

*Hideyo Noguchi*

*Africa Prize*

Government of Japan

# What is the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize ?

## 1. Ideal and Objectives

The Government of Japan established the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize in July 2006 in memory of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi whose contribution to medical advancement and self-sacrificing activities in Africa remain a paragon of professionalism. Mindful of the ominous human suffering persisting in Africa, the region facing the most serious health challenges on the planet, the Prize aims to honor individuals with outstanding achievements in the fields of medical research and medical services to combat infectious and other diseases in Africa, thus contributing to the health and welfare of the African people and of all humankind.

## 2. Scope

- (1) Medical Research Category: Basic medical research / clinical medical research / research in all fields of the life science closely related to medicine
- (2) Medical Services Category: Field-level medical/ public health activities to combat diseases and advance public health

## 3. Eligibility

- Nominees shall be still living, but otherwise no distinction will be made based on nationality, age or gender. In the case of nominating an organization, it must be currently active.
- Medical Research Category: Nominations are in principle to be for one individual. In the case of joint research, however, a maximum of three individuals will be considered.
- Medical Services Category: Nominations are in principle to be one individual or one organization per activity. Under exceptional circumstances, however, when more than one individual or organization work as a team, a maximum of three individuals or organizations will be considered.

## 4. Frequency

The Prize is awarded to coincide with the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).  
First Award Ceremony: May 2008 (TICAD IV)                      Second Award Ceremony: June 2013 (TICAD V)  
Third Award Ceremony: August 2019 (TICAD 7)              Fourth Award Ceremony: August 2022 (TICAD 8)  
For the fifth Award, the laureates will be known on the occasion of TICAD 9, which is scheduled to be held in Japan in 2025.



### What is TICAD?

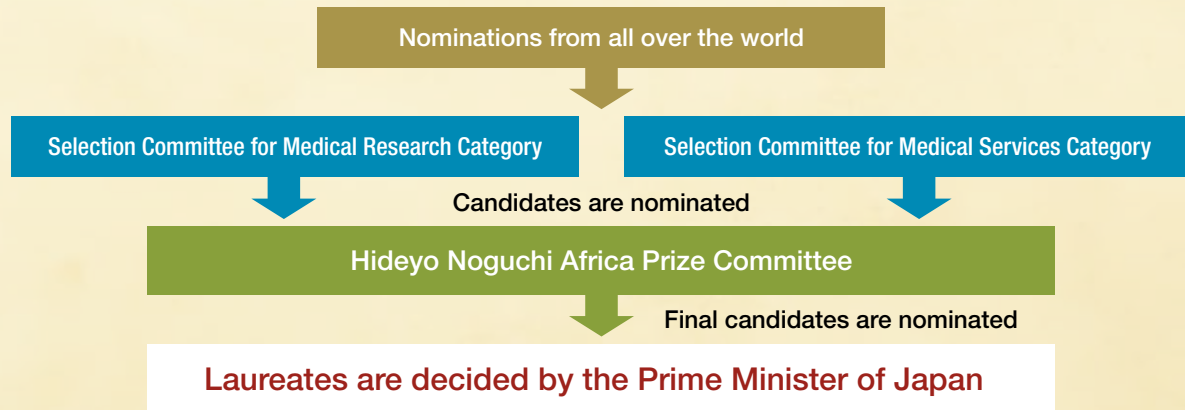
TICAD stands for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. It is an international conference on subjects related to African development. It began in 1993 on the initiative of Japan, and today is co-organized with the United Nations, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Union Commission (AUC), and the World Bank. The 8th TICAD was held in Tunisia in Africa on August 27-28, 2022.

## 5. Value of the Prize

- (1) At the award ceremony, the Prize is awarded in both the medical research and medical services categories, with a citation, medal and honorarium (100 million yen).
- (2) For the prize honorarium, in addition to the government fund, donations from both inside and outside Japan are invited.

## 6. Selection Process

In the selection process, a recommendation sub-committee for each field, consisting of experts, will narrow down the candidates to a field of three from among those who have received recommendations in Japan and overseas. From among these candidates, the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Committee will recommend the final candidates to the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Prime Minister decide the laureates.



### Dr. Hideyo Noguchi

Hideyo Noguchi (1876–1928) was a prominent Japanese bacteriologist in the early twentieth century. In spite of a physical handicap, burn on his left hand during his early childhood, he managed to obtain, through extraordinarily hard work, a license to practice medicine in Japan. He moved to the United States in 1900 to work with Prof. Simon Flexner at the University of Pennsylvania and in 1904 joined the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (now Rockefeller University). He made important studies of snake venoms, of smallpox and yellow-fever vaccines, and of the laboratory diagnosis of trachoma. One of his most important achievements of this period was the successful cultivation of pure Syphilis Spirochaeta in 1911 which brought him to world prominence.

After extensive travel throughout Central and South America researching on vaccines for such diseases as yellow fever, Oroya fever and poliomyelitis which threatened the lives of millions of people in those days, he eventually ventured into Africa to confirm his findings. He tried to demonstrate the hypothesis that yellow fever was caused by spirochete bacteria but in vain, because at that time the electron microscope to observe viruses had not been invented yet.

While working in Accra, Ghana, he was struck down by the yellow fever virus, his last words being “I don’t understand.” The grave of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi in Woodlawn Cemetery in New York, the United States, is inscribed with the following epitaph: “Through devotion to science, he lived and died for humanity.” In 2004, Dr. Noguchi became the first Japanese scientist to have his portrait printed on a Japanese banknote (1000-yen note).



