

ASIMO Waves the Flag for Turkey and Japan's Close Friendship

Ankara, Turkey – May 6-7 2010 – ASIMO traveled to Turkey this week to attend the country's national student robot building contest and celebrate the close cultural ties between Turkey and Japan. 2010 is the 'Year of Japan' in Turkey and marks the 120th anniversary of a close friendship between the two countries.

These cultural ties stretch back to the late 19th Century, when Japan cared for the survivors of a Turkish boat, shipwrecked and stranded off the islands' coast. The ship was returning home following a diplomatic meeting with the Japanese Emperor.

The student robot competition is a modern day example of this continuing friendship and was established in 2007 by the Turkish and Japanese Governments to inspire its young scientists and engineers. This year over 600 teams of students from both countries are competing in the event.

At the opening ceremony, ASIMO introduced Ms Nimet Çubukçu, the Turkish Education Minister, to the stage and presented her with the flags of the two countries.

ASIMO was also on hand to encourage the budding robot engineers with a series of demonstrations of its own cutting-edge technology and help hand out the competition awards at the closing ceremony.

Honda has been a key supporter of the competition, with representatives of the company sitting on the event's organizing committees in both Turkey and Japan.

ASIMO's trip to Turkey comes on the back of its recent attendance at the Belgian finals of RoboCup Junior, the international robot building competition, and is another example of Honda's commitment to encouraging the next generation of scientists and engineers.