



TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SPECIAL CONCERT IN BANGKOK 2025

PROGRAM BOOK

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2025, 19:00
THAILAND CULTURAL CENTRE, MAIN HALL

TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASIA PROJECT SUPPORTED BY
THE JAPAN ARTS COUNCIL



TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASIA PROJECT

The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra of leading orchestra in Japan is promoting a new activity, the "Asia Project" funded from the JAPAN ARTS COUCIL from 2023.

This project aims to develop multifaced activities throughout Asia. In our plan we will explore diverse values and cultures, promote cultural and human exchanges through music, and progress the music culture of Asia as whole.



Please take our survey
on classical music

Tokyo Symphony Orchestra Asia Project Special Website
(Japanese, English and Thai)

<https://tokyosymphony.jp/asia-project/>





H.E. MR. OTAKA MASATO

AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY
AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF JAPAN
TO THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the "Tokyo Symphony Orchestra Special Concert in Bangkok 2025" and "Anime & Theatre Music by Tokyo Symphony Orchestra".

In February 2024, The Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, one of Japan's leading orchestras, signed a partnership with the Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra and the Faculty of Music, Silpakorn University to launch its Asia Project, which aims to establish a new base and develop multifaceted activities in Asia. I have heard that this two-night concert series are ongoing efforts to gain the understanding and support of the people of Japan -Thailand and positioned as highlights of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra in Asia Project.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have made special efforts to organize this two-night concert. I hope you enjoy tonight's performance.





MR. OKAZAKI TETSUYA

CHAIRMAN

TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

As part of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra Asia Project, we are very pleased to present two concerts in Bangkok.

The classical program conducted by Maestro Naoto Otomo with Mr. Tomohiro Ushida on piano.

In the Animation & Theater Music Concert , works by Joe Hisaishi and others , conducted by Maestro Shimpei Sasaki with Mr. Tomohiro Ushida on piano and musical actress Seiko Niizuma, who calls Thailand her second home, singing and narrating.

We are truly looking forward to deepening our exchange with the people of Thailand through music.

We would like to thank Ambassador Otaka, Ambassador of Japan, and all those who are helping us to this project.





DR. HARALD LINK

CHAIRMAN

ROYAL BANGKOK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

It is a great honour to welcome the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra back to Bangkok as part of their Asia Project, and to further strengthen the collaborative relationship between our two esteemed institutions. For this special occasion, the TSO presents a captivating program that features the poetic brilliance of Chopin's Piano Concerto No.1, performed by the outstanding pianist Tomoharu Ushida, followed by the colourful orchestral masterpiece Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky, in well-known orchestration the iconic arrangement by Ravel.

Although the Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra is not performing in this concert, we are pleased to support and learn from the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra's artistic excellence. Their return highlights how music transcends borders and strengthens the bond between our nations.





ASST. PROF. WOOTICHAI LERTSATAKIT

DEAN
FACULTY OF MUSIC
SILPAKORN UNIVERSITY

We admire your expertise, pioneer, and significant contributions in the field of classic orchestra performance, and we believe that your presence and involvement will benefit Thai music community as a whole.

We believe that Tokyo Symphony Orchestra has valuable insights and experiences to contribute to Thai classical music community.

We hope through this collaboration; we can foster a deeper understanding in music appreciation and performance between Japan and Thailand as well as creating a memorable public concert highlighting this collective group.

The realization of this concert would be an honor to our university and a significant opportunity for Thai orchestra fans. We are confident that your presence will have a long-lasting impact on Thai music community.





TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SPECIAL CONCERT IN BANGKOK 2025

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2025, 19:00

THAI CULTURAL CENTER, MAIL HALL

CONDUCTOR: NAOTO OTOMO

PIANO: TOMOHARU USHIDA

CONCERTMASTER: ISSEY KOBAYASHI

CHOPIN: PIANO CONCERTO NO.1 IN E MINOR, OP.11

INTERMISSION (20')

MUSSORGSKY/RAVEL ARR.: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASIA PROJECT
SUPPORTED BY **THE JAPAN ARTS COUNCIL**

ORGANIZED BY TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA / ROYAL BANGKOK SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
FACULTY OF MUSIC, SILPAKORN UNIVERSITY

SUPPORTED BY EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN THAILAND / JAPANESE ASSOCIATION IN THAILAND
SIGNATURE MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY / YAMAHA





NAOTO OTOMO

CONDUCTOR

Honorary Guest Conductor, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra
Conductor Laureate, Kyoto Symphony Orchestra
Music Director, Ryukyu Symphony Orchestra
Artistic Director, Takasaki City Theatre
Music Adviser, Seto Philharmonic Orchestra

Since his debut with the NHK Symphony Orchestra at the age of 22, Otomo has been invited regularly to conduct all the major orchestras both based in Tokyo and all over Japan.

