



Bunzo Suzuki
District Governor 2011-2012

The year 2011-2012 was the last year of the old Distinguished District Program (DDP). Our target was simple but firm, namely, to regain the Distinguished District status which we had missed with a mere 7 Competent Communicators short due primarily to many lost meetings as a result of the March 11th Tohoku Dai Shinsai disaster the year before. We worked in a monolithic team spirit as pledged jointly by the District Trio in Las Vegas while many TM leaders of the world were watching during the world convention. During the year, we were honored to welcome three renowned international guests who respectively impressed us in ever-lasting manners. They were International Director Balraj Arunasalam for the Fall Conference, Region Advisor Deepak Menon for the Executive Committee Meeting/Seminar, and Toastmaster Craig Valentine for the Spring Conference. The year will also be remembered as the year in which the current Toastmaster branding was launched. I am grateful to all District officers and members for contributing to the District finishing the year as President's Distinguished District ranking 5th of nearly 90 districts in the world. Thank you all and best regards.

Fall Conference 2011 in Yoyogi
Nov. 25,Fri.-27,Sun. @National Olympics Memorial Youth Center

Evaluation Contest



Japanese Contest Host: Kagurazaka TMC
Winners
1st: Masahiro Shiromoto (Kagayaki TMC)
2nd: Hiroki Kojima (Iidabashi TMC)
3rd: Koso Nakagawa (Hibiki TMC)



English Contest Host: Yamanote TMC
Winners
1st: Chad Fasca (Tokyo International TMC)
2nd: Masashi Wada (Atsugi-Zama TMC)
3rd: Keizo Matsui (Kyoto TMC)



Guest of Honor
Balraj Arunasalam, DTM
International Director 2011-2013, Region 13



Conference Chair
Yuko Ajioka



Keynote Speaker
Makoto Ishiwatari



Spring Conference 2012 in Makuhari
May25,Fri.-27,Sun. @Hotel Springs Makuhari

International Speech Contest



Japanese Contest Host: ICF Chiba TMC
Winners
1st: Shigeru Kobayashi (Chofu Free Flight TMC)
2nd: Makoto Yuba (Tokai TMC)
3rd: Eiichi Shimoji (EDO TMC)



English Contest Host: Chiba Central TMC
Winners
1st: Ruskyle Howser (Musashi-Kosugi TMC)
2nd: Fabian Nieber (Shinagawa TMC)
3rd: Masahiko Yoshikawa (Takarazuka TMC)



Guest of Honor
Craig Valentine
1999 World Champion of Public Speaking



Conference Chair
Seiko Matsumoto, DTM



2012 International Convention
Orland, Florida, USA
Aug. 15,Wed.-18,Sat.



New Clubs: 20

Corporate Club ** Advanced Club ■ English Club ■ Japanese Club ■ Bilingual Club

Sakurazaka 2011/7/4 Tokyo	Shinjuku Bilingual 2011/9/6 Tokyo	Ashikaga 2011/9/8 Tochigi	Imabari 2011/9/22 Ehime	Tokyo Metropolitan 2011/11/21 Tokyo	Chofu Free Flight 2011/12/13 Tokyo	Kichijoji 2012/1/23 Tokyo	NTT Com Ariake-A # 2012/2/15 Tokyo	NTT Com Hibiya-A # 2012/2/15 Tokyo	NTT Com Ikebukuro-A # 2012/2/15 Tokyo
NTT Com Osaka-A # 2012/2/15 Osaka	NTT Com Otemachi-A # 2012/2/15 Tokyo	NTT Com Shiodome-A # 2012/2/15 Tokyo	NTT Com Tamachi-A # 2012/2/15 Tokyo	NTT Com Tamachi-C # 2012/2/15 Tokyo	NTT Com Tamachi-B # 2012/2/16 Tokyo	Tokyo ESS 2012/2/17 Tokyo	Ichikawa 2012/3/6 Chiba	Meguro 2012/4/1 Tokyo	Matsuyama 2012/4/30 Ehime



Kazuko Kawauchi, DTM
District Governor 2012-2013

The term 2012-2013 was the best year in District 76's history. All members of District 76 pulled together as one team to materialize our dreams and objectives under the slogan of "Endeavor to Lead as One Great Team." And, we continued to demonstrate our resilient spirit despite the lingering difficulties of the devastating earthquake and tsunami of March 2011. We achieved the following excellent results and the first three were attained for the first time in the district's history.

