

Embassy of Japan Tonga

PRESS RELEASE

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Soroban students of Eastern District 1 won National Competition 2026

The Soroban students from Tongatapu Eastern 1 schools won the 2026 National Soroban Competition, held on Wednesday, 7th of October. His Excellency Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, Ambassador of Japan to Tonga and Hon. Dr. Mo'ale 'Otunuku, Tonga's Minister for Education and Training, applauded the outstanding performance from the young competitors.

Over 350 soroban students from across the Kingdom, including the outer islands of Vava'u, Ha'apai, and 'Eua, showcased their soroban skill while competing against each other by district. Participants competed in advanced calculation contests involving not only addition and subtraction but also multiplication and division, rapid calculations of numbers displayed on a screen, and relay competitions that tested both the speed and accuracy of teams' calculations.

H.E. Mr. INAGAKI encouraged the soroban students emphasizing that the knowledge of soroban sharpens minds, and strengthened power of concentration. "Soroban is a unique and useful tool for mathematics. I am grateful to all of you for having the courage to showcase your skill in the field of soroban. You are junior Ambassadors of Japan in the field of Education."

"You are all winners, and I hope that this experience will lead you to pursue advanced mathematics and develop your mathematical thinking skills," said the Ambassador.

Hon. Dr. Mo'ale 'Otunuku, in his address appreciated the collaboration of the Government of Japan and Tonga's Ministry of Education through soroban, which have enriched children's lives. "The two pillars of learning, is mathematics and reading," he stated and he encouraged competitors that learning soroban will equipped students well from primary before entering college.

Tongatapu Eastern 1 team won the best overall in the competition, Vava'u soroban team came second, and in third place was Tongatapu Western team. Top three students of each category were also awarded prizes for all the levels of class 3, 4, 5 and 6. Sponsorships this year included the generous donation from Toyota Tsusho Cooperation and Asco Motors Tonga.

END.

Attached – Results & Photos

RESULTS - National Soroban Competition 2026

Overall Result

- 1st Place – Vahe Hahake 1
- 2nd Place – Vava'u
- 3rd Place – Vahe Hihifo
- 4th Place – Ha'apai

Written Category / 1st place

- Class 3 – 1st place – Belmont Fusimalohi (Vahe Hahake 2)
- Class 4 – 1st place – Manumanumelie He Lotu 'Eliesa (Vava'u)
- Class 5 – 1st place – Fane Fangufangu (Vahe Hihifo)
- Class 6 – 1st place – 'Ilaisaane Fa'aoa (Vahe Kolo)

Oral Category / 1st place

- Class 3 – 1 st place – Belmont Fusimalohi (Vahe Hahake 2)
- Class 4 – 1 st place – Taliai Metui (Vahe Hahake 1)
- Class 5 – 1 st place – Malini Fifita (Vahe Kolo)
- Class 6 – 1 st place – Tesi 'Aho (Vahe Kolo)

Flash Category / 1st place

- Class 3 – 1 st place – Saimone Metui (Vahe Hahake 1)
- Class 4 – 1 st place – Makeleta Pongi (Vahe Kolo)
- Class 5 – 1 st place – Letitia Fifita (Vahe Kolo)
- Class 6 – 1 st place – 'Ilaisaane Fa'aoa (Vahe Kolo)

Relay Category

- Class 3 – 1 st place - Vahe Hahake 1
- Class 4 – 1 st place – Vahe Hihifo
- Class 5 – 1 st place – Tautahi
- Class 6 – 1 st place – Vahe Hahake 1

Photos:



Winner and Best Overall of the National Soroban Competition 2026 awarded to Tongatapu Eastern District 1 soroban team.



‘Ilaisaane Fa’aoa of the Central District Schools won 1st Prize for Class 6 written category.



Class 6 Eastern District Relay team won 1st prize for class 6 relay.



Soroban students during the written category competition.



H.E. Mr. INAGAKI Hisao, with the top 3 students in the flash category for Class 3.



Outer island's relay team won 1st prize in the relay class 5 along with Hon. Dr. Mo'ale 'Otunuku, Minister of Education and Training.