

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **100**
June - July 2018

Upcoming Programmes

Giselle
ON! Raku!
Sea Shorts Festivals
Japanese Film Festival 2018
The Weekend Japanese Film Show



SeaShorts Film Festival 2018 in George Town, Penang (1-5 August)



Audience at the closing ceremony of SeaShorts 2017.

The second edition of SeaShorts (Southeast Asian Short Film Festival) will take place in George Town, Penang in conjunction with the city's annual cultural event, the George Town Festival.

With the support from Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, the Festival is able to fly filmmakers from ten Southeast Asian countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines) to attend this Festival and watch more than 100 short films made in their neighbouring countries.

Last year, the Festival screened 118 Southeast Asian short films in 13 programmes, including works by Tsai-Ming Liang, Davy Chou, Lav Diaz, Charlotte Lim, Sun Koh, and many others. Held over three days, the Festival was well-attended by filmmakers and programmers from Southeast Asia, Japan, and an international audience.



This year, the Festival will showcase 90 short films in nine special programmes, including one that features student films by Lav Diaz, Dain Said, Anthony Chen, Liew Seng Tat, Garin Nugroho, Edwin, Sherad Anthony Sanchez, and Aditya Assarat.

One of the programmes, *Me and Me: Female Japanese Animation Artist Now* features ten animations made by Japanese female animators born in the 90s. Its programmer, Koyo Yamashita will also set up the Very Bad Film School challenge during the Festival in which each participant will be challenged to make an experimental film on their own.

Another highlight is *S-Express*, an annual collaboration of short film programs from 8 participating countries (Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam) that offers an insight into the development of filmmaking in the region. This year, the festival invited programmers Sanchai Chotirosseranee (Thailand), Leong Pui Yee (Singapore), Fransiska Prihadi (Indonesia), Thaid Dhi (Myanmar), Park Sungho (Cambodia), Tan Chui Mui (Malaysia), Francis Joseph Cruz (The Philippines) and Marcus Manh (Vietnam) to make known of the short films made in their home countries.



Koyo Yamashita challenged the audience to make experimental films out of images during SeaShorts 2017.



Yuni Hadi shared her experience as the festival director of Singapore International Film Festival. A panel of film festival directors from different Southeast Asian countries (from left to right): Thaid Dhi from Wathann Film Festival Myanmar, Yuni Hadi, Amir Muhammad the moderator, Fransiska Prihadi from Minikino Film Festival Bali, and Chalida Uabumrungjit from Thai Short Film and Video Film Festival.



SeaShorts 2017 Networking party. Malaysian actress Sharifah Amani (right) sharing her Festival experience with KUGAI Kyoko (left) from The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur.



Walid Mahu Bikin Film by Isyraqi Yahya (Malaysia)

The programme Return of the Salt Boy 1,2 &3 is about divers views on the original inhabitants of the mountain, the plains, and the islands of Southeast Asia. Among the short films that will be shown are from Wences Ponciano, Jen J. Balberona, Loeloe Hendra Komara, Margaret Bong, Khavn Auraeus Solito, Pimpaka Towira, Edwin and Zai Kuning.

First launched in 2017, SeaShorts is still a new and growing film festival aiming to foreground Southeast Asian short films and cultures. This year's festival will be held in two locations: Hin Bus Depot, Penang (1-3 August) and Khazanah Nasional Berhad, Penang (UAB Building) (1-5August).



Someone's Wife In The Boat of Someone's Husband by Edwin (Indonesia)

For more information and updates about the festival, please visit <http://www.nextnewwave.com.my/seashorts2018/>

THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

*Screening will be in Japanese with English subtitles



Venue : GSC Nu Sentral
Date : 11 August, 2018 (Saturday)
Time : 10.00am
Admission : Free, seats are limited to two pax per name, prior booking is required.

100 Yen Love

(百円の恋)

(TAKE Masaharu武正晴 / 2014 / 113 min / P13)

Ichiko (ANDO Sakura) lives at her parents' home. She rarely hangs out with other people. Things change when her younger sister divorces and moves back with her child. Ichiko and her sister's relationship went bad, causing Ichiko to move out and live alone. What brings happiness to Ichiko is to watch a middle-aged boxer (ARAI Hirofumi) practice at a boxing gym. The boxing gym is located between the 100 yen shop where she works and her home.

