

The 20th Anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Kiso Motohiro
Award Fund Statement

Dear All,

First, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude towards all the donors and contributors that have helped support the Kiso Motohiro award.

January of next year (2015) will mark the 20-year anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake, as well as the 10-year anniversary of the Kiso Motohiro Award.

The Kiso Motohiro Award was created with the purpose of encouraging research and development in the field of rescue systems, where individuals under the age of 40 are recognized for their exceptional contributions towards the field. The award is in honor of Kiso Motohiro, a once 23-year-old Kobe University Master's Program student who died buried under the rubble of a collapsed building during the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Kiso was researching robotics and dreamt of being part of a team developing robots that would heal people. Through recognizing the achievements in the field of search and rescue or those that are related to saving people's lives, this award hopes to continue Kiso's legacy.

As part of the activities of the Specified Non-profit Organization International Rescue System, this award project commenced on January 17th, 2005 – the 10th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Awaji Earthquake. The award ceremony is hosted yearly by the organization, where winners are decided by a selection committee of experts from different academic and professional backgrounds, including engineering, medicine, psychology, etc. Hitherto, 9 individuals were selected for the Academic Achievement Award, 8 individuals for the Technical Achievement Award, 5 individuals for the Special Award (2 of which were non-Japanese), and a Special Award which was granted to an organization. From among the awardees were involved in the development and implementation of rescue robot systems used in disaster response during the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011. Therefore, we believe that this award serves as a true testimony of those that have contributed to the research and development of the field of rescue systems.

In addition, since 2009, we have been supporting several projects that are involved in developing disaster rescue response to help expand the network of researchers and technicians involved in rescue robotics and systems, which include the RoboCup Jr. IRS Award (for elementary and middle school students), the Rescue Robot Contest (for high school and university students), and The Study of Rescue Robotics Award (for undergraduate and graduate school students). Furthermore, this year we are

also presenting the Medical Achievement and Psychological Achievement Awards, which are meant to recognize the young doctors, nurses, psychologists, and researchers that have contributed to the field of emergency care and psychological care of patients.

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake of 2011, it became clear that earthquakes can lead to bigger scale disasters that require attentive rescue response ranging from tsunamis to nuclear accidents. These bigger problems will be passed on to the next generation, as seen through the decommission and cleanup after the Fukushima Nuclear Accident in 2011, which is predicted to take 30 to 40 years. Therefore, to restore and rebuild Japan, we think that it is crucial to support and encourage the younger generation.

We are able to continue these award projects thank to the donors who support our cause. Up until now (2014) we have collected 15,546,920 Japanese yen in donations. We have been raising funds since for the last twenty years, and now we have reached the 20th anniversary of the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the 10th anniversary of the Kiso Motohiro Award. The donations generously offered are incorporated into the organization fund and are used to further the purpose of this organization. Please join the list of donors that that is on the International Rescue System webpage and on the following page, and join us to support the future generation of innovators that will save lives.

We would kindly like to ask for your support to help further our cause.

International Rescue System

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(1) For those who would like to donate, please use the following payment information.

If you would like to donate, we would be grateful if you use a transfer form.

Individuals minimum of ¥5,000

Corporations minimum of ¥10,000

*please donate in multiples of 1,000.

(2) Wire Transfer Information:

We will start accepting payments starting April 15th, 2017.

Account Number: 00290-0-61912

Account Name: NPO 法人国際レスキューシステム研究機構

(3) Contact Information:

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