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(Translated from Japanese to English by Hiromi Mizoguchi)

The announcement of the 26th Japan Self-Publishing Culture Awards

The winners of the 26th Japan Self-Publishing Culture Awards, organized by Japan Graphic Services Industry Association and sponsored by Asahi Shimbun, were announced on the 6th of September. Total number of 658 books were contested and the following books won the first awards in each category.

The Cultural Award Grand Prize: *Sumi ni Gosai Ari* written by Mr Masayuki Wataya from Nara city

The Local Cultural Award: *Akashi Hodoukyo Jiko* written by a writers group in Kobe

The Best Magazine Award: *Yuusei Roushi ni Tou* written by Minoru Ikeda from Tokyo

The Best Novel Award: *Asahikawa Seikatsu Zuga Jiken* written by Kunihiko Anpo from Nagoya city

The Best Essay Writing Award: *Watashi to Nihon no Nanajunen* written by Hans Brinckmann from Fukuoka city

The Best Poetry Award: *Arabesque* written by Reiko Mori from Tokyo

The Best Critique Award: *Gijutsu ga sasaeta Nihon no Seni Sangyo* written by Yoshihiro Matsushita from Kyoto city

The Best Graphic Design Award: *Kei Tora182 no 20-22* (photo book) by Noriyoshi Yamamoto from Aichi prefecture

Note 1: Asahi Shimbun has currently 4.3 million circulation nationwide.

Note 2: The Japan Self-Publishing Culture Awards, called *Nihon Jihi Shuppan Bunka shou* in Japanese, aim to select the best self-published literary books each year in seven categories - The Local Cultural Award, The best Magazine Award, The Best Novel Award, The Best Essay Writing Award, The Best Poetry Award, The Best Critique Award, and The Best Graphic Design Award.