

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAUREATES
FREIBURG, GERMANY - 15 - 18 MARCH 2018



Laureates' Symposium



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◆ Junichi Shimizu
Japan

“An invitation to the questionnaire of
Environmental Doomsday Clock”

AN INVITATION TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOOMSDAY CLOCK

**THE ASAHI GLASS
FOUNDATION**

TOKYO, JAPAN

Junichi Shimizu

2018/3/16

7th ICEL, Freiburg GERMANY



WHAT THE SURVEY IS?

Objective:

Gauging the environmental concerns of environmental experts of the world.

Keeping everybody informed about environmental issues by simple index of the Environmental Doomsday Clock.

History:

Since 1992, (Year of Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro)

How we gauge the concerns?

Asking to assess the time on the doomsday clock dial.

Respondents in 2017 : 2,152 (Mailed 29,214, 7.4%)

RESULT SURVEY 2017

History of The Environmental Doomsday Clock

The sense of crisis felt about the continuance of the human race.

2017

(N=2143)

2016

(N=1859)

2010

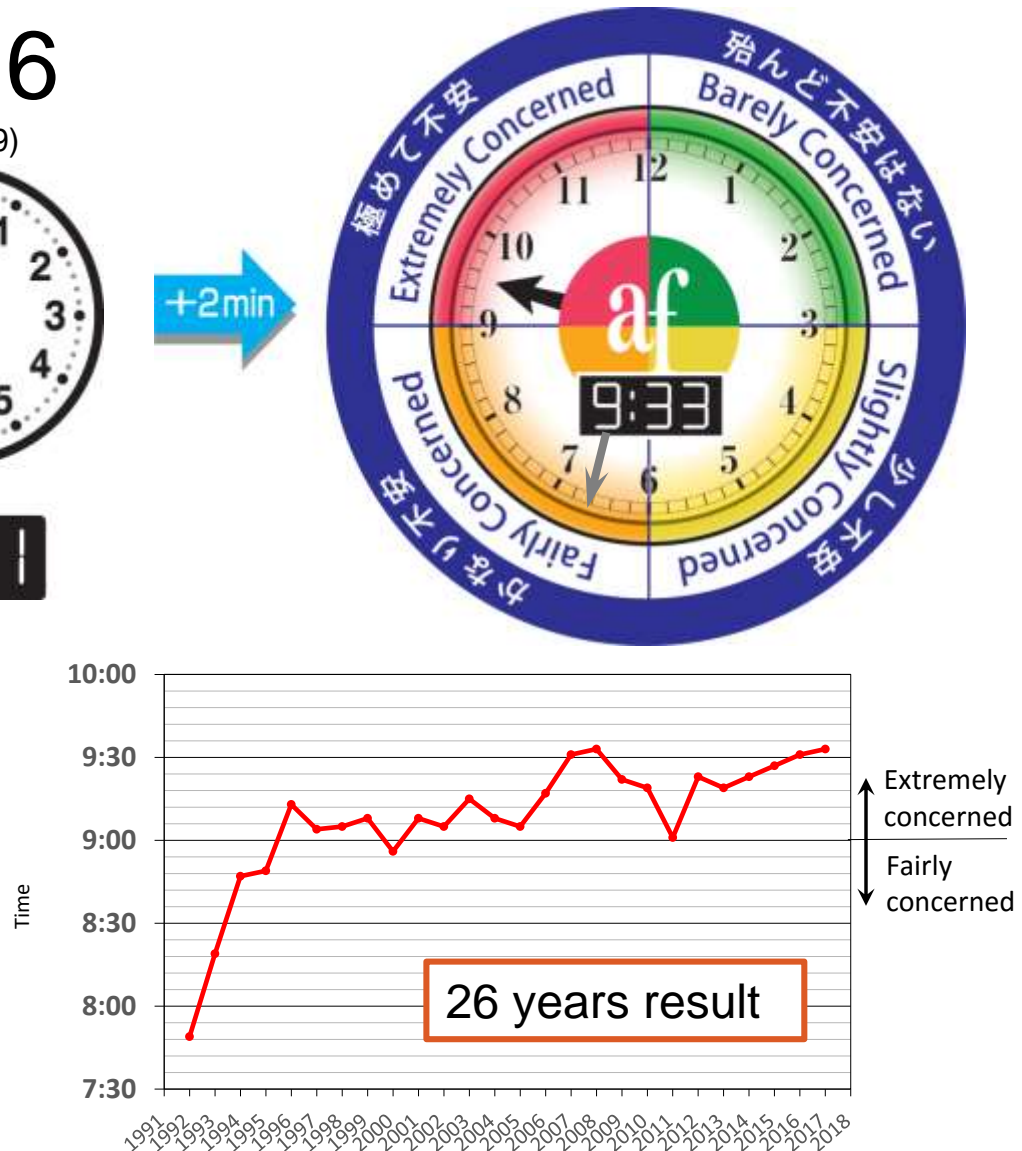
(N=663)

