



Presented by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC

第16回 ジャパン・ボウル全米大会報告

2008 NATIONAL JAPAN BOWL[®] REPORT

A National Competition of Japanese Language
and Culture for American High School Students



JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC

1819 L Street, NW, 1B Level
Washington DC, 20036
Tel (202) 833-2210
Fax (202) 833-2456

2008 National Japan Bowl®

On March 21 and 22 2008, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW) held the 16th National Japan Bowl® in Washington, DC. This year, 186 students in 65 teams came from all over the United States: California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia.

Students competed at three levels in a total of 4 preliminary rounds (3 Open Rounds and 1 Conversation Round). They were challenged by a total of 360 questions at all levels, from Japanese grammar to Japanese history and culture. After the preliminary rounds, the top three teams at each level advanced to the National Championship Round. The results are shown on page 4.

On the first night, all participants were welcomed at a dinner with Mr Maki Kaji, the “Godfather of Sudoku”. On the second day, the students and teachers enjoyed a live shamisen performance by Mr Sho Asano, a Japanese musical prodigy who is also a high school student.

「ジャパン・ボウル」とは、全米各地で日本語を学んでいる高校生が日本語能力のみならず、日本の文化・習慣・歴史・地理・時事・日米関係など、幅広い分野について競い合う全米大会です。アメリカで日本語を学ぶ高校生を支援する教育活動の一環として毎年春に開催され、日本語学習を楽しみ、日本への関心を更に高め、大学においても日本語学習を継続してもらうことが目的です。

第16回ジャパン・ボウル全米大会は3月21日・22日の2日間に亘って開催され、グアムからニューヨークまで65チーム・186名の生徒が参加しました。今年は「数独のゴッドファーザー」として知られる鍛冶真起氏と現役高校生の「天才三味線プレーヤー」浅野祥氏を特別ゲストとして日本からお招きしました。

日本語学習4年目の大会で優勝したスタイベサント高校（ニューヨーク市）、準優勝したモンタ・ピスタ高校（クパチーノ市）、第3位のリンブルック高校（サンノゼ市）に日本研修旅行が授与されました。

2008 National Japan Bowl Schedule

Friday, March 21

4:30-6:30pm	Registration		
7:00-7:45pm	Welcome Buffet Dinner		
7:45-8:00pm	Official Welcoming Remarks	10:30-11:15am	Open Round 3
8:00-8:30pm	Meet Mr Kaji, the “Godfather of Sudoku”	11:15-11:30am	Review of Answers
8:30-10:00pm	Conversation Round	11:30-12:30pm	Buffet Luncheon
8:30-10:00pm	Cultural Activities Workshop	12:30-1:20pm	Shamisen Performance by Sho Asano
		1:30 pm	Announcement of Finalists
		1:45 pm	National Championships

Saturday, March 22

7:00-8:00am	Buffet Breakfast		Introductions/Explanation of
8:00-8:15am	Morning Announcements		Rules
8:15-9:00am	Open Round 1	2:00-2:30pm	Championship Round – Level II
9:00-9:15am	Review of Answers	2:40-3:10pm	Championship Round – Level III
9:15-10:00am	Open Round 2	3:20-3:50pm	Championship Round – Level IV
10:00-10:15am	Review of Answers	4:00-5:00pm	Awards Ceremony/Closing
10:15-10:30am	Morning Refreshment Break	Remarks	

