

# Consul-General Kohara's activities



On 15 February, the Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney and the Sydney office of JNTO held an event to **promote Japanese culture and saké**.

Many Tohoku saké producers took part. The event was attended by around 180 people from the NSW government and travel and food industries.

A **Roundtable Discussion for PALM 6** was hosted by Consul-General Kohara on 21 March. The discussion group included several members of the Lowy Institute, academics, members of the Japanese consulate and business community. The objective of the meeting was to discuss ideas and issues for stimulating further discussions in the PALM (Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting). PALM 6 will be held on 25-26 May in Okinawa, Japan. PALM has been held every three years since 1997.

**Dr Michael Wesley [front, left] Executive Director, Lowy Institute, and Dr Kohara with participants in the 21 March Roundtable Discussion for PALM 6**



## Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

*On Monday 19 March 2012, the Consul-General of Japan in Sydney, Dr Masahiro Kohara, hosted the awards ceremony for the 29th Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest 2011 at his official residence. Eleven of the twelve NSW prize winners were able to attend, joined by parents, teachers and principals as well as other supporters of the contest. Some 50 people took part in the event, helping to celebrate the achievements of the students, among them the first-prize winners in both Junior A and Junior B divisions. For the fifth consecutive year, the School of the Year was awarded to a NSW school.*

Before presenting the prizes to students individually, Dr Kohara congratulated them all on their achievement. As a published author, he told them that writing was a wonderful way to clarify one's thoughts but that he also knew what a difficult and time consuming process writing could be.

He encouraged students to share their own ideas and thoughts when they write. While good research is always important, essays can really come alive when the reader hears the writer's voice.

Speaking on behalf of the NSW judges, Ms Haruko Asakura, recently of the Australian Catholic University, warmly congratulated the students. While it had been a difficult task deciding which essays to recommend to the Embassy for final consideration, Ms Asakura said that it had been an absolute pleasure to read so many interesting essays.

First-prize winner in Junior A (years 7-8), **Ms Erica Zhou** of North Sydney Girls' High School received a book voucher to the value of \$300. **School of the Year North Sydney Girls' High School** received a book voucher to the value of \$400 which was used to buy Japanese-language textbooks.



**With Junior A & B first prize winners [3rd right & 2nd left], Senior outstanding prize winner [centre], sponsors and judge**

First-prize winner in the Junior B division (years 9-10), **Mr Vincent Ching** of Penrith High School won a trip to Japan\* thanks to the generous support of contest sponsors Japan Airlines Australia and JTB Australia.

*Continued on page 3.*

The complete list of NSW prize winners can be found at [www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/japan\\_reports.html](http://www.sydney.au.emb-japan.go.jp/english/japan_reports.html). See Volume 46 No.4

\* For details and winning essays, please see: [www.au.emb-japan.go.jp/e-web/education\\_essay\\_results.html](http://www.au.emb-japan.go.jp/e-web/education_essay_results.html)  
Note: The senior division first-prize winner receives the same prize.