2000

(N=643)

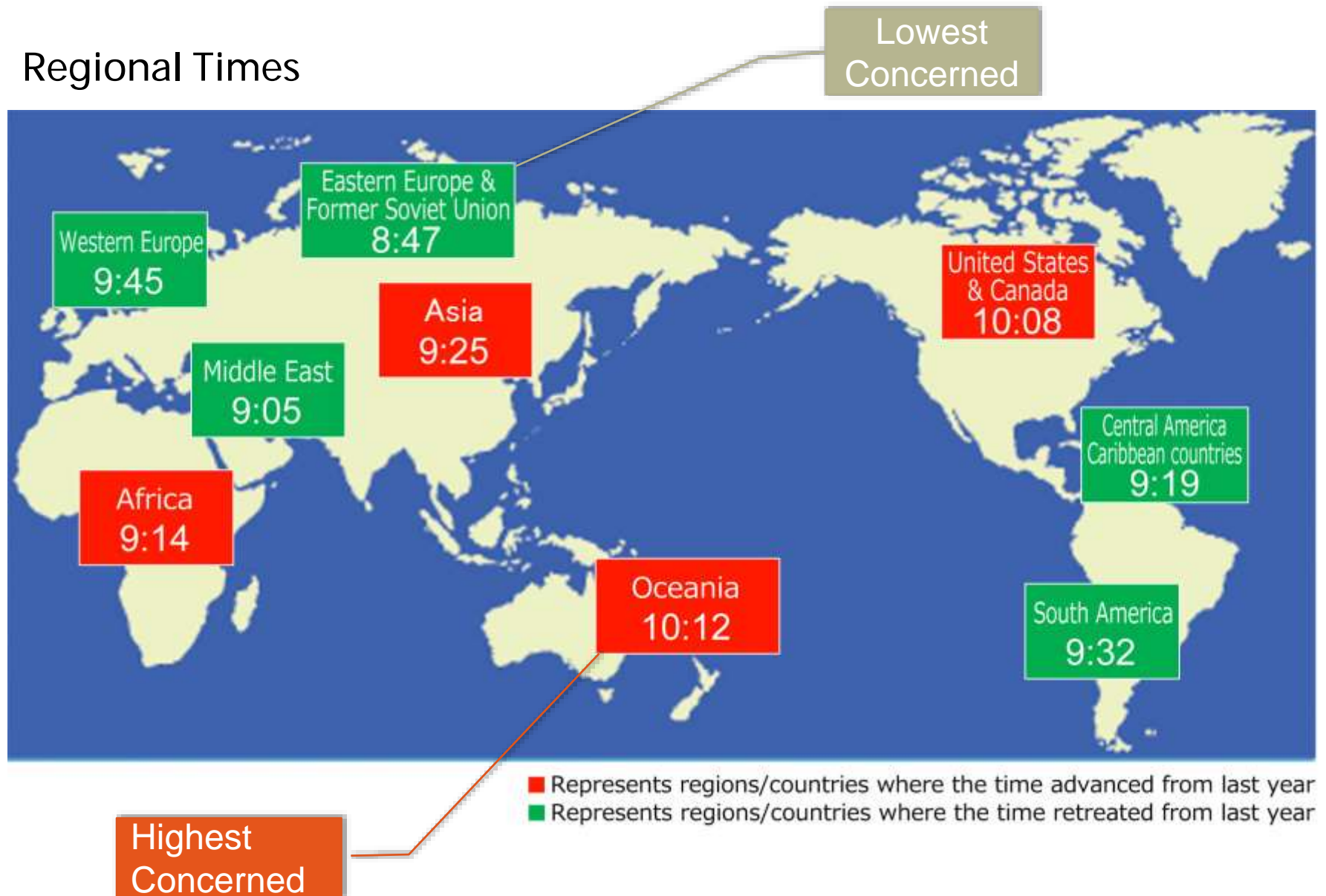
1992

(N=643)



