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PRESS Release

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Winners of the Grand Prizes for the 28th JVC Tokyo Video Festival "TVF 2006" Selected — Japanese and Korean Entrants Take the Two Grand Prizes — Video Grand Prize: "Fledge" by Sawako Nakai (Nara Prefecture, Japan) JVC Grand Prize: "Family" by Ji Seung Woo (Korea)

The 28th JVC Tokyo Video Festival "TVF 2006", hosted by Victor Company of Japan, Limited (JVC) attracted a total of 2,291 entries from 35 countries and regions around the world (910 entries from Japan; 1,381 from overseas). The judges selected 30 works to receive the Excellence Award, 70 works to receive the Selected Work, and, after a final round of judging, one work to receive the Video Grand Prize and one work to receive the JVC Grand Prize. This year's two Grand Prizes were awarded to a Japanese entrant and a Korean entrant, both in their early 20s.

The Video Grand Prize was awarded to Ms. Sawako Nakai (age 23; Nara Prefecture, Japan) for her work *Fledge*. The work focuses on the lifestyle of a friend of the author's who became a mother while still at high school, and centers on videoed interviews of the subject. The subject and the author come together to speak to the viewer. In his comments, contest judge Isao Takahata had high praise for the work: "the existence of her supporters who warmly surrounded her was felt, so the whole product matched the Japanese title, *Hagukumu (Fledge)*."

The JVC Grand Prize was awarded to Mr. Ji Seung Woo (age 24; Korea) for his work *Family*. The work is a documentary depicting two days in the life of an elderly woman living alone in the country, whose children and their families come and stay at her house to help her make kimchi pickles. The range of feelings of which the actions of and casual conversations between parent and children afford occasional glimpses is expressed with extraordinary production skill. Among other things, the judges' comments praised the work for "an excellent point of this video that, in these scenes of daily life of family members, the reality of South Korea can be seen." (Hakudo Kobayashi).

The People Award was awarded to three works selected by members of the general public voting over the Internet: *Lemon* by Ms. Ruma Yuri Akizuki Matsubara (age 15; Hyogo Prefecture, Japan), *Fledge* by Ms. Sawako Nakai and "*Mei*" *Climbing a Valley* by Mr. Toyofumi Uetake (age 40; Chiba Prefecture, Japan).



Video Grand Prize

Sawako Nakai of Nara Prefecture, Japan
for *Fledge*



JVC Grand Prize

Ji Seung Woo of Korea
for *Family*

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Attachment 1:

Outline of Tokyo Video Festival

- Since 1978, JVC has annually hosted the "Tokyo Video Festival" to popularize "video-making" which increases the possibilities of recording, message transmissions, and free expressions with videos.
- The festival is open to professionals, amateurs, individuals, and groups of any nationality and ages. Video compositions must be produced with a video camera. Playback time must not exceed 20 minutes. Any subject matter is acceptable.

"TVF 2006" Award

Video Grand Prize (1 work):	500,000 yen (prize money for "Excellence Award" included); a JVC 3CCD hard disk camcorder, a TVF trophy, and a citation
JVC Grand Prize (1 work):	400,000 yen (prize money for "Excellence Award" included); a JVC 3CCD hard disk camcorder, a TVF trophy, and a citation
Excellence Award (30 works):	Prize money: 100,000 yen, citation, and plaque
People's Award (3 works):	Plaque
Selected Work (70 works):	Citation and plaque
Judges:	Nobuhiko Obayashi, Film Director; Hakudo Kobayashi, Video Artist and Professor of Seian University of Art and Design; Hiroaki Sato, Video Artist and a teacher at Nippon Engineering College; Makoto Shiina, Novelist; Isao Takahata, Animation Film Director; Susumu Hani, Film Director; and Masanori Kitami, General Manager, Consumer Strategic Marketing Dept., Victor Company of Japan, Ltd. (JVC)

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Attachment 2:

Trends and topics of awards-winning works in TVF 2006

(Titles of entrants omitted; ages as at time of entry)

1. Winner of the Video Grand Prize: *Fledge* in which subject and author come together to convey the message of the work

Fledge by Sawako Nakai, which received the Video Grand Prize, is a documentary focusing on the lifestyle of a friend of the author's who became a mother while still at high school, through interviews with the subject. Through the complex emotions she experiences from the time she becomes pregnant, through childbirth and divorce, and her busy life raising a child, it depicts the process by which the friend comes to stand on her own two feet as a single mother. The author and the subject, her friend, come together to put across the message of the work in a straightforward yet earnest manner.

Hailed by the judges — “This video tackles a modern theme straightforwardly and lightly, thereby conveying the life of a neighbor who is annoyed but in high spirits, using a method that is not intrusive, but is profound.” (Makoto Shiina) “...The existence of her supporters who warmly surrounded her was felt, so the whole product matched the Japanese title, *Hagukumu* (*Fledge*). The producer of the film, who was a friend of the heroine, was also one of her supporters. Probably because the producer kept a close eye on the two, this wonderful sense of stability was created.” (Isao Takahata)

2. A large number of prizes awarded to works that question what a family should be, including *Family*, winner of the JVC Grand Prize

This year, a large number of prizes were awarded to works that question what a "family" should be from the viewpoint of their authors. *Family* by Ji Seung Woo, winner of the JVC Grand Prize, is a documentary depicting two days in the life of an elderly woman who, since the death of her husband, has continued to live alone in the country relying on no-one, and of her son and daughter and their families, who come home to help in the making of kimchi pickles, a tradition that involves the whole family. The feelings experienced by parent and children in the course of conversations that, at first, might appear casual, are expressed with outstanding production skill. The work is also remarkable for the skill of its visual expression, with casual but calculated camera work and clever scene composition.

