

## **H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy 77<sup>th</sup> All Japan Inter-Middle School English Oratorical Contest**

Semifinal Contest: Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, Akasaka Civic Hall, Tokyo  
Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, Akasaka Civic Hall, Tokyo

Final Contest: Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, Yurakucho Yomiuri Hall

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this Contest is to provide middle school students with opportunities to master English as an international language and to become internationally minded, thereby contributing to further enhancing the Japanese culture and to fostering friendship with peoples of the world.

### **Prefectural Contests and Central (Semifinal and Final) Contests:**

The Prefectural Contests shall take place in each of the 47 prefectures throughout Japan to be conducted by respective Prefectural Boards of Education or branch offices of The Yomiuri Shimbun in each prefecture. The participants chosen as finalists of these Prefectural Contests are eligible to participate in the Semifinal Contests in Tokyo on November 26th and 27th and the Final Contest on November 28th to compete for the Prince Takamado Trophy.

### **Prefectural Contests:**

#### **1. Date and Place**

The date, the time and the place shall be decided by each prefectural contest organizer.

#### **2. Qualifications for Participation**

- (1) Students enrolled in middle schools in Japan or those equivalent schools who are recommended by their school principals.

Students who fall under (a) ~ (d) below are not eligible to participate:

- (a) Those who, subsequent to their fifth birthday, resided in English-speaking areas\* for a total of one year or more, or continuously for six months or more.
- (b) Those who were, for over six months, enrolled in schools which actually provide education in English beyond the English language course (including International Schools, American Schools, or any other schools where over half of their curricula are conducted in English), irrespective of whether such schools are located within Japan or overseas.
- (c) Those whose guardians or relatives from English-speaking areas\* are residing in the same domicile.
- (d) Those who won the 1st to 3rd places in any previous Prince Takamado Trophy's Final Contest.

\* The term "English speaking areas" refers to the countries/regions which use English as (a) their primary language, (b) official language, or (c) semi-official language. For the list of such countries/regions, please consult the website of the JNSA Fund. (<https://www.jnsafund.org>)

- (2) Those who have entered the Contest in violation of the above provisions shall be disqualified.

(3) As regards the question of qualifications in individual cases, the authority for the final decision rests with the JNSA Fund. In case of a doubt, please consult the Prince Takamado Trophy Secretariat of the Fund.

### 3. Terms and Qualifications for Application

#### Speech Division

- (1) An application form for H.I.H. Prince Takamado Trophy Contest and two copies of the speech draft must be submitted to the prefectural contest organizer by the deadline specified by the organizer.
- (2) Theme: Open.  
Speeches should be those that reflect the opinion or message of the speakers in English, which have not yet been presented elsewhere. Speeches used in any of the preliminary contests related to the Prince Takamado Trophy, however, are allowed. Plagiarizing is strictly prohibited. Quotations must expressly be so stated. Speeches with AI-created content are not eligible for entry. Speakers who violate these rules will be disqualified.
- (3) Time Limit: Five minutes.  
Exceeding the time limit results in deduction of points from the speaker's vote point.
- (4) Copyright: The copyright of the speeches of the prefectural representatives is reserved by the organizers of the Prince Takamado Trophy, the JNSA Fund and The Yomiuri Shimbun, as referred to below.
- (5)
  - a. Participants are not allowed to use any amplification equipment.
  - b. Use of any eye-catching tools, excessive gestures and/or performance is prohibited.
  - c. Standing in front, or by the side, of the lectern when delivering the speech is in principle prohibited, unless the contestant is considered to have justifiable reasons such as prohibiting physical conditions.
  - d. Violation of one or more of the above rules may result in deduction of points from the final score.

#### Recitation Division

The rules applicable to the Speech Division are *mutatis mutandis* applied to the Recitation Division. The participating students and/or their teachers should contact the respective prefectural contest organizers for information on application methods, title, time limit and other pertinent rules and guidelines. This Division is held at the prefectural level only; no central contest is organized.

### 4. Awards

- (1) The top three contestants from each Prefectural Contest are eligible to participate in the Semifinal Contest in Tokyo. (One contestant per school; if two speakers from the same school are chosen for the top three, the fourth runner-up is eligible to represent his/her prefecture.) Due to demographic distributions, however, Aichi and Fukuoka Prefectures may send four contestants, and Tokyo, Osaka, Kanagawa and Hokkaido Prefectures may send five contestants to the Semifinal.
- (2) Those who win 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> places but are not eligible to participate in the Semifinal due to the rule in section (1) above shall receive an "Honorary Award" and may also be invited to the Grand Reception, provided that they bear their own travel and accommodation expenses.
- (3) The Prefectural Contest winners shall be presented with a certificate.