RESULT SURVEY 2017

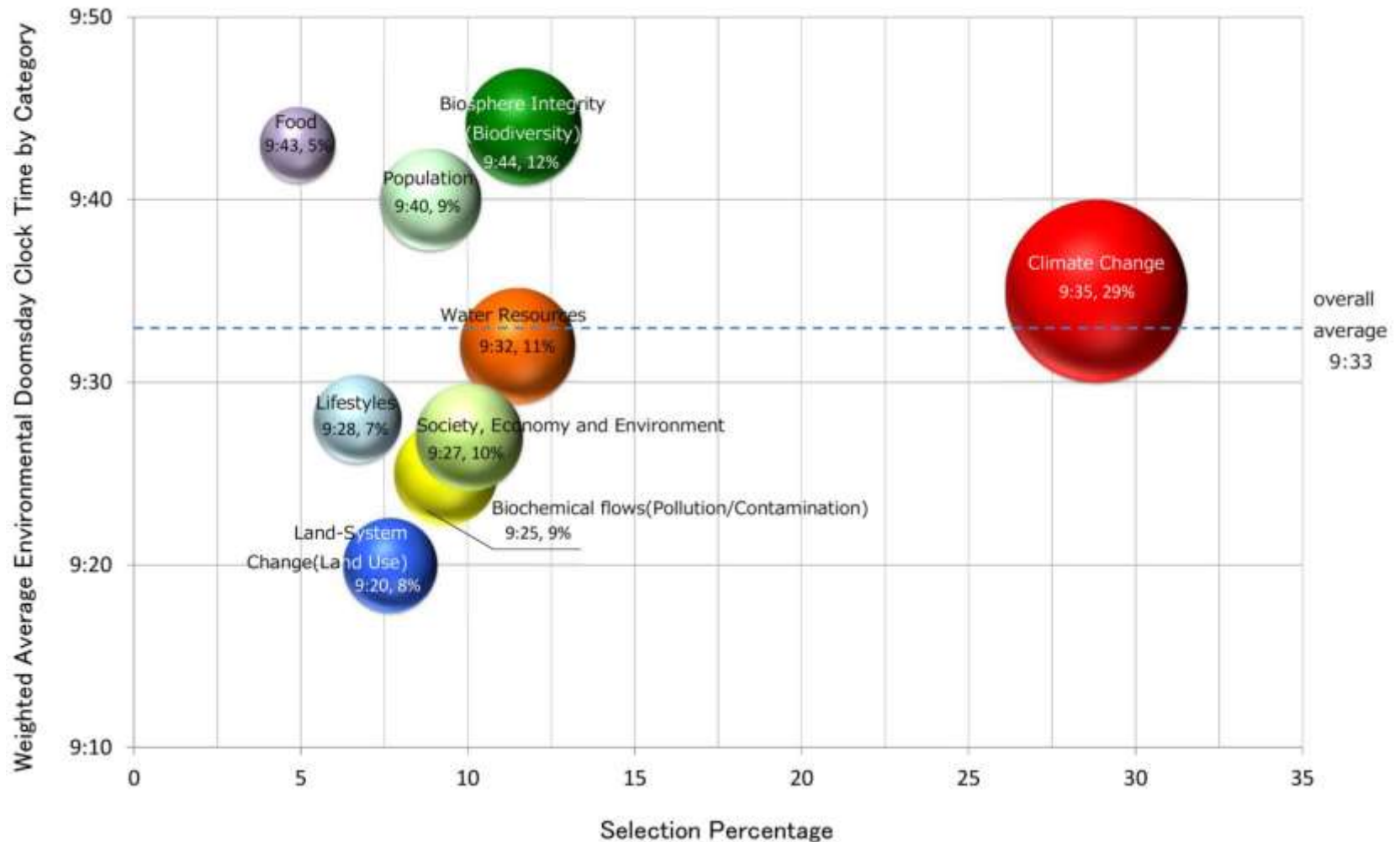
Regional Times



RESULT SURVEY 2017

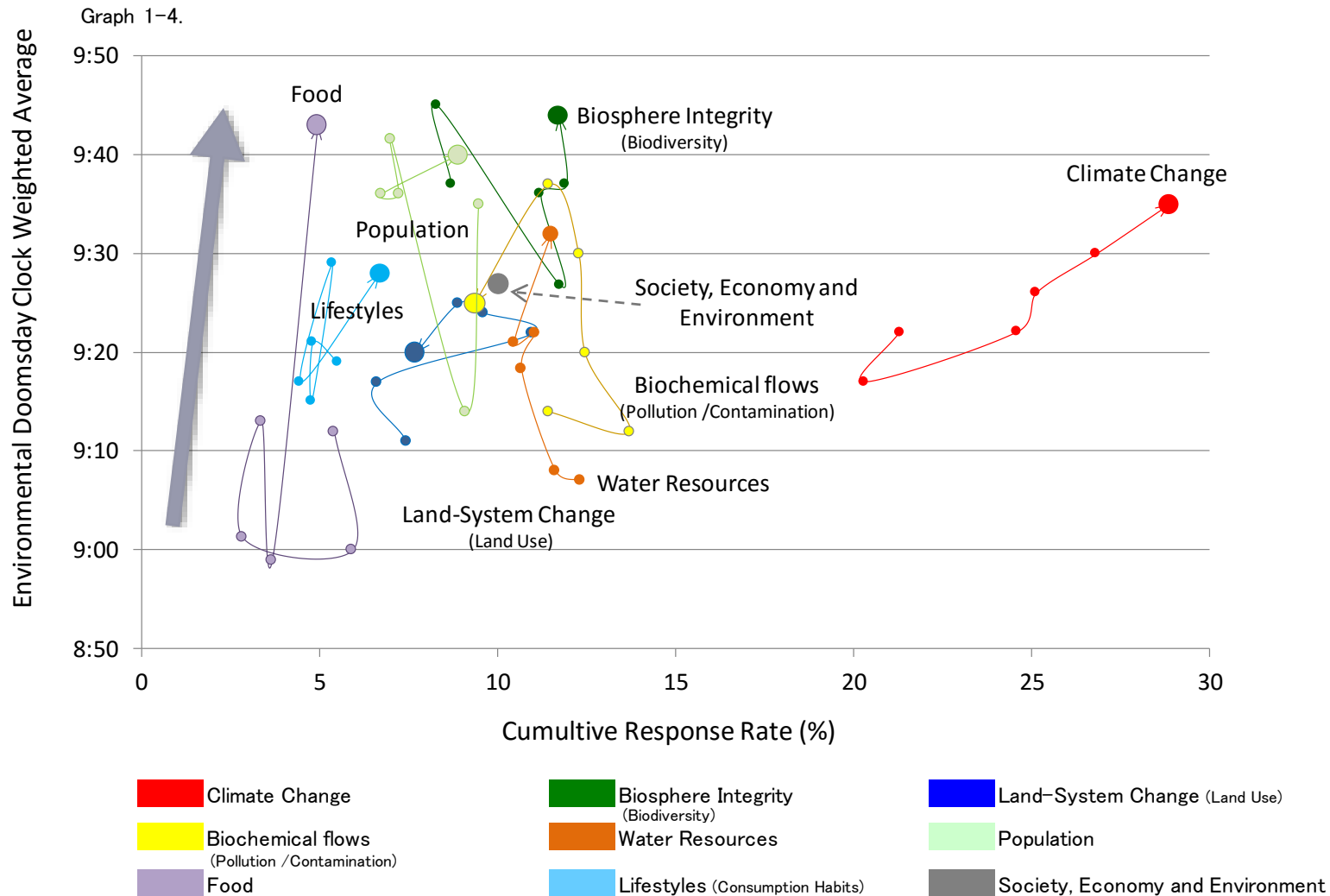
Overall Analysis of the Environmental Issues to Be Taken into Account

Graph 1-1. Overall (2017)