Cast

ANDO Sakura - Ichiko
 ARAI Hirofumi - KANO

Staff

ADACHI Shin - Screenplay
 NISHIMURA Hiromitsu - Cinematography
 TSUNETANI Yoshio - Lighting
 FURUYA Masashi - Sound Recording
 KAIDA Shogo - Music

Film Festivals / Award

2014 Tokyo International Film Festival, Japanese Cinema Splash, Best Picture Award



Organizer

JAPAN FOUNDATION
 国際交流基金

Partners

Golden Screen Cinemas

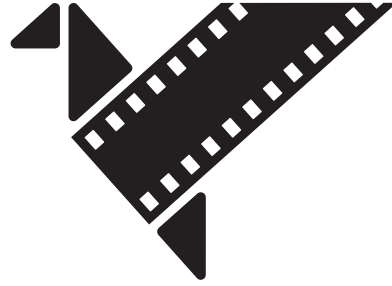


METHOD OF BOOKING

1. Visit www.eventbrite.com
2. Search "The Weekend Japanese Film Show (August 2018)"
3. Click "REGISTER"
4. Insert no. of pax (max two pax per person)
5. Click "CHECKOUT" and fill up your information
6. Click complete registration and e-tickets will be sent to your email.
7. Please print your tickets or save it on your mobile and bring it to the registration counter on screening day as poof of booking.

* Ticket booking starts on 1st August 2018 at 9.00am

*Screened in Japanese with English subtitles



JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2018



Celebrating its 15th anniversary, the Japanese Film Festival in Malaysia will be coming back in September and October! We will be bringing the Festival down to Johor Bahru for the first time, so JFF fans in Johor, you don't have to come up to KL to catch our films anymore!

Also good news for those who enjoyed "Chihayafuru" at JFF 2016. We will be bringing "Chihayafuru" which was just released in March this year in Japan.

Look out for more details to be announced in our next issue of Teman Baru, but in the meanwhile, please mark your calendar and start planning your visit to the Festival with your families and friends!

Kuala Lumpur 6 – 12 September 2018

GSC Mid Valley
GSC Pavilion KL
GSC 1Utama
GSC NU Sentral

Penang 13 – 16 September 2018

GSC Gurney Plaza

Johor Bahru 20 – 23 September 2018

GSC Paradigm Mall JB

Kuching 4 – 7 October 2018

GSC CityONE Megamall

Kota Kinabalu 4– 7 October 2018

GSC Suria Sabah



More details will be announced in Teman Baru August issue, JFKL website and GSC website in August. Stay tuned!

GISELLE

Giselle is a classic ballet of the Romantic era. It transformed the dance world when it was first performed in Paris in 1841 and remains at the center of classical repertory.

The peasant girl Giselle discovers the true identity of her lover Albrecht – and that he is promised to another. Giselle dies of a broken heart.

The Wilis, a group of supernatural women who dance men to death, summon Giselle from her grave. They target her lover but Giselle's great love frees him from their quest.

Venue : Panggung Sari, Istana Budaya Kuala Lumpur
 Dates : 30 June 2018, 8.30pm / 1 July 2018, 3.00pm
 Duration of performance : 2 hours and 20 mins including intermission
 Ticketing agent : www.airasiaredtix.com
 Enquiry and booking hotline : 017-608-5025



© Erin Baiado

Main guest artiste's names : KURANAGA Misa (Principal role)
 Patric Palkens (Principal role)
 KYOTANI Yui (Principal role)
 Martin Buczko

Original choreography : Jean Coralli, Jules Perrot, Marius Petipa
 Restaging : Choong Wan Chin
 Music : Adolphe Adam
 Scenery : Maroon Art and Design
 Costume : HASHIMOTO Haruka, Vicky Yee Choy Kheng,
 YASHIMA Yuki, Atelier Yoshino

Main casting

Act 1:
 Giselle KURANAGA Misa (Boston Ballet, USA)
 Albrecht PATRIC PALKENS (Boston Ballet, USA)
 Hilarion MARTIN BUCZKO (Former Staatsballett Berlin, Germany)
 Berthe, Giselle's mother CAROL AINSWORTH (Former Royal Ballet, UK)
 Duke of Courland COLIN PEASLEY (Australian Ballet)
 Peasant Pas de deux RINO FUJIHASHI (KL Dance Works, Malaysia)
 PANPIJIT CHANAKARN (Bangkok City Ballet, Thailand)

Act 2:
 Myrtha KYOTANI Yui (Moravske Divaldo Olomouc, CZ)
 Moyna RACHEL CHEW ZI XIN (Malaysia)
 Zulma YASHIMA Yuki (Japan)



© Gene Schiavone

On! Raku!

