

'Gold' wins kanji of the year after Olympics ... and Trump's hair

By JIRO OMURA/ Staff Writer
December 13, 2016 at 15:05 JST

Share 74 Tweet Print



Chief priest Seihan Mori draws the kanji of 2016 at Kiyomizudera temple in Kyoto on Dec. 12. (Yoshiko Sato)

KYOTO--Donald Trump's golden mane of hair has contributed to "kin" (gold) being chosen as the kanji of 2016.

But the main reason people listed when voting for the kanji, which also reads as "kane" (money), was not the U.S. president-elect but the haul of 12 gold medals Japan won at the Rio Olympics.

The results of the public vote were announced by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation at Kiyomizudera temple here on Dec. 12. Chief priest Seihan Mori painted the winning character at the event using an extra-long calligraphy brush.

Other reasons listed were public financing controversies plaguing Japan, such as the mushrooming costs of hosting the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and Japanese comedian Pikotaro, whose video of him dancing in a gold costume while singing his hit "PPAP" went viral.

Every year, the public is invited to submit nominations for the kanji character that best represents the year. Of 153,562 submissions received in 2016 by the Kyoto-based foundation, 6,655 proposed "gold."

It is the third time for the character to be selected as the kanji of the year, also topping the chart in 2000 and 2012.

The runner-up kanji was "sen" with 4,723 suggestions. Sen can symbolize "making a choice" and is used to describe elections or referendums and also the athletes chosen to compete at the Olympics.

"Hen," meaning "strange" or "change," came in third with 4,619 votes.

Share 74 Tweet Print

Related News

FOOTPRINTS OF WAR: Rusting sunken relics tell of bloody fight in Pacific war front
December 5, 2016

DELL EMC advertisement for server hardware.

What's New

- Trial for wireless brain-machine interface set for ALS patients
- Onaga infuriated over Osprey crash; U.S. defends aircraft
- Report: China to penalize U.S. automaker for price fixing

Recommended

Challenged - wonder athletes

With the Rio de Janeiro Paralympics approaching, The Asahi Shimbun has begun a series focusing on various challenged athletes.



360-DEGREE LIVES

The page features videos of variety of animals. You can view the videos as interactive images that allows you to pan and zoom in to them



Videos

New machine even bags your shopping, but it can't talk, yet



New Year lucky charm-making hits its peak at Shizuoka shrine



Star Wars meets 'suiboku-ga' ink wash painting in art performance



FOOTPRINTS OF WAR: Pacific relics tell toll of Japan's mislaid faith in losing war effort

December 6, 2016

FOOTPRINTS OF WAR: Bones, relics on Guadalcanal reminders of tragic strategy December 7, 2016

Trial for wireless brain-machine interface set for ALS patients December 14, 2016

Study: Bullying more social in Japan, physical in Sweden December 14, 2016



Tweets about [ajw Asahi Shimbun](#)

Helena Tillborg Retweeted

Asahi Shimbun AJW
@AJWasahi

Study: Bullying more social in Japan, physical in Sweden : The Asahi Shimbun : 朝日新聞デジタル [asahi.com/ajw/articles/A...](#)

Study: Bullying more soci...
Schoolchildren around the gl...
[asahi.com](#)

1h

[Embed](#)

[View on Twitter](#)

Learning English

Asahi Weekly

In-house News and Messages

Link

Tsukiji, Kitchen of the Times
The New York Times
朝日新聞中文网



[BACK TO TOP](#)

[About Us](#) | [Site Policy](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © The Asahi Shimbun Company. All rights reserved. No reproduction or republication without written permission.