*President's Distinguished District (and, the fourth highest ranking district).

*2nd in the world (regarding the percentage of total clubs having 20+ members per club).

*In early May, D76 was the first (earliest) district, worldwide, to have already achieved President's Distinguished District.

*Membership renewal rate through the year was No. 1 in the world.

International President 2011-2012, Michael Notaro, DTM, kindly visited us on the occasion of the 2012 Fall Conference held in Kawasaki as our guest of honor. He made presentations to about 800 participants on how significant the skills of leadership and communication are for Toastmasters. And, he greatly encouraged us to continue our progress. Also Communication & Leadership Award was launched and the first award was presented at the conference to Dr. Donald Keene of Columbia University. At the 2013 Spring Conference held in Nagoya, Toastmaster Kwong Yue Yang, runner-up in the 2011 International Speech Contest, was our guest of honor and we learned a lot from his workshops.

Looking back on the term, I am very proud of the many wonderful memories. Thank you everyone for the excellent and harmonious teamwork to make the term a tremendous success!

Fall Conference 2012 in Kawasaki

Nov. 16, Fri.-18, Sun. @Kawasaki City Industrial Promotion Center

Table Topics Contest



Japanese Contest Host: Kawasaki TMC
1st: Miki Matsuo (Urawa TMC)
2nd: Kouso Nakagawa (Omote Sando TMC)
3rd: Makoto Yuba (Tokai TMC)



English Contest Host: Shonan TMC
1st: Hitoshi Kawaguchi (Yokohama Frontier TMC)
2nd: Oiko Medina Bushuru Maraka (ICF Chiba TMC)
3rd: Masahiko Yoshikawa (Speak-up TMC)



Guest of Honor
Michael Notaro, DTM
International President 2011-2012



Conference Chair
Keiko Omachi, DTM



Steering Committee Chair
Tsuneo Kato



Dr. Donald Keene, a professor emeritus at Columbia University, received the 2012 Communication and Leadership Award



Division Governors and Area Governors

Spring Conference 2013 in Nagoya

May 17, Fri.-19, Sun. @Nagoya Congress Center

International Speech Contest



Japanese Contest Host: Tokai TMC & Bro/Sis Clubs around Nagoya
1st: Shigeru Kobayashi (Fantasista TMC)
2nd: Yoshiyuki Kajikawa (Senri TMC)
3rd: Katsuhiko Hiramatsu (EDO TMC)



English Contest Host: Tokai TMC & Bro/Sis Clubs around Nagoya
1st: Naoki Tamura (Sunrise TMC)
2nd: Hitoshi Kawaguchi (Yokohama Frontier TMC)
3rd: Drian Von Golden (Leadership TMC)



Guest of Honor
Kwong Yue Yang
The 2nd Place Winner of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest 2011



Conference Chair
Minoru Tamura, DTM



Steering Committee Chair
Hiroyuki Nakano



Banner March

2013 International Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Aug. 21, Wed.-24, Sat.



New Clubs: 17

Corporate Club ** Advanced Club ■ English Club ■ Japanese Club ■ Bilingual Club

■ Trilingual Club

Correns # 2012/10/16 Tokyo	Tsukuba Wago 2012/12/5 Ibaraki	Southern Beach 2013/2/8 Kanagawa	Saijo Sake 2013/2/12 Hiroshima	Tsudanuma 2013/3/4 Chiba	Shuri Trilingual 2013/3/5 Okinawa	Sasebo Fleet Activities 2013/3/8 Nagasaki	Bashamichi ** 2013/3/11 Kanagawa	Cosmos 2013/3/22 Tokyo	New Bridge 2013/4/11 Tokyo
Nagasaki 2013/4/22 Nagasaki	Tokyo American Club 2013/5/5 Tokyo	Osaka Sakai 2013/6/10 Osaka	IBM Makuhari 2013/6/26 Chiba	High Touch # 2013/6/28 Kanagawa	Mitaka Business 2013/6/28 Tokyo	The Champions** 2013/6/30 Tokyo			