Other entries depicting their authors' views on "family" in different ways included "*Mei Climbing a Valley*" by Toyofumi Uetake, a winner of the Excellence Award, which shows the author's daughter struggling to climb up a stream, a "rite of passage" set by her father, "*Noodle Recipe as a Family Treasure*" by Harue Miyazawa (age 22; Nagano Prefecture, Japan), in which all the members of a family work together to make the "family treasure" — a secret recipe for soup for ramen noodles left to them by the grandfather, another winner of the Excellence Award, and "*Family Table*" by the Nippon Engineering College Project A team (Tokyo), a winner of the Selected Work, an art video in which the savage depiction of the dinner table hints at the imminent collapse of the family.

3. The explosive power of young people: more than half the prizes awarded to works by people in their 20s or younger

As seen in the winners of the two Grand Prizes, TVF 2006 saw a significant increase in the numbers of young people entering the contest. Nearly half of the 100 prizewinning entries (49) and half of the 30 entries selected for the Excellence Award (15) were created by people in their 20s or younger. It is the first time in previous TVF contests that this has occurred, an indication that the younger generations have begun in earnest to use video as a tool for self-expression.

The number of entrants in their teens was also significant. A large number of works exhibiting young talent received prizes, including *Light Blue Waterdrops* by Kimiko Ura and Kanako Matsuki (Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan; Selected Work), *Lemon* by Ruma Yuri Akizuki Matsubara, *Vivre SDF a Paris (Homeless in Paris)* by Lea Moszkowicz (age 17; France; Excellence Award), *La Esperanza Blanca (White Hope)* by Samuel Hernández Sainz (age 18; Spain; Selected Work), and *The Second World -Year of 2005-* by Kim Kyong Yoon (age 19; Korea; Selected Work).

4. Women take half the Excellence Awards; ratio of prizewinners higher among female entrants than among male entrants

Women entrants showed outstanding talent in the creation of moving images. Half (15) of the 30 works selected for an Excellence Award were by women (one was a joint entry by a man and a woman). More than 20% of all the entries submitted were by women, and the ratio of prizewinners was also higher among female entrants than among male entrants.

In his comments, contest judge Makoto Shiina had high praise for the works submitted by women: stated in his comments as “Speaking about individual products, I was particularly struck with admiration by the products of young women, which were full of individuality and sensitivity. I felt that this had the same characteristic as that of the current literary world in which young women are the main driving force.”

5. Academy award winners among prize-winning entries; documentaries reflecting reality of the world

One of the Excellence Award winners was *Chernobyl Heart* by Maryann De Leo (age 53; United States), a work that won the 2003 Academy Award for Documentary Short Subject. The work depicts the cruel effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident on children in Belarus and exposes the terror of the incident.

As every year, documentaries were in the majority, and many excellent works of this genre, including the two Grand Prizes, took prizes. Cameras turned on people, nature and social phenomena highlighted various aspects of the modern world, including *Bridge -Tales of Women-*, by Makiko Uchimura (age 20; Shiga Prefecture, Japan; Excellence Award), which relates an episode in the history of the author's family concerning an old wooden bridge, *Owls Wintering at a Dry Riverbed* by Shoji Kusayanagi (age 69; Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan; Excellence Award), which shows wildlife wintering near a major city, and *Beside the Circulating Railway* by Liu Chuan Ping and Zheng Liu Jun (ages 47 and 42; China; Excellence Award), which depicts people living beside a railway in the suburbs of Beijing who rise up in protest over the noise and vibration pollution.

6. Competition between animated films — now an established mode of expression

Thanks to the extraordinary advances in video hardware and software technology, animation, formerly a technically demanding mode of expression is gradually becoming established as a genre in video making and this year's contest once more attracted many entries of a high standard. The techniques used were many and varied. The entries included two works based on computer graphics selected for Excellence Awards — *tough guy! 2005* by Shintaro Kishimoto (Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan), *Stand by Me: Marionette Boy Archer* by Shin Minamizawa (age 29; Kyoto Prefecture, Japan), the puppet animation *One Day Eterniday* by Jean Pierre Tenshin (age 41; Tokyo; Selected Work), and the clay animation *O Ditado (Dictation)* by Studio Elementare (Brazil; Selected Work).

7. Drama, the joy of the creator and the joy of the viewer

A number of original and highly watchable amateur dramatic works took prizes. The entries included a large number of homemade dramas that shone by their unique style, quite unlike that of the familiar TV dramas. These included *Ohayo -Good Morning-* by Shinya Okada (age 37; Tokyo; Excellence Award), which relates the strange events that befall a couple who are

on good terms but talk very little, *Papas Are Thief Rangers* by the Honmachi 1-chome Shopping Street Revitalization Union; Kumamoto Prefecture, Japan; Selected Work), an amateur comedy created jointly by the local shopping street association to help revitalize the local area, *Pasaje a la libertad (Ticket to Liberty)* by Patricio Benoit (age 31; Argentina; Selected Work), which tells the story of a strange bus-jacking with numerous sub-plots, and *Up-country children* by Woravuth Lakchai (age 26; Thailand; Selected Work), which tells a peaceful story of three country children and a water buffalo.

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