

October 19, 2020
The Shibuya Ikueikai Foundation

Special Sponsorship of the 3rd Japanese Language Composition Speech Contest in Kaunas, Lithuania

On October 16, 2020, we served as the special sponsor to the 3rd Kaunas Japanese Language Composition Speech Contest held in cooperation with the Komaru-Koutsu Foundation, the Hiroshima University Lithuania Center and Centre for Asian Studies at Vytautas Magnus University. This year's contest was held remotely for the first time connecting Japan and Lithuania amid the spread of COVID-19 as we wanted to hold the contest on an ongoing basis.

At the beginning of the contest, Administrative Director Shigehiro Komaru of the Komaru-Koutsu Foundation, Mr. Mitsuo Ochi, President of Hiroshima University, and Dr. Linas Didvalis, Center Director of Centre for Asian Studies at Vytautas Magnus University made opening remarks. Then, Mr. Gediminas Varvuolis, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in Japan and Mr. Shiro Yamasaki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Embassy of Japan in Lithuania made remarks as guests of honor.

At the contest, a total of 7 candidates from the advanced, intermediate, and beginner divisions delivered their speeches, and the grand prize was awarded to Ms. Liucija Stankeviciute from Vilnius University, who gave the following speech: "While it is difficult to travel abroad due to COVID-19, I traveled within Lithuania and found that my country is full of beautiful nature and we must protect this nature."

Certificates and special prizes were also awarded to the top two students in each division. At the end of the contest, Mr. Toshiyuki Sato, Executive Vice President of Hiroshima University made closing remarks.



(Commemorative photo of the 3rd Kaunas Japanese Language Composition Speech Contest)