Outside his country, Otomo led the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra on their overseas tours and has appeared repeatedly with the Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre national de Lorraine. He also led the Philharmonia Orchestra on its tour to Japan. Otomo has premiered numerous new works, conducting especially the first performances in Japan of several pieces by James MacMillan and the opera "A Flowering Tree" by John Adams.

Born in 1958 in Tokyo, Otomo graduated from the Toho Gakuen School of Music having studied conducting under Seiji Ozawa, Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Tadaaki Otaka and Morihiro Okabe.





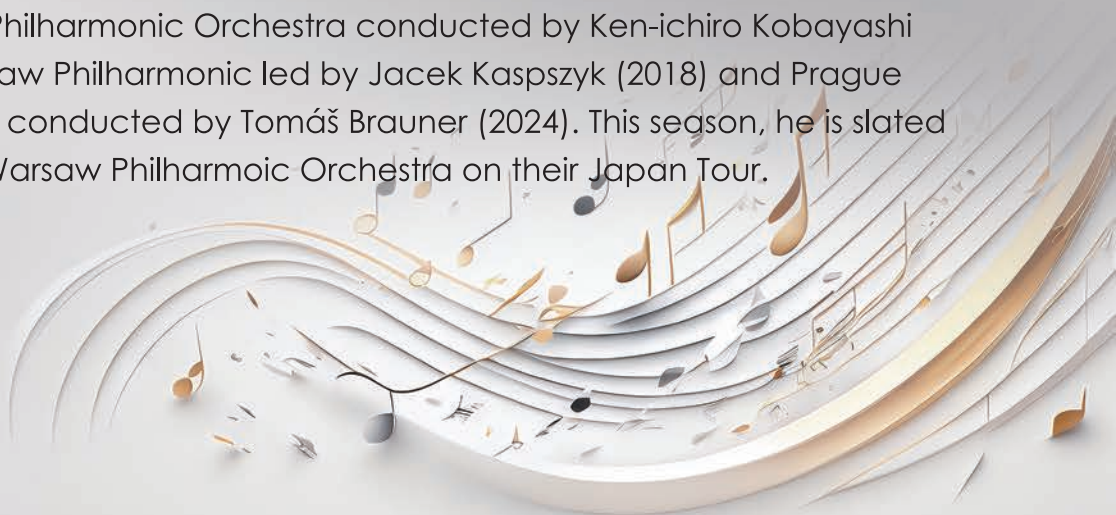
TOMOHARU USHIDA

PIANO

Tomoharu Ushida was born in Iwaki City, Fukushima Prefecture, in 1999. Soon after his birth, his family moved to Shanghai. It was there that Tomoharu began his piano studies.

In 2012, Tomoharu won 1st Prize in the 16th Hamamatsu International Piano Academy Competition (becoming the youngest winner in its history). In the same year, he was the youngest-ever Japanese classical pianist to release a debut CD on the Universal Music label. Since then he has released numerous CDs including Tomoharu Ushida Debut (2012), Memories (2012), Liszt & Chopin (2013), Traumerei (2014), Liebesfreud (2015), Pictures at an Exhibition (2016), Chopin 24 Preludes and Ballad No.1 (2019), and in August 2022, he is set to release a new CD CHOPIN RECITAL 2022 as his first live recording.

In addition to performing recitals in many locations, Tomoharu Ushida has performed as a soloist on the Japan tours of Wiener Kammer Orchester conducted by Stefan Vladar (2014), Russian National Orchestra led by Mikhail Pletnev (2015 and 2018), Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Ken-ichiro Kobayashi (2016), and The Warsaw Philharmonic led by Jacek Kaspszyk (2018) and Prague Symphony Orchestra conducted by Tomáš Brauner (2024). This season, he is slated to perform with the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra on their Japan Tour.





