JFKL’s Upcoming Programme

“Japan Handmade
- Craft and Design from Kyoto”

The Weekend Japanese Film Show

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
Familiarization Course New Intake 2013

REPORTS:

YAMATO- The Drummers of Japan Malaysia Tour 2013
SOIL & “PIMP” SESSIONS Meets UiTM
Salam 1 Jepun: - A Cross Cultural Response-
Visitor Session: Osaka University students
Chirimen Handicraft Workshop
Hinamatsuri Tea Ceremony
Japanese Culture Session-ORIGAMI
Public Lecture on Japanese Studies
Mini Cultural Festival
This May, the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur will be inviting 3 specialists from Kyoto, who are undertaking a new initiative of refreshing generations-old Japanese crafts techniques, and taking them to a new level.

1. Lecture “Traditional Craft and Contemporary Design in Japan”
Design journalist, Ms. Noriko Kawakami, will talk on the interface between Japanese traditional crafts and contemporary design.

2. Lecture & Demonstration “Kyoto’s New Tradition - Nishijin Textile & Wired Handicrafts”
Mr. Masataka Hosoo, of HOSOO, a Kyoto-based textile company, will talk on the development of a new textile using the traditional technique of Nishijin brocade.
Mr. Toru Tsuji will introduce his efforts to revive and newly launch wired handicrafts, which once declined in Kyoto, followed by a demonstration.

3. Wired Handicrafts Workshop by Mr. Toru Tsuji
Workshop for weaving wired handicraft in a small group. Please check the updates for the application procedure if you are interested!

4. Exhibition “Japan Handmade”
A special exhibition will be held in conjunction with the program to showcase this new movement in Kyoto.

**Exhibition**
Date: 10th – 25th May 2013  
Venue: National Textile Museum

**Lecture, Workshop & Demonstration**
Date: 11th – 12th May 2013  
Venue: National Textile Museum

Please log on to www.jfkl.org.my for more information.
The Weekend Film Show is BACK at a new venue!!!

Venue: Mini Pawagam, Faculty of Film and Video, ASWARA
Admission: Free
With English subtitles. *Titles are subject to change without prior notice

Saturday, 6th April at 3pm
SHODO GIRLS!! / 書道ガールズ!! わたしたちの甲子園
(Ryuichi INOMATA, Color / 2010 / 120 min)

Cast:
Riko NARUMI, Rio YAMASHITA, Nanami SAKURABA, Nobuaki KANEKO

Synopsis:
Satoko is the captain of the calligraphy club at her high school and has won many awards for her works in various exhibitions. Her father is a professional calligrapher, and Satoko has always had to win her father’s approval; the need to please her father has gradually become stressful for her.
Satoko’s best friend and vice-captain of the club, Kana, appeals to Satoko that she wants to win a team prize for the effort she has put into the club for the past 3 years. But Satoko is reluctant about working as a team. Satoko also felt depressed about her friend Mio, who had quit the calligraphy club even though she had a talent that rivaled Satoko’s.
Then one day, Ikezawa comes to the high school as a substitute teacher. Ikezawa is appointed as the advisor of the calligraphy club, but he appears to have no intention to instruct its members. However, when Satoko and the club members see Ikezawa perform in front of the school by fluidly writing a large script with music in the background, the activity within the calligraphy club begins to take a new direction.

Saturday, 4th May at 3pm
Fireworks from the Heart / おにいちゃんのハナビ
(Masahiro KUNIMOTO / Color / 2010 / 119min)

Cast:
Kengo KORA, Mitsuki TANIMURA, Yoshiko MIYAZAKI, Ren OHSUGI

Synopsis:
Five years ago, the Sudo family moved to this small town in northern Japan to enable their daughter Hana to recuperate from her various health issues.
The small town of Katakai boasts some of the biggest fireworks displays in the world. Hana is released from the hospital on the day of the annual Katakai fireworks festival following six months of treatment for acute leukemia and learns that her older brother, Taro, has become a social recluse. At the festival later that evening, Hana sees the town’s Young Adult Group enthusiastically planning for the following year when they would turn twenty and sponsor their own fireworks. Hana resolves to get her brother more involved in the community and forces him out of seclusion. She drags the reluctant Taro to the Youth Group Office, but they refuse to grant membership to an “outsider”. Despite the rejection, Taro begins to make an effort to reintegrate into society, starting with a local paper route.

Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)
Familiarization Course
New Intake 2013

Aimed at familiarizing learners with the format and content of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT), the course will be held over 4 Saturdays.

