

**BIEN Executive Committee Election:**

Post: Research Manager  
Toru Yamamori

**Personal Statement****Backgrounds and Qualifications**

I first encountered the idea of a basic income in the early 1990s via my involvement in solidarity activism with a casual worker's trade union. This experience led me to study economics in the hope that the discipline strives both to understand and resolve social problems. While I found this hope of mine had been naïve and false, my endeavour since then has been to change the discipline and make it in effect relevant to understanding and solving social issues. A part of what I have accomplished on this mission was recently recognised with the award of the 2017 K. W. Kapp Prize from the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy.

In 2002, meeting people who in 1970s Britain demanded UBI in their working class women's liberation and claimants' unions movement, led me to carry out oral historical research about them as well as to be involved in UBI activism. The outcome of this former research won the 2014 *Basic Income Studies* Best Essay prize.

I am currently a professor at Doshisha University, Kyoto, and a life-member at Clare Hall, Cambridge.

**BIEN and what I would like to do**

I became a life-member of BIEN in 2004 and was elected as a member of the Executive Committee in 2012 — possibly the first Asian to do so in both cases. I served as Chair of the Working Group on the definition of UBI in our Charter at the 2016 Seoul Congress. While mediating diverse voices peaceably, constructively, and collectively was a wonderful experience, I felt that it could have been improved if it were possible to connect the discussion to the exhaustive work already undertaken by BIEN members.

Thanks to the invaluable efforts of the current Chair and General Manager, we now have the status of an educational charity. To have secured this status not only gives us legal personhood, but also suggests one of the immediate directions in which we can collectively go forward. With this in mind, if I were elected as Research Manager, what I would like to do is to make more prominent and usable on the website, the richness and diversity of our research assets. My initial step would be to compile an index to help visitors navigate the resources that we already have online thanks to the collective effort done by our BI news team and web manager.