

Embassy of Japan
Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

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**National Soroban Competition: Soroban Good for 3Cs,
Calculation Skills, Concentration and Confidence**

The 10th National Soroban Competition for the Kingdom of Tonga was held on Thursday, 12 March 2020 at the Queen Salote College Hall. The Competition was co-organized by the Embassy of Japan and the Ministry of Education and Training, and attend by Hon. Siaso Sovaleni, Minister for Education and Training and His Excellency, Mr. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Kingdom of Tonga. Present also to witness the competition were Dr. Tangikina Steen, CEO for the Ministry of Education and Training, Mr. MATSUI Nobuaki, JICA's Resident Representative, soroban teachers, parents and supporters of over 200 young soroban competitors from Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua island.

His Excellency Mr. ISHII highlighted that "the significance of Soroban is not only good for improving your Calculation Skills, but also for boosting your Concentration and encouraging Confidence." He thanked the commitment from Tonga's Ministry of Education in co-hosting the competition every year, since 2010. "Through soroban we share a culture and educational bond of friendship that is held together by our commitment for providing our children with a good education," said the Ambassador.

In the keynote address, Hon. Siaso Sovaleni emphasized that soroban in a very important skill that needs to be taught and pass on to Tonga's young generation. "Our responsibility is to nurture our students and provide them with the best possible education. Education is a key pillar for economic and sustainable development, and Maths is an essential element to support sustainable development and to improve the livelihoods of our people." He thanked the Ambassador for the on-going support to teach soroban in Tonga, and congratulated the young winners of the competition, and encourage the primary students to study soroban with gratitude and pride.

The National Soroban Competition engaged classes 4 and 5 soroban students from all over the Kingdom of Tonga, to compete in three categories; 100 equation/ eight minutes written examination, oral examination and flash examination. Prizes were awarded to the winners of each category, and every year the winner of the class 5 written category is nominated to participate in the soroban camp in Japan, later in the year.

The Ambassador acknowledged the successful cooperation from all stakeholders; Tonga's Ministry of Education, JICA Tonga and Japan's International Soroban Diffusion Foundation at the reception which he hosted in the evening, at his residence.

END.

Attached – Result & Photos

National Soroban Competition Result 2020

Written/Class 4

Prize	School/District	Name
1	Tongatapu Vahe Kolo (Falakiko 'Asisi)	Fredrick Kautoke
2	Tongatapu Vahe Hihifo	Ngalukilo Mafi
3	Vava'u	Litani Vaka

Written/Class 5

Prize	School/District	Name
1	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake	Viliani Filifonu'u
2	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake	Laiseni Latu
3	'Eua	Lupe Fungalei

Oral/Class 4

Prize	School/District	Name
1	Tongatapu Vahe Kolo	'Ofa Malani
2	Vava'u	Litani Vaka
3	Vava'u	'Aisea Lo'amonu

Oral/Class 5

Prize	School/District	Name
1	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake	'Apolonio Vaka
2	Tongatapu Vahe Kolo	Pita Tahitu'a
3	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake	Natasha Kaho

Flash/Class 4

Prize	School/District	Name
1	Vava'u	Litani Vaka
2	Vava'u	Fe'ofa'aki Molimoli
3	Vava'u	'Ana Kasimea

Flash/Class 5

Prize	School/District	Name
1	Tongatapu Vahe Kolo	Pita Tahitu'a
2	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake	Feleti Uate
3	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake	Lisia Tupou

Overall

Prize	School/District
1	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake
2	Tongatapu Vahe Kolo
3	Vava'u

Teachers

Prize	School/District	
1	Tongatapu Vahe Kolo/ Falakiko 'Asisi	Taina Faupula
2	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake / Tu'aliku	Vahengafo'ou Po'uli
3	Tongatapu Vahe Hahake / Nukuleka	Lesieli Tu'itupou

Photos:



H.E. ISHII Tetsuya with Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni and the young soroban competitors from Vava'u Island who won 3rd place in the overall competition, held at Queen Salote College Hall on Thursday, 12 March 2020.



The welcoming address by H.E. ISHII Tetsuya, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga.



Class 5 students competing in the Oral Category at the National Soroban Competition on Thursday, 12 March 2020.



Speed and accuracy in math calculation, concentration and confidence all used by individual competitors during their soroban competition



'Ofa Malani (1st Oral Class 4), Pita Tahitu'a (1st Flass Class 5) Fredrick Kautoke (1st Written Class 4) from St. Falakiko 'Asisi Primary School with their soroban teacher Taina Faupula (1st Teachers Competition)



Overall winner of the competition was awarded to the soroban competitors from Primary Schools of Eastern District, Tongatapu (Vahe Hahake)



Eastern District soroban students and Teachers with Hon. Siaosi Sovaleni, Minister for Education and Training and H.E. Mr. ISHII Tetsuya and guests.



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii with his invited guests at the reception hosted for Soroban Officials and Teachers in Tonga.



H.E Mr. Tetsuya Ishii with his invited guests at the reception hosted for Soroban Officials and Teachers in Tonga.

*For further enquires please contact: Embassy of Japan in Tonga.
Level 5, National Reserve Bank of Tonga Building / Telephone: 22-221 / Fax 27-025*

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