(Top talent from Japan and Malaysia jamming towards the big feast of the year!)

Malaysia's leading jazz band, WVC Malaysian Jazz Ensemble, will collaborate with a leading Japanese jazz guitarist, Isao Miyoshi, and two notable Japanese musicians Yurie Nejime and Tomohiro Yahiro to give a different dimension of jazz music.

"On," means to start, and "Raku (らく)" is a Japanese word that translates as joyfulness and relaxation. Therefore "On! Raku!"'s intention is undoubtedly to ignite the audience's joy through jazz.

Although different lifestyles, cultures, and environments may break us apart, jazz can connect all cultures. The spirit of jazz can be defined as constant communication, mutual understanding and respect.

The performance will showcase their works from the past, plus new materials that they are developing, and co-creating, merging Asian sensibilities into Jazz.



Venue : Black Box, DPAC

Showtime : 3 July 2018, 8.00pm
 4 July 2018, 8.00pm

Ticket : Book your tickets through DPAC

Dcard Members: RM 50
 Normal: RM 55
 Early bird promotion: RM 45 (From 15th May until 30th May 2018)

Performers:

WVC Jazz Ensemble (Malaysia)

Music Director / Pianist : Tay Cher Siang
 Saxophonist : Julian Chan
 Bassist : Aj Popshuvit
 Percussionist : KJ Wong

Guest Performers (Japan)

Singer : NEJIME Yurie
 Guitarist : MIYOSHI Isao
 Percussionist : YAHIRO Tomohiro

<h2>The 15th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia</h2>		<h1>CALL FOR PAPERS</h1>
<p>AIM <i>Providing a platform for Japanese language teachers, researchers, post graduate students, volunteers, etc in Malaysia and abroad to share the finding of their researches and experience as well as ideas with their peers.</i></p>	<p>Interested parties may submit their proposals under three (3) categories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Oral Presentation b) Poster Presentation c) Teacher's Corner (アイデア広場) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for Oral and Poster Presentation Categories <i>They are subject to screening by a committee. Interim reports are also welcomed.</i> • Proposal for the Teacher's Corner (アイデア広場) <i>Content must NOT be the same with those submitted for the Oral or Poster Presentation Category.</i>
<p><u>Conference Date:</u> Saturday 6 October, 2018</p> <p><u>Conference Venue:</u> Ambang Asuhan Jepun University of Malaya</p>	<p>Deadline for Submission of Proposal</p> <h2 style="color: white;">Sunday, 29 July, 2018</h2>	
<p><u>Organizers:</u> The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur Ambang Asuhan Jepun, University of Malaya Malaysian Japanese Language Instructors Society</p>		<p><u>Application Form:</u> Oral/Poster Presentation Category https://form.jotform.me/jldjfk/15PR Teacher's Corner Category https://form.jotform.me/jldjfk/IDEA15</p>
<p>For details, please refer to https://www.jfkl.org.my/jle-conference-2018/</p>		

RESULT OF THE 15TH JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS (2018)

(By Hasline Hamid (Japanese Language Department) | 21st April 2018



This annual event was successfully held at The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, 21 April 2018. A total of 13 Malaysian students between the ages of 14 and 18 studying Japanese at public and private schools participated.

The national level Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools was organized by the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, Japanese Chamber of Trade & Industry, Malaysia, Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur and The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur with support from the Ministry of Education Malaysia and Teikyo (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

Each contestants delivered a speech on the theme of "The App I wish to Create...". The aim is to encourage contestants to give a public demonstration of their proficiency in Japanese. This event also serves as a good opportunity to deepen mutual understanding

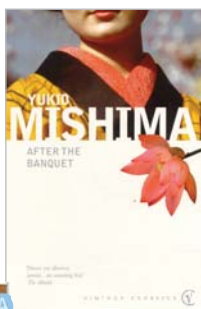
between Malaysia and Japan to foster closer friendship amongst the people of both countries.

