

Press Release

PRESS INFORMATION

R-M Automotive Refinish

May 2016

Japan announces national final winner of

R-M® Best Painter Contest

Mr. Koudai Sasaki from All Honda Body Service has won the national R-M Best Painter Contest in Japan. The contest recognizes talented young painters and promotes the use of ONYX HD waterborne technologies, driving sustainability in bodyshop operations.

Tokyo, Japan – May 23, 2016 – BASF announced the result of the national R-M Best Painter Contest in Japan, where the competition was held on May 21. Highly-skilled young painters from across Japan demonstrated their sophisticated skills in the competitive final national contest at BASF's Refinish Competence Center in Nippa. Through this contest, R-M reinforces its commitment to the industry by offering a platform to uncover young talent and to explore how to further boost their productivity and efficiency.

Eight finalists were assessed on various technical tasks such as their skills in applying R-M ONYX HD waterborne paint solutions, color-matching skills, their overall knowledge of waterborne coatings system as well as health and safety issues. Mr. Koudai Sasaki from All Honda Body Service swept to victory having perfected each task. "I have admired this contest for long time since our bodyshop started to use ONYX HD. I am happy to be the winner of this contest."

Hideo Tadokoro, Senior Manager, Automotive Refinish Coating Solutions, BASF Japan applauded the contestants for reaching the national final and showing their passion for the automotive refinish business. "During the pre-final and final contests, it was amazing to see



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all these young painters who are so proud of their profession. I am convinced they can use what they learned during the competition as a springboard to become a world-class spray painter."

Mr. Genya Yokota from Avance Techno Service, the finalist under the age of 30 with the highest score, will represent Japan in the 12th International R-M Best Painter Contest, which will be held from September 26 to 30, 2016 in Clermont, France. As in the past, Japan is the only participating country from East Asia. In the past two international final contests, Japanese painters' skills were highly recognized and they came home with different awards. In 2010, the first prize was awarded to the Japanese contestant. All national representatives from 21 countries, including Belarus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Holland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Russia, the US, the UK and the Ukraine, will compete against each other for the championship.

R-M Automotive Refinish Paints: an important part of BASF's Coatings Division

Under the R-M brand, BASF markets a comprehensive range of automotive refinishing paint systems, focusing on eco-efficient waterborne basecoats and high-solids paints. By using these systems all legal solvent-reduction requirements can be complied with anywhere in the world, and with regard to appearance and resistance, the products meet the same quality standards as solvent-borne paints. In this area, the company offers a wide variety of services to support its customers. R-M Automotive Refinish Paints is approved by most of the leading car manufacturers for aftermarket repair and chosen by the world's most prestigious car companies for its color expertise.

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