**Course Date:** June 8 - 29
**Day:** Saturday
**Details available on our website from:** 20-Apr-2013

**APRIL 2013**

**MAY 2013**

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**Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) will be held on 7 July 2013**
Test Registration Period: 25 Mar-7 Apr
(Online Registration: www.jlsm.org)
Details:
• Kuala Lumpur Test Centre → http://www.jlsm.org
• Penang Test Centre → http://www.pjls.org
For further information on JLPT → http://www.jlpt.jp/index.html
Japanese Language for Learners
「日本文化を読む 中上級学習者向け日本語教材/CD付」京都日本語教育センター【編】アルク 2012年 Library Call No.817.5T
「1日15分の漢字練習 中級/CD付 上・下」学校法人KCP学園KCP地球市民日本語学校【編】アルク 2012年 Library Call No.811.2T
「日本語能力試験スーパー模試N4-N5/CD付」岡本能里子【監修】アルク 2012年 Library Call No.810.7925

Japanese Language for Teachers
「日本語教師のためのTIPS 77: ICTの活用」山田智久【著】くろしお出版 2012年 Library Call No.810.723
「日本語教師のための笑しく教える活動集22」辻亀矢子・小原千佳【著】アルク 2012年 Library Call No.810.724
「日本語教師のための評価入門」近藤ブラウン京美【著】くろしお出版 2012年 Library Call No.810.728

Essay
「望遠 ニッポン見聞録」ヤマザキマリ【著】幻冬舎 2011年 Library Call No.914.6 YAM
「おおきなかぶ、むずかしいアボガド」村上ラチオ2【著】大橋步【画】マガジンハウス 2011年 Library Call No.914.6 MUR

Non Fiction
「104歳になって、わかったこと」手島静子【著】今井栄一【取材・構成】イースト・プレス 2011年 Library Call No.289.1 TES
「文化と外交」渡辺靖【著】中央公論新社 2011年 Library Call No.319
「わかりえないことから」平田オリザ【著】講談社 2012年 Library Call No.361.454

Cooking
「京都・丸久小山園に教わる 老舗の抹茶やお茶」内山しのぶ【著】世界文化社 2011年 Library Call No.596.65

Photo Books
「続々ダニケ日記」森友治【撮影・文】ホーム社【集英社】 2012年 Library Call No.748 DAK
「3.11前後 美しい東北を永遠に残そう|東日本大震災 復興応援写真集」 2012年 Library Call No.291.087
「3.11以前」外務省プロジェクト計画局【編】小学館 2012年 Library Call No.817.5T

Comics
「宇宙兄弟」巻1〜巻5 自講演会マンガ大賞受賞>小山宙哉【著】講談社 2008年〜2009年 Library Call No.726.1
「お母さんの扉」伊藤理佐【著】オレンジページ 2012年 Library Call No.726.1

Recommended Books
「日本語教師のためのTIPS 77: ICTの活用」
ICTを上手く活用できず困ったことはありませんか？
「PowerPointで絵をつくろう」「デジカメで作文をしよう」「スマートフォンで個別指導しよう」とICを授業で活用するためのヒント集です。「日本語教師のためのICTマニュアル」です。ICT技能の視点からICT活用を再考し、身近なデジタル機器を使い活用し、顕著な授業力のための具体的実例（成功例、失敗例）が多数紹介されています。

「104歳になって、わかったこと。」
本文より：
I'm interested in Life.
今こそ「人生」について学びたい、生きることについて勉強したいんです。-中略-だから今、生かされていることに深く感謝しています。
ハイイロピスタ生誕の日系2世、104歳の今もハイイロ名物「しま食堂」の店主として店に立つ "Granny"が、生きること、出逢い、仕事、故郷（日本）などについて語ります。

「続々ダニケ日記」
大切なものを見つめて、見続けて。
「日本ブロック大賞2006」受賞、1日7万アクセスの人気ブログの写真日記の第3弾です。父親が撮るなんでもない家族の日常風景が、楽しく美しい写真にかわります。写真に添えられたユーモアあふれるコメント（博多井）も楽しみます。
**Arts and Culture**


**Fashion**


**Children**


**Cooking**


**General Reading: Fiction and Non- fiction**


**Research and Study**


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<Recommended Books>

*Strong in the Rain : Surviving Japan's Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster*

Two brave reporters who lived in Japan during the tsunami and earthquake mix personal stories of people who experienced the disaster with a the detailed exposé of how the Japanese media and then the world press underplayed the unraveling of the nuclear accident. Beautifully written and footnoted, this compelling book is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the nuclear and information world we live in.
February was not only a Chinese New Year month, but also a busy and happening month for the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL). Together with Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS (DFP) and Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) Health Campus in Kota Bharu, JFKL brought YAMATO- the Drummers of Japan for their second visit to Malaysia as one of the opening programs to celebrate the ‘40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation’.

The performances were scheduled on 18th February 8.30pm at DFP, 21st February 3pm and 22nd February 8.30pm at Dewan Utama USM Health Campus in Kota Bharu. All 3 performances were sold out. Besides these performances, YAMATO also held two workshops together with the percussion major students at the National Academy of Arts, Culture & Heritage (ASWARA) as well as students from USM Health Campus.

