

January 11th, 2024

New Category Added to the 9th Japanese Literature Publishing Project (JLPP) International Translation Competition

New Category: Classical Literature translated in English

Existing Category: Contemporary Literature translated in English and German

The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan is pleased to announce the 9th Japanese Literature Publishing Project (JLPP) International Translation Competition will be held as follows. This competition which aims to discover and foster emerging translators of contemporary Japanese literature is expanding from 2024 to include a new category for classical Japanese literature. This initiative aims to cultivate translators capable of conveying the charm of timeless classical Japanese literature that has shaped our culture and has been passed down across generations.

1 Schedule

- (1) **Submission period** Saturday, June 1st – Sunday, June 30th, 2024 (JST)
(2) **Winners Announced** January 2025

2 Target Languages and Source Texts

【Contemporary Literature category】

Target Languages: English/German

Source Texts:

[Fiction] “Maihōmu” by Edogawa Iko

[Criticism and Essay] “Kabuki”, “Shichigatsu no watashi”, “Chichi Serifu sansen”
by Kishimoto Sachiko

【Classical Literature category】

Target Languages: English

Source Texts:

Haibun by Kobayashi Issa

“Kojiki no shussaniwai”, “Yasezakura”, “Tamori no Okina”

3 Eligibility

There are no nationality or age-related eligibility criteria. However, because the purpose of the competition is to foster emerging translators, those who have published book-length literary translations are not eligible, although translations published in magazines and/or anthologies are permissible.

4 Application Procedure

Applications are to be submitted via the JLPP website. For details on the application procedure, please visit <https://www.jlpp.go.jp/competition9/index.html>

*Application page will be launched on June 1st, 2024.

5 Prizes

The winners of the Contemporary Literature category (English and German) and the Classical Literature category (English) will each receive a certificate, a trophy and a cash prize (grand prize of 1,000,000 yen and second prize of 250,000 yen). Winners will be invited to translator-development events hosted by the JLPP, such as a translation workshop.

6 Judging Committee

【Contemporary Literature category】

English:

Polly Barton (Translator of Japanese literature)

Michael Emmerich (Translator of Japanese literature, Professor of Japanese Literature, Dept. of Asian Languages & Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles)

Stephen Snyder (Translator of Japanese Literature, Dean of Language Schools and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Professor of Japanese Studies, Middlebury College)

German:

Katja Cassing (Translator of Japanese literature, Publisher of cass verlag)

Eduard Klopfenstein (Translator of Japanese literature, Professor emeritus of Japanese studies at the University of Zurich)

Asa-Bettina Wuthenow (Scholar and translator of Japanese literature, Interpreter, Associate Professor at the Japanese Department of the University of Heidelberg)

【Classical Literature category】

English:

Janine Beichman (Scholar and translator of Japanese Literature, Professor Emeritus at Daito Bunka University)

Peter MacMillan (Translator of Japanese literature, poet)

Moriyama Megumi (Poet, translator of Japanese literature)

7 Contact

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