

# 井上靖賞

## About the Inoue Yasushi Award

In 2006 (Australia-Japan Year of Exchange), the Inoue Yasushi Award was established at the University of Sydney by the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation/Inoue Family and Masanori Ohtani in Sydney to encourage research and researchers of Japanese Literature in Australia and NZ. Certification and Prize will be awarded to the winners chosen by the Selection Committee of The University of Sydney

## The 10<sup>th</sup> Inoue Yasushi Award Winner- Dr. Tamaki Tokita

Dr. Tamaki Tokita holds a PhD from the International and Comparative Literary Studies Program at the University of Sydney, Australia, and is currently a sessional academic in Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney and the University of Technology Sydney. Her research interests are mainly in the fields of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies. Her PhD project examined how the March 2011 Japanese triple disaster (of the Tōhoku earthquake, tsunami, and the Fukushima nuclear meltdowns) was a turning point for Japan's image and national brand, through a comparative analysis of literary texts produced after the disaster in Japanese, English and French. Tamaki is currently working on turning her thesis into a monograph.

## Report of the selection Committee for the 10th Inoue Yasushi Award

The selection committee for the 10<sup>th</sup> Inoue Yasushi award has examined three short-listed articles on Japanese literature published over the past year by scholars based in, or working from, Australia. The unanimous decision of the judges is that Tamaki Tokita be awarded the Inoue Yasushi prize for 2016 for her article, 'The Post-3/11 Quest for True *Kizuna* – *Shi no Tsubute* by Wago Ryoichi and *Kamisama* 2011 by Kawakami Hiromi'.

The article, published in February 2016 in the internationally respected journal *Japan Focus*, explores the concept of *kizuna*, 'bonds between people', in the aftermath of the 'triple disaster' of earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown of 11 March 2011, as portrayed in the two novels mentioned in the title. As the author explains in her abstract accompanying the article, some Japanese authors "are contesting and expanding on" the notion of *kizuna* "as a way of coming to terms with the disaster". Tokita argues, through the analysis of two literary works, "that 3/11 literature provides a model for Japan's emotional and physical reconstruction through its resourcefulness and alternative vision of *kizuna*."

The judges were impressed by Tokita's originality and her "astute literary analysis firmly grounded in the social realities of 3/11." Her demonstrated excellence in the understanding and analysis of Japanese literary texts makes Tamaki Tokita a very worthy winner of the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Inoue Yasushi award.

Hugh Clarke Emeritus Professor,  
Members of the Selection Committee

### Selection Committee:

**Professor Emeritus Hugh Clarke (the University of Sydney)**

**Associate Professor Tomoko Aoyama (the University of Queensland)**

**Dr. Gaye Rowley (Waseda University in Tokyo Japan)**