Kiichiro Ohmi, DTM
District Governor 2013-2014

The top three District Officers and many members of District 76 went to Cincinnati, Ohio, USA in August 2013 to attend the International Convention. Our representative contestant Toastmaster, Naoki Tamura, made a great speech on the stage of the semi-final contest. The District 76 Fall Conference was held in Fukuoka-city, from November 15 through 17. As the guest of honor and Keynote speaker, we invited 2006-2007 International President Johnny Uy, DTM from the Philippines. Also, we gave the "Communication and Leadership Award" to Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara, the M.D. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's International Hospital. During the conference, Tall Tales speech contests and some educational workshops were held in connection with the theme of the conference: "Take Another Step Forward". DTM Johnny Uy and total about 600 attendances contributed to make the Fall Conference a great success. The Spring Conference was held in Saitama-city from May 16 to 18, 2014. A lot of members gathering under the slogan "Show Us Your Shine in Saitama". We invited Toastmasters International's Chief Executive Officer Daniel Rex as the guest of honor from the US. He gave us great keynote speech, fantastic workshop include latest information of Toastmasters International. In this term, many committee members and Assistant Governors are working together with District Officers to support individual club and member's goal achievement. We are moving on to the next step into the next ten years.

2013 International Convention Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Aug. 25, Fri.-27, Sun.



Naoki Tamura (left), the contestant who represented D76 at a semi-final of the Toastmasters International Speech Contest 2013



Communication & Leadership Award was presented to **Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara**, the M.D. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's International Hospital.

Fall Conference 2013 in Fukuoka

Nov. 15, Fri.-17, Sun. @Papillon 24 Gas Hall

Tall Tales Contest



Japanese Contest Host: Kitakyushu TMC
Winners
1st: Takako Shibata (Momiji TMC)
2nd: Tomoko Watanabe (Hibiki TMC)
3rd: Hiroshi Nishikawa (ICF Chiba TMC)



District Officers



Guest of Honor Johnny Uy, DTM
International President 2006-2007



Conference Chair Yoshiko Mohri, DTM (top)
Workshop (bottom)



English Contest Host: Kurume TMC
Winners
1st: Naoki Tamura (Sunrise TMC)
2nd: Keizo Matsui (Kyoto TMC)
3rd: Chika Hisamatsu (Momiji TMC)



Guest of Honor and District Officers



Party

Spring Conference 2014 in Saitama

May 16, Fri.-18, Sun. @RAFRE SAITAMA

International Speech Contest



Japanese Contest Host: Urawa TMC
Winners
1st: Yoshiko Kinomoto (Urawa TMC)
2nd: Akiko Yoshizaki (Mizonokuchi TMC)
3rd: Sayaka Umemura (Ichikawa TMC)



English Contest Host: Akabane Bilingual TMC
Winners
1st Place: Drian Von Golden (Leadership TMC)
2nd Place: Keizo Matsui (Kyoto TMC)
3rd Place: Ruskyle Howser (Musashi-Kosugi TMC)



Guest of Honor Daniel Rex
Chief Executive Officer, Toastmasters International



Conference Chair Bunzo Suzuki



Steering Committee Chair Hiroki Ohara, DTM (third right)



Conference Staff



Party

New Clubs: 11

Corporate Club ** Advanced Club ■ English Club ■ Japanese Club ■ Bilingual Club

Tokai Business 2013/10/30 Aichi	Shimonoseki 2013/11/11 Yamaguchi	Morinomiyako 2013/11/25 Miyagi	Crescent Lunch 2013/12/3 Hiroshima	Yokohama Ocean 2014/2/26 Kanagawa	Big Tree # 2014/3/1 Tokyo	Kagoshima 2014/4/1 Kagoshima	Storytelling ** 2014/5/28 Tokyo	Tsukuba Starlight 2014/6/4 Ibaraki	Presentation ** 2014/6/19 Tokyo
UTAGE ** 2014/6/23 Tokyo									

HEROES & HEROINES

In the activities of Toastmasters, every member is a hero and a heroine. Therefore, the Heroes & Heroines project was planned in order to include as many members as possible in the celebration of District 76's 10th anniversary. More than 1,000 members kindly sent us their headshots in response to the call from our editorial team. This is, so to speak, a 10-year-old portrait of our district which we would like to hand down to next generations in the years to come. We wish that this commemorative booklet will help to further increase the harmony among all members in the district, so that it will become an effective instrument in helping to make each member's participation in Toastmasters a rich and happy experience!



CLUB HIGHLIGHTS

In this column, you will see 12 selected Toastmasters Clubs out of 155 in Japan. We hope this will help Toastmasters in the world understand how each club, such as a trilingual language club, has tried to meet members' varied needs in District 76. These clubs have different characteristics. Some are old and historical clubs and some were built in significant cities. However, their club missions and core values are all based on Toastmasters'. You will see that members of some clubs experienced a devastating natural disaster a few years ago but with their cohesive teamwork and resilience they bounced back from the ordeal and learned a lot as human beings.

