



Guidelines for Nomination of Candidates  
for

## The 28th Yamagata Banto Prize

(Osaka's International Cultural Award)



### ● *Yamagata Banto* (1748-1821) ●

Yamagata Banto was born in Kazume Village of Inami-gun, Harima (presently known as Takasago City in Hyogo Prefecture) in 1748.

As chief clerk of Masuya, one of the largest Osaka merchants engaged in the money exchange business, Banto restored the company to greatness after its business had been dwindling. He was also noted for the extraordinary talent he displayed when saving the Sendai feudal domain from financial difficulties.

He loved learning by nature. Banto was respected as a genius at Kaitokudo-a private school which offered education of the highest level at that time.

His lifework, *Yume-no-Shiro*(which comes in 12 volumes), contains outstanding economic theory, atheistic theory which denies mysticism, and even a daring cosmic theory contending the existence of innumerable solar systems similar to our own. The work has an overtone of rationalism and realism.

- 1 Criteria** ————— The Osaka Prefectural Government invites nominations of appropriate authors and works published outside of Japan that have increased international understanding of Japanese culture. Nominations should be made in accordance with the following criteria.  
 (1) The works shall primarily be in writing and consist of research and exposition of Japanese culture, or translation of Japanese literature.  
 (2) “Japanese culture” as used herein means Japanese literature, art and thought.  
 (3) The works shall have been made available to the general public through publication.  
 (4) The works shall have been published within the last several years.  
 (5) The author may be of any nationality and shall be expected to further contribute to the exposition of Japanese culture abroad.
- 2 Selection** ————— The Screening Committee selects one prize winner once every three years from the authors and works nominated by experts in various fields at universities, research institutes, international cultural exchange organizations, etc.
- 3 Number of Nominations** ————— Each nominator may nominate one author and their works.
- 4 Nomination Process** ————— Please download the electronic form of the nomination at the following URL:  
**Special Website** <http://www.pref.osaka.lg.jp/bunka/news/bantou.html>  
 Please submit the completed nomination form (as electronic data, in the form of Microsoft Word file) by Email (If you can't submit it by Email, please send it to us by post).  
**E-mail** bunka-02@gbox.pref.osaka.lg.jp  
**Address** Culture Division, Culture and Sports office, Department of Civic and Cultural Affairs, Osaka Prefectural Government, 1-14-16, Nankokita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka 559-8555 Japan
- 5 Deadline for Nominations** ————— 30 June 2024 \*If sent by post, it must arrive no later than, July 1, 2024.
- 6 Announcement of Prize Winner** ————— March 2025 (TBD)  
 Prize winner will be announced at the special website.
- 7 Prize** ————— Testimonial (Travel expenses for the award presentation ceremony and the commemorative lectures will be covered by the Osaka Prefectural Government.)

#### PAST YEARS' PRIZE WORKS AND THEIR AUTHORS

1st(1982)	“World Within Walls” and other works Dr.Donald Keene (U.S.A.)
2nd(1983)	“Lessons from History” and other works Prof.Joyce Ackroyd (Australia)
3rd(1984)	“De Nederlandse taal in Japan” and other works Dr.Frits Vos (The Netherlands)
4th(1985)	“Manyoshu of Japan” and other works Dr.Kim Sa-Yeup (Republic of Korea)
5th(1986)	“Diarise and Essays in Japanese Literature of 10th-13th centuries” and other works Dr.Vladislav N. Goreglijad (U.S.S.R.)
6th(1987)	“The Princeton Companion to Classical Japanese Literature” and other works Dr.Earl R. Miner (U.S.A.)
7th(1988)	“Michiyuki-Bun” and other works Dr.Jacqueline Pigeot (France)
8th(1989)	“Visions of Virtue in Tokugawa Japan : The Kaitokudo Marchant Academy of Osaka” and other works Dr.Tetuo Najita (U.S.A.)
9th(1990)	Series of works based on scholarly studies of civilization and of historical Japan Sir Hugh Cortazzi (U.K.)
10th(1991)	“Translation of The Tale of Genji” and other works Dr.Edward G. Seidensticker (U.S.A.)
11th(1992)	“Sakamoto Ryoma and the Meiji Restoration” and other works Dr.Marius B. Jansen (U.S.A.)
12th(1993)	“Notes journalieres de Fujiwara no Michinaga” and other works Dr.Francine Herail (France)
13th(1994)	“Descriptive Catalogue of Japanese Books in the British Library Printed before 1700” and other works Mr.Kenneth B. Gardner (U.K.)
14th(1995)	Series of works based on ethnological studies of Japan, especially fieldwork on Amami and Okinawa Dr.Josef Kreiner (Germany)
15th(1996)	“Japan-China Cultural Relations History” and other works based on studies of Japanese history and culture Dr.Zhou Yi-Liang (People's Republic of China)
16th(1997)	Series of works arriving at “Being human on the Earth : principles of ecumenal ethics” Dr.Augustin Berque (France)
17th(1998)	Many years of contribution towards the promotion of Japanese studies and series of works based on linguistic argumentation of “Kojiki” Dr.Wiestaw Kotanski (Republic of Poland)
18th(1999)	Many years of contribution to Japanese literature and cultural history studies and “Mo-hitotsu no chusei zo” and other works. Prof.Barbara Ruch (U.S.A.)
19th(2000)	“Extraordinary Persons” and series of works based on studies of Japanese art Prof.John M. Rosenfield (U.S.A.)
20th(2001)	“Embracing Defeat” and other works Dr.John W. Dower (U.S.A.)
21st(2004)	“The culture of Japan as seen through its leisure” , “Kobushi no Bunkashi” and other works Prof.Sepp Linhart (Austria)
22nd(2007)	“A Waka Anthology, Volume One : The Gem-Glistening Cup” and other works Prof.Edwin A.Cranston (U.S.A.)
23rd(2010)	“Bibliography of Chinese Rare Books in Japan” and other works Prof. Yan Shaodang (People's Republic of China)
24th(2013)	“The Book in Japan: A Cultural History from the Beginnings to the Nineteenth Century” and a series of publications on book culture in the Edo period; Creation of a database based on bibliographical research on early Japanese books in Europe Prof. Peter Kornicki (U.K.)
25th(2016)	A series of works including Een geschiedenis van Japan: Van samurai tot soft power Prof. Dr. Willy. F. Vande Walle (Belgium)
26th(2019)	Japan and the Culture of the Four Seasons : Nature, Literature, and the Arts Prof. Haruo Shirane (U.S.A.)
27th(2022)	“Tokyo before Tokyo-Power and Magic in the Shogun's City of Edo” and a series of other writings Prof. Timon Screech (U.K.)