RESULT SURVEY 2017

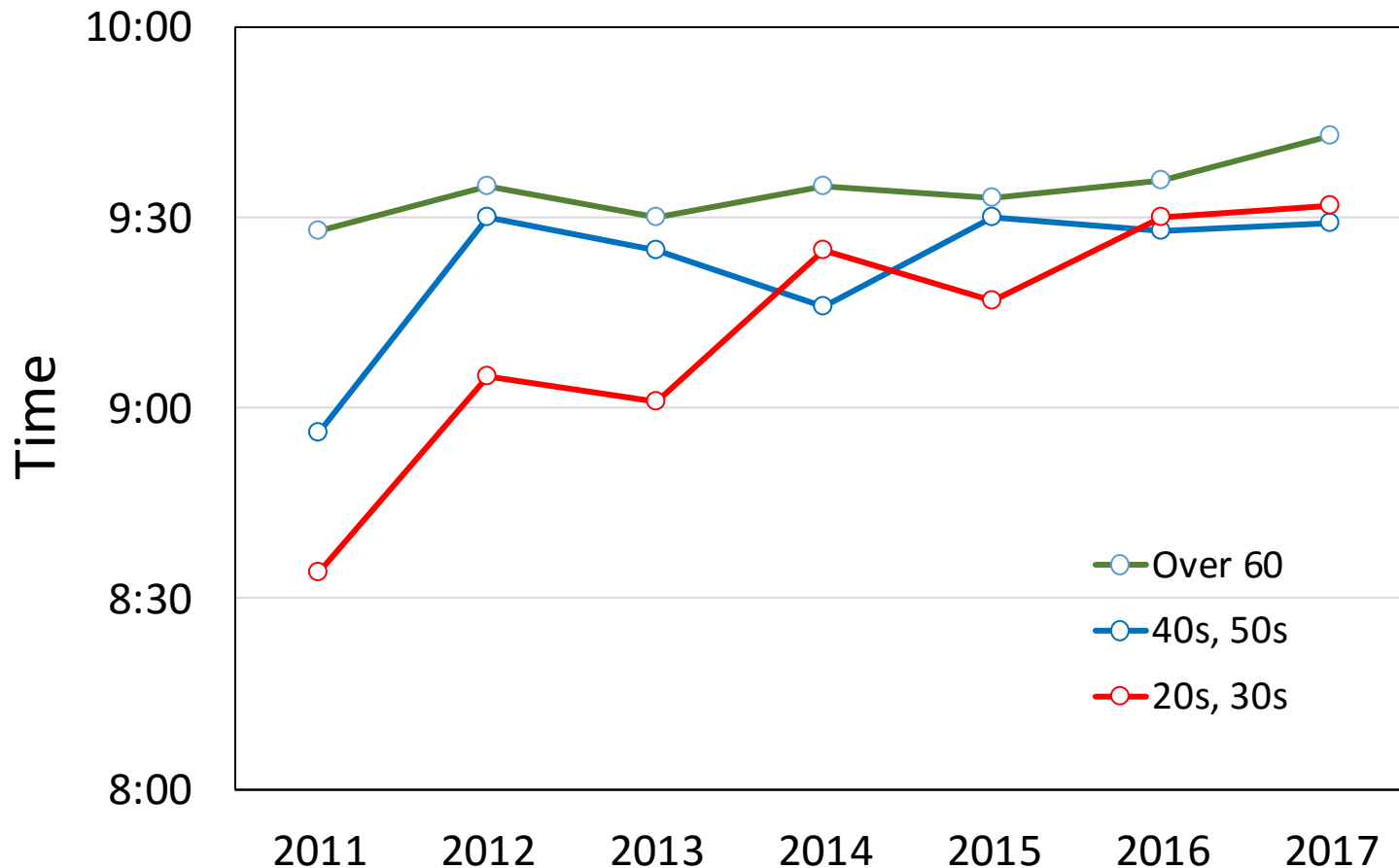
Change of the Environmental Conditions of Concern (2012 - 2017)



- “Climate Change” is the most selected and time is increasing year by year.
- Concern for “Food” is jumped up abruptly.

