

Grand Award (Prime Minister's Award) (one winner)**Title of work: Tokyo Yurikago Kindergarten + Satoyama Education**

Name of company/entity: Tokyo Uchino School, Tokyo Yurikago Kindergarten(Hachioji City), Osamu Watanabe Architects (Kawasaki City), Rhythm Design Mov Co., Ltd., and Mitaka Design Office

The entity paved the road on a 17m-high hill on a premise having an environment exposed to strong wind, and developed a new environment by taking flood-control measures and cultivating fields and rice terraces. It also erected a wooden building with a 100m-long roof and walls, providing spacious shaded areas to avoid direct sunlight. Behind the building is a forest covering 47ha and forming a great environment with rich nature that, even now, attracts wild animals at night. In this environment, children are able to enjoy nature-based culture, and by experiencing nature, they will cultivate creativity and a can-do spirit.

Excellence Award: METI Minister's Awards (four winners)

[i] Designs that contribute to safety and security from the viewpoint of children; Category: Children

Title of work: Daiya Mosquito Nets for Baby Beds

Name of company/entity: Daiya Corporation (Nakano Ward, Tokyo)

The company developed mosquito nets exclusively for baby beds, protecting babies from mosquitoes and other insects, and blocking cold air from air-conditioners. The nets are able to fully cover the entire baby beds to ensure that no insects enter and to protect babies from direct exposure to cold air. The product is made of baby-friendly mesh-type cloth in which no fluorescent dye is used.



[ii] Designs that contribute to safety and security from the viewpoint of children; Category: General

Title of work: Efforts for Raising Awareness of Disaster Prevention Using Disaster-response Park Furniture

Name of company/entity: Kotobuki Corporation (Minato Ward, Tokyo)

The power of community, which creates human ties, strongly supports people in disaster-afflicted areas. Focusing on this well-known truth learned from the experience of past earthquakes, the company engaged in creating disaster-response furniture in public areas where children gather, e.g., school yards and parks. Through this effort, children can become more aware of disaster prevention and ascertain safe evacuation places and methods for using related facilities in everyday living. This effort spurs children and their parents to learn about disaster prevention efforts and think about disasters with the people in their communities.

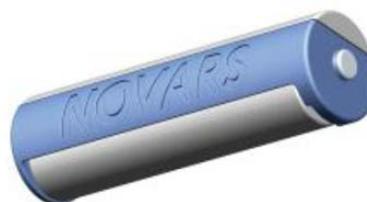


[iii] Designs that develop children's creativity and shape their future; Category: Creative

Title of work: MaBee

Name of company/entity: Novars Inc. (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo)

The company developed IoT-based dry-cell batteries that enable users to control a battery-operated product with a smartphone. By shaking, tilting or speaking to a smartphone, children can now control the speed of toy trains that until now simply ran, or make lights flicker in time with songs. Children also can mount the product on things they have made themselves and manipulate them to enjoy those functions. This product will contribute to fostering children's creativity.



[iv] Designs that develop children’s creativity and shape their future; Category: Literacy

Title of work: Washoku School Lunch Project

Name of company/entity: Gokokuhoujou, LLC (Chuo Ward, Tokyo)

The entity “Washoku School Lunch Project” was established by a group of *washoku* (Japanese cuisine) cooks who have passion for passing on *washoku* culture to the next generation. As part of the effort, the cooks have been visiting elementary and junior-high schools across Japan to provide lectures on cooking and *washoku* dishes for school lunches as well as dietary education. In addition, they also target school staff in charge of nutrition to show cooking demonstrations introducing *washoku* dishes that can be easily made part of a school lunch menu. Through these efforts, the entity has been endeavoring to convey the attractiveness of *washoku* to children who will play roles in the future.



Excellence Award: Minister of State for Consumer Affairs and Food Safety Award (one winner)

[v] Designs that develop children’s creativity and shape their future; Category: Raising consumers’ awareness

Title of work: Junior Safe

Name of company/entity: Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. (Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo)

The company prepared an environment-conscious journal mainly for senior children at elementary school or students with higher grades, providing information to help them learn how to spend money to change the world’s future. For example, the journal presents some options to children for spending their allowance (e.g., 500 yen): buying a bar of chocolate, the sales of which are allocated to support cacao farmers, or buying notebooks made of recycled paper. This enables children to further consider choice and action for the environment and the relationship between the environment and financial services. Furthermore, the journal also introduces people who engage in solving environmental issues and companies’ actions to solve such issues.



Excellence Award: Minister of State for Measures for Declining Birthrate Awards (two winners)

[vi] Designs to support comfortable child-rearing; Category: Individuals and households

Title of work: Baby Bottles Exclusively for Raising Grandchildren: Ho Ho Ho, Honyubin

Name of company/entity: Baba-Lab (Shigoto Lab) (Saitama City, Saitama Prefecture)

The entity developed Japanese-made baby bottles that have user-friendly scales and are easy to hold, targeting people who are raising their grandchildren. The flower-shaped bottles are designed to smoothly fit fingers, to prevent the bottles from being dropped during baby formula preparation. In addition, the scales on the bottles are large enough for elderly people to see well, so as to prevent baby formula from being prepared incorrectly due to aged eyes and babies from burn injuries caused by hot formula. The product is the first attempt to ensure the safety of elderly people, an increasing number of whom have more opportunities to raise their grandchildren.



[vii] Designs to support comfortable child-rearing; Category: Communities and society

Title of work: TSURIMI Children's Hospice

Name of company/entity: Children's Hospice Project (Osaka), and TAISE DESIGN Planners Architects & Engineers (Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo)

The entity operates Japan's first children's hospice facility that is independent from any medical organization. The facility has been supporting children who suffer intractable diseases but have finished hospital therapy and have been moved to home nursing and care by their family members. It also provides children with opportunities to play and learn and provides their family members with temporary relief from daily nursing burden. By taking advantage of the park location, the facility aims to provide an opportunity for children and their family members, who tend to be isolated from communities and societies, to conduct social exchange, and to create a base where communities can make an overall effort to support children and their family members.



Excellence Award: Minister of State for Gender Equality Award (one winner)

[viii] Designs to support comfortable child-rearing; Category: Gender equality theme

Title of work: Hagukumi (nurturing) Program

Name of company/entity: Toppan Printing Co., Ltd., and Geijyutsu Zokei Kenkyujyo Co., Ltd.
(Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo)

The companies established a program of creating art works and making dialogues, targeting employees taking childcare leave and their children. In the program, parents and children try to create an art work, foster deeper emotional ties, and experience refreshment of their minds. In addition, the companies provide a variety of information on companies' systems, current states of offices, or knowhow regarding work-childcare balance, thereby encouraging such employees to conduct social exchanges with other employees who are raising children and motivating them to prepare for returning to work.