参加生徒・参加校

Participating Students and Schools

School Name	City	State
Boonsboro High School	<i>Boonsboro</i>	<i>MD</i>
Center for Global Studies at Brien McMahon High School	<i>Norwalk</i>	<i>CT</i>
Chapel Hill High School	<i>Chapel Hill</i>	<i>NC</i>
Columbus High School	<i>Columbus</i>	<i>GA</i>
Deerfield Beach High School	<i>Deerfield Beach</i>	<i>FL</i>
Falls Church High School	<i>Falls Church</i>	<i>VA</i>
Hayfield Secondary School	<i>Alexandria</i>	<i>VA</i>
Henry Sibley High School	<i>Mendota Heights</i>	<i>MN</i>
High Tech High School	<i>North Bergen</i>	<i>NJ</i>
Lake Braddock Secondary School	<i>Burke</i>	<i>VA</i>
Langley High School	<i>McLean</i>	<i>VA</i>
Lynbrook High School	<i>San Jose</i>	<i>CA</i>
Miami Palmetto Senior High School	<i>Pinecrest</i>	<i>FL</i>
Monta Vista High School	<i>Cupertino</i>	<i>CA</i>
Mount Lebanon High School	<i>Pittsburg</i>	<i>PA</i>
Norwin High School	<i>North Huntingdon</i>	<i>PA</i>
Oakton High School	<i>Vienna</i>	<i>VA</i>
Phillips Academy Andover	<i>Andover</i>	<i>MA</i>
Samuel F.B. Morse High School	<i>San Diego</i>	<i>CA</i>
Silver Creek High School	<i>San Jose</i>	<i>CA</i>
St. Albans School	<i>Washington</i>	<i>DC</i>
St. John's School	<i>Tumon Bay</i>	<i>GU</i>
St. Mark's School of Texas	<i>Dallas</i>	<i>TX</i>
Stuyvesant High School	<i>New York</i>	<i>NY</i>
The Harker School	<i>San Jose</i>	<i>CA</i>
The Woodlands College Park High School	<i>The Woodlands</i>	<i>TX</i>
The Woodlands High School	<i>The Woodlands</i>	<i>TX</i>
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	<i>Alexandria</i>	<i>VA</i>
Torrey Pines High School	<i>San Diego</i>	<i>CA</i>
Townsend Harris High School	<i>Flushing</i>	<i>NY</i>
Walt Whitman High School	<i>Bethesda</i>	<i>MD</i>

Participating Students: 186

Level 2: 55

Level 3: 73

Level 4: 56

Participating Teams: 65

Level 2: 19

Level 3: 26

Level 4: 20

全米チャンピオン・上位3校

Finalists and Champions at the 2008 National Japan Bowl

Level 4

1st place **Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY**

Mr. Robert Hubbard, Mr. Hyunseung Yang, Ms. Stephanie Lin

Teacher

Ms. Chie Helinski

2nd place **Monta Vista High School, Cupertino, CA**

Ms. Annie Wu, Mr. Scott Chen, Ms. Jennifer Wu

Ms. Keiko Howard

3rd place **Lynbrook High School, San Jose, CA**

Mr. Dustin Wang, Mr. Tang-En Yen, Ms. Helen Chi Hund Tang

Mr. Jeremy Kitchen

Level 3

1st place **Monta Vista High School, Cupertino, CA**

Ms. Connie Wu, Ms. Nina Wang, Ms. Hannah Wang

Ms. Keiko Howard

2nd place **The Harker School, San Jose, CA**

Ms. Sarah Wang, Ms. Ruozi Li, Mr. Kevin Wang

Ms. Masako Onakado

3rd place **Lynbrook High School, San Jose, CA**

Ms. Jocelyn Wu, Ms. Yu Jin, Ms. Emily Chang

Mr. Jeremy Kitchen

Level 2

1st place **Monta Vista High School, Cupertino, CA**

Ms. Lok Yun (Priscilla) Chan, Ms. Kate Huang, Ms. YeeAnn Chen

Ms. Keiko Howard

2nd place **The Harker School, San Jose, CA**

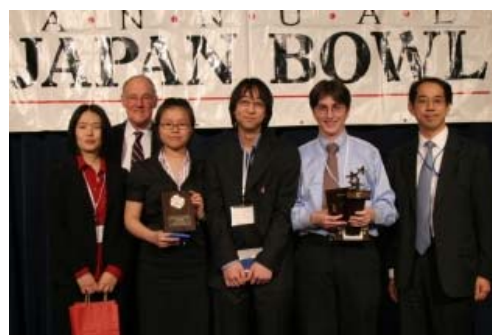
Ms. Kelly Chen, Mr. Jerry Sun, Ms. Katie Liang