RESULT SURVEY 2017

Tendency in the Environmental Doomsday Clock by Generation



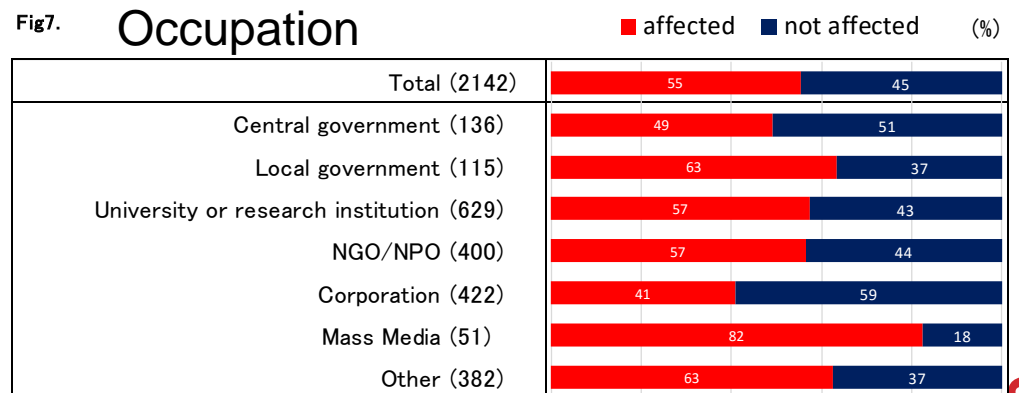
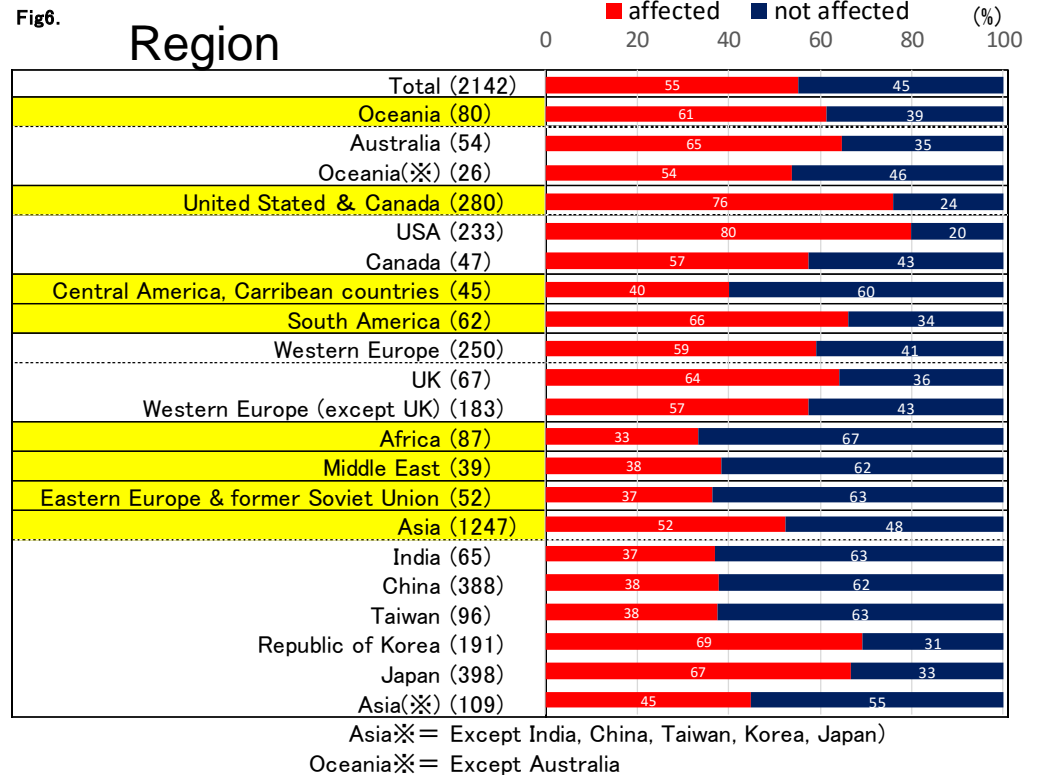
Environmental concern is increasing with regardless of age.