Different from the other Japanese taiko groups, the 70-minute performance by the six YAMATO drummers was not only amazing and breathtaking but also full of energy and fun. The two female and four male members played 7 songs using 16 drums, 2 shamisen and a small percussion instrument called chappa. The drummers also used simple body language to get the audience to clap along to the beat of the drums. Another eye-catching performance was the collaboration between YAMATO and the local percussion group, Hands Percussion, where the two groups performed together for the encore session of the 5pm performance.

It was the first time that the troupe led by Mr. Masa Ogawa, founder and artistic director of YAMATO, went to Kota Bharu. During the performance, the hall was overflowing with people, some even standing during the whole concert. Afterwards people were still waiting outside the hall to meet the performers although it was already quite late by that time.

Overall, the event was not only well received by both audiences in KL and Kota Bharu, but it was also a rare opportunity for the performers. The leader, Mr. Ogawa, commented that it was a special treat for them to be able to perform outside of the usual theatres, and to meet and talk to people who they would not have otherwise met. Two collaborations with local artists, Hands Percussion and the ASWARA students, in particular were special magical moments in their long touring life. Both collaborations resulted in vibrations which sounded like they had been playing together for a long time and established new friendships.

As much as it was a rare and treasured opportunity, both the KL and Kota Bharu shows presented them with new challenges. One was performing for an audience more familiar with classical music, and the other was an environment which was not accustomed to performances like theirs unlike European countries where they frequently perform. However, the non-stop applause from the full house at all 3 performances showed that their energy had successfully reached new friends in Malaysia.
“You have to have your heart shaken. That’s the only way you get better in Music.” Josei, the pianist, stated calmly at the close of the workshop at UiTM. Just like their advice to the students of the Faculty of Music at the workshop, they themselves were calm and passionate at the same time.

SOIL & “PIMP” SESSIONS performed for the first time in Malaysia at UiTM on 4th and 5th March 2013 with the help of UiTM’s Faculty of Music. At the show as many as 500 people, most of them usually shy and modest students, jumped up and cheered to the music. The enthusiasm at the live performance was so intense that on the following day the students welcomed the artists for the workshop as if they had just appeared for the encore.

The band was born out of Tokyo’s club scene around 2001. They surprised the audience with their energetic live performances at clubs when DJs stilled ruled the scene. It was an era that saw the emergence of instrumental bands which were incubated in the rich and intricate music scene of the metropolis, to work beyond existing music genres.

Although their music is jazz-based, one genre was too small for this explosive band. “At that time jazz was considered to be something serious, that you had to listen with a grumpy look on your face. We wanted to destroy that barrier between audience and musicians,” said Tabu Zonbie, trumpeter, at the press interview. “The word ‘Death Jazz’ was also born from our strong feeling that we wanted to rebel against that situation.” And so they did. In 2003 they were the only unsigned and Jazz group to perform at the prestigious Fuji Rock Festival in Japan, with several major companies rushing to sign them on afterwards.

At the workshop they insisted on how crucial it was to perform with good experienced musicians. In fact when the drummer Midorin joined the student band to demonstrate, he alone had pulled up all the other students in the band. The sound was much more solid and there was an obvious consistence in the groove.

They were, however, not just kind teachers. When a student asked what his band should do, Akita Goldman, the bassist, did not give him a straight answer. Instead he asked the students which musicians they admired, and said “And do you know who they were inspired by? You have to dig deeper. That’s where the groove came from.”

To be successful we have to understand in great depth what we really want to do, where we are really heading. That was exactly how they built their international reputation, through honest and constant pursuit of music and self-improvement.

It was said that an instrumental band couldn’t attract a mass audience, or that the shy younger generation wouldn’t dance to jazz music. S&P has proven them wrong in Japan, just as they have shown that passion towards music can even shake up Malaysian students!

* The performance was held in conjunction with the “40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation” and the ”International Jazz Day”. 
Fairuz Sulaiman is a multimedia artist whose works are a perpetual exploration of analog and digital media. He was invited to Japan under the JENESYS Invitation Programme for Creators from April to June 2012.

“Salam 1 Jepun” was an exhibition/performance of his experience during the residency. The exhibition was held from 2nd until 10th March and the performance was on 2nd and 3rd March.

Here’s the report by Ms. Tan Hui Koon, the curator-in-charge at the National Visual Art Gallery which was the co-organizer of this event.

_Salam Fairuz Sulaiman! Salam 1 Jepun!

It’s an intriguing presentation by Fairuz Sulaiman based on his experience of working with new media in Malaysia and Japan. Digital technology always give us artificial and programmed impressions but through Fairuz’s analog approach in real time, the moment is assimilated to create a sequence that can never can be recreated; it challenges the linear timeline.

