

Report on Japanese Speech Contest 2010

The annual Massey University Japanese Speech Contest was held on Friday August 20 in the Auditorium, Sir Geoffrey Peren Building by the Japanese programme of the School of Language Studies as an event celebrating International Languages Week (15 -21 August). Records of the contest go back until 1987. The competition, which requires students to deliver short speeches in Japanese, is an opportunity for students from Year 10 and over to pit themselves against their peers from other schools, and gain skills not only in oral Japanese communication, but also in effective public speaking. Any secondary schools in NZ may enter candidates, though mostly lower North Island schools participate. This year schools from Hawke's Bay and New Plymouth as well as Palmerston North participated.

Attractive book prizes and DVD prizes were donated by the Japan Foundation, and further assistance was provided by the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education.

An opening address was given by Mr Suguru Minoya, Director of the Japan Information and Cultural Centre, Embassy of Japan, followed by an interactive and very entertaining Japanese general knowledge quiz by Mr Minoya and Ms Tamae Matsushima, also from the Embassy.

The contest was judged by Ms Junko Tomooka, Japanese Language Advisor from ILANZ (International Languages Aotearoa NZ) and Ms Adèle Scott (School of Curriculum and Pedagogy, College of Education, Massey University and President of the NZ Association of Language Teachers). Both judges provided instructive comments afterwards, which students will find helpful not only for improving Japanese skills, but also in public speaking in general.

The event was very well attended, with 30 contestants plus teachers and supporters, a substantial increase on last year. As always the quality of the speeches was extremely high, with speeches ranging from obesity to Greek mythology.

Prizewinners were as follows:

Category 1		
1st	Edward Richards	St Peter's College
2nd	Rory Robinson	Awatapu College
3rd	Terry Lee	PN Boys' High School
HC	Dylan Richardson	PN Boys' High School

Category 2		
1st	Harrison Faumuina	Awatapu College
2nd	Dakyung Lee	PN Girls' High School
3rd	Steph Hunt	Awatapu College
HC	Yinan Zhang	PN Girls' High School
Category 3		
1st	Phway Aye	PN Girls' High School
2nd	Declan Meynell	PN Boys' High School
3rd	Joseph Hall	St Peter's College
Open Category		
1st	Molly Selway	Awatapu College
2nd	Wade Stafford	New Plymouth Boys' High School

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September 24, 2010