We at District 76 will continue to accept each club's unique needs and support its diversity. We members in the district will continue to learn and continue to grow together!



The First Toastmasters Club in Japan - Tokyo Toastmasters Club

Tokyo Toastmasters Club represents the very history and foundation of Toastmasters in Japan. Its first meeting was held at the Haneda Airbase Officers Club on August 18, 1954 and on December 8, 1954, it was chartered as the first Toastmasters Club in Japan with an initial membership of 30 U.S. military officers, including a Brigadier General.

Back in those days, the Club was open only to men. In August 1976 it welcomed its first female member, TM Carl von Hirschberg, the wife of Consular General of the Republic of South Africa in Tokyo. This historic event opened the doors of Toastmasters to the female community and twelve women joined the Club during the rest of the decade.

Today the club's greatest strength is the diversity of its members who come from different countries, cultural and professional backgrounds but are united by a strong desire to pursue excellence in a mutually supportive environment. The Club has not only become the home of the Champion speakers in Japan but also continues to attract several new guests. Each meeting produces a new Champion.

This year the club will celebrate its 60th Anniversary and we take this opportunity to thank all members, past and present executive committee officers and everyone else who has helped to make Tokyo Toastmasters Club the best and most exciting club in Japan. (Written by Haresh Kirpalani, DTM, JTC Governor 1999-2000.)



Fukuoka Toastmasters Club First Toastmaster of Japan- Yoichi Usui (Commercial Science Dept. Dean, Kitakyushu University.)

Fukuoka native Yoichi Usui (1918-1991), studied at the University of Minnesota, under the U.S. GARIOA Scholarship between 1951 and 1953, and found Toastmaster activities there were the best English communication drills he ever had. He not only became an ardent Toastmaster in Minnesota, but built, upon his return to Japan, Fukuoka Toastmasters Club with his GARIOA friends and others in cooperation with the American Culture Center (ACC). It was May in 1954.

Accepting a job offer with Kitakyushu University, TM Usui needed to relocate to Kitakyushu in 1957 and asked TM Tadokoro to succeed him as club president. One of the promises President Tadokoro made with TM Usui was to visit TM Headquarters at the earliest opportunity when the US-Japan monetary exchange became free. In 1961 President Tadokoro not only attended the 14th Annual Conference in Denver, CO but was invited to a special luncheon with Dr. Smedley and key members of the #1 Club in Santa Ana, CA. This year (2014) is the 60th Anniversary of Fukuoka Toastmasters. (Written by Rio Imamura, DTM)





A Tale of Two Hiroshima TMCs

Hiroshima TMC No. 844 or HTC for short is the core club in Hiroshima or Area 61, one of the largest and most active areas in the District. Truth to be told, there was a previous Hiroshima TMC No. 4323 chartered on July 28, 1980, and later suspended on September 30, 1996, due to insufficient membership.

Some others and I tried to sustain the old club's activities. There were occasions when only a few members appeared at the venue and the meeting was continued at a nearby Okonomiyaki stall or still worse when nobody showed up.

In early 2000, things started turning for the better with several key members joining anew and closer associations with clubs in other cities injecting a new air into the club.

Chartering of HTC on May 2, 2002, became the stepping stone for the quantum leaps the club and the area have since made. HTC produced District 76's first and second International Speech Contest winners in a row. It served as a host to District's 2008 Spring Conference in Hiroshima, exhibiting our Hiroshima members' morale. HTC also assisted the other six clubs in the area to come into fruition in various ways. All of us are determined to keep carrying on the torch of our tradition of eager learning in moments of enjoyment. (Written by TM Junichi Takemoto, Founding President, Hiroshima TMC 844)



Kasugai Toastmasters Club

Kasugai Toastmasters Club is in Kasugai city, Aichi prefecture and was chartered in 1984. At that time our club was the only active Japanese speaking club in the world. We gained recognition as a Toastmasters Club in the book "Aitsu no hanashi no umai wake" ("The Reason Why He Speaks so Effectively"). This book was written by Toru Mori of Tokyo Toastmasters Club, who gave us a lot of assistance in establishing the Kasugai Club.