RESULT SURVEY 2017

Special Question in 2017

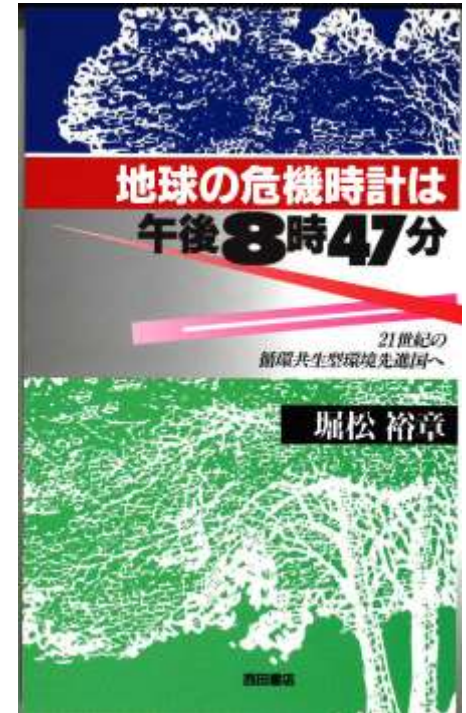
Q. Did the American political situation since the presidential inauguration affect your decision on the time of the Environmental doomsday clock?

A. 55% affected.



HOW UTILIZED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS, EXAMPLES

- 60 News paper articles (Incl. Internet 30) in Japan
- Title of the book
 - H.Horimatsu 1995, "8:47, doomsday clock of the Earth", Japan
- Magazine article
 - Al-Bia Wal-Tamina 2017(Environement & Development) magazine No.227,
 - Al-Hayat 2017
- Essay
 - Prof. Brian Morton The Univ. of Hong Kong 2017, Marine Ecology, Hong Kong
- NPO's Extracurricular education
 - Ecology Fair in Budva, 2010, Montenegro
- Monuments by NPO/NGO, Others
 - Korea, Taiwan,
 - Display of school gate, Japan



HOW UTILIZED BY ENVIRONMENTALISTS, EXAMPLES

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Marine Pollution Bulletin 126 (2018) 436–437

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

Marine Pollution Bulletin

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul




Editorial

Life on Earth is better than ever!

On the 25 August 2017, *The Times* of London, in an article headlined 'Life on Earth is Better than Ever!' quoted Sir David Attenborough FRS (91) in an address to the delegates of the Edinburgh International Television Festival on the preceding day as saying that he had detected a "worldwide shift" in attitudes towards conservation and that (politicians) "realise that people worldwide ... wish to protect their natural world".

