

Japanese Speech Contest 2008

MARCH 2008

EXPRESS YOURSELF IN JAPANESE!



On 6th March in "Japanese Speech Contest 2008" was arranged in the hall at the Embassy of Japan in Oslo. The hall was filled with more than 100 people, and 18 participants made their own speech. After the contest, the Embassy hosted "MEXT Scholarship gathering 2008", which is a gathering for former recipients of the Scholarship and those who are considering applying for the Scholarship in the future.



These two events functioned well as one of the chances for Japanese language learners to meet and become acquainted with each other.

PARTICIPANTS TITLE/NAME

CLASS A - Beginner

1. "Russetid"/TOKAR, Anastasia
2. "The Sorities Paradox"/VIKHOLT, Ola Brunborg
3. "I want to see a future built by the Japanese"/BRENNNA, Miika
4. "About the Story "Call my Name""/AAKVAAG, Eivind Røer
5. "Kendo and Buddhism"/BERTHELTSEN, Michael B.
6. "Me and my dreams"/ANDERSEN, Veronica Sæther
7. "Art Project: "Building Tree Huts in the Park" by Tadashi Kawamata"/MJØLSNES, Hannah
8. "Japanese School"/LIEN, Hanne
9. "The Art of Making Glass"/KLOUMAN, Ingrid
10. "The Ainu Minority"/PAULSEN, Per Gunnar
11. "Why I love Japan"/BREVIK, Per
12. "Why I started studying the Japanese language"/GLESAAEN, Jonas

CLASS B - Others

1. "Comparing Fashion in Japan and Norway"/MIDFORD, Marie Anna
2. "Alternative Energy in Japan"/PENNA, Alexander Douglas
3. "Ikebana"/DANAILA, Diana
4. "Japanese Pop Culture and its Influence on Youth in the West"/ENGBAKKEN, Stian
5. "Import of Japanese Entertainment to the West"/GAUTESTAD, Lasse M.J.
6. "Japanese food"/GUNDERSEN, Daniel

Japanese Speech Contest 2008

Date: 6th March 2008
Time: 15:00-17:00
Place: Embassy of Japan

Arranged by: Embassy of Japan
MC: Henrik Thon Bardum
Judge:

Mr. Kohsuke Tsuji
(Managing Director, Idemitsu Petroleum Norge AS)
Ms. Ingrid Tyldum
(Teacher, Oslo Senior High School of Commerce)
Ms. Reiko Uemura
(Japanese language teacher, Folkeuniversitetet i Oslo)
Mr. Minoru Kikuchi
(First Secretary at Embassy of Japan in Norway)

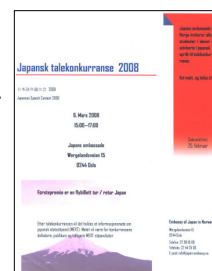
THE 2ND SPEECH CONTEST HELD BY THE EMBASSY

The Embassy held the first Speech Contest in May 2006 with 5 participants. This year, it has managed to hold the 2nd one, with a total of 18 participants.

As can be seen from the above, there was a great variety of topics and the audience was much entertained by these speeches. One of the participants sang Japanese songs as a part of his speech and this was one of the highlights of the

event. Every speech was so competent that the judges had a hard time deciding the winners.

It would be nice to have even more participants for the 3rd Speech Contest, which will be held around this time next year.



(↑) The flyer for this

ROUND TRIP TO JAPAN FOR WINNERS



12 beginner speakers who are categorized as CLASS A, each made a 4 minute speech.

The audience was surprised to hear that they had an amazing ability to speak in Japanese after just a short period of study. After the speeches by participants in CLASS A, 6 participants from CLASS B made their 5-minute contributions.

Winner of CLASS A, Per Gunnar Paulsen who started studying Japanese because he became interested in Japan when he travelled in the country, talked about the Ainu which is one of minorities in Japan. He also referred to the Sami minority which lives in the Nordic countries. Winner in CLASS B was Marie Anna Midford. Her speech was about how one's own fashion works as a tool for communication. She was the youngest participant and she plans

to have a career in fashion. A flight ticket to Japan is prepared for each. These tickets are sponsored by Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation Norway.

The 2nd winner in CLASS A was Jonas Glesaaen, who talked about the reasons why he started studying Japanese. And, that of CLASS B was Daniel Gundersen. He made a speech about Japanese food and what he thinks about it. For those who won 2nd place in each class, a Norwegian-Japanese dictionary was awarded as a prize by the Embassy.

(↓) Winners and



result

	CLASS A	CLASS B
1	PAULSEN, Per Gunnar <i>Student at UiO</i>	MIDFORD, Marie Anna <i>Student at Biralee International Inter- mediate School</i>
2	GLESAAEN, Jonas <i>Student at Ulsrud Videregående Skole</i>	GUNDERSEN, Daniel <i>Student at UiO</i>

Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation Norway

This Foundation provides grants and scholarships to organizations, institutions and individuals in the Nordic countries and Japan. The aim is to promote research, development, education and training mainly within medicine, the humanities, social and natural sciences and technology.

More information: <http://www.sjsf.se/>



What is a MEXT Scholarship?

The Japanese Government (MONBUKAGAKUSHO) offers scholarship for Norwegian students who wish to study at Japanese Universities as a Research student (master course level). Every year 2 students receive the scholarship from Norway.

More information: see Embassy HP

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO STUDY IN JAPAN?

"MEXT Scholarship gathering 2008"

The second event of the day was a gathering for former recipients of the MEXT Scholarship and those who are considering applying for it in the future.



About 10 former recipients came to the gathering, and Eva Schjølberg, made a speech on behalf of them. She talked

about her experiences while she was staying in Japan and how they are related to her current work and life. Those who are the coming recipients of the scholarship and also those who are interested in it in the future were also present.

The Embassy hosted the event for Japanese language learners in order for them to share all kinds of information about the study of the language and Japan itself. It seems that more and more people are studying the Japanese language or something related to Japan these days. The Embassy is now looking for new ideas to support those people.

COMING EVENTS ARRANGED BY THE EMBASSY

Music Concert May 2008 Kunstindustrimuseet

This is being planned as an event commemorating the 50th anniversary of Embassy of Japan in Norway and the aim of it is to cultivate personal and cultural exchanges between Norway and Japan. Both Norwegian and Japanese compositions will be played by 9 musicians living in Norway.

Manga/Anime Lecture autumn 2008

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