In the Salam 1 Jepun: Laksamana Do Re Mix performance, Fairuz adapted the P.Ramlee film into a traditional shadow play merging it with digital sensors, color tracking, and programmed animation. The fusion between tradition and technology fabricated an interesting visual feast that triggered the audience to discuss the issue of how technology can help pass on cultural practices or bring about the extinction of tradition aesthetic and economic structure.

Fairuz Sulaiman inspires with his ongoing new media art dialog. The performance program at the National Visual Arts Gallery Malaysia would like to invite more new media artists and cultivate the audience to start looking new dimensions of art, technology and living.
30 students from the Osaka University visited JFKL and enjoyed interacting with our students from the Beginner’s, Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2 and Advanced 1 courses.

Through these brief but meaningful Interactions, the Japanese students learned a lot about Malaysia from the experiences and thoughts of Malaysians, while our students got to know more about Japanese youths and also had a great opportunity to practice their Japanese!
The Chirimen (Japanese-style Handicraft) Workshop finally came back after a 2-year break! Three workshops were held on 22nd & 23rd March with a total of 46 participants.

At this workshop, the participants selected a Netsuke kit in their favourite colour at the beginning. Netsuke were originally little sculptures used to hang a little bag or basket containing personal belongings from an obi(belt) back in Edo-period. Now they have evolved into key-chain like accessories to be attached to a little wallet, a handbag or a mobile phone.

Even though the event was called a “workshop,” it was more like casual gatherings without any special instructors, and the participants seemed to enjoy making their own Netsuke, while having a chat with the other participants.

Hinamatsuri, or The Doll Festival, is held on 3rd March every year. On this day, families pray for the growth and happiness of young girls in their household. Another name for this festival is Momo no sekku (Peach Festival) because it coincided with the peach blossom season under the old lunar calendar.

To enjoy and celebrate this Japanese seasonal event, JFKL held a tea ceremony on 2nd March, hosted by the Urasenke Tea Ceremony Group led by Ms. Takano, an Urasenke instructor.

Separated into 4 sessions, a total of 48 people participated as guests of the silent and beautiful ceremonies.

The enjoyment of celebrating the Hinamatsuri, Girls’ festival, was shared subtly through the utensils and bowls that were used, and the hanging scroll prepared for the ceremony.
The “Let’s Try ORIGAMI for HINAMATSURI Home Parties” workshop was conducted recently, as part of the effort to enhance JFKL students’ appreciation and understanding of Japanese culture while learning the language. HIMATSURI is celebrated on March 3 every year in Japan to wish good health and future happiness for girls.

The workshop was conducted by JFKL staff Ms. Naito, Ms. Nakao, and some Japanese volunteers. It started off with a briefing about HIMATSURI, also known as the Doll Festival.

Besides learning the various types of Origami pieces which can be used for home parties to liven up the atmosphere, the participants also enjoyed tasting “Hina-arare,” small colourful rice crackers coated with sugar.

A Japanese Studies public lecture entitled “Japanese Election System Reform 1994: Implications to Habatsu in Jiminto,” was held on 26th February 2013 at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, organized by the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS) in collaboration with The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur. The speaker, Mr Asmadi Hassan, the new President of MAJAS and also the Deputy Director of Malaysia Japan Research Centre (MJRC) of University of Malaya, gave a very informative lecture on the topic that was well received by the audience.

This public lecture looked at the implications of the 1994 Japanese electoral system reform on habatsu (political faction) within the Jiminto (Liberal Democratic Party of Japan). The four objectives were to first investigate the habatsu’s influence on the Jiminto prior to the reform; second, analyze the need to reform; third, examine the implications on the habatsu; and fourth, analyze the reform’s impact on Japan’s political leadership.
The Mini Cultural Festival was conducted on 9 March 2013 at the Petaling Jaya Museum. This was a collaboration by the Museum and The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur. There were 40 participants consisting of primary school students and teachers from Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Taman Dato' Harun as well as the public. It was in conjunction with the Kokeshi dolls exhibition that was held from 29th January till 25th April 2013 at that museum.

The festival consisted of 4 sessions that were conducted by the JFKL staff with the support of the helpful museum staff. First was the origami demonstration making Hina dolls and flowers. Second was the yukata fitting session where 7 students were chosen to experience wearing a yukata assisted by their friends. Third was a chance to play with Japanese traditional toys such as koma (spinning tops), daruma otoshi (a daruma doll in five pieces, usually in the colors of the rainbow, from top to bottom) and kendama (two wooden cups of different sizes located at the center of a wooden stick and smaller cup with a ball connected by a string). Last was another origami session but this time to make animals!

It was a very delightful event where the participants had fun together. They enthusiastically joined in all the games and were eager to win!