

# TEMAN BARU

## Upcoming Programmes

Strangers Tour in Malaysia  
Travelling Exhibition in Ipoh  
The Weekend Japanese Film Show (August)  
2019 Japanese Skit Contest  
The 16th International Conference on  
Japanese Language Education in Malaysia



*"2019 marks the 30th anniversary of The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur"*



# Farewell and Welcoming

Dear friends,

I would like to inform you that I have been transferred to Tokyo, Japan and appointed as the Director of Test Development Section, Center for Japanese-Language Testing, The Japan Foundation as of 7 May 2019.

Time flies, and it has been almost a month since I left Malaysia. Semakin lama semakin bertambah rasa rindu pada negara di mana Jalur Gemilang berkibar, I found myself Googling to find a *mamak* restaurant in Tokyo, but unfortunately I haven't come across one yet. If you know of one, please do let me know...

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for all of the warm cooperation and strong support that you all extended towards JFKL during my 3-year tenure. (March 2016 – March 2019).

Returning to Japan after three years, I feel that there are a lot of things that we need to learn from Malaysia.

We would appreciate if you could give us constructive opinions on how Japan could be a better country.

*Rumah api teguh di tanjung,  
Jadi panduan kapal di laut;  
Dua hati kukuh disambung,  
Persahabatan kuat memaut.*

Best regards,  
HORIKAWA Koichi

Konnichiwa,

It is a privilege to