The Overall Champion was awarded a Study Tour Program to Japan, courtesy of the Education Guardianship Group, Japan and invited to take part in the 23rd Japanese Speech Award 2018 to be held in Japan from 25 July until 6 August 2018. Top winners from each category won attractive prizes from Japan Airlines Co., Ltd., Panasonic Malaysia Sdn Bhd, Kinokuniya Book Stores (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., Kokuyo International (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd., Ajinomoto (Malaysia) Berhad and Loob Holding Sdn Bhd.

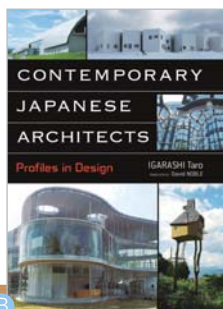
Please visit our website at <http://www.jfkl.org.my/events/jsc2018/> for the contest winners' details.



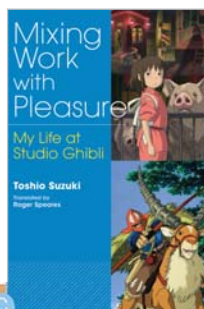
ENGLISH BOOKS



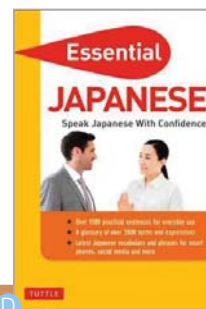
A



B



C



D

(Recommended)

[What I talk about when I talk about running: a memoir]/ By Haruki Murakami; translated from the Japanese by Philip Gabriel. London: Vintage Books, 2009. Library Call No. 895.635 MUR

(Literature)

A [After the Banquet]/ By Yukio Mishima; translated by Donald Keene. Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing, 2001. Library Call No. 895.635 MIS

(Culture)

B [Contemporary Japanese Architects]/ By Igarashi Taro; translated by David Noble. Tokyo: Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2018. Library Call No. 720.952 TAR

C [Mixing work with pleasure: my life at Studio Ghibli]/ By Toshio Suzuki; translated by Roger Speares. Tokyo: Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2018. Library Call No. 791.4334092252 SUZ

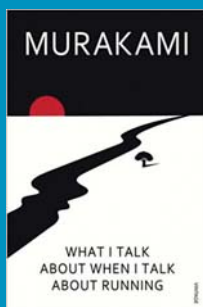
[Japan's Quest for Stability in Southeast Asia]/ By Taizo Miyagi; translated by Hanabusa Midori. Tokyo: Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2018. Library Call No. 327.52059 MIY

(General)

[Sushi at home: a mat-to-table sushi cookbook]/ Tokyo: Rockridge Press, 2015. Library Call No. 641.5952 SUS

D [Essential Japanese speak Japanese with confidence]/ Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing, 2012. Library Call No. 495.635 ESS

Recommended Read



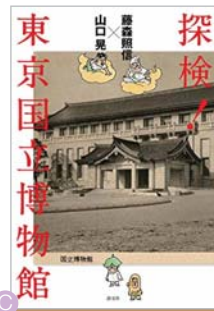
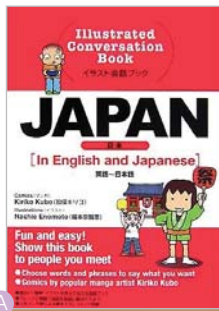
An intimate look at writing, running, and the incredible way they intersect. From the incomparable bestselling author Haruki Murakami. While simply training for New York City Marathon would be enough for most people, Haruki Murakami's decided to write about it as well. The result is a beautiful memoir about his intertwined obsessions with running and writing. Full of vivid memories and insights, including the eureka moment when he decided to become a writer. By turns funny and sobering, playful and philosophical, What I Talk About When I Talk About Running is rich and revelatory, both for fans of this masterful yet guardedly private writer and for the exploding population of athletes who find similar satisfaction in athletic pursuit.