Tokyo Symphony Orchestra (TSO) was founded in 1946 and has a reputation for giving the premiere of a number of contemporary music and opera. And has been regularly performing various operas and ballets at the New National Theatre, Tokyo since its open.

TSO, together with music director Jonathan Nott, has been attracting attention as a leader in the Japanese orchestra world. 《Elektra in Concert Style(2023)》 won the 1st prize in the "Top 10 Concert 2023". The orchestra also has Keitaro Harada as Permanent Conductor, and Naoto Otomo as Honorary Guest Conductor.

Outside of Japan, the orchestra has performed 79 concerts in 58 cities, including Queen Sirikit' s 60th birthday celebrations at Thai Cultural center in 1992.

In 2023 TSO has launched new activities "Asia Project" with funding from the JAPAN ARTS COUNCIL with performance in Bangkok. It will explore diverse values and cultures, promote cultural and human exchange through music, and progress the music culture of Asia as whole.



CHOPIN: PIANO CONCERTO NO.1 IN E MINOR, OP.11

Polish-born Fryderyk Chopin (1810-1849) was first and foremost a composer of piano solo music: sonatas, ballades, polonaises, mazurkas, and nocturnes. On the other hand, his works for piano and orchestra, including the E minor piano concerto we will hear today, were composed when he was still a youth in Warsaw, having just graduated from the music conservatory. At the time he was an ambitious pianist, and one can well imagine from these works that he must have been a fine virtuoso. Of the two concertos, the one in F minor (op. 21) was composed first, but the E minor concerto became No. 1 because it was published first as op. 11. Chopin began composing the E minor concerto shortly after the premiere of his F minor concerto in March 1830. We know from a letter Chopin wrote to a friend that by May 1830, he had completed the first two movements, although the Rondo finale was still incomplete.

Chopin modelled his work on the virtuoso concertos of celebrated pianist-composers such as Hummel and Moscheles, written to display their technical abilities to the full. As a result, however, the role of the orchestra remains rather subservient.

The first movement (*Allegro maestoso*) opens with a dignified orchestral introduction where the two main themes appear. When the solo piano enters, it elaborates the two themes with embellishments and flourishes that are reminiscent of operatic arias of Bellini, a composer Chopin adored. Chopin himself explained that the slow second movement is a "romance in a sentimental vein, tranquil and melancholic" and "it resembles beautiful springtime reflections... by moonlight." The finale, a lively rondo, is based on a traditional Polish dance "krakowiak" which is characterized by syncopated rhythms in fast 2/4 time.

The Concerto in E minor was premiered in public on October 11, 1830, at the National Theatre in Warsaw with Chopin himself at the piano. The concert was a great success, but it became the last public appearance for Chopin in his native country. When he departed for Vienna in November, he took the concerto with him and he performed it at the capital's Kärntnerthor Theater and in Paris the following year, which helped establish his reputation in Europe.



MUSSORGSKY/RAVEL ARR.: PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

Pictures at an Exhibition was originally a work for solo piano composed by the nineteenth-century Russian composer, Modest Mussorgsky (1839-1881). It was later orchestrated by Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), at the request of the Russian-born conductor Serge Koussevitsky. Ravel was a renowned master in orchestration, and the work is perhaps more familiar in the orchestral version than the original piano suite.

Mussorgsky was a member of the so-called “Mighty Handful” , a group of five Russian composers whose aim was to create a distinctly Russian school of music. He was largely self-taught in composition, developing his own distinct style.

