



Osaka Prefectural Government

January 2015

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is to kindly request you to nominate a candidate for the Yamagata Banto Prize which was established as the Osaka's International Cultural Awards in 1982 by the Osaka Prefectural Government in honor of Yamagata Banto, Osaka's internationally renowned scholar of the late Edo period.

The Prize is awarded to an author who has contributed to increased international understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture.

This year marks the 25th year since the inauguration of the prize in 1982. I would like to ask your cooperation in nominating a candidate for this year's prize according to attached guidelines.

For your information, candidates previously nominated by you shall be considered again this year.

Thank you for your time and cooperation in advance regarding the matter.

Yours appreciatively,

Ichiro Matsui  
Governor

Guidelines for Nomination of Candidates  
for

## The 25th 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 during the past 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 his/her works .
- 4 Nominations Procedures** ————— Fill in the enclosed Nomination Form, and send it to the Cultural Affairs Division, Osaka Promotion Bureau Department of Civic and Cultural Affairs, Osaka Prefectural Government, 1-14-16, Nankokita, Suminoe-ku, Osaka, 559-8555 Japan  
URL (<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/bunka/news/bantou.html>)
- 5 Deadline for Nominations** ————— 31 May 2015
- 6 Announcement of Prize Winner** ————— February 2016
- 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)	“Manyōshu 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. Goreglyad (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 Kaitokudō 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 Ryōma and the Meiji Restoration” and other works Dr.Marius B. Jansen (U.S.A.)
12th (1993)	“Notes journalières de Fujiwara no Michinaga” and other works Dr.Francine Hérail (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 Kotański (Republic of Poland)
18th (1999)	Many years of contribution to Japanese literature and cultural history studies and “Mo-hitotsu no chūsei zō” 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.)

**Nomination Form**  
**for the**  
**Yamagata Banto Prize Candidate**

**Date :**

**To : Mr. Ichiro Matsui**  
**Governor of Osaka Prefecture**

**Name of nominator :**  
**(Person or institution)**

**Address :**

**Telephone No. :**

~~I/we hereby nominate the following work and its author for the Yamagata Banto Prize.~~

<b>Work</b>	<b>Title</b>	
	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Year Published</b>
	<b>Title of Japanese Translation (If exist)</b>	
	<b>Abstract</b>	
<b>Author</b>	<b>Name in his/her mother language and its pronunciation</b>	
	<b>Occupation</b>	
	<b>Contact address</b>	
	<b>Tel.</b>	
	<b>Other main works</b>	
	<b>Brief personal history (Birthdate, employment, previous awards etc.)</b>	
<b>Reason for Nomination</b>		
<p><b>Other</b> (1) Please send us/let us borrow a copy of the book for which this recommendation is submitted.  (2) If any reviews on the book are available, please attach a copy or notify us of the publisher's name.</p>		

If the space provided is not sufficient, add pages as necessary.