In 2000 our Club became the sister club of Pacific Toastmasters Club, one of the Japanese speaking clubs in Taiwan. Later a memorial ceremony was held in Kasugai. On that occasion a joint meeting of these two Clubs was also held. At the prepared speech session a Taiwanese speaker won the first prize. We heard that she had practiced her speech more than 300 times.

Our Club is recognized by Kasugai city, and we aim to make our Club a permanent feature of this area. (Written by Shuzo Shimada, DTM)





Two Toastmasters Clubs in the North of District 76 Three years after the Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster

A deep thank you goes to all fellow Toastmasters from around the world who sent good wishes, thoughts, prayers and handwritten notes to Japan and the Tohoku region after the devastating Tsunami. Also, Sendai TMC and Kesennuma TMC especially appreciated the book of handwritten messages from the many members of Toastmasters clubs in Taiwan. Your heartfelt messages of encouragement really meant a lot to all of us.

The building where Sendai TMC met needed to be inspected and reinforced after the Earthquake, so we had to hold meetings in other buildings in Sendai for about 6 months to a year. However, these adjustments were met in the "Can Do" spirit of Toastmasters, and we all showed our flexibility which we learned in Table Topics! The weekly meetings went on in spite of the adjustments. Sendai members are now back in their usual building and meeting place. We are back on track and still remember and recall all of the many kindnesses and support from Toastmasters all over the world. What a wonderful "family" to be a part of. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. (Written by TM Daniel Ross, Sendai TMC member - Founding President of two clubs in the north of D76 & Past Division A Gov.: President's Dist. Division & Div. Gov. of the Year)



March 2011



April 2014



Yachiyo Toastmasters Club The World's First Corporate Club in Japanese

YTMC was chartered in January 2006 at Yachiyo Engineering Co. Ltd., which designs large projects, such as bridges, dams and highways. Communication skills are very important for its employees, who need to present their ideas and products to clients.

One of the best places for this company's employees to improve themselves is a Toastmasters club. As a board member, I was determined to establish a club within the company. In May, 2005, as I was negotiating with the company's president on the issue, International President J. Greiner of Toastmasters International visited the company and met with our president. His support was very helpful and compelled me continue my efforts as well.

I soon learned the club was the world's first corporate club in Japanese. Yachiyo Co. is only an ordinary firm and I wonder why YTMC is still the only corporate club in Japanese. (YTMC is now a bilingual club open to anyone.) (Written by TM Shinsuke Kitagawa.)





IBM Makuuari Toastmasters Club

IBM Makuuari TMC is a community exclusive Toastmasters Club, not a corporate club, even if we named the club after the IBM company for which all our club members work.

Initially we were not sure whether we were able to get 20 members to charter this club without any support from the company. The first few club members voluntarily worked hard to recruit colleagues within the company; as the result and amazingly soon, employees such as system engineers, managers, sales representatives, and Human Resources personnel of different generations who wanted to improve their communication and leadership skills for their professional needs by taking part in Toastmasters club activities joined the club. Eventually, we chartered the club in June 2013.

The club's membership became very diverse. Imagine these people from different departments freely talking to one another! Club activities are very exciting and rewarding. We believe this is an advantage of being a community club. We don't have any hierarchy and a great majority of the members are new Toastmasters. That is who we are. This year, 2014, is our 2nd year, and because we are getting more familiar with Toastmasters, we intend to send contestants to the Division Speech Contests this year to demonstrate the results of our Club's activities. (Written by TM Kenjiro Yoshida.)



Toastmasters Club in the Ancient City of Nara

Nara Toastmasters Club was born when it was officially chartered on April 5, 2011 as an English club. Now, we have 24 registered members with outstanding abilities in various fields of business, education and technology.

Nara is an ancient capital of Japan having some World Heritages, and also it has extensive comfortable residential areas. It is well known for its academic institutions including Nara Women's University, Nara Institute of Science and Technology that produced a Nobel laureate, Dr. Shinya Yamanaka.

We had a joint meeting with Sakae TMC (Nagoya) in December, 2011, when we guided them to the Kofukuji Temple, combining Toastmastering with sightseeing for pleasure.

Through the windows of our meeting room, we command excellent views of Nara basin and mountains. What an exciting environment for Toastmasters activities! I hope to expand the human network of Nara TMC into surrounding areas in order to contribute to local and international communities by enhancing communication and leadership skills. (Written by Teruko Nakao, DTM)