Much as I respect and admire the television presenter, I am afraid that, and though junior to Sir David's eminence, his opinions, if accurately reflected in the article's headline, do not find accord with my own observations about the state of the planet. As a marine biologist, one of the reasons I retired early from the University of Hong Kong thirteen years ago was the increasingly parlous state of the habitats and species inhabiting this city state's badly and increasingly polluted coastal waters. A graphic example of this decline is provided by the fact that in the 1970s and 1980s, the lower intertidal of Hong Kong's exposed rocky shores were awash for a few months over winter with a broad band of *Sargassum* fronds up to three metres long, and with a concomitantly associated fauna (Morton and Morton, 1983, figs 5.1 & 5.2), but not now. And nobody has investigated or knows why.

Since my return to a small town on the Sussex coast in 2004 and where I live opposite a remnant marsh of the River Arun, I have not heard a cuckoo calling for ten years now suggesting that either it or its egg host species, reed and sedge warblers, no longer return here. In reply to a letter from me this year to Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and past president of WWF International, H.R.H. stated and I quote: "My impression is that most of the migratory birds coming to this country are rapidly disappearing. Windsor Castle used to be a favourite nesting place for swallows, swifts and house martins. I have not seen any this year at all!" Such an observation matches my own here in West Sussex. I freely admit, however, that I am only an 'amateur' bird watcher, but countrywide, 'professionals' say the same thing. Moreover, in an article in the *Sunday Times Magazine* dated 26 September 2016, the naturalist and bird watcher Simon Barnes revealed that over the past 46 years, 56% of Britain's terrestrial wildlife species have declined. In a meticulously detailed State of Nature report compiled by 53 wildlife and research organisations, of the 8000 species assessed, 15% were considered to be threatened with extirpation nation-wide. I very, very, rarely see honey bees in the garden now and, increasingly fewer and fewer bumblebees, which the *Sunday Times* of the 27 August this year identified as being wiped out in Britain by the neonicotinoid agricultural pesticides thiamethoxam and thiacloprid, as are leaf beetles and stone flies.

One must not have access to newspapers, a radio or a television to not know that in southern Africa, elephants and rhinoceroses are being slaughtered by poachers in numbers almost to the point of extinction - especially in the latter case.

Briefly returning to Britain's seas, a *Sunday Times* article on 18 June 2017 entitled 'Fishing gear kills up to 4,000 Cornish dolphins' reported that scientists investigating the 1000 dead individuals identified on British and French beaches in the spring of 2016 concluded Cornwall's inshore dolphin population is being wiped out by fishing boats. A marine biologist at La Rochelle University who examined 700 stranded common dolphins, *Delphinus delphis*, on French beaches showed that most had suffered trauma "generally attributed to (fisheries) by catch".

Britain's Marine Conservation Society organises an annual beach cleanup and during the one-day event in September 2016, 6000 volunteers picked up 268,384 pieces of litter from 364 of their local beaches. But, in more general terms, and returning to the newspaper's report of Sir David's speech and interview, I and 2080 other scientists worldwide completed an annual questionnaire in 2016 on 'Global Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind' organised by the Asahi Glass Foundation in Japan. The foundation relates our responses in the annual questionnaire on the state of the global environment in terms of a visual (12 hour) Doomsday Clock. Since 1992 when the clock read 7:49, it has risen steadily to 9:31 in 2016. That is, overall, scientists were Fairly Concerned about the state of the global environment in 1992. Today, they are Extremely Concerned. The latest results of the questionnaire were announced at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Hawaii in September 2016 and, regrettably again, these do not find accord with Sir David's reported views.