## Central Contests:

### Semifinal Contests

#### 1. Schedule

Date and Time	Semifinal Contest Divisions	Number of Schools to be Selected for the Final Contest
Nov. 26 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m.	<b>1st Division — Kanto District: 10 Prefectures</b> Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Chiba, Gunma, Nagano, Yamanashi, and Shizuoka.	6 (out of 34)
Nov. 26 2:00p.m.-5:45p.m.	<b>2nd Division — Central Japan: 12 Prefectures</b> Aichi, Shiga, Mie, Nara, Wakayama, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Shimane, Tottori, Okayama, and Hiroshima	7 (out of 39)
Nov. 27 9:30a.m.-1:30p.m.	<b>3rd Division — Southern Japan: 13 Prefectures</b> Yamaguchi, Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, Kochi, Fukuoka, Oita, Saga, Miyazaki, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Kagoshima, and Okinawa.	7 (out of 40)
Nov. 27 2:00p.m.-5:45p.m.	<b>4th Division — Northern Japan: 12 Prefectures</b> Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Miyagi, Yamagata, Niigata, Fukushima, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, and Gifu.	7 (out of 38)

- Place: Akasaka Civic Hall, Tokyo (Address: 4-18-13 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo )
- Qualifications: Top three speakers chosen from each Prefectural Contest, with the following exception: four contestants from Aichi and Fukuoka, and five contestants from Tokyo, Osaka, Kanagawa and Hokkaido.
- Application: The Prince Takamado Trophy Application Form should be submitted together with one typed copy (A4 size) of the speech manuscript.
- Deadline for Application and Speech Manuscript:

Within one week following the Prefectural Contest in which the contestant participated. (Upon receipt of the application papers, details for the Semifinals shall be provided by the end of October.)

- Mailing Address for Application: Prince Takamado Trophy Secretariat,  
c/o The Yomiuri Shimbun, Tokyo Office  
1-7-1, Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8055

Tel 03-3217-8393 (13:00-18:00 on weekdays); Fax 03-3217-8358

- Judging Method: Speeches shall be judged on the basis of the three main viewpoints (Content, English, and Delivery). An emphasis shall be placed on the Content. Content
- Subsidy for Expenses: The organizer shall provide a subsidy for all participants in the central Contests to cover their travel and accommodation expenses.

### Final Contest

- Date and Time: Friday, November 28th, 2025 11:15a.m. -3:15p.m.
- Place: Yomiuri Hall, Tokyo (7<sup>th</sup> floor near JR Yurakucho Station)
- Qualifications: 27 speakers selected as the finalists from the 151 participants at the Semifinal Contests.
- Judging Method: Same as the Semifinal Contests.

### Awards for the Final Contest:

First Place	Prince Takamado Trophy
Second Place	Yomiuri Shimbun Trophy
Third Place	JNSA Fund Trophy
Fourth Place	The Japan News Trophy
Fifth Place	Yomiuri Chukousei Shimbun Trophy
Sixth Place	Yomiuri Chukousei Shimbun Trophy
Seventh Place	Yomiuri Chukousei Shimbun Trophy
Eighth to Twenty-Seventh Place	Honorary Awards

#### The World Family Award for Human Connection

This award shall be presented to students, from among the finalists, who have given outstanding speeches on the topic of human connection.

#### Embassy of Ireland Award

This award is an invitation to attend study trip in Ireland.

#### Embassy of Australia Award

This award is an invitation to attend study trip in Australia.

#### First to Third Places:

- ◆The Yomiuri Shimbun shall award certificates to the schools of the top three winners.
- ◆The JNSA Fund shall award certificates to the top three students and gold, silver and bronze medals to the top winner and the two runners-up respectively.
- ◆Soroptimist International of Tokyo-Azuma shall present the top three winners with a certificate and a supplementary prize.
- ◆King Jim Co. Ltd. shall provide the schools of the top three winners with a prize.
- ◆SEIKO WATCH CORPORATION shall present the top ten winners with a prize.
- ◆Pentel Co., Ltd. Shall present all of the 27 finalists with certificates and a supplementary prize.
- ◆The Japan News shall present a one-year subscription of its newspapers to the schools of the top three winners.
- ◆Itogumi Group shall award a crystal trophy to the top ten winners.

#### Fourth to Seventh Place:

- ◆The Yomiuri Shimbun shall award certificates to the schools of the fourth through seventh place winner.
- ◆The JNSA Fund shall award certificates and medals to the fourth through seventh place winner.
- ◆The Japan News shall present six-month subscriptions of its newspapers to the schools of the fourth to seventh place winner.

#### Eighth to Twenty-Seventh Places:

- ◆A medal shall be presented to each of the eighth through twenty-seventh place finalists.
- ◆The Japan News shall present three-month subscriptions of its newspapers to the schools of the eighth to twenty-seventh place finalists.

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#### Special Donation: TOSHIN HIGH SCHOOL

Donations: Nippon Television Network Corporation, Pentel Co., Ltd.; World Family K.K.; Soroptimist International of Tokyo-Azuma; Realize Corporation.

Contributions: Nippon Television Kobato Cultural Foundation; Seiko Watch Corporation; McDonald's Company (Japan), Ltd.; Itogumi Group and others.

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