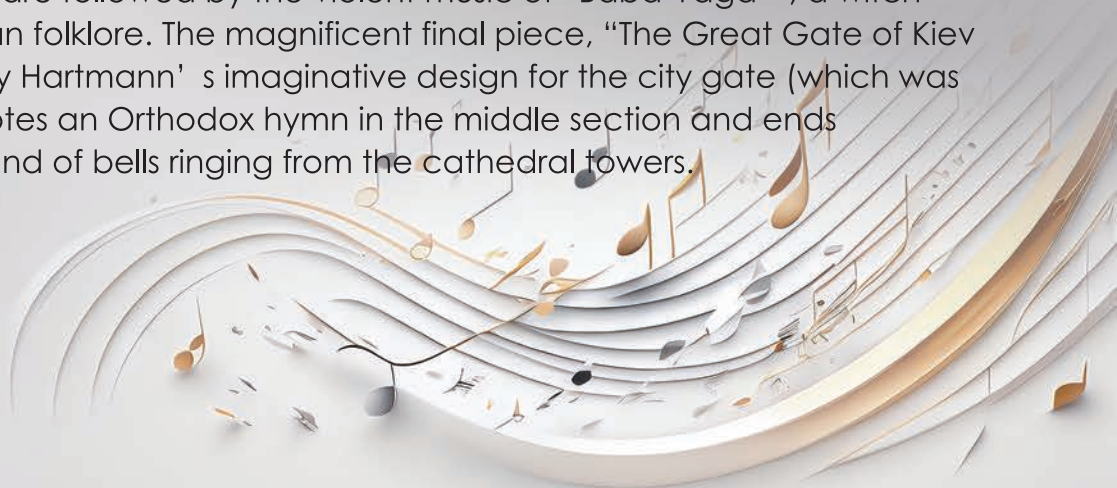
His piano suite *Pictures at an Exhibition* was composed in 1874, around the same time as his opera *Boris Godunov*. He had gone to see the memorial exhibition of his friend Viktor Hartmann, a painter and architect who had died suddenly the previous year, and inspired by the paintings on show, he composed this masterpiece in three weeks. Mussorgsky depicts his impressions of Hartmann’ s paintings with plenty of character and exotic colors.

The work opens with “Promenade” , which alternates between 5/4 time and 6/4 time. Led by the fanfare-like solo trumpet tune, the music depicts the composer visiting the exhibition, wandering from one picture to the next. The theme appears five times, much varied each time, forming the links between the pieces.

“Gnomus” begins with a weird and grotesque theme in the lower register played by clarinets, bassoons, cellos and basses in unison. “Il vecchio castello” (The Old Castle) depicts a nostalgic song of a troubadour which Ravel allocated to the alto saxophone, which was not a standard orchestral instrument. “Tuileries” captures children running around and quarreling in a garden in Central Paris. “Bydło” (“cattle” in Polish), featuring a solo for a tuba, is said to be a song of the laborers pulling an oxen cart. “Ballet of the Unhatched Chickens” , a work for which Hartmann had provided the costume designs, is a light-hearted and humorous dance. “Samuel Goldberg and Schmuyle” paints a cynical view of the dialogue between two Jews, one rich and the other poor.

Two contrasting pieces, “Limoges Marketplace” and “Catacombs” are played without a break, and are followed by the violent music of “Baba-Yaga” , a witch that appears in Russian folklore. The magnificent final piece, “The Great Gate of Kiev (Kyiv)” was inspired by Hartmann’ s imaginative design for the city gate (which was never realized). It quotes an Orthodox hymn in the middle section and ends gloriously with the sound of bells ringing from the cathedral towers.

(Nahoko Goto)



TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Music Director / Jonathan Nott

