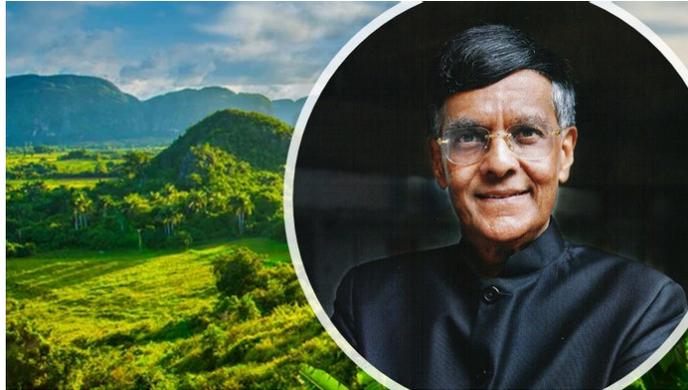


Special Issue  
15 June, 2021



Open  
MIND

NEWS ALERT !



We are delighted to share this great news in advance with our MIND Family that Professor Mohan Munasinghe, Chairman of MIND has been awarded the Blue Planet Prize 2021 for his lifetime research on environment and sustainability.

**Blue Planet Prize** is the global apex award for environmental sustainability, equivalent to a Nobel Prize. The award recognizes prof. Munasinghe's pioneering ideas like the Sustainomics framework, sustainable development triangle, millennium consumption goals (MCG) and balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG) path that have been applied globally. They helped achieve key international agreements like the 1992 Agenda 21 and UNFCCC, 1997 Kyoto Protocol, 2005 Copenhagen Accords, 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, and UN 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information on Blue Planet Prize and the Asahi Glass Foundation

<http://www.af-info.or.jp/en/>

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Extraction from the Official Press Release from  
the Asahi Glass Foundation



## BLUE PLANET PRIZE ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIZE WINNERS

This year marks the 30th awarding of the Blue Planet Prize, the international environmental award sponsored by the Asahi Glass Foundation, chaired by Takuya Shimamura. Every year, the Foundation selects two winners, individuals or organizations who have made significant contributions to the resolution of global environmental problems. The Board of Directors have selected the following 2021 Blue Planet Prize recipients: Prof. Mohan Munasinghe (Sri Lanka) and Prof. Veerabhadran Ramanathan (USA).

**Prof. Mohan Munasinghe (Sri Lanka), Born in Sri Lanka, Date of Birth: 25 July, 1945** - Founder Chairman, Munasinghe Institute for Development (MIND)

Professor Munasinghe pioneered the integrative, transdisciplinary ‘Sustainomics’ framework which views development issues from environmental, social, and economic perspectives. Innovative concepts like ‘balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG)’ and ‘millennium consumption goals (MCGs)’ emerged from Sustainomics. BIGG calls for each country to take a sustainable development path in accordance with its development stage, while the MCGs ask the affluent, who consume most global output, to adopt consumption goals to reduce the burden on the planet. He has been developing practical activities using environmental economics and policy to implement these concepts worldwide.

### Statement

I am deeply grateful and honoured to receive the 2021 Blue Planet Prize, the premier global environmental sustainability award, symbolizing the outstanding commitment of the Asahi Glass Foundation of Japan, to a better future. I am indebted also to many who have contributed generously to my intellectual development and emotional intelligence, including teachers, mentors, colleagues, family and friends. Social ties have been invaluable to survive the pressures of COVID-19. It is encouraging to learn that the award committee has specifically acknowledged several key concepts I developed and their practical application worldwide, during almost 5 decades, including the Sustainomics framework, sustainable development triangle (economy, environment, society), balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG), and Millennium Consumption Goals (MCGs). My research interests have evolved, from basic disciplines like engineering, physics and economics, to application sectors like energy, water, transport, ICT, and environmental resources, and finally to multidisciplinary topics like poverty, disasters, climate change and sustainable development. This eclectic experience helped me develop Sustainomics, as an integrative, trans-disciplinary methodology. Drawing on my past work and the global platform provided by the prestigious Blue Planet Prize, I will continue my modest efforts to make our planet more sustainable for all.

- Each recipient is presented with a certificate of merit, a commemorative trophy, and prize money.
- We’d like to hold the Blue Planet Prize Award Ceremony and commemorative lectures, which could well be on a smaller scale, while taking proper measures to prevent infection with the new coronavirus. The Award Ceremony is scheduled on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at Tokyo Kaikan. Commemorative lectures will be given on October 7 and 9, 2021, at United Nations University (Shibuya Ward, Tokyo) and at Kyoto University, respectively.

### Notes:

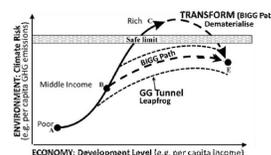
#### 1. Sustainomics

Sustainomics is a framework for making development more sustainable, characterized by being transdisciplinary, integrative, comprehensive, heuristic, balanced, and practical. The basic principle is to make ongoing or future development efforts more sustainable in practical ways, by harmonizing the economy, environment and society. Sustainomics is a term that Professor Munasinghe has popularized since 1992.

(Source: MIND website, <http://www.mohanmunasinghe.com/default.cfm>)

#### 2. Balanced inclusive green growth (BIGG)

The BIGG concept was presented by Professor Munasinghe at the 2012 UN Earth Summit. In the figure, rich nations at point C (who exceed safe limits) should reduce environmental burdens by decarbonization and other measures to reach point E. Emerging nations at point B should learn from the past, innovate and avoid exceeding safe limits, going through the Green Growth (GG) tunnel to reach point E, without passing point C. The BIGG path is also pro-poor and inclusive, thus harmonizing



the sustainable development triangle:  
economy, environment and society.

### 3. Millennium Consumption Goals (MCGs)

The MCGs make the path of development more sustainable, by calling for responsible behaviour from the world's richest 1.4 billion people who consume almost 85% of global output. The MCGs are not obligatory targets, but are standards to be achieved through voluntary actions of consumers and producers, supported by government policies.

### 4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDG are international goals for the period from 2016-2030 stated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted at the 2015 UN Summit. They consist of 17 comprehensive goals and 169 specific targets to achieve a sustainable world, and are characterized by a pledge to leave no one on earth behind.

### 5. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the objective of conducting comprehensive assessments of human-caused climate change and its implications as well as adaptation and mitigation measures from scientific, technological, and socioeconomic perspectives.

### 6. Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement

The Kyoto Protocol established concrete rules based on the Framework Convention on Climate Change, developed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The Kyoto Protocol set targets, until 2020, for measures to combat global warming and mandated that developed countries (excluding the United States) meet their greenhouse gas emissions targets, but it did not regulate emissions in developing countries. The Paris Agreement is a new international framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the post-2020 period. Although all countries, including both developed and developing countries, are required to submit targets under the Agreement, they are not obliged to achieve the targets.

### 7. Nobel Peace Prize

The 2007 Nobel Peace Prize was jointly awarded to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and Albert Gore, former Vice President of the United States. The IPCC issued its Fourth Assessment Report on climate change in 2007, the year when it was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. It took six years to prepare the report, with contributions from over 130 countries: including 450 lead authors, 800 contributing authors, and 2,500 expert reviewers.



#### **You may reach us at anytime**

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