Ms. Masako Onakado

3rd place **Phillips Academy Andover, Andover, MA**

Ms. Stephanie Yu, Ms. Marina Kang, Mr. Menelik Washington

Ms. Teruyo Shimazu



先生

Japan Bowl Teachers

**We would especially like to thank all of the Japanese language teachers,
without whom the 2008 National Japan Bowl would not be possible.**

Keiko Abrams, Lake Braddock Secondary School

Mieko Avello, Miami Palmetto Senior High School

William Collazo, Deerfield Beach High School

Akemi Dobkin, High Tech High School

Matthew Hall, Silver Creek High School

Fumiko Harada-Ziemer, St. John's School

Toshiko Hasegawa, Samuel F.B. Morse High School

Chie Helinski, Stuyvesant High School

Kayo Hishitani, Henry Sibley High School

Keiko Howard, Monta Vista High School

Mariko Jinbo, St. Mark's School of Texas

Jeremy Kitchen, Lynbrook High School

Hiroko Maekawa, Norwin High School

Yuki Moorman, Walt Whitman High School

Masako Onakado, The Harker School

Koji Otani, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Chie Ramsey, Oakton High School

Masumi Reade, The Woodlands High School

Mariko Sato, Townsend Harris High School

Kazue Schmitz, Columbus High School

Andrew Scronce, Langley High School

Ayako Shiga, Boonsboro High School

Teruyo Shimazu, Phillips Academy Andover

Keiko Sigmund, Center for Global Studies, Brien McMahon High School

Nana Suzumura, The Woodlands College Park High School

Yoko Thakur, Falls Church High School

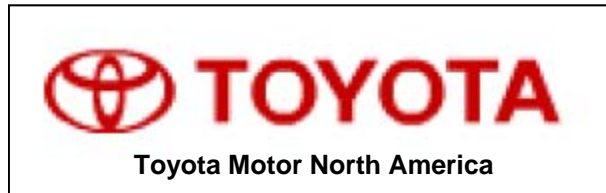
Sato Umabe, Torrey Pines High School

Kyoko Vaughan, Hayfield Secondary School

Japan Bowl Sponsors and Supporters

Every year the Japan Bowl is supported by various sources of funding. The major resources have been grants. The US-Japan Foundation started its funding in 1996 and has played a major role to make the Japan Bowl's growth possible. We were fortunate to receive additional grant funding from the Japan Foundation (2006 to 2008). As most grants are limited to a certain period of time, financial support from other sources is crucial to sustain this educational program. This year, we received significant support from Toyota Motor North America. JASW is grateful to the following sponsors and supporters who made this year's competition possible.

協賛 Sponsors



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Moderators

Tracy Mahoney
Amb John R. Malott
Samuel Shepherd
Shiori Okazaki
Rika Sanjo-Berry
Noritaka Takezawa

Supporting Judges

Constance Downs
Mamiko Hada
Konomi Kaji
Hiroko Iwami Malott
Marlene Sakaue
Masao Tsuru

Maru-Batsu Judges

Misako Ito
Tetsuo Kadoya
Kazuyo Kato
Takashi Ohde
Sumio Otsuji

Cultural Workshop

Sho Asano
Maki Kaji

Masako Fujimoto
Interesse International, Inc.
Taeko Kimura

Akiko Keene
Shiori Okazaki
Toho Koto Society
Norie Watanuki
Roko Kasuya

T-Shirt Calligraphy

Ikuko Hirai

Cover and Poster Design

Eunice Choi

**And our many
Volunteers!**

Special Exhibition: “53 Stations of the Yokaido Road” supported by JICC

With the support from the Japan Information and Culture Center of the Embassy of Japan, the Fifty-Three Stations of the Yokaido Road by Shigeru Mizuki was exclusively shown to the Japan Bowl participants. It was a great opportunity for students to learn about Ukiyo-e and the Edo Period, which was one of the focuses for this year’s Japan Bowl.



