

## **Senko Holds IGO Festival 2017**

Senko Group Holdings Co., Ltd. held the "IGO Festival 2017" on October 22, 2017 at the group's traffic safety training facility "Crefeel Koto" (Higashiomi City, Shiga Prefecture). The festival was first held in 2006 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of Crefeel Koto and to promote regional cultural activities by increasing the popularity of IGO. This year marks the 11<sup>th</sup> time the festival has been held.

The event drew 146 visitors who played game lessons with invited guests 6<sup>th</sup> dan Yukari Yoshihara as well as other professional female competitors such as 4<sup>th</sup> dan Akino Isawa, 2<sup>nd</sup> dan Mieko Nakajima and 2<sup>nd</sup> dan Sayuri Tanemura. Championship tournaments were also held according to class and skill level. Players from a broad range of ages participated in games, from the youngest child aged 3 years old to the oldest player aged 83 years old. There were younger players this year compared to past festivals, including ten elementary and junior high school students and 34 high school students.

The game lessons pitted four casual players against one professional female player, with a total of 48 beginners to advanced players testing their skills against the professionals. Key moves from the various games were streamed on a large screen accompanied with turn-by-turn commentary from professional players, which gave the players as well as onlookers tips and advice on various strategies.

Players were assigned a skill level to play tournaments according to four classes. Sixteen players in each class (making a total of 64 players) played made for an exciting league Swiss-style tournament.

A lottery system was also organized to give participants the chance to win a signed book, card or folding fan from the professional female players as presents, which added further excitement to the festival outside of the tournaments.



From left: 6<sup>th</sup> dan Yoshihara, 4<sup>th</sup> dan Isawa, 2<sup>nd</sup> dan Nakajima, 2<sup>nd</sup> dan Tanemura



3-year old Yuki Yanagihara taking part in a game lesson

End.