

Climate Change Essay Competition 2015.
Presentation of winners at KIFEE-8.

A new global climate agreement is to be concluded at the UN Climate Conference in Paris in December this year. Norway is dedicated to this process, and is committed to a reduction of at least 40 % of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. Norway believes in engaging the next generation in debating how to achieve this goal. Therefore the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Tokyo organized the Climate Change Essay Competition, asking Japanese junior and senior high school students to submit ideas on how to combat climate change under the topic - "Together we can do even better".

The essay competition was organized in close cooperation with the institutions engaged in the Kyoto Forum for Energy and Environment (KIFEE) such as Shiga University, Doshisha University and NTNU. The jury was headed by Professor Emeritus Munetsugu Kawashima from Shiga University, with Professor Hiroshi Yamaguchi from Doshisha University, Dr. Kuniko Urashima from the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy, Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Professor Berit Bungum from NTNU, and Ambassador Erling Rimestad as jury members. Prof. Saki Itonori from Shiga University was the special advisor of the competition.

The committee received an impressive 354 essays. On August 12, a screening session was organized. The twelve best essays were selected by the jury. Out of those best essay writers, three students were selected as winners of the main prize, which is a trip to Norway to attend the 8th KIFEE Symposium in Trondheim where they will give a presentation of their essays.

Here are the names of the winners and the titles of their essays:

"What Should Be Passed Down to Children"

Ms. Yuuka Nozaki, 18 years old, Yokohama Science Frontier High School

"Saving the Earth by the Japanese Way of Thinking"

Mr. Takuma Wada, 15 years old, Junior High School attached to the Faculty of Education of Shiga University

"What We Can Do For a Better Future"

Ms. Yurie Yamaguchi, 15 years old, Doshisha International Junior High School

A brief presentation of the winners is included in the KIFEE-8 programme.