

Kyoto World Water Grand Prize 2027

Guidelines for Application

1. Objectives

The Kyoto World Water Grand Prize aims to recognize and promote outstanding, practical, and community-driven initiatives that address water-related challenges and contribute to sustainable water management, particularly in developing regions. Through recognizing and sharing such initiatives, the Prize aims to enhance the quality of grass-roots efforts and to highlight their importance on a global scale.

2. What is Kyoto World Water Grand Prize?

Established in 2003 by the City of Kyoto and the World Water Council to commemorate the 3rd World Water Forum held in Kyoto, Japan, the Prize has since been awarded every three years during the World Water Forum. The Prize is grounded in Kyoto's tradition of resilience, cultural exchange, and harmony between tradition and innovation. It is founded on the belief that initiatives aligned with local cultures and respectful of relationships with nature are essential for sustainable development.

3. Organizational Structure

- Co-organizers: Kyoto City, the Japan Water Forum, the World Water Council
- Sponsors: several organizations and companies
- Secretariat: Kyoto City and the Japan Water Forum

4. Award & Awarding Ceremony

- Prize Amount: JPY 2,000,000 (approximately USD 13,000, subject to exchange rates)

*The monetary award is intended to support the continuation or enhancement of the awarded initiative. The winning organization is expected to report, within one year after receiving the prize funds, on the activities carried out using the funds. The format of the report is flexible.

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- The Prize will be awarded at the opening or closing ceremony at the 11th World Water Forum, to be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in March, 2027.
- One representative of the winning organization will be invited to make an acceptance speech at the awarding ceremony.

5. Eligibility

- Non-profit, non-governmental, and locally led organizations based in a developing country*.
- Organizations whose activities are non-sectarian in nature and conducted independently
- Initiatives that demonstrate clear local ownership and are not primarily financed or controlled by external entities from developed countries.

*Countries and territories classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low Income Countries (LICs), Lower Middle Income Countries (LMICs), and Upper Middle Income Countries (UMICs) from among the OECD's DAC list.

<https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/topics/policy-sub-issues/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2025-flows.pdf>

6. Scope of Eligible Initiatives

Eligible initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Construction or repair of a water supply resource, such as a well and reservoir
- Installation of a small-scale water supply system
- Construction or repair of sanitation and hygiene facilities
- Maintenance/improvement of a water resource environment

7. Evaluation Criteria

- Eligible projects must have been completed between 2020 and 2024. If follow-up activities were conducted, they must have been implemented by 2025.
- The forms must be filled out in English. Forms or languages other than the designated ones will not be accepted.
- Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

8. Selection Process & Timeline (TBD)

- 1st and 2nd selection: June to September 2026
- Final selection: October to December 2026
- Results announcement: December 2026

9. Application Period

From March 31, 2026 to 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 12, 2026 (JST)

10. How to Apply

- Submit all materials online

» [https://form.jotform.com/Japan_Water_Forum/Kyoto-prize-2027]

- Fill in Application Form A, which includes basic information and an overview of your organization. You may also provide the name of a recommending person or organization, if any.
- Fill in Application Form B. First, choose one project implemented by your organization between 2020 and 2024. If follow-up activities were conducted, they must have been implemented by 2025. Provide all required information, including:
 1. An overview of the project
 2. Its relevance to the SDGs
 3. Efforts made to harmonize the project with local culture at the project location
 4. Changes observed in the area after implementation
 5. Photographs of the project (before, during, and after implementation)

11. Handling of Submissions and Personal Information

- Applicants retain the copyright to their submissions.
- Submitted materials may be used for publicity and communication purposes related to this Award.
- Personal information will not be used for any purposes other than contacting applicants regarding the selection process, inquiries, and notifications.

12. Contact

Secretariat of the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize

Email: kyoto-waterprize@waterforum.jp

(*Please replace [*] with "@" when sending the email.)

Website: <https://www.waterforum.jp/en/news/24239/>

List of Past Winners

Year	Edition	Organization	Country
2024	7th	Youth Sanitation Concern	Indonesia
2022	6th	Pragati	India
2018	5th	Charité Chrétienne pour Personnes en Détresse	Togo
2015	4th	Environment and Public Health Organization	Nepal
2012	3rd	Katosi Women Development Trust	Uganda
2009	2nd	Watershed Organization Trust	India
2006	1st	Gram Vikas	India

FAQ

Q: Can one organization apply multiple times?

A: Yes. However, please note that each project must be filled out in each application form.

Q: Can past applicants reapply?

A: Yes. However, the organization with the project, which won the prize before, will not be considered.