Dr. Hideyo Noguchi in his lab at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (Photo: The Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Foundation)



The grave of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi in Woodlawn Cemetery (Photo: New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society, Inc. (HNMS))

# Laureates for the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize

## The First Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize (in 2008)

Titles are as of the time of Prize awarding.

### Medical Research Category

#### Dr. Brian Greenwood (United Kingdom)

Professor,  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Dr. Greenwood was awarded the Prize in recognition of his more than 30 years of multidisciplinary research and practical measures for combating infectious diseases including malaria in Africa. After receiving the prize, he helped establish the Africa London Nagasaki (ALN) scholarship in cooperation with Nagasaki University.

Through the fund, he has supported the education of outstanding young African scientists in the fields of infectious diseases, public health, and tropical medicine. Dr. Greenwood was presented with the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award in 2012.

### Medical Services Category

#### Prof. Miriam K. Were (Kenya)

Chairperson,  
National AIDS Control Council (NACC), Kenya



Prof. Were was awarded the Prize in recognition of her dedicated work to improve the health and welfare of people living in Africa, focused on community-based practical health care services. After receiving the prize, she has engaged in training community health workers, promoting care

for AIDS orphans, and providing training to young people, while making efforts to promote the Maternal and Child Health Handbook (originated in Japan) in Africa. In 2020, she was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.

## The Second Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize (in 2013)

Titles are as of the time of Prize awarding.

### Medical Research Category

#### Dr. Peter Piot (Belgium)

Director and Professor,  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine



Dr. Piot was awarded the Prize in recognition of his pivotal research on infectious diseases that affect people in numerous regions of Africa, particularly HIV/AIDS and Ebola.

After receiving the prize, he has used his honorarium to provide financial support to

students and researchers from Africa, and has also been involved in the Global Health Innovative Technology Fund (GHIT Fund) established in Japan. In 2018, he was awarded the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun.

### Medical Services Category

#### Dr. Alex G. Coutinho (Uganda)

Executive Director,  
Infectious Disease Institute, Makerere University



Dr. Coutinho was awarded the Prize in recognition of his pioneering work in Africa to increase opportunities to access treatment for people with HIV.

After receiving the prize, he has promoted efforts to provide better medical care to the people of Uganda. He occupies

several global health leadership roles and is a mentor to future global health leaders around the world.

Titles are as of the time of Prize awarding.

## The Third Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize (in 2019)

### Medical Research Category

#### **Dr. Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum** (Democratic Republic of the Congo)

General Director,  
National Institute of Biomedical Research (INRB)



Dr. Muyembe-Tamfum was awarded the Prize in recognition of his research to confront Ebola and other deadly viruses and efforts to train legions of disease-fighters.

After receiving the award, he was appointed to coordinate the national response to the Ebola virus and Covid-19

(2020-2022). In 2021, he became Chairman of the Congolese Academy of Sciences. In 2021, he received the Lifetime Achievement in Public Health Award at the International Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA21).

### Medical Services Category

#### **Dr. Francis Gervase Omaswa** (Uganda)

Executive Director of African Center  
for Global Health and Social Transformation (ACHEST)



Dr. Omaswa was awarded the Prize in recognition of his dedication to addressing the global health workforce (HWF) crisis including education, training, retention and migration of healthcare workers and for building pro-people health and medical systems not only across Africa, but worldwide.

After receiving the award, he has been engaged in various activities, and in 2021, he was appointed by the President of Uganda as the first Chancellor of Soroti University. He is also working on the Freda M Omaswa and Hideyo Noguchi Center for Health and Society construction project.

Titles are as of the time of Prize awarding.

## The Fourth Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize (in 2022)

### Medical Research Category

#### **Dr. Salim S. Abdool Karim** (South Africa)

Director, Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research  
in South Africa (CAPRISA)

#### **Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim** (South Africa)

Associate Scientific Director, Centre for the AIDS Programme  
of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA)



Drs. Salim and Quarraisha Abdool Karim, who are husband and wife, are epidemiologists that founded the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa (CAPRISA) in Durban, South Africa in 2002 and have made an important contribution to the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS in Africa. In particular, they have made significant achievements in the development of early introduction of antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV/tuberculosis co-infected patients, the development of methods to prevent HIV transmission in African communities, and the demonstration of HIV prophylactic vaginal agents.

### Medical Services Category

#### **Guinea Worm Eradication Program** (United States)

The Carter Center, United States



The Guinea Worm Eradication Program is an international campaign led by The Carter Center in partnership with African stakeholders to eradicate a human disease for the second time in history. The Program was given an organizational award for succeeding in the almost complete eradication of Guinea worm disease, under the leadership of The Carter Center and in collaboration with African ministries of health, local communities, NGOs and key partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

# Invitation for Donations for the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Fund

As part of the sum to be awarded for this prize, we are inviting donations widely from those who support the idea of this prize. Your goodwill donations will be used to support the work of people who are playing active roles in improving medical research and medical services in Africa.

## About inquiries for donations, please contact:

Citizen Participation Promotion Division, Domestic Strategy and Partnership Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

E-mail: [jicata-kiful@jica.go.jp](mailto:jicata-kiful@jica.go.jp)



### Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize website

▶ <https://www.cao.go.jp/noguchisho/english/index.html>

### Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize on Facebook

▶ <https://www.facebook.com/hnapen/>



### Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize Newsletter

▶ <https://www.cao.go.jp/noguchisho/english/newsletter/index.html>



Photos of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi: Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Foundation

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