

The Japan Foundation Awards 2019 Go to Shuntaro Tanikawa, Association of Indonesian Alumni From Japan (PERSADA), and Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska

Since 1973, the Japan Foundation has annually presented the Japan Foundation Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to promoting international mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and other countries through academic, artistic, and other cultural pursuits.

For 2019, which marks the 47th anniversary, the three recipients listed below have been selected after proceeding through the screening of 73 applications nominated by experts and the general public. The awards ceremony will take place on November 7.

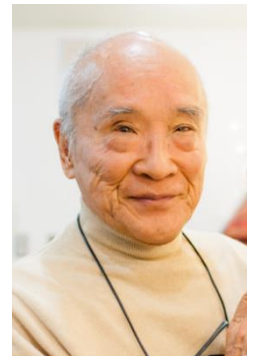
The Recipients

■ Shuntaro Tanikawa (Poet)

Conveying the fascination of Japanese language and culture to the world through his works

Shuntaro Tanikawa has relentlessly crafted poetry over the nearly 70 years since he published his first anthology, *Two Billion Light Years of Solitude*, in 1952. His works are noted for their breadth of style, ranging from nursery rhymes to poems that convey the profound joy, sorrow, and other emotions at the heart of the human experience. His creative pursuits encompass diverse genres such as poetry, lyrics, scripts, picture books, children's stories, and essays.

Many of his works have been used as study material for Japanese-language learners, including *Word Games: Nonsense Pictures and Rhymes*, which can help learners gain a sense for the distinctive rhythm and sound of Japanese, and poems like "To Live" that tackle universal subjects in plain language. His poetry has been translated into more than 20 languages, including English and Chinese, helping to shrink the cultural distance between Japan and the world. In this way his activities have had an enormous impact.



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■ Association of Indonesian Alumni From Japan (PERSADA)

A nexus of exchange connecting Japan and Indonesia

The Association of Indonesian Alumni From Japan (PERSADA) was founded in 1963 by a group of mainly Indonesians who previously studied in Japan. Today, it has around 8,000 members, making it an enormous association of former international students to Japan, and engages in many meaningful activities in its role as a bridge between Indonesia and Japan. In 1986, PERSADA and the Indonesia-Japan Friendship Association led the founding of Darma Persada University (DPU), a private institution. Since then, DPU has produced many talents who themselves became bridges between the two countries. Through such activities, PERSADA has been a nexus of exchange connecting Japan and Indonesia, and going forward it promises to continue being a central force for friendly exchange between not only both countries, but also with the other members of ASEAN.



■ Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska (Japanese studies)

Revealed a history of Polish-Japanese Relations

Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska is one of Poland's top scholars of Japanese history. For years she has nurtured many students as a central figure in Japanese Studies education and research at the University of Warsaw, one of Europe's premiere institutions in this field. One of her most noteworthy accomplishments has been her research on Polish-Japanese relations from the time of the Russo-Japanese War to the end of World War II. Her *History of Polish-Japanese Relations 1904-1945*, the first and still only comprehensive chronicle of a previously obscure part of history, has been translated into Japanese and remains an authoritative resource. She has also disseminated Japanese culture, wrote many publications on Polish-Japanese relations and the history of Japan, organized international academic meetings, and engaged in other activities that have greatly contributed to the advancement of mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and Poland, and between Japan and the world.



Press inquiries :

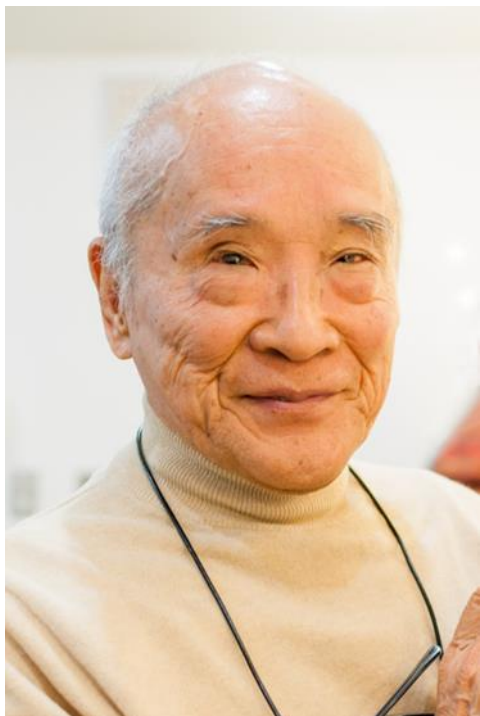
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■Shuntaro Tanikawa (Poet) [Japan]