[What I talk about when I talk about running: a memoir]/ By Haruki Murakami; translated from the Japanese by Philip Gabriel. London: Vintage Books, 2009. Library Call No. 895.635 MUR

- Kindly be informed that the library will be closed on 2nd June 2018 (Saturday) and 15th to 16th June 2018 due to Hari Raya Puasa.
- Members who wish to return borrowed materials on this day may do so via the library drop box in front of the JFKL entrance
- For further enquiries and assistance, please call the JFKL Library at 032 2284 6228 (ext. 401/402/403)

What's New!

JAPANESE BOOKS



Japanese Language for Learners

- A 「イラスト会話ブックIllustrated Conversation Book JAPAN」榎本奈智恵【著】JTBパブリッシング 2007年 Library Call No.817.8T
「合格できる日本語能力試験N4・5」市川綾子ほか【著】アルク 2010年 Library Call No.810.7925

Japanese Language for Teachers

- B 「日本語教師のためのCEFR」奥村 三菜子ほか【著】くろしお出版 2016年 Library Call No.810.728
「異文化間に学ぶ「ひと」の教育」異文化間教育学会【企画】小島 勝ほか【著】明石書店 2016年 Library Call No.371.5

Literature

- 「世界文学としての村上春樹」柴田勝二, 加藤雄二【著】東京外国語大学出版会 2015年 Library Call No.910.268

Art & Culture

- C 「探検! 東京国立博物館」藤森照信, 山口晃【著】淡交社 2015年 Library Call No.521.8
「盆栽えほん」大野八生【作】あすなる書房 2013年 Library Call No.627.8

Comics

- D 「北欧女子オーサの日本再発見 ローカルの旅」オーサ・イエークストロム【作】カドカワ 2016年 Library Call No.726.1

Recommended Books

「イラスト会話ブックIllustrated Conversation Book JAPAN」

旅先で出会う日本人と楽しく会話をしたいという方々に向けた会話集です。日本での旅行に役立つ基礎会話をかわいイラストで簡単にわかりやすく解説。日本事情も盛り込んで、コンパクトにまとめています。

「日本語教師のためのCEFR」

『CEFR』は今や世界中で言語教育に携わる人たちが言語教育・言語学習を考える際に参照するガイドラインとなっています。本書はCEFRの基本的な考え方を36のQ&Aで紹介する第1部と実践例を紹介する第2部で構成されています。従来の文型シラバス中心の授業から学習者中心の課題遂行型授業へと、自身の授業を見直したい教師の皆さんに特におすすめです。

「探検! 東京国立博物館」

日本最古の博物館として、質・量ともに日本一を誇る「トーハク」こと東京国立博物館。路上観察眼をもつ建築家・藤森照信氏と平成の絵師・山口晃氏を案内役に、「美術」「建築」の両観点から、トーハクの魅力を徹底的に解明します。

「北欧女子オーサの日本再発見 ローカルの旅」

日本の地方は東京以上に不思議だらけ! 北欧スウェーデンからやってきた漫画家オーサが、まだ見ぬ日本の不思議を探しに東北、福岡、沖縄、広島、京都へ日本不思議再発見の旅に出かけます。

Staff Greetings from Cultural Affairs Department

The end of my stay in Malaysia is drawing near. I will return to Japan in early June. Although my service here was not that long, I learnt a lot from friends in Malaysia. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all friends and partners of JFKL for your generous support and cooperation to our activities.



I was privileged to have engaged in cultural exchange in various kinds of fields ranging from puppet play, music, and dance performance to sports, both traditional and contemporary. Last year marked the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan, and we celebrated with several memorial events, such as Noh (traditional theatre) performance, Calligraphy demonstrations, and Rakugo (Story-telling) demonstrations. It was an honor to be able to work with a lot of talented and passionate artists both in Malaysia and Japan. In addition, the warm reactions of Malaysian audience and tireless efforts made by our program partners gave us tremendous courage and energy. Our events were made possible thanks to all these supports.

Another memorable event was bringing a music performance to Brunei for the Brunei Japanese Language and Culture Week in 2017 and 2018, where the artists were received very warmly and enthusiastically. I hope these occasions will promote more active exchanges between the countries.

My position will be taken over by Mr. KURIHARA Tsuyoshi I would appreciate your continued heartfelt support and cooperation to him.

Thank you again for all your kindness. Terima kasih banyak-banyak dan jumpa lagi!

