

Fukuoka Prize 2025

Grand Prize

TAKARA Kurayoshi

Japan

Historian

Professor Emeritus, University of the Ryukyus

Born October 1, 1949 (Aged 77)

Biography

1947	Born in Izena island, Okinawa, Japan
1971	Graduated from Aichi University of Education (B.A. hons. in Education)
1973	Senior specialist, Okinawa Historiographical Institute
1987	Project General Manager, Okinawa Prefectural Museum
1988	Director of the Urazoe City Library, Okinawa
1992	Ph.D, Kyushu University (Literature)
1995-2013	Professor, Faculty of Laws and Letters, University of the Ryukyus
2013-	Professor Emeritus, University of the Ryukyus
2013-14	Deputy Governor, Okinawa Prefecture
2019-	Chair, Technical Review Committee for the Reconstruction of Shuri-jō Castle, Okinawa General Bureau, Cabinet Office

Takara also served as a member of Shuri-jō State Hall Basic Design Committee, supervisor, NHK TV drama 'Ryukyu no Kaze', a historical researcher for NHK historical epic drama 'Tempest' and Board of Trustees, Kyushu National Museum.

Major Award

1981	2 nd Okinawa Times Publications Cultural Award for <i>The Era of the Ryukyus</i>
1988	10 th Higa Shuncho Prize of the Okinawa Society for Cultural Research for <i>Structure of Ryukyu Kingdom</i>
1988	Japan Junior Chamber TOYP Grand Prize for contributions to regional vitalization
1990	Okinawa Times' Iha Fuyu Award for <i>Issues in the History of the Ryuku Kingdom</i>
1997	18 th Okinawa Studies Awards (Humanities Division) for Ryuku Kingdom historical studies
2004	The Japan Foundation Special Prize for Japanese Studies

Major Publication

- *The Era of the Ryukyus: In Search of a Great Historical Figure*, Chikuma Shobo, 1980.
- *Perspectives on Okinawan History*, Okinawa Times, 1981.
- *The World of Gokyouiou: Okinawan History in the Classics*, Hirugi-sha, 1982.
- *Okinawa Historical Tale*, Hirugi-sha, 1984.
- *Sequel Okinawa Historical Tale*, Hirugi-sha, 1987.
- *Structure of the Ryukyu Kingdom*, Yoshikawa Kobunkan, 1987.
- *Issues in the History of the Ryuku Kingdom*, Hirugi-sha, 1989.
- *Ryukyus*, Iwanami Shoten, 1993.
- *Introduction to Criticism of "Okinawa"*, Hirugi-sha, 1997.

- *The Ryukyu Kingdom as Part of Asia*, Yoshikawa Kobunkan, 1998.
- *The Okinawa Initiative*, (Co-Author), Hirugi-sha, 2000.
- *What is the "Okinawa Problem"?*, (Co-Author) Genshobo, 2007.
- *Ryukyus* [Korean version], Hallym University 2008.,
- *Exploring the History of the Ryukyu Kingdom*, Yoju-shorin, 2011.
- *The Okinawa Problem: A Realist Perspective*, (Editor) Chuokoron-shinsha, 2017.
- *The Era of the Ryukyus: In Search of a Great Historical Figure* [Chinese version], Linking Books, 2018.
- *Ryukyus (The Legacy of the Ryuku Kingdom)* [English version], Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2025.