



Report

12th “Japanese Culture Presentation Contest”

(for high school students, in English)

Organized by the University of Kochi, Department of Cultural Studies

Time ‘Culture Day’ (November 3, 2025), 13:30~16:00

Venue University of Kochi, Eikokuji campus (room A211)



Winning presentations:

1 位 清心女子高等学校

(Maki Himari, Nagase Hana)

The meaning and culture behind Japanese names

2 位 愛媛県立西条高等学校

(Miyazaki Koharu, Watanabe Mei)

Love to laugh

3 位 東京農業大学第三高等学校

(Hattori Yurina, Minowa Sara)

Authentic self-expression and enforced conformity



Jury members:

Torikai Masato, Matsuyoshi Akiko,

Michelangelo Magasic



The 12th Japanese Culture Presentation Contest in English was a great success in many respects. First, we were able to organize the contest for the twelfth time, thanks to the cooperation of many in our university, staff as well as students, and of course our jury members, who kindly sacrificed a bright autumn afternoon to join us. Secondly, we were able to welcome 18 eager high school students from schools in and outside of the prefecture. Clearly, the format of a presentation contest is appealing to many young minds, and for good reasons. Above all, however, it was the quality of the presentations that turned this year's contest into a memorable one. All teams came well prepared and full of enthusiasm. They talked about topics varying from traditional cultural traits of Japan, such as *rakugo*, over contemporary subjects such as name romanization, to socially oriented issues (peer pressure, the Muroto Geopark...). Three teams were awarded the top prizes (book coupons of 5000, 3000 and 2000 yen for each team member) and the jury members were more than happy to present all the teams with a book and prizes for aspects that make presentations so much more interesting than speeches: stage presence, visuals, and so on. No need to say, we look forward to seeing many more teams join us next year!