

For Immediate Release



November 29, 2022

Voice actors: Toru Furuya and Masako Nozawa
They will tell stories and call your name in a charming synthesized speech♪

“coemo” storytelling speaker device
New content **“Voice Actors Read Aloud Series”** will be released sequentially
from **Wednesday, November 30**

TOMY Company, Ltd.

In November 2022, TOMY Company, Ltd. (Representative Director, President & COO: Kazuhiro Kojima; headquarters: Katsushika-ku, Tokyo) will begin distributing the **“Voice Actors Read Aloud Series”** within the “coemo app”^{(*)2} as new content for the **“coemo”** storytelling speaker device, using AI to create synthesized speech, called “coe” that sounds just like the voices of moms and dads^{(*)1} (a paid service: 800 yen, including tax, per story). A unique feature of “coemo” is that during the story, your child’s name is called out in a synthesized speech (“coe”) based on the voice of popular voice actors.

The first release, featuring voice actor **Toru Furuya** reading **“Gulliver’s Travels,”** will be available from Wednesday, November 30, and the second release, featuring voice actor **Masako Nozawa** reading **“Peter Pan,”** will be available from Friday, December 23.



Toru Furuya



Masako Nozawa

The new “Voice Actors Read Aloud Series” has a variety of special features that keep children engaged, such as “readings by voice actors that captivate the listener,” “synthesized speech (“coe”) based on the voices of popular voice actors that call out your child’s name,” “being spoken to by characters in the story or becoming the main character,” and “realistic readings with sound effects and background music.”

Since the launch of “coemo” in September 2022, among the many types of content, stories that call out children’s names (original stories) have been particularly popular, and we have planned this content to further deepen parent-child communication.

Mr. Furuya and Ms. Nozawa, who have been active as voice actors for many years and are loved by a wide range of people of all ages, read aloud to children and provide synthesized speech (“coe”) that appeals to not only children, but also moms and dads, grandfathers and grandmothers, and other people of all ages, and can inspire conversations across generations.

“coemo” will continue to develop audio content that enhances the time that parents and children spend together.

(*1) The phrase “moms and dads” as appears in this news release refers collectively to all family members.

(*2) “coemo app”: In addition to 45 Japanese folk tales and fairy tales around the world, original stories, there are 60 content options that users can enjoy at no charge, including music and exercises for facilitating quality sleep. Select a story you like from the “coemo app” and send it to the “coemo” device, which will play the story. Additional new content will also be available for purchase.



About new content in the “Voice Actors Read Aloud Series”

○ We will deliver six stories (three stories each) read aloud by voice actors Toru Furuya and Masako Nozawa!

Through the “coemo” app, a total of six stories read aloud by Toru Furuya and Masako Nozawa (three stories each) will be distributed. With voice changes for each of the multiple characters, children and adults alike will enjoy the charming readings that draw them into the world of the stories.

<Three stories by Toru Furuya>

“Gulliver’s Travels” (available from Wednesday, November 30) / “Aladdin and the Magic Lamp” (to be released sequentially) / “Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Red-Haired Club” (to be released sequentially)

<Three stories by Masako Nozawa>

“Peter Pan” (available from Friday, December 23) / “The Adventures of Sinbad” (to be released sequentially) / “San Mai No Ofuda” (to be released sequentially)



“coemo app”

○ It includes various features such as calling out your child’s name in the synthesized speech (“coe”) of Mr. Furuya and Ms. Nozawa!

If you register your child’s name using the “coemo app,” the synthesized speech (“coe”) of Mr. Furuya and Ms. Nozawa will call out your child’s name within the story (*3). The story is read by the real voices of Mr. Furuya and Ms. Nozawa, but their synthesized speech (“coe”) is used in scenes where the child’s name is spoken during the story.

(*3) You can set words of up to 5 characters as the name to be called out, but there is no function to freely generate sentences with the synthesized speech.

Comments from Toru Furuya and Masako Nozawa

<Comments from Mr. Furuya>

Many children may be accustomed to looking at images, so I wanted to make it easy for them to imagine stories told only by voice, and for images to appear in their minds. The characters come out depending on the story, and I thought what kind of voice I wanted to use for each type of character, and I changed the personalities of the characters as much as possible and overacted a little so that an image of each character will come to mind. Thinking about that is what I put the most effort into. I felt that it would enrich the hearts of children who have grown up listening to the reading.

I also thought it would be great for the characters to speak to the children during the story using the children’s own names, because it would make them very happy and make it easier for them to become immersed in the story. To be honest, I felt that not only children, but also the fans who support me would really want to have this. I myself would also be happy if there were readings by me of works that my fans would like to hear.



■ Toru Furuya Profile

Voice actor. Born on July 31. From Kanagawa Prefecture.

He has worked as a voice actor for such popular works as “Star of the Giants” (Hyuma Hoshi), “Mobile Suit Gundam” (Amuro Rei), “Dragon Ball” (Yamcha), “Saint Seiya” (Pegasus Seiya), and “Detective Conan” (Toru Amuro).

<Comments from Ms. Nozawa>

I love reading to children and always want to read books to young children. I know that children’s eyes sparkle as they listen to me, so I put my heart into this recording as well. I believe that parent-child conversations are of the utmost importance. Talking allows the parent and child to understand each other’s feelings better. I feel that “coemo” can help to stimulate such conversations. I also think that the use of AI speech synthesis technology to call out the child’s name is very nice. It makes even adults happy, so I know how happy children must be.



■ Masako Nozawa Profile

Voice actress. Born on October 25. From Tokyo.

She has done voice work on many popular titles, including “Dragon Ball” (Son Goku, Gohan, Goten), “Gegege no Kitaro” (1st and 2nd seasons: Kitaro, 6th season: Medama Oyaji), “The Gutsy Frog” (Hiroshi), and “Galaxy Express 999” (Tetsuro Hoshino). In January 2017, she was recognized by Guinness World Records for the “Longest time in the same videogame role” and “Longest-serving videogame voice actor” for her work on video games related to the “Dragon Ball” series.

About “coemo”

The “coemo” speaker enlists innovative “coestation” AI speech synthesis technology^(*4) in playing lots of different stories conveyed in synthesized speech (“*coe*”) that sounds just like the voices of family members, such as mom or dad. Hearing stories read aloud in synthesized speech (“*coe*”) of a person close to them gives children a sense of security, and at the same time allows parents to spend time enriching communication with children through physical contact, etc., rather than reading books, providing fun times for both children and adults. Stories read aloud with background music will provide children who are familiar with images and books with new experiences for spurring imagination through listening.



(*4) The coestation is an AI speech synthesis service by Coestation Inc., which produces a wide variety of synthesized speech (artificial voices) easily resembling those of everyone from loved ones to celebrities.

○ **The service has won three awards, including a grand prize and a special prize! It is now the hottest toy on the market!**

“coemo” is a toy that is receiving a lot of attention and has received high acclaim at various awards ceremonies held this year.

- **The Japan Toy Awards Grand Prize in the “Educational Toys category”** (sponsored by the Japan Toy Association)
- **16th Kids Design Award Special Prize (Special TEPIA Award) in the “Designs to Develop the Creativity and Create the Future of Children category”** (sponsored by the Kids Design Association, a non-profit organization; Supporters: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Cabinet Office, Consumer Affairs Agency)
- **BabyTech® Awards 2022 Grand Prize in the “Children’s Learning and Play Division”** (sponsored by Papasmile Co., Ltd.)

<Product Outline>

Product Name: “coemo”

SRP: JPY 12,980 (tax included), on sale

Recommended Age: 3 years and up

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Website: www.takaratomy.co.jp/products/coemo



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