Ms. Chiaki Nakamura, MA
Award of Excellence
Born: September 26, 1958                   Nationality: Japan
Occupation: Representative, Research Division
            African Elephant Foundation–International (AEF-I)

Since 1989, Ms. Chiaki Nakamura has lived in Kenya’s Tsavo East National Park to engage in
research of the African elephant. Her research has involved not only the ecosystem but has
extended to activities to gain understanding from the local residents and foster development of
economic and living conditions by promoting economic self-sufficiency among the local women
to. This assistance has included activity to improve water facilities to the village and efforts to
improve the area lifestyle. Ms. Nakamura, together with a US university, organizes educational
Eco-tours to deepen understanding of the natural ecosystem, animal protection, environmental
issues, and the life of the local residents. She is energetically involved in local environmental
protection efforts.

Ms. Maria Ela L. Atienza, PhD
Incentive Award
Born: January 7, 1972                                  Nationality: Philippines
Occupation: Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
            University of the Philippines-Diliman

After the end of the Marcos administration, democracy and citizens’ participation in government
was stipulated in a new constitution in 1986 during the Aquino presidency. Following that, to aim
for local government and regional authority, the 1991 Local Government Code was enacted.
Within this context, Dr. Atienza analyzes the dynamics of health devolution in the Philippines.
Using two case studies, her research looks at the framework of decentralization of the public
health system in local areas, resource allocation and management, adequacy of health personnel
and facilities, and citizens’ participation in health service delivery. The research can be expected to
provide direction for public policy in developing countries.

Ms. Yeo Lay Hwee, PhD
Incentive Award
Born: March 15, 1963                                  Nationality: Singapore
Occupation: Senior Research Fellow, Singapore Institute of International Affairs

With the aim of promoting global governance, and with the recognition of the importance of
strengthening the political and economic ties between Asia and Europe, which were previously
weaker than those between Asia and the United States and Europe and the United States, Dr. Yeo
has been involved with the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) since its inception in 1996. Further, Dr.
Yeo energetically teaches courses and writes academic papers to heighten understanding of Asia in
Europe while also holding meetings within Southeast Asia to deepen mutual understanding. To
analyze and explain issues affecting Southeast Asian countries, she serves as the coordinator of
and chief editor of SEAPSNet News Analysis, a news summary service on the Singapore Institute
of International Affairs website.