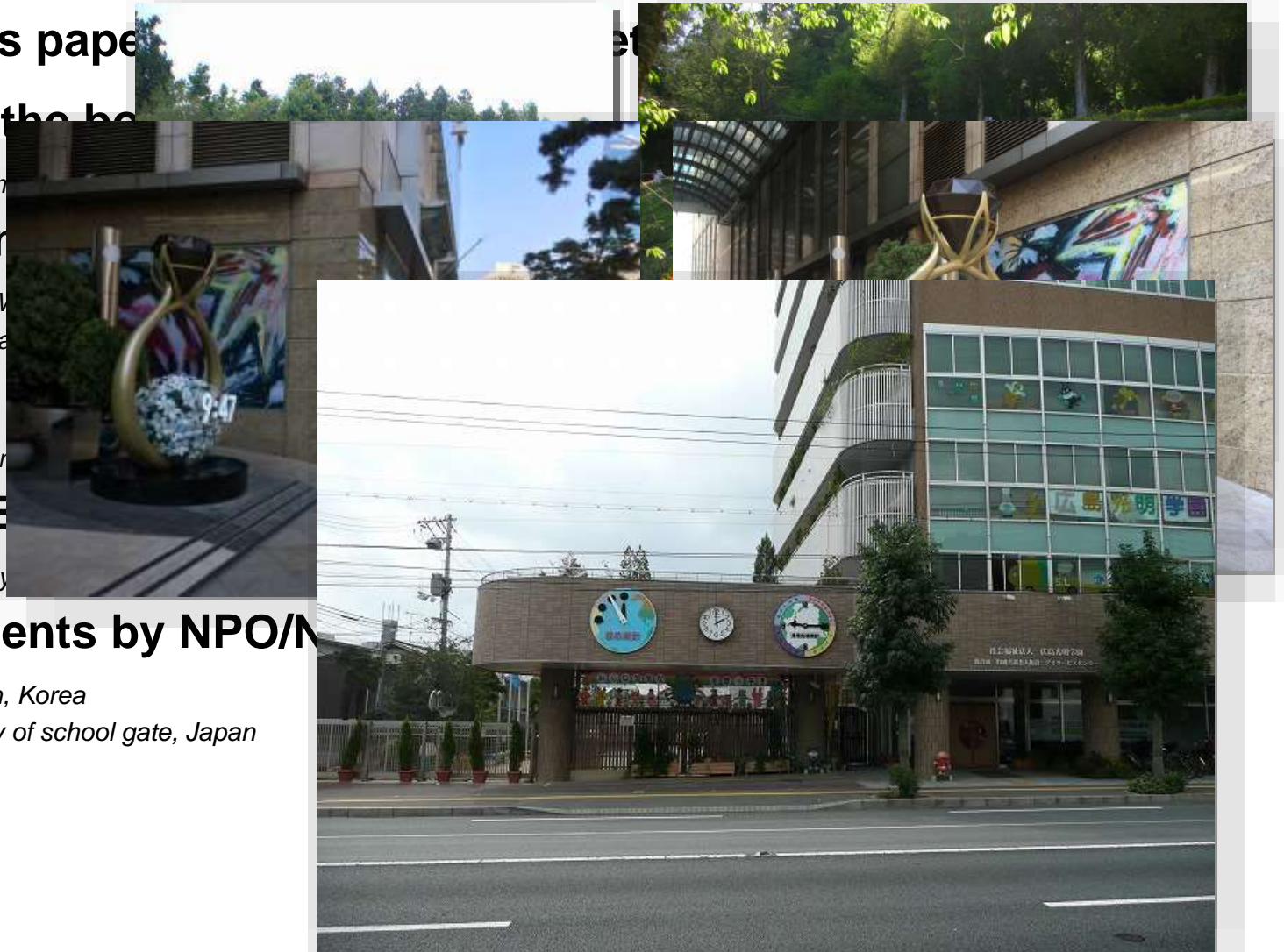
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Survey Result is Free Content.

We will be happy if it could be of any help to your environmental activities.

We appreciate if note a credit line of **"The Asahi Glass Foundation"**

BECOMING A RESPONDENTS

We are looking for new respondents.
Please visit our Website and register
yourself for the survey!

<https://system-survey.af-info.jp/en>



Only Simple Questions. It takes about 10 minutes.

Schedule 2018

Registration open today,

The survey will start from

The result will be informed on

March

April 1

September 7th.

Please
Check My
Flyer!

Please share with your colleagues and friends!

WHO IS THE ASAHI GLASS FOUNDATION?

- **Mission**

The Asahi Glass Foundation strives to contribute to the creation of a society that can transmit the genuine wealth of human civilization by supporting advanced research in the fields of science and technology and by recognizing efforts to solve environmental issues that call for global solutions.

- **History**

Established in 1933 as the Asahi Foundation for Chemical Industry Promotion in commemoration of 25th anniversary of Asahi Glass Co.,Ltd.

In 1990, Commendation program established and name was changed to the Asahi Glass Foundation. The foundation has since sustained a variety of activities under its grant-making and commendation programs. In 2018, Scholarship program start.

- **NPO Activity Programs**

- 1. Commendation,

Since 1992, Awarding of “**The Blue Planet Prize**”, an annual award given in recognition of individuals and organizations that have made major contributions to solving global environmental problems, and survey of “**Questionnaire on Environmental Problems and the Survival of Humankind**”, have been conducted.

- 2. Research Grant, 3. Scholarship, (omitted)

- **Chairman:** Kazuhiko Ishimura (Chairman, AGC Asahi Glass Co.,Ltd)

- **Location:** Tokyo Japan.

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