Conductor Laureate / Kazuyoshi Akiyama, Hubert Soudant

Permanent conductor / Keitaro Harada

Honorary Guest Conductor / Naoto Otomo

Permanent Honorary conductors / Arvid Jansons, Masashi Ueda, Shinji Toyama

1st Concertmaster	Issey Kobayashi / Gleb Nikitin
Concertmaster	Jun Tajiri
1st Violins	○Masaki Kimura / ○Sachiko Horiuchi / ○Yuria Morioka Atsuko Ogawa / Azusa Koyama / Yurie Tatsuoka / Kyoko Tsuchiya Fuko Nakamura / Yuri Mizutani / Mari Yoshikawa
2nd Violins	◎Yasuaki Shimizu / ◎Ayako Hattori / ○Mana Kato ○Fumihiko Fukutome / Azusa Kawasuso / Koji Suzuki Kaori Tsujita / Mayumi Abe / Midori Sakai
Violas	◎Atsuko Aoki / ◎Naoko Takeo / ◎Maki Nishimura ○Chihiro Tai / ○Miho Yamahiro / Mizuho Arai Masaaki Konishi / Marina Suzuki
Celllos	☆Fumitsugu Ito / ◇Tatsuki Sasanuma / ○Mayumi Kawai Takehiro Uchiyama / Yoshiyuki Kanie / Yasuyo Higuchi Mariko Fukuzaki / Yukari Watanabe*
Double Basses	◇Ryu Sukegawa / ◎Cody Roseboom / ○Ippei Kitamura ○Chizu Hisamatsu / Shuhei Yasuda / Atsuko Watanabe
Flute	◇Masahiro Aizawa / ◎Ai Takeyama
Flute & Piccolo	Mariko Hamasaki
Oboes	◎Eriko Ara / ◎Ryota Araki / Kenta Urawaki
Oboe & English horn	Takayuki Mogami
Clarinets	◎Emmanuel Neveu / ◎Akina Yoshino Chikako Kondo
Bassoons	◎Mariko Fukushi / ◎Osamu Fukui Yuka Sakai / Yuki Maezeki
Horns	◎Yoshiyuki Uema / Tomohiro Kato Arin Shirai / Marie Fujita*
Trumpets	◎Masato Sawada / ◎Dylan Lowery Takefumi Nozawa / Moe Matsuyama
Trombones	◎Naoto Oba / ◎Shinsuke Torizuka / Keisuke Sumikawa
Bass Trombone	Ryota Fujii
Tuba	Yoichi Kondo
Timpani & Percussion	◎Futoshi Shimizu / ◎Yudai Yamamura Yoshifumi Takeyama / Jummi Tsunakawa
Harp	Sara Watanabe
Librarians	Tomoya Hayashi / Sachiko Kato
Stage Managers	Risa Nishioka / Satoshi Yamamoto

◎Principal

☆Solo Principal

○Vorspieler

◇Guest Principal

* on probation

TOKYO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Honorary Chairman	Hideo Sawada
Chairman	Tetsuya Okazaki
Vice Chairman	Hajime Hirasawa
	Tatsumi Yoda
Executive Adviser	Shigeto Kanayama
Managing Director	Yoshitaka Hirooka
Senior Personnel Director	
	Makoto Fujiwara
Personnel Manager	Tami Janamoto
General Manager	Tsutomu Tsuji
Staff	Moto Ichikawa
	Amy Ito
	Hinata Enoki
	Hiroshi Ogawa
	Takao Ogi
	Misa Kiriwara
	Kotaro Nagakubo
	Makoto Mitsuhashi
	Michiko Yamada
	Junko Kajikawa
	Mioko Yamamoto

Royal Bangkok Symphony Orchestra

Wanchai Yanubol
 Witaya Tumornsoontorn
 Arbha Vanijvongse
 Chantima Iamkhanthong
 Nantikarn Chatnoppakun
 Worames Bharmasakha
 Na Sagolnakorn
 Hoang Huy Phan
 Chaiphin Sripongying
 Narumon Boodadisai
 Sudaporn Unsungnern
 Chatree Iamsin
 Chomwilai Johanngoa
 Patsakorn Intarasombat

ZIGNATURE

MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY

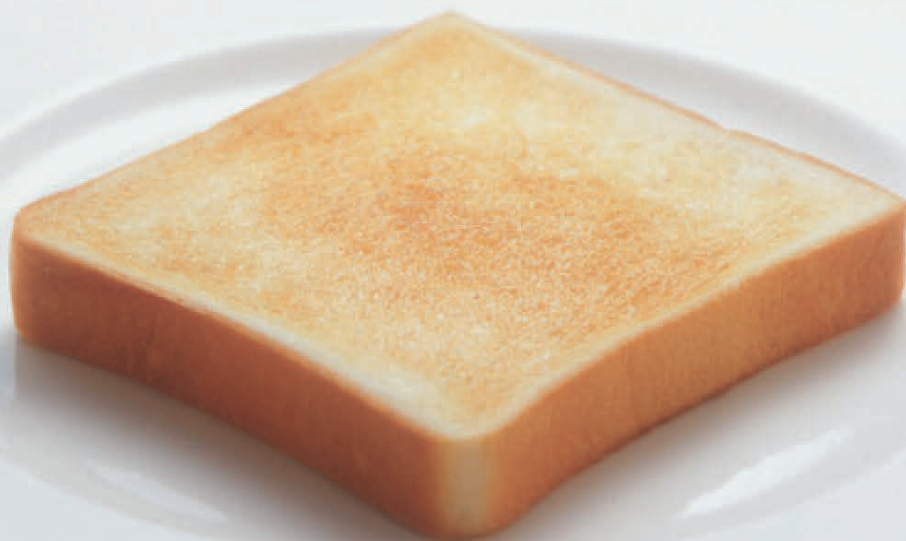
Panvilas Chaichowarat
 Arisa Chaichowarat
 Krit Kunplin
 Varanee Pancharoen
 Napatphol Funngoenvanij
 Suraporn Tawornpanish
 Patcharakamon Buathong
 Jerapinya Upamai

