The Award Ceremony of the "WUKONG CUP" China-Japan Manga Contest 2016, which received 600 titles by young manga artists from China and Japan was held in Beijing on the 17th, January. A new style of Industry-Government-Academia collaboration used the event to create a stronger cultural exchange between China and Japan. In 2017, the cup plans to expand to Korea and Taiwan!

The origin of the name "WUKONG Cup" comes from the fact that China and Japan belong to the same Asian cultural area and share the Chinese zodiac. With 2016, being the year of the Monkey, it reminds one of SUN WUKONG’s "Journey to the West." SUN WUKONG is accepted by both Chinese and Japanese citizens for its good-looks, courage, and dignity for which it is loved. As a result of everyone’s love for the character along with the longevity in art the character "WUKONG" was selected for the contest. In addition "WUKONG" is a Buddhist term and means "enlightenment." The name was chosen to use as an inspiration for young people to build expressionism and creativity while improving the intercultural exchange between the two countries.

In the contest, 30 awards were distributed between 5 categories, "Boy’s Manga", "Girl’s Manga", "Youth Manga", "SUN WUKONG’s Motif" and "Total Champion." Between January and July 2016, 400 works from China and 200 from Japan were received. Under the careful eye of the judges from both China and Japan, 18 awards went to China and 12 to Japan.

9 Jikei Gakuen Students stood amongst the Winners!

"Goku ga Gotoku" was awarded The Japan-China WUKONG Special Award

Tetsuya Ohara
Japan / Meguro Junior High school of Tama University

Han JungYoung
Korea / The University of Arizona

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4th Place Boy's Manga Award Winner

Hwang Ji-hwan
Korea / MERIC Japanese Language School

Osaka Communication Arts College
Manga & Anime Course • Light Novel Manga Major (3rd Year)

I am Hwang Ji-hwan who drew "Let’s DICE". I participated in the "WUKONG Cup" this time, and had the chance to have my work appreciated by Japanese people and also the Chinese people. I am extremely thrilled to participate and experience this opportunity for which I am grateful.

When drawing this work, especially while designing the monsters, I tried to show the movements of the character and am thrilled with my successful results.

In the future, using Manga as a medium would be a great opportunity for cultural exchange and understanding between China and Japan. I am really grateful for this opportunity!
I participated in the Korea Game Show in November and exhibited my own game in the same manner as I had done at the Tokyo Game Show in September in Japan; and felt it was a good opportunity to know the difference between Japan and Korea. The Japanese visitors didn’t play games until the end, but they usually told me their impressions; on the other hand, Korean visitors didn’t say anything, but they often played until clearing a level and I found this difference unique and very interesting. I was in particular inspired by independent game developers that I saw from other schools participating at the event. I want to improve my technical level in order to make such high quality and interesting contents game by myself. I hope to take advantage of what I have learnt through my experiences and in the future I would like to get a job at a Japanese mobile game company and further hone my skills.

Located in the center of Fukuoka City, Hakata-ku, Grand Hyatt Fukuoka is a popular luxury hotel that is conveniently located along the business, entertainment and shopping complex "Canal City Hakata." I would like to thank them for this opportunity as we got information on the industry and as well as details of the hotel and advice from professionals in the field.

Ms. Aleksandra from Uzbekistan said, "One of the first things that I learnt was that we have to be able to respond to a customers request at all times and that it takes a lot of experience in order to offer the best hospitality to the customers. Also, we should aim to become Hotel representatives that can also be active on the scene." Through this training, students learnt about the latest trends in the hotel industry and thought that it made a good opportunity towards shaping my future self. A lot of visitors are expected from overseas for the Japan Olympics 2020 and I hope that as graduates we will be active in the industry offering the best of Japanese hospitality.

At Osaka College of Culinary Arts, we received many "corporate projects" from hotels, restaurants and cake shops. We started off with an orientation learning the concept of the shop and the customers tastes and preferences, the students then devised menus, recipes, promotional activities, material, cost etc. and worked on these issues steadily. This time, Xie passed through the first presentation smoothly, infusing apple and cheese and said "I think that making delicious cakes requires showcasing the characteristics of each of the ingredients. I feel that I want to improve on the charm of the material and improve the cake to meet the customers satisfaction, while keeping in mind the inputs from the chefs." Her dish might be commercialized in the next selection and be available in store menus around spring!
Employment

Career Center encouraged and supported me in my job hunt even after graduation.

Vicky Lam
Hong Kong
The Naganuma Japanese School
Tokyo School of Music, Shibuya Campus
Music Technology Planning and Production Course • Music Technology Major (2016 Graduate)

Employment

Do what you love and get the job you desire!

Working as a Animal Nurse @ Jurassic Exotic Animal Hospital (Taiwan)
Zhong Yuying
Taiwan
Japanese Communication International School
Osaka College of Eco and Animals
Animal Physiotherapy Course • ECO Specialist Major (3rd Year)

Employment

Experiences in Professional Practical Field has led to Business Talks!

Working as a Cameraman @ Brains, Inc.
Christopher Alfonso Rahardja
Indonesia
Osaka International School of Culture and Language
Osaka Broadcasting Arts College
Media Creation Course • Movie Drama Production Major (2nd Year)

Graduation Activities

Working at Kadokawa Corp (Thailand)

Working as a Freelance Illustrator @ Kadokawa, Inc. (Thailand)
Santisuk Narettorn
Thailand
UNITAS Japanese Language School
Tokyo Communication Arts College (Creative) Comic Illustration Major (2015 Graduate)

Jikei COM International Center Notice

Other articles can be found in the Japanese Version of TODAY!