Japanese girls place 1st and 3rd in international violin contest

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PARIS (Kyodo)—One teenage Japanese girl won first place in prestigious internaiton violin competition in Paris, while another finished third, competition’s jury announced Saturday.

Akiko Yamada, 16, and Kyoko Yonemoto, 18, both from Tokyo, were awarded Premier Grand Prix and third place, respectively, in violin division of International Maguerite Long and Jacques Thibaud Competition, major internation competition for young pianists and violinists.

Yamada is youngest Japanese violinist to win Premier Grand Prix since Dsishin Kashimoto in 1996. She is youngest ever winner in competition’s violin division.

Yamada, who lives in Paris, said she was delighted to win, but that she never thought she could do so. She first took violin lesssons from mother Reiko at age three, and at seven she entered Conservatoire Superiur in Paris.