Meet the Godfather of Sudoku: Mr Maki Kaji

Maki Kaji is the man who popularized and named the number puzzle “sudoku,” which has become a worldwide phenomenon. Mr Maki spoke to the students on the first night, March 21, and he also created a set of puzzles for the students based on the Kanji that they learned for the Japan Bowl. Mr Maki was so excited about the Japan Bowl that he wrote an article for his monthly magazine in Japan, which is reproduced in this report. Mr Maki also came to the Japan Bowl Tokyo Round at the US Embassy in July.



Cultural Activities Workshop

Thanks to the Care Fund, Go Club, Interesse International, Toho Koto Society, and many of our individual volunteers, the participants were able to experience the Japanese culture in between the competition. The participants enjoyed wearing kimono, folding origami, trying Japanese calligraphy, seeing koto performances, learning Japanese business manners, playing with Go, making crafts, and meeting professionals with Japan-related jobs.



Shamisen Performance by Sho Asano

Sho Asano, just 17 years and a recent high school graduate, is called “the Prince of Shamisen” in Japan. He came to America—his first overseas trip--to perform at the Japan Bowl and the Kennedy Center. His performance on Saturday, March 22 was one of the highlights of this year’s Japan Bowl. Afterwards the students asked Sho questions in Japanese. Sho later wrote about the Japan Bowl on his blog, saying how much he enjoyed the experience.



春秋

「なかぐろ」
とパソコンに打
って変換する。
「・」が出てく
る。現代日本語
では、これのあ
るなしで意味が違ふこと
がある。例えば「ジャパ
ン・ボウル」は、アメリ
カンフットボールの試合
ではない。それは「ジャ
パンボウル」らしい。
▼「・」付きの「ジャパ
ン・ボウル」の方は、全
米で日本語を勉強する高
校生の日本語能力を競う
学力コンテストだ。一九
九三年に始まり、ことし
も復活祭休みを利用して
ワシントンで開かれた。
三十一校から六十五チ
ーム、百八十六人の高校生
が参加した。以前、日本
でもあった高校生クイズ
の、いわば米国版だ。
▼各校の日本語教育レベ
ルに合わせて三段階に分
けて競う。例えば上級の
問題は「手に負えない」
「顔に泥を塗る」などの
慣用語が入った封筒を渡
され、一分以内にそれを
使った日本語の短文を書
く。「エアロビ」の意味
を英語で書け、の問いに
は「空港ロビー」の答え
があり、審査員のひとり
は「正解にしたい」。

▼上級で優勝したステュ
ーイビサン高校はニュー
ヨーク・マンハッタン
の進学校とか。上級の上位
三校には夏に日本旅行の
ご褒美がある。目立った
のはアジア系の顔立ちが
多かった点。ペリー提督
が乗っていた船の日本で
の呼び名「黒船」を答え
させる問題で「黒」を中
国風の簡略漢字で書いて
不正解になった例も。

(NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN April 12, 2008)

Sudoku addicts in the world 特別編 日本語ペラペラの米高校生

カジマキ 起

2008年3月下旬、ワシントンDCで第16回「JAPAN BOWL」が開かれ、私はメインスピーチで呼ばれたのだった。全米の高校生が争う日本語選手権の様をお届けします。

ひょんな経緯から「ジャパン・ボウル」でスピーチをしてくれませんか、ということになり、アメリカ東海岸のワシントンDC (以て「DC」) に行ってきたのだった。

暖かいイベント

さて、年に1回開催されるジャパンボウル。今年が第16回だった。全米の高校生を対象にして、日本語にいちばん堪能な高校生はどこかを争う選手権である。そんなイベントがあったんですね。

