



OIST FOUNDATION IMPACT REPORT 2021

philanthropy . programs . people

31
webinars
and virtual events

2
new endowments
created

4
ambassadors
named

10
trustees
(up from 3 in 2019)

32
advisors and
growing

1
piano purchased
for OIST

皆様のご支援に感謝します。

In reflecting on the past year, we are struck by how much we have grown and how much we have accomplished, especially given that the OIST Foundation is only two years old.

In 2021, we welcomed new trustees, advisors, and ambassadors (subject-matter experts in fields relevant to our work). We raised more than \$400,000 in donations, pledges, and in-kind gifts, and established endowment funds for the first time. We offered programs that educated and engaged, deepening connections between the U.S. and Japan. We even helped to purchase a Steinway piano for OIST. More on all of this is detailed on the following pages in our first-ever impact report.

Our impact is largely thanks to you, our dedicated supporters and donors. Without your expertise, time, and financial investments, we could not fulfill our mission to support OIST's innovative global scientific breakthroughs, the sustainable development of Okinawa, and deeper U.S.-Japan relations.

You have also helped to elevate the Foundation's profile, bringing attention to our work, to our mission, and to OIST. Most notably, we were recognized in the 2020 Education Exchange Review Committee Final Report of the prestigious United States-Japan Conference on Cultural & Educational Interchange (CULCON) presented to former Prime Minister Suga. The report highlights OIST and the OIST Foundation for offering new types of student mobility between the U.S. and Japan: "The education offered at OIST is a starting point for a new form of U.S.-Japan technological relationship and shows promise as a new type of student mobility." The report goes on to say, "The establishment of the OIST Foundation in the U.S. is expected to create a new type of academic exchange between the U.S. and Japan."

An example of academic exchange we are particularly proud of was our participation in the 2021 SciPEP (Science Public Engagement Partnership) Conference where we shared our exemplary U.S.-Japan Science Webinar Series that engages the U.S. and Japanese public on the future of science. We are grateful for your help in making OIST a leader in science worldwide.

**Thank you for making so much possible for OIST
and the OIST Foundation in 2021.**



Takeshi Ueshima
Takeshi Ueshima
Chair

David P. Janes
David Janes
President & CEO



10th Anniversary Campaign Launches to Advance Knowledge and Benefit Humanity

In just ten years, OIST has become a world leader in exploration, discovery, and innovation. In celebration of this historic moment, OIST has launched a \$1 million campaign to fuel another decade of remarkable cross-disciplinary research and problem-solving. Under the guidance of a new campaign committee of the board, the 10th Anniversary Campaign began a “quiet phase” earlier in the year. Together with OIST, we raised more than \$500,000 as of September 2021, including new endowed funds and competitive grants. To learn more about OIST’s 10th anniversary celebrations and campaign, please visit anniversary.oist.jp.

New Endowments Support STEM and Honor Okinawan Families

Building bridges to the Okinawan community by providing science education to young people is a strategic priority for OIST. However, it is not supported by the Japanese government’s funding for the university, making outreach programs dependent upon private philanthropy. In previous years, the Foundation raised current-use funds for these programs and supported a staff position in this area. In 2021, donors created first endowment funds to support K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education.



Tsuruko and Matsuro Nakasone, 1953 ▲

The Matsuro and Tsuruko Nakasone Endowment Fund honors the memory of donor Robert “Bob” Nakasone’s parents, who were deeply committed to their children’s education and to their Okinawan heritage. The Fund fosters the development of elementary and middle school students with a particular focus on girls. When Bob created the fund, he expressed his hope that it would inspire others to do the same—and it did!



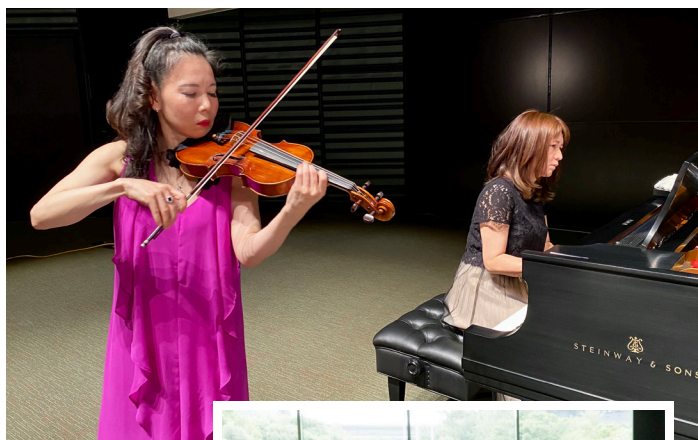
A HiSci Lab classroom ▲

An anonymous couple wanted to follow Bob’s lead to honor family and support education. The donors combined characters from their parents’ names to show the respect and gratitude they have for their parents. The Seishyoukou Endowment Fund will support STEM outreach that is focused on underserved youth in Okinawa. Okinawa is one of the poorest prefectures in Japan, and many young people live below the poverty line. Through the formation of this endowment, OIST will be able to begin focusing some of its efforts on working with K-12 students who are facing economic disadvantages.