IKEDA Hiromi
Former Head of Cultural Affairs Department

Salam Sejahtera, apa khabar?

I am pleased to greet you as a new staff member at the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur.



My first visit to Malaysia was ten years ago, when I was still a college student. I was in Sabah and Sarawak as a tourist with my friend. I can still remember looking up at Mt. Kinabalu from the bottom and saying to myself, "Maybe next time". Who could have imagined that I would come back to Kota Kinabalu to attend a collaborative performance of Japanese and Malaysian dancers? Life sometimes gives you such a joyful surprise. (I will challenge myself to climb the mountain within the year!)

In Japan, I was working on international theatre festivals for young audiences, and was also producing art events for children as well as adults who want to recall their creativity from childhood. So, the performing arts are a favourite field of mine but I am also interested in various topics related to culture and health, including food and traditional medicine.

I am looking forward to encountering the unexpected and to gaining a new view of Japan and the world through the people of Malaysia.

Haruka Tanji
New Asia Center Program Officer, Cultural Affairs Department



To all the readers of Teman Baru and all the Malaysians who I'll get to meet here in this country.

It is my honor and pleasure that I have a chance to engage in promoting friendship between Japan and Malaysia.

I joined The Japan Foundation in 1997, and since then have been posted to two international representative offices; namely the Embassy of Japan to Russia (1999-2002), and the Embassy of Japan in Uzbekistan (2009-2013). So this is my third time working overseas. Before coming to Kuala Lumpur I worked at the Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai of the Japan Foundation.

Malaysia – a country of diversity, blessed with a rich natural environment, has a lot of delicious foods, and I've also heard that Malaysians have deep interests in culture and cultural activities, such as music, theater, performing arts, and so on. Above all, they are very interested in Japanese culture and tradition thanks to the "Look East Policy", which has fostered friendship between the two countries over the years.

Although it is my first time to visit and stay in Malaysia, I intend to learn and study much about Malaysia, make many friends through my work at JFKL so as to accumulate precious and meaningful memories of my lifetime in your country!

KURIHARA Tsuyoshi
New Head of Cultural Affairs Department

Dear Friends of JFKL

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support and cooperation while I was in Malaysia (for three years since April 2015). It was my utmost pleasure working with Malaysian people on cultural exchange projects, who were impressively passionate about the arts and their life. I was indeed attracted to the people's warm and heartfelt friendliness, and there is no doubt that the friendships gained here will be my lifetime treasure.



I understand that Malaysia is now facing a new era after the historical election on 9 May, and the Malaysian arts world would undoubtedly be influenced accordingly. It is very unfortunate that my time at JFKL has come to an end, and I am unable to observe the upcoming changes on site. But even after returning to Japan, I know that I will not be able to take my eyes away from the Malaysian arts scene. As a big fan of Malaysia, I look forward to my next visit in the very near future.

Until we meet again, take care and I wish you all the best!

YAMADA Yuri
Former Asia Center Program Officer, Cultural Affairs Department

Staff Greetings from Japanese Language Department



Hi, my name is Sakinah binti Noor Badaruddin. I have just joined Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur last March, straight after graduating from Himeji Dokkyo University, Japan. I majored in Japanese Language Education. Over the years, I not only studied Japanese but how to conduct classes and teach students so that they could and write well. I also learnt how to make the classes lively, enjoyable and interesting. During my third year of university, I applied for a short-term internship program at the National University of Kaohsiung. There, I discovered the difficulties of actually conducting a class and being a teacher. However, I managed to overcome them and it has made me even more determined to study further about teaching Japanese. This is one of the reasons why I chose to work at Japan Foundation. This centre will enable me to expand my knowledge and share experiences with other senior lecturers. At the same time, I will keep improving my skills by attending seminars and observing classes. I am passionate about teaching the Japanese Language and am looking forward to imparting my knowledge to my future students.

Sakinah Binti Noor Badaruddin
New Lecturer, Japanese Language Department

AAJ Expert Introduction

RPKJ – RANCANGAN PERSEDIAAN KHAS JEPUN

RPKJ, also known as "Special Preparatory Programme to Japan," was implemented in 1981 under the Look East Policy by Tun Dr. Mahathir Mohamed. RPKJ was set-up in collaboration by the Foundation Center for Science, University of Malaya, the Malaysia Public Service Department and the Japanese government. The Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ) complex at the Foundation Center for Science, University of Malaya which was presented by the government of Japan in 1982, symbolizes the close cooperation between the two countries.