1校3人で1チーム。日本語の先生が引率して参加する。1泊2日のメニューはDCの「日本協会」が主催者になり、すべてがボランティアに支えられているイベントであった。その分、進行が手づくりのように暖かく、気配りの行き届いた素晴らしいものだった。全米で40チームくらいの参加になっていたか。

前夜祭のディナーは300人規模で迫力満点。私のスピーチはいきなり。しかし和やかなムードなので、気楽にしゃべることができた。

数独の名前の由来、ニコリの歴史などを翻訳のしおりさんを通してしゃべったが、私が日本語で話しているときに、すぐ笑ってくれたり、通訳されているときに驚いてくれたり、反響が大きくてびっくり。

「日本語は難しい、だから無理して勉強しなくていいです。アニメやコミック、ゲームなどで日本の文化、日本の食べ物、日本が好きになってください。そしたらいつのまにか日本語を覚えているでしょう。みなさんは選手なので緊張していると思います。優勝チームは日本に行けるそうですが、そんなことを考えずに気楽に遊びましょう」と言った。感じていることをストレートに言い過ぎたかと思ったが、あとで主催者の方、先生たちにも「その通りのことを言ってくれてありがとう」と感謝されてホッとしました。

日本語がうまいのなんの

1日目はディナーの後、簡単な会話テスト (日本語) が対面で行われ、その後は懇親会で、着物の着付けを教わったり、習字、囲碁をしたりで、会場はリラックスムード。浅野祥君 (将棋三味線の日本チャンピオン) もモチでいた。彼は18才。若くてカッコいいよ。

2日目は予選ラウンドがあって、各レベルで3チームが残る。レベルというのは高校2年生、3年生、4年生の分け方。

決勝ラウンドは各レベルで3チームが舞台上上がり、たくさんのギャラリの前で勝負する。早押しもあり、1人ずつ答える



決勝ラウンドの舞台。



楽しんでいる審査員。彼らの方が日本の歴史を知っているかも。

また会いましょう

長い1日が終わって、表彰式。高校4年生の優勝チームは、マンハッタンのスタイバサント高校だった。解散は夜になり、まだまだいろんな高校生たちと握手して。写真も撮って。「今回は楽しかったです。数独、大好きで、はまっているの」と言う先生はこれから子どもたちを自分の車に乗せて帰るそうだ。着くのは夜中の1時ごろ。そこは牛とリンゴと、どうもこししくないと言う。「素晴らしいじゃないですか」「セヒおいでください」「ありがとうございます、お気をつけて」ホワイトハウスから500mくらいのホテルがイベント会場だった。玄関にいた声を掛けてくれたのが、優勝チームの引率の先生、チェさん (日本人)。「おつかれさまでした、おめでとう」「いえ、ホラ、子どもたちは喜んでますよ」話していたら日程が合い、マンハッタンのその高校に遊びに行けることになった。こいつは面白い。取材しようっと。

後日、訪れたらなんと、その高校で私は1コマ、授業をするはめになってしまった。まったくチェさんも大胆な人だ。みなさん、また会いましょう。主催者のマロット代表夫妻、食事、おいしかった。

のもあり、チームで1つの答えにする問題もあり。これがまた楽しかった。演出も設問も面白い。

では以下に、その問題をいくつか。
Q「次の日本語の意味を英語で答えなさい。『腹が黒い』」

ええっ、これ難しいんじゃないの？
審査員はDCにいる(?)日本人の5人が判断して○か×を出すのです。へええ。

Q「『ピンピンしている』を使って日本語の文章をつくりなさい」
わおっ。タイジョブ？

Q「『首が危ない』を使って云々」
ムリだろ？ すると1チームが

「彼は毎日、会社を遅刻するから首が危ない」と答える。おおう。
審査員たちは笑いながら全員が○。

歴史も地理も

大きく映された画面を見ての問題も多かった。

おしほりの写真が映って「これは何？」
3チームが一斉に答えたボードを掲げる。そこには日本語で「わからない」「おしほり」「てぬぐい」とあり、審査委員長は「わからない」チームに「ナイストライ」会場は盛り上がりっぱかり。

