

## **Taste of Japan 2010: Haiku and shodo competition**

The haiku & shodo competition was run as part of Taste of Japan 2010 organized by the NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc. with the support of the Consulate General of Japan. This competition aimed to provide an opportunity for learners of Japanese language to express their thoughts and feelings in a Japanese haiku poem and to experience the traditional Japanese art of calligraphy. Entry was open to high school students between year 10 and 13 who are studying Japanese at schools in New Zealand, and to the members of the NZ Japan Society of Auckland who are non-native speakers of Japanese. Participants were required to compose a haiku poem in Japanese, in the form of 3 lines consisting of 5, 7 and 5 sounds (one sound typically corresponds to one hiragana character), and write it on a long strip of paper vertically with a writing brush (*hude*) and ink (*sumi*).

The competition was advertised through the following websites and mailing lists.

- website for NZAJLT (New Zealand Association of Japanese Language Teachers)
- NZJNET
- website for the NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc. ([www.nzjapan.net](http://www.nzjapan.net))
- News Letter posted by National Adviser of Japanese at ILANZ (International Languages Aotearoa New Zealand), Ms. Junko Tomooka

We received a total of 143 entries from 13 schools for the high school section, and 4 entries for the NZJS section. Twenty haiku poems were shortlisted by two judges from our society and were passed to the Japanese language teachers at School of Languages, AUT who selected the winners. Haiku poems were judged based on the content (creativity and interest), the use of the Japanese language (expressions and accuracy), and the writing of the poem in calligraphy. The top seven students in the high school section were then interviewed by three council members of the NZ Japan Society of Auckland, who selected the first prize winner. We selected a winner who can be an ambassador of New Zealand to Japan introducing New Zealand culture to Japanese people during his home-stay programme.

The following students were selected as winners.

1st prize: Richard Dunn, Orewa College

2nd prize: Hee-yeon Kim, Auckland International College

3rd prize: Cho Wool Kim, Kristin School

NZJS prize (High School section): Hailey Guo, Macleans College,

NZJS prize (NZJS section): Wanda Tambrin, NZ Japan Society of Auckland

The results of the competition were sent by email to each school a week before Taste of Japan, which was held on 25 September at the Logan Campbell Centre, ASB Showgrounds, Greenlane in Auckland. All works of haiku poems were displayed at the venue and the prize giving ceremony was held during Taste of Japan. We had Mr. Tsuzuki, a representative from the Japan Airlines, and Ms. Sonja Gallagher from AUT to present the winners the following prizes together with certificates.

1<sup>st</sup> prize: a return economy air ticket to Japan  
2<sup>nd</sup> prize: \$100 book voucher sponsored by AUT and a book about Japanese culture  
3<sup>rd</sup> prize: a shodo set  
NZJS prize (High School section): a pair tickets for entry to Sky Tower sponsored by JTB  
NZJS prize (NZJS section): a shodo set

We invited Mr. Kohara, a shodo teacher at Chiba Municipal Chiba High School, from Japan to demonstrate his art of calligraphy at Taste of Japan. Mr. Kohara and his wife hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> prize winner of the competition in 2007 and 2008. They will also be hosting the winner during his one-week stay in Japan for three days in December this year. Nagareyama International Friendship Association (NIFA) in Chiba prefecture will be hosting the winner for the remaining four days.

NZJS ran the haiku competition 10 years ago when we celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year as we celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we were once again able to run the competition thanks to the sponsorship by the Sasakawa Fellowship Fund for Japanese Language Education. We are truly grateful for your sponsorship, which made it possible for us to provide the winners with wonderful prizes including the opportunity to stay in Japan on a one-week home stay programme.

One of the aims of the NZ Japan Society of Auckland is to assist the study of Japanese culture, both traditional and modern, and I believe that we were able to provide opportunities to learn about haiku poems in Japanese through the competition as well as to experience various traditional festivals in Japan at Taste of Japan.

Michiyo Mori  
Vice-President  
The NZ Japan Society of Auckland Inc.

List of attachment

1. Specification for the competition
2. List of finalists and their haiku poems
3. List of schools and the number of entrants from each school
4. financial report