Both funds will be invested for the long term and will grow over time so there is always sustainable funding for OIST’s educational outreach to Okinawa.

Major Grants Will Advance Climate and Environmental Programs

The OIST Foundation is honored to have been awarded prestigious grants from the U.S. Embassy Tokyo and the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. The Foundation’s ongoing programming around climate change and environmental conservation drew the attention of these funders who made the grants to continue work in this area. The U.S. Embassy grant will fund a training program for environmental entrepreneurs, while the Commission grant will support a Hawaii-Okinawa energy leadership program. Both programs will be active in 2022.



▲ Eiko Kano (violin) and Yuka Oyabu (piano)

▶ (L-R) Eiko Kano, Yo-Yo Ma, and Peter Gruss

88 Keys for OIST

OIST brings music to campus to enrich the quality of life for students, faculty, and the local community, as well as to explore connections between music and science. Yet, OIST has never owned a piano. Instead, when needed, OIST rented the only piano available on the entire island of Okinawa – a lower quality instrument.

In response to the need for a world-class piano to attract world-class performers to OIST, and with the leadership of OIST Foundation Music Ambassador Eiko Kano, we launched the 88 Keys Campaign earlier this year to raise funds to purchase a Model B Golden Era Steinway made in 1927 and restored by Japanese master Mr. Yu Takagi. Mr. Takagi was deeply inspired by the vision and determination of the campaign when he first heard about it from Ms. Kano. Out of his incredible generosity, he offered the piano at a wholesale price, less than a half the retail price. With a major donation of \$88,000 from the Ryuji Ueno Foundation and contributions from other supporters, the Foundation was able to obtain the piano and cover all associated costs including transportation and installing a dehumidification system in the OIST piano storage room.

The piano arrived at OIST on Monday, November 1, and the day was spent tuning and preparing the piano. The next morning, OIST President and CEO Peter Gruss and Ms. Kano were able to show the piano to cellist Yo-Yo Ma. That evening, a concert was held to celebrate the donation. Ms. Kano performed on violin with Ms. Yuka Oyabu at the piano.



▲ Dr. Rita R. Colwell

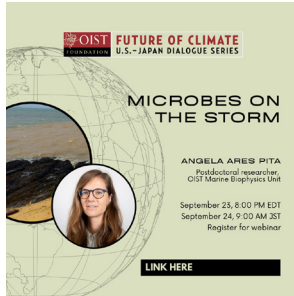
Leveling the Playing Field for Women

OIST is making investments in becoming a role model in gender diversity for Japanese and international educational institutions worldwide—particularly in the sciences. The Rita R. Colwell Impact Fund for the Advancement of Women in Science, created by the OIST Foundation and supported by numerous donors, will foster a culture of diversity and gender equality on campus, nurturing women and girls interested in science, and creating opportunities for women to advance their careers and become leaders in the field. Dr. Colwell is a member of OIST’s Board of Governors and the first woman director of the National Science Foundation. We plan to begin making grants from the fund in 2022 and look forward to sharing details of their impact.

“This fund will not only help more women to fulfill their aspirations as science leaders, but will also enhance OIST’s ability to serve as a model institute for gender diversity in the sciences in Okinawa, Japan, and beyond.”

Dr. Peter Gruss, OIST
President & CEO

PROGRAMS



A major part of the Foundation's work is programming that aligns with OIST's mission, that increasingly shines a spotlight on OIST's work, and that helps to cultivate a community of engaged and interested participants. We do this primarily through online educational events, and we were pleased in 2021 to have been able to venture into smaller in-person events with strict Covid protocols for the safety of all attendees.

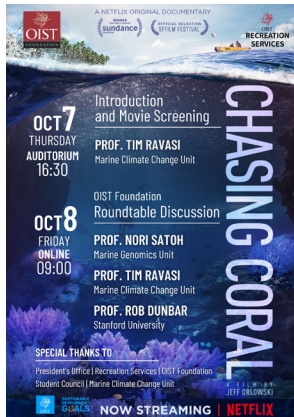
Webinars Bring OIST to the World

This year, the OIST Foundation offered more than 30 webinars. While some were produced entirely by the Foundation, others were created or sponsored in collaboration with nonprofit and academic partners.