四畳半の畳の間取りが映るのもあった。画面は畳の縁が写っているだけで、「この絵をひらがなで答えなさい」だと。面白い。「よじよはん」と書いたチームはバツテンだった。借しいよお。

漢字で「香川 岡田 愛媛 兵庫」の県名が映り、「これに関係のある海を答えなさい」にも驚いた。

「せとないかい」で3チームとも正解。何十問も出題され、芸能から政治まで、バラエティに富んでいて、たまげました。私も少し日本のいろいろを知りましたよ。



↑前夜祭のディナー。300人以上。
◆ホテルの2フロアを使って。



堂々としたスピーチ(?)。



優勝チームの3人中のチェさん(左)

(NIKOLI TSUSHIN May, 2008)

日本研修旅行

Japan Bowl Trip

The top three teams at Level 4 of the National Japan Bowl Competition were awarded an educational trip to Japan. The teams left the US on July 10 after their high school graduation ceremonies. They arrived in Tokyo on July 11 and had the opportunity to visit Tokyo, Kawasaki, Kobe, Hiroshima, Osaka, and Kyoto during their stay in Japan.

2008 Japan Tour Itinerary

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7/11 | Arrive at Narita |
| 7/12 | Visit Toshiba Denki Kan in Kawasaki
Free time in Tokyo |
| 7/13 | Free time in Tokyo |
| 7/14 | Free time in Tokyo
Dinner with JASW staff |
| 7/15 | Japan Bowl Tokyo Round
Welcome Dinner hosted by America-Japan Society |
| 7/16 | Take shinkansen to Kobe
Free time in Kobe |
| 7/17 | Japan Bowl Kansai Round
Free time in Kobe |
| 7/18 | Taiko Workshop by Mr Ichiro Jishoya
Stay at Mr Ichiro Jishoya's Studio in Sanda |
| 7/19 | Take shinkansen to Kyoto
(Day trip to Hiroshima) |
| 7/20 | Free time in Kyoto |
| 7/21-22 | Free time in Kyoto
Return to the US |



The Japan Bowl National Championship Teams' visit to Japan was made possible by support from:



東京ラウンド TOKYO ROUND

Similarly to 2007, the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW), together with America-Japan Society and the National Association of America-Japan Societies, presented the Japan Bowl Tokyo Round on July 15 at the United States Embassy.

The Japan Bowl's Honorary Patron, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado, attended to observe the Tokyo Round with Her Imperial Highness Tsuguko of Takamado. The Princess as well as the audience were impressed by the teams' Japanese skills and knowledge of Japan.

関西ラウンド KANSAI ROUND

On July 17, JASW held its first Japan Bowl competition in the Kansai region, the Japan Bowl Kansai Round, at the Canadian Academy in Kobe. A member of the Diet, Mr Moriyama Masahiro, who represents Hyogo-ken, came to the Kansai Round together with many other guests. Students enjoyed the traditional Japanese tea ceremony prepared by the students at Canadian Academy as well as a band performance by Konan High School.

We hope to make a "Japan Round" an annual event and perhaps compete with Japanese high school students in the near future!



