

Japan REPORTS

The Consulate-General of Japan in Sydney's
Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 45 No.1
Autumn 2010

The 27th Essay Contest Awards Ceremony

The 27th Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest Awards Ceremony was held at the Consulate-General of Japan on Friday 12 March, hosted by the Acting Consul-General of Japan, Mr Kazutoshi Inadome. Sixteen of the fifty national prize winners were from New South Wales, and the 2009 School of the Year prize was awarded to NSW school, St Columba's High School.



Prize winning students with the Acting Consul-General of Japan [back row, 5th from right] and supporters of the contest

The Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest is conducted annually by the Embassy and Consulates-General of Japan in Australia, and its aim is to promote understanding of Japan and Australia-Japan relations among Australian secondary school students.

The Acting Consul-General congratulated the winning students on their achievements. "Writing an essay that catches the attention of the reader and wins a prize in a national contest takes effort and skill", he told them.

He also noted that it was the third year in a row that a New South Wales school has taken out the School of the Year prize which he said showed "the strength of Japanese studies in the state".

The 27th contest received 989 essays from all over Australia, with 437 from New South Wales and the

Northern Territory, the Sydney consulate's jurisdiction. After detailed scrutiny at the state level, essays were submitted for the final judging in Canberra. Twenty-three essays from Junior A Division, 17 from Junior B Division, and 10 from Senior Division were selected to receive awards nationally.

Assoc. Prof. Roger March from the University of New South Wales was one of the judges in this year's contest. After congratulating the students, he expressed his hope that they would all have the opportunity to visit Japan someday, explaining that his own first time there more than 30 years ago was a formative experience.

Information for the 28th Australia-Japan Relations Essay Contest will be available in May. The Consulate hopes to receive many essays again this year.

- INSIDE:**
- A Farewell Message from Consul-General Nobuhito Hobo
 - Visit to Australia by the Japanese Foreign Minister
 - JS Shirase returns to Sydney
 - Ikebana International Sydney Chapter celebrates 50 years
 - A former CIR looks back on the JET programme
 - Destination Japan: Nara Heijo-kyo 1300th Anniversary
 - Japanese art—old and new in Sydney
 - The many ways of bamboo