Shuntaro Tanikawa has relentlessly crafted poetry over the nearly 70 years since he published his first anthology, *Two Billion Light Years of Solitude*, in 1952, and today continues to dynamically engage in a wide range of activities that harness the power of language. His works are noted for their breadth of style, ranging from nursery rhymes to poems that convey the profound joy, sorrow, and other emotions at the heart of the human experience.

In recent years he has experimented with new possibilities for poetry, including an iPhone app called “Tanikawa,” in which the user virtually fishes poems from an onscreen river, and a “Poemail” service for sending poems through the mail. He also hosts his own readings and various workshops to provide many people with opportunities to experience the world of poetry.

His creative pursuits go beyond poetry to encompass many other genres as well, including lyrics, scripts, picture books, children’s stories, essays, and ideas for textbooks. Throughout this broad range of activity he uses language as a tool for exploring the meaning of life and human interactions.

His poems, woven with simple language into delightfully crisp, rhythmical text, are appealing not only to native speakers but also foreigners in the process of learning Japanese. His works have often been incorporated into the curricula of both Japanese-language courses and teacher training, including creations such as *Word Games: Nonsense Pictures and Rhymes*, which can help learners gain a sense for the distinctive rhythm and sound of Japanese, as well as poems like “To Live” and “Listening” that tackle universal subjects in plain language. More than 50 of his poetry anthologies have been translated into more than 20 languages, including English, Chinese, French, and German, and these translations have helped to shrink the cultural distance between Japan and other countries. As a wordsmith whose many creations have been read by people of all ages in different countries and regions, he deserves much praise for the enormous impact he has had in diverse fields.

In recognition of Shuntaro Tanikawa’s many years of contributing to the growth of mutual understanding between Japan and the world through poetry writing and other activities, we confer to him the Japan Foundation Award with the hope that he will continue to shine brilliantly in the future.

[Profile]

Born in Tokyo in 1931. Poet. His first poetry collection *Two Billion Light - Years of Solitude* was published in 1952. He received numerous awards including a Japan Record Awards “Best Lyricist Award” for Songs for *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday* in 1962, a Japan Translation Cultural Award for *Maza gusu no uta* (Songs of Mother Goose) in 1975, a Yomiuri Literary Prize for *Hibi no chizu* (A Daily Map) in 1982, a Hagiwara Sakutarō Prize for *Sekenshirazu* (The Naif) in 1993, and a Nobuo Ayukawa Prize for *Tromso Collage* in 2010. In addition to poems, he has presented many works in a variety of forms such as picture book, essay, translation, screenwriting, and lyrics. In recent years, he also challenges to broaden the possibility of poems by creating “Poemail” (Posting poems service) and iPhone app “Tanikawa” (Fishing poems app).

[Photo] Shuntaro Tanikawa ©FUKAHORI mizuho

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■ Association of Indonesian Alumni From Japan (PERSADA) [Indonesia]



The Association of Indonesian Alumni From Japan (PERSADA) is an association of people who previously studied in Japan that strives to be a bridge between Indonesia and Japan. It also serves as the core member of the ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni (ASCOJA).

