

Trust Future Forum

Service to Society Aimed at Development and Spread of Trust System

Trust Forum Foundation

Trust Forum Foundation, a public interest incorporated foundation, has carried out surveys and research to contribute to the spread and development of Japan's trust system. With the aim of contributing to improve the quality of national living standards and domestic economic development, we offer subsidies to support outstanding research and activities. Established in July 1987, the Trust Forum Foundation will celebrate its 30th year anniversary in 2017.



Social Contributions via Survey and Research

One pillar of the mainstay survey and research business is establishing research themes relating primarily to the Trust Act and self-directed research carried out in study group meetings, and on mainly financial and economic matters, consigning research to a specialist research institute. These research results are released to the general public through book publications and research paper issuance. Since its founding, the Trust Forum Foundation has released 89 research books as of December 2021, and researchers and practitioners use them.

In pursuing research, scholars involved in trust research focused mainly on civil law, commercial law, and Anglo-American law made up the core of the research effort, and the research results became the cumulative foundation of intellectual capital for Japan relating to the trust system. The Trust Forum Foundation contributed in unparalleled ways in Japan as a specialist research institute such as when its research was referenced in amending Japan's Trust Act in 2007.

In the more than 10 years since the Trust Act amendment, a new era is emerging due to new ways of utilizing trusts, new methods, and new concepts as social issues have grown even more serious. The Trust Forum Foundation will continue as a public interest incorporated foundation to promote social contribution and activities with a high public interest.

Grants, Social Contributions via Endowed Courses

The grant-making program supports surveys, research, and activities on trusts and related finance and economics, and is the Forum's second pillar. It accepts applications from researchers in Japan and overseas, practitioners, and various organizations, and offers grants for research expenses, etc.

In conjunction, with the aim of spreading trusts and promoting understanding, the Forum has established endowed courses on the Trust Act aimed at college undergraduates. In Japan, where an increasing number of people are bearers of trusts, these courses offer students a precious opportunity to properly obtain knowledge on the trust system while young.

Meanwhile, we are currently setting up a new course for elderly clients on the topic of donations using trust schemes in fiscal year 2021.

Themes of Self-Directed and Consignment Research (as of December 2021)

Self-Directed Research	Gerontology in housing and ways of living
	Trusts and inheritance planning in the U.S.
	A comparison of commercial trusts and corporations
	Expanding courses and promoting "Education related to trusts and financial economics"
	Shares and trusts
	New issues faced by trusts and the Trust Act
	Systems and legal principles of investment trusts
	The development of the Trust Act and trust-related principles of law
	Future prospects for the popularization of charitable trusts, in light of proposed amendments to the Act on Charitable Trust
Consignment Research	Nuclear power generation in Japan using trust methods
	Designing systems for decommissioning schemes
	Legal issues related to testamentary substitute trusts
	Research on regional development and regional finance using RESAS and regional economic cycle analysis

List of grant-assisted projects in FY2021

Hosting the 20th Japan-China Civil and Commercial Law Seminar
Suggestions for civil trusts in Japan, taken from the theory and practice of trusts in the U.S.
Comparative research into financial and economic education, including trusts in various Asian countries
Value-linking mechanisms and the function of trusts for stablecoins
Hermeneutics and legislative theory related to how welfare trusts should be taxed, from the perspective of the U.K. adult guardianship system
Intellectual property rights trusts in Japan and the U.S. (with a focus on patent rights trusts)

List of Endowed Courses Established

Kwansei Gakuin University	Undergraduate School of Law and Politics
Chuo University	Faculty of Law
Tohoku University	Faculty of Law
Doshisha University	Law School
Rikkyo Second Stage College	