AAJ offers courses in engineering, medicine, dentistry and pharmacy to selected students with excellent Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia results who have to undergo a two-year preparatory intensive course studying Japanese language, basic science, and social science subjects to meet the examination requirements before qualifying for entrance into Japanese universities.

The Japan Foundation has been instrumental in the implementation of this program since its inception by dispatching Japanese language experts. In March 2018, three new Japanese language experts were dispatched, namely Mr. NISHIMURA Hisashi, Dr. HAMAMOTO Satoko and Ms. ISHIMATSU Fumie in addition to the existing four Japanese language experts headed by Dr. DATE Kumiko. These Japanese language experts are specialists with vast teaching experience.

People without seasons in Sabah

(Written by TANJI Haruka, Cultural Affairs Department, JFKL)

Photos by Naoshi Hatori

Since 2012, YAMADA Un and her troupe, Co. Un Yamada have been building a strong and deep relationship with Malaysian dancers through workshops and collaborations which are very intensive and energy consuming. "People without Seasons" in Sabah was Co. Un Yamada's 7th project with Malaysian dancers, restaged in Kota Kinabalu, the location of the research trip prior to the first staging at KLPAC in 2017.

The rehearsals were divided into three phases; remembering the movement in unison, drawing an image of the whole picture of the show including improvisational parts, and recreating/brushing up the choreography. From the very first day, the dancers put themselves into high gear and began reminding their bodies and minds of the hundreds of bits of physical information combined closely with their emotional memories. Led by YAMADA Un's imaginative yet often highly subtle direction, the rehearsals became more creative as time went by. As Christopher Liew, a newly joined member for this production who also served as Production Advisor recalled, "Un-san's direction is like this; OK, so the Sky is ground." No additional explanation. Dancers must capture her intention somehow using all of their resources.



People without Seasons in Sabah

The two performances in Sabah drew a full house on both days and were very well received by the audience which included many students, local dancers and performing arts lovers. They appreciated the opportunity to welcome Co. Un Yamada as it is very rare to see an international experimental dance piece in Sabah.



Un Yamada, the choreographer, and dancers in a rehearsal

During the after-talk session we had a couple of similar questions from the audience, each asking what was it like to work with Japanese dancers, or what were the difficulties of an international collaboration. There were some interesting answers from the dancers. But if you remember the very beginning of the show, it might answer these questions as well.

Why did the audience in Sabah appreciate the show with enthusiasm? It may be because they felt they were all accepted as they were, just like the dancers on stage, living with a strong energy in a chaotic world.

From the darkness, dancers appeared balanced on their shoulders. Each of them gradually brought down their legs at their own pace, which looked like a developing bud in nature. Some grew faster than others, some took longer, and some seemed to be dying before coming up from the ground. But the important image was that every different type of life was just allowed to be there as it is. This was similar to how the whole production was created. The character of each dancer was accepted in the depth of "People without Seasons" even while they were required to remember the super detailed, strict choreography uniquely seen in Un's works. Dancers looked very free on the stage, blooming with their own beautiful energy.

Hopefully "People without Seasons" in Sabah will have thrown a small stone into their world to take them somewhere amazing that they had never thought of, while the Japanese dancers definitely gained something very strong and lively from Sabah and the people there. Lastly, we are truly grateful to the artists and those who we were lucky enough to meet and work with in Sabah. All were surprisingly hard working, dedicated, and passionate people, who made us, feel that the future of the performing arts in Sabah is bright and prosperous.

How we work together with each other can have almost nothing to do with nationalities, either Malaysian or Japanese, it is just individuals with a lot of similarities and differences.



Dancers hanging the backdrops printed with photos taken in Sabah



The two performances drew a full house on the both days



Many elements came from the research trip at a kampung in Sabah

JFKL Holiday Notice

- 2nd June 2018 | Nuzul Al-Quran
- 15th June 2018 | Hari Raya Aidilfitri
- 16th June 2018 | Hari Raya Aidilfitri



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