All webinars are recorded and are available to the public at oistfoundation.org/webinars.

Highlights from the past year include:

The Future of Climate is an ongoing series on environmental conservation and climate change in the U.S. and Japan. The expert roundtable discussions have focused on coral reefs, hurricanes, climate innovation, and other relevant topics. These discussions aren't purely educational—they've also led to a potential partnership between OIST and The Nature Conservancy's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Laboratory at Palmyra Atoll. Together, the two organizations can support each other's mutual commitments to conservation and ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change.



The OIST Foundation and the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR) have formed a new virtual webinar series this year focused on climate and energy related issues. The PICHTR x OIST series has presented webinars on carbon-negative technology innovations and international approaches to climate change planning and adaptation.

The U.S.-Japan Science series focuses on topics and people of importance to both countries, such as astronomy, artificial intelligence, and the science of Covid-19. In February, the series featured Dr. Keshav Dani, associate professor and head of the Femtosecond Spectroscopy Unit at OIST. His recent groundbreaking research on dark excitons—invisible particles produced after photoexcitation—was published in *Science*, one of the leading scientific journals in the world.

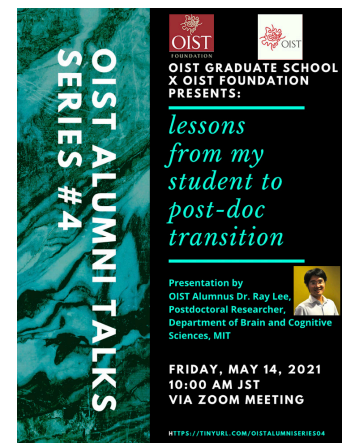
BY THE NUMBERS

- 7 Future of Climate
- 6 U.S.-Japan Science
- 5 Co-sponsored webinars
- 2 Art x Science
- 2 K-12 Outreach
- 1 Future of Education

As of October 31, 2021

Building Bridges Between OIST Alumni and Students

What's life like after graduating from OIST? Current students found out during our Alumni Talks events, held twice this year. At the first talk, in May, students heard from Dr. Ray Lee, who is now a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences at MIT. He shared lessons from his transition from student to postdoc. In July, Dr. Faisal Mahmood spoke with students about his journey from OIST to assistant professor at Harvard Medical School. Students have appreciated the first-hand, real-world insights from OIST graduates, and we plan to continue the series next year.



New Ambassadors Support Vital Foundation Initiatives

The OIST Foundation is honored that the following four individuals have agreed to serve as ambassadors between their respective fields and the OIST Foundation to drive strategic partnerships, and creative collaborations and ideas, and to assist in our content-rich programming.



As **Climate and Ocean** Ambassador, Dr. Robert Dunbar will focus on OIST's coral-related and climate-related research. Dr. Dunbar is the W.M. Keck Professor of Earth Science at Stanford University in California.



Education Ambassador Yuko Kakazu, Ph.D., astronomer and public outreach specialist for the Subaru Telescope in Hawaii, will lead webinars for young people in Okinawa and foster a new partnership between the U.S. Consulate Naha and the OIST Foundation.



Ms. Eiko Kano, violinist and concertmaster of Pegasus: The Orchestra in New York, is our **Music** Ambassador. She has been helping connect music and the arts to science and spearheaded the 88 Keys Campaign (see page 3).



Health Innovation Ambassador Dr. Hiroyuki Fujita has spent his life in health care, founded his own health innovation company, and is deeply engaged with the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio, one of the world's top health institutions.



OIST Foundation Honors Consul General Robert Koepcke

In June, the OIST Foundation presented a certificate of commendation to Robert Koepcke, the U.S. Consul General to Naha, in recognition of his “support for the mission of the OIST Foundation and for improving U.S.-Japan relations.” Consul General Koepcke has been instrumental in helping OIST make beneficial connections and strongly believes in the power of OIST to transform Okinawa. We are grateful for his friendship and dedication.

Future certificates of commendation will be awarded as merited by individuals and institutions that distinguish themselves in their support for OIST's mission and commitment to improving U.S.-Japan relations.



Jake Shimabukuro Joins Foundation Board

The OIST Foundation welcomed world-renowned ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro to our Advisory Board this year. Jake has joined the OIST Foundation's Education Committee that is chaired by Dr. Kakazu. With Okinawan roots and a dedication to many issues that resonate with the OIST Foundation's mission, Jake graced us with a private Zoom performance.



To learn more about the OIST Foundation's work and upcoming programs, visit oistfoundation.org or contact us at info@oistfoundation.org or 914-296-4260.