The Japan-America Society of Washington DC expresses its appreciation to the following organizations for their support of:

Japan Bowl Tokyo Round

Sponsor 特別協賛

Amway Japan 日本アムウェイ株式会社

Supporters 後援

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs 外務省

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology 文部科学省

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan 在日米国商工会議所

Japan Bowl Kansai Round

Sponsor 特別協賛

Japan America Women of Kansai 関西日米婦人会

Supporters 後援

Canadian Academy カネディアン・アカデミー

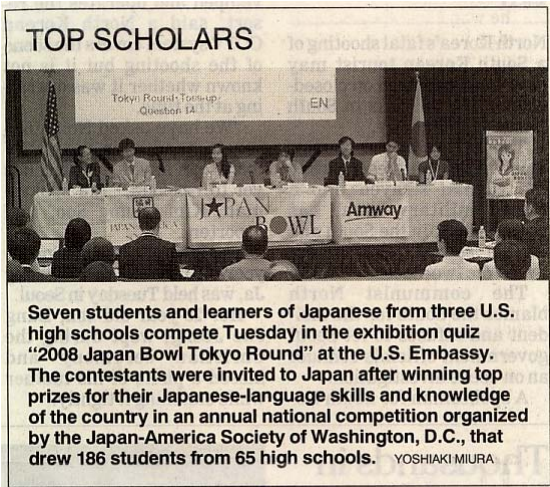
The United States Embassy 米国大使館

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs 外務省

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology 文部科学省

American Consulate General Osaka-Kobe 駐大阪・神戸アメリカ総領事館

The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan 在日米国商工会議所



TOP SCHOLARS

Seven students and learners of Japanese from three U.S. high schools compete Tuesday in the exhibition quiz "2008 Japan Bowl Tokyo Round" at the U.S. Embassy. The contestants were invited to Japan after winning top prizes for their Japanese-language skills and knowledge of the country in an annual national competition organized by the Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C., that drew 186 students from 65 high schools. YOSHIKI MIURA

Japan Bowl Tokyo Round
(THE JAPAN TIMES July 16, 2008)



Japan Bowl Kansai Round
(KOBE SHIMBUN July 18, 2008)

Japanophiles strut their stuff in quiz bowl

The Daily Yomiuri

KOBE—Recent American high school graduates demonstrated their achievements in Japanese language study and knowledge of traditional and modern Japan at the Japan Bowl Kansai Round held in Kobe.

The Japan Bowl, an academic quiz competition on Japanese language and culture for American high school students studying Japanese, has been held annually in Washington, during the National Cherry Blossom Festival since 1993. The event organized by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC aims to encourage students to study Japanese in an enjoyable way and continue their studies at the university level.

John Malott, president of the JASWC, said, "It's not just an academic competition, and we want the students to appreciate not only the language but the country, the culture and history and the etiquette as well."

The top three teams of the Level-4 competition in the 16th Japan Bowl held in March were awarded a study trip to Japan.

The Kansai Round sponsored by the Japan America Women of Kansai with support from Canadian Academy international school was held last week at a theater of the school in Higashi-Nada Ward, and was attended by about 120 people.

During the quiz, seven students from high schools in California and New York showcased their knowledge about a wide range of topics, including geography and popular culture.

The participants were asked to name the professional baseball team located in Hiroshima and the alternate name of the Kansai region among other questions.



Three teams of American high school graduates compete in the Japan Bowl, an academic contest that tests students' knowledge of Japanese language and culture, in Kobe last week.

They were also asked to make Japanese sentences using onomatopoeic and affective expressions.

When asked to make a sentence using the Japanese idiom "Mimi ga Itai" (feel ashamed), a student answered in Japanese, "I was ashamed to hear my teacher say my Japanese was not very good," evoking laughter from the audience.

Reflecting the fun aspect of the competition, participants were asked practical questions from everyday situations.

Based on a map of a floor guide of a department store, they were asked on what floor a watch could be purchased.

Participant Tang En Yen said, "It was really exciting because everyone was so fast."

Tang, who started studying Japanese because he had become familiar with Japanese customs from his Taiwanese grandparents, said learning Japanese is fun although the honorific forms of the language are challenging.

Japan Bowl
Kansai Round
(DAILY YOMIURI
July 24, 2008)

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