A large number of Indonesians have studied in Japan since the first student arrived in the early 1930s. Many of those who were in Japan prior to World War II became leaders of the Indonesian independence movement after returning to their homeland, and later spearheaded Indonesia's evolution as an independent state. The number of Indonesian

youths studying in Japan surged following the war, and in 1963 PERSADA was formed by some of those alumni. Today, PERSADA is an enormous association of former international students to Japan, with around 8,000 members on its roll. It continues to serve as a bridge between the two countries by engaging in many projects in Japanese language education, hands-on cultural experiences, exchanges of experts, and other areas.

In 1986, PERSADA and the Indonesia-Japan Friendship Association led the founding of Darma Persada University, a private institution that remains a symbol of amity between Indonesia and Japan. The university now comprises four undergraduate schools—Letters, Engineering, Marine Engineering, and Economics—and the Graduate School of Renewable Energy. All students, currently numbering around 5,400, study Japanese and English as well. Inspired by the Japanese spirit, it aspires to be a center of *monozukuri* (craftsmanship), and roughly one-fourth of all graduates find employment in Japanese-owned businesses. In 2016, the Japanese government and eleven Japanese institutions of higher learning established a university consortium for advancing cooperation with Darma Persada University, opening the door to vigorous, ongoing academic exchanges between both countries.

As these examples illustrate, PERSADA, as an organization launched by mainly Indonesian alumni of Japan, has for many years served as a nexus of exchange linking Japan and Indonesia. We present the Japan Foundation Award to PERSADA with the hope that they will continue to be a central force for friendly exchange between not only Japan and Indonesia, but also with the other members of ASEAN.

[Photo] a group photo at ASEAN Council of Japan Alumni (ASCOJA)

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■ Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska (Professor, University of Warsaw) [Poland]



Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska is one of Poland's top scholars of Japanese history. For many years she has contributed to education and research in Japanese studies at the University of Warsaw, one of Europe's premiere institutions in this field. She has also published numerous books on Japan.

One of her most noteworthy academic contributions has been her research on the history of Poland's relations with Japan. In 1996, she published *History of Polish-Japanese Relations 1904-1945*, a comprehensive portrait of the ties between the two countries from the time of the Russo-Japanese War to the end of World War II. The product of an effort that involved research and exploration of a vast body of documents in both Japan and Poland, this unparalleled, epoch-making work represents the world's first extensive chronicle of the two nations' relationship.

This was followed by her habilitation thesis, *Japan's Policy towards Poland 1918-1941*, which was published in 1998. Her research revealed that the political and diplomatic ties

between Japan and Poland in that era of war and strained international relations were much closer than previously hypothesized, and that those ties were buoyed by mutual amity and affinity.

Pałasz-Rutkowska has also researched the role of the Japanese Emperor in the modern period, compiling her findings into the voluminous *Emperor Meiji: The ruler's image in a modernizing Japan* (2012).

She has visited Japan frequently for study and research, and has closely networked with Japanese scholars. Since becoming a professor at the University of Warsaw in 2003, she has provided instruction and guidance to many undergraduate and graduate students. In addition, she is an advisor to Chado Urasenke Tankokai Warsaw Sunshin Association, which has worked to promote the Japanese tea ceremony. She has also been involved in the operation of "Kaian," a tea ceremony room inside the university library.

Through these and other endeavors over the years, Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska has not only served as a key leader in Japanese Studies research and education at the University of Warsaw, but also greatly contributed to the advancement of academic/cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and friendly relations between Japan and Poland, and between Japan and the world. We extend to her the Japan Foundation Award in hopes that she will continue making such tremendous achievements in the years to come.

[Profile]

Born in Warsaw, Poland in 1953. She received a PhD in humanities, Institute of Oriental Studies in 1987, and a Doctor Habilitatus in humanities (history), Faculty of History, University of Warsaw in 1999. Since 2003, she has worked as a professor at the University of Warsaw. Her research interests are history and culture of Japan, history of Polish-Japanese relations, history of the Imperial Household of Japan, cross-cultural studies. She has come to Japan for dozens of times for her research since studied in the University of Tokyo from 1983 to 1985. In April 2015, she was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.

[Photo] Ewa Pałasz-Rutkowska

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