

### 3 Japanese dancers win prizes at Lausanne

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Jiji Press LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Jiji Press) — Japan’s Sumina Sasaki won third prize at this year’s Prix de Lausanne, a prestigious international competition for young ballet dancers, on Saturday.

Two other Japanese dancers, Yu Wakizuka and Mio Sumiyama, came in fourth and eighth, respectively, at the 47th annual competition in the Swiss city of Lausanne.

Sasaki, 18, from Higashiosaka, Osaka Prefecture, started to attend a ballet school run by her grandmother at the age of 3. She now learns ballet in Zurich.

“I didn’t expect to win a prize. It’s just like a dream,” Sasaki told reporters.

“With the award, I’ve taken a step to become a professional ballet dancer,” said Sasaki, who aims to perform at a European ballet troupe. “This is my starting point.”

“I could dance comfortably,” said Wakizuka, 17, from Osaka. “Although I made a mistake, I don’t regret it. I had a good experience,” he added.

“I could dance without becoming nervous,” Sumiyama, 18, from Setagaya Ward, Tokyo, said. “I’m really happy to win a prize,” she said.

This year’s top prize winner was Brown Mackenzie of the United States. Second prize went to Figueredo Gabriel of Brazil. Speech