricultural High School (Nagasaki Prefecture)

“Solution for the Issue of Unutilized Bamboo: A Novel Fruiting Body Cultivation Method, and its Dissemination”

## **11th AEON Eco-1 Grand Prix: Summary**

Host: AEON 1% Club Foundation  
Cosponsors: The Mainichi Newspapers Co., Ltd., AEON Environmental Foundation  
Support: Cabinet Office, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology  
Eligibility for Class activities and school-approved club activities (extra-curricular clubs) at full-time/part-time senior high schools and technical colleges within Japan  
Entry:  
Categories of Entry: Dissemination & Education Category, Research & Technical Category

Supplementary Prizes:

Prime Minister's Prize, 2 Categories: 500,000 yen (each) as Activity Subsidy Grant

Minister of the Environment's Prize, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Prize: 400,000 yen (each) as Activity Subsidy Grant

AEON 1% Club Foundation Prize, Judges' Special Prize: 300,000 yen (each) as Activity Subsidy Grant



Students from Mie Prefectural Akeno High School making livestock feed using malt lees



Students from Ehime University Senior High School extracting biodegradable plastic raw material during an incubation experiment

# AEON 1% Club Foundation

## AEON 1% Club Foundation Projects

The AEON 1% Club Foundation is a Public Interest Incorporation that was established in 1990 in order to embody AEON's basic principles of pursuing peace, respecting humanity, and contributing to local communities. The major AEON Group companies donate 1% of their pre-tax profits, and the Foundation engages in social contribution activities such as projects that help to foster the sound development of the next generation of young people.



<b>Sound Development of the Next Generation</b>	<b>Promotion of Friendship with Foreign Countries</b>	<b>Sustainable Development of Regional Communities</b>
<p>The Foundation cultivates children's abilities to think independently about issues in their own regions, on environmental and social themes, while learning about societal rules. Furthermore, we support the building of new schools in countries that lack sufficient educational facilities.</p>	<p>We provide students with opportunities for international cultural and interpersonal exchange, and strengthen the bonds of friendship between Japan and various countries by deepening mutual understanding. In addition, we support the development of internationally-minded citizens through actions such as awarding scholarships to foreign students in Japan.</p>	<p>The Foundation supports the transmission of traditional events and culture firmly rooted in local regions, which needs to be passed down to the next generations, and works to foster new talent who will shoulder the responsibilities of such activities. In addition, we provide support for the revival and reconstruction of regions damaged by large-scale natural disasters.</p>