

PRESS RELEASE

CE/2023/02
November 20, 2023

2023 National Soroban Competition Successful

Outstanding Soroban Students of Primary Schools in Tonga were awarded prizes after the National Soroban Competition held for 2023 on Thursday, 16 November at the Sir Sofole Kakala and Bishop Patelesio Finau Hall, 'Apifo'ou College Ma'ufanga.

His Excellency Mr. MUNENAGA Kensaku, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Tonga was happy to witness the competition together with Hon. Hu'akavameiliku, Minister of Education and Training.

In his address H.E. Ambassador MUNENAGA delivered it in Tongan language and encouraged the 240 participants that "by practicing soroban your mind is sharpened giving you greater confidence and your powers of concentration will surely strengthened."

"Through Soroban you can get answers instinctively, and those are the merits of soroban, the answers to various calculation problems will come naturally to you," said the Ambassador. He thanked the Students, Teachers and Parents for their steadfast acceptance of studying soroban. He also acknowledged the dedication and commitment of the soroban officers and the Ministry of Education of Tonga in administrating the competition since 2010.

Soroban was brought to Tonga from Japan in the 1970's, and proven to strengthen mathematical skills of young students hence being incorporated in the Math's subject syllabus for the Primary Education. The annual national competition finalized the winners after the district competitions held earlier in the year throughout the islands. Students are brought to compete each other in four categories for classes 3, 4, 5 and class 6, and each category challenged young minds with the speed of their calculation while being witnessed by many. Winners from the district competitions in Vava'u and Ha'apai joined this year's national competition, but was unfortunate for the students from 'Eua an Niua islands, due to the cyclone warning.

Prizes were awarded by H.E. Ambassador MUNENAGA and Mr. 'Isikeli Oko, CEO, Ministry of Education and Training, and the Best Overall Result was won by the soroban students of the Eastern District Schools # 1.

The Embassy of Japan in Nuku'alofa and Tonga's Ministry of Education and Training are the co-hosts of the soroban competitions, and support also by JICA Tonga Office, Japan International Soroban Diffusion Foundation and Tonga Soroban Education Association.

END.

Attached – Results & Photos

RESULTS - National Soroban Competition 2023

Overall Result

1st Place – Vahe Hahake 1

2nd Place – Vahe Kolo

3rd Place – Vahe Hihifo

4th Place – Ha’apai

Written Category / 1st place

Class 3 – 1st place - Siniva Sole (Vahe Hahake 1)

Class 4 – 1st place – Valenitina Ponitini (Vahe Hahake 1)

Class 5 – 1st place – Mele Lavekihelotu (Vahe Kolo)

Class 6 – 1st place – Palanite Telefoni (Vahe Kolo)

Oral Category / 1st place

Class 3 – 1st place - Rachael Fe’ao (Vahe Hihifo)

Class 4 – 1st place – Valenitina Ponitini (Vahe Hahake 1)

Class 5 – 1st place – Easter Filisonu’u (Vahe Hahake 1)

Class 6 – 1st place – Saitoni Fifita (Vahe Hihifo)

Flash Category / 1st place

Class 3 – 1st place - ‘Alo’ofa Nginingini (Vahe Kolo)

Class 4 – 1st place – Kalolaine Tukutau (Ha’apai)

Class 5 – 1st place – Mele Lavekihelotu (Vahe Kolo)

Class 6 – 1st place – Palanite Telefoni (Vahe Kolo)

Relay Category

Class 3 – 1st place - Vahe Hihifo

Class 4 – 1st place – Vahe Kolo

Class 5 – 1st place – Vahe Hihifo

Class 6 – 1st place – Vahe Kolo

Photos:



H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA and Mrs. MUNENAGA along with Mr. 'Isikeli Oke, CEO of MET and the winners of the National Soroban Competition held on the 16 November, at the 'Apifo'ou College Hall.



H.E. Mr. MUNENAGA delivered his speech to soroban students in Tongan language.



Trophy won by the Soroban Students of the Eastern District School # 1 team for being the Best Overall in the National Soroban Competition 2023.



Eastern District 1 Soroban Students and Teachers after winning the Best Overall of the National Soroban Competition.



First in Relay for Class 3, was the relay team from the Western District Schools, Tongatapu



Ha'apai Soroban Students and Teachers arrived safely to Nuku'alofa to join the competition.