

Embassy of Japan

Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

CE/2023/01
September 11, 2023

Japanese Speech Contest 2023

The Japanese Speech Contest for 2023 awarded prizes to winners of the competition on Friday, 8 September, at the St. Andrew's High School Hall. H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga and Mr. 'Isikeli Oko, Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Education and Training awarded the prizes sponsored by the Narita Airport Business.

This year marks the 11th anniversary of the competition after it was delayed due to COVID-19 for three years.

“The return of the Japanese Speech Contest is a milestone in our relations as well as in the Japanese Language education in Tonga. It plays a curial role in Tonga and Japan's cultural exchanges which has been supported by JICA volunteers since 1986,” said H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA. He acknowledged the dedication from the Ministry of Education, JICA and Tongan Japanese language teachers for their steadfast support in teaching the Japanese language in Tonga.

“Japan and Tonga have a long-established warm friendship and I have no doubt that with a growing number of young Japanese language speakers, we could overcome the communication barrier someday in the near future,” he said.

Mr. 'Isikeli Oko, CEO for Ministry of Education and Training thanked the Ambassador for his willingness and determination to revive the competition. “The Speech Contest is a significant event, as it enhances the participation of students who are studying the Japanese language at their respective schools. Learning the language opens-up doors for our students, to have a vast knowledge about the Japanese culture, its people, the land, the food, researches and developments,” said Mr. Oko.

Japanese language students from 6 schools in Tongatapu competed in four categories, and were judged by the content and structure, pronunciation and intonation, presentation, grammar and richness and correct use of vocabulary in their speeches. Solomone Lemoto of Tonga College won the Form 4 category; Lepolo Sikuvea of Tailulu College won Form 5; Kuini Matewai of Tonga High School won Form 6 and 'Ilisapesi Tukutukunga of Tonga High School won the Open category.

The Contest is a joint collaboration of Embassy of Japan and Tonga's Ministry of Education and Training. This year, the schools only in Tongatapu islands were able to participate.

END.

Attached; Photos

Embassy of Japan Tonga

Photos:



H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku with Mr. 'Isikeli Oko and the winners of the Japanese Speech Contest 2023, the Judges and Japanese Language Teachers on Friday, 8 September at St. Andrew's High School Hall.



Winner of the Open Category, 'Ilisapesi Tukutukunga, Form 7 of Tonga High School awarded by Mr. 'Isikeli Oko, CEO for Ministry of Education and Training.

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

Embassy of Japan

Tonga



Tupou College, Toloa's Japanese language student 'Amato' Ali .



H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA with Japanese language teacher and students of Tailulu College, including winner of Form 5 category Lepolo Sikuvea.

Embassy of Japan Tonga



Tonga College, 'Atele's Japanese language students who competed in the Contest for 2023, including Solomone Latu winner for Form 4 category.



Japanese Language Students from the School of Education, Tonga National University with H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku at the 2023 Speech Contest.

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