IAA Incorporated

Masatoshi Hirota
 Masato Yamamoto
 Daisuke Makino
 Mizuho Hirata
 Makoto Takani
 Manorung Wisalya



いつも、
そばにあるおいしさ。



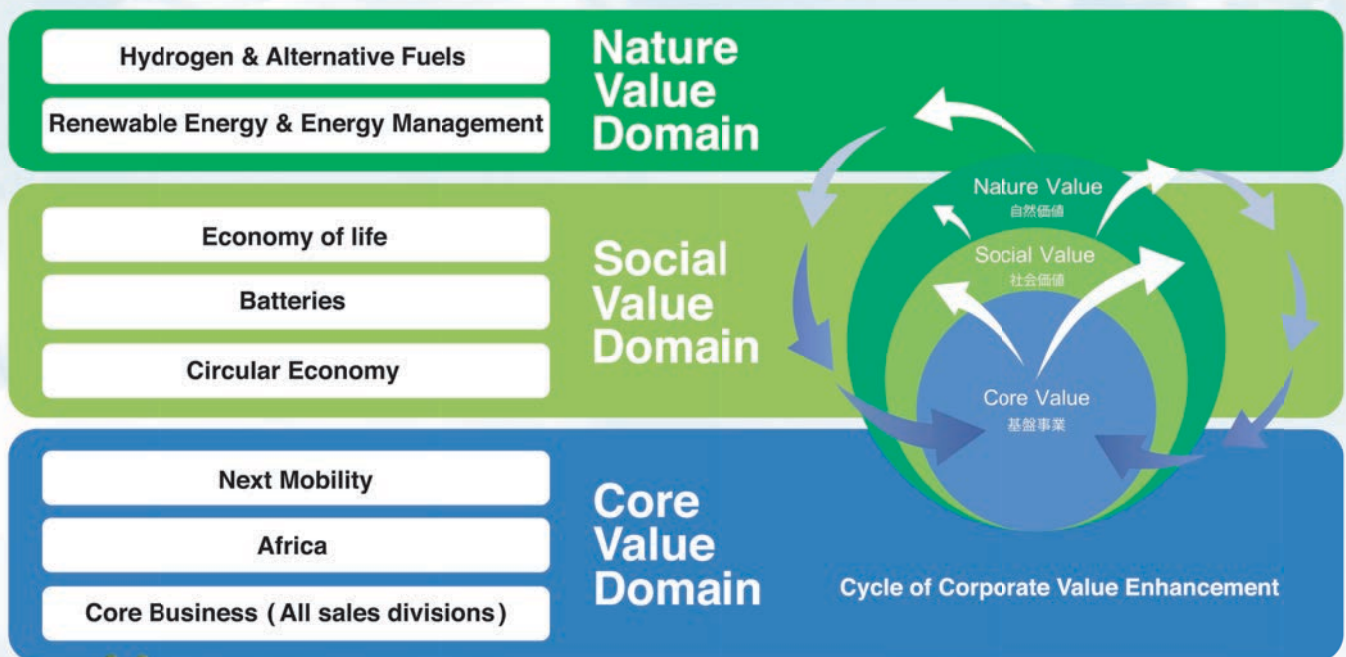
To create a better society and
global environment together with everyone
by simultaneously providing social
and nature value and economic value

7 Priority Domains

for accelerating our growth strategy

3 Value Domains

for enhancing corporate value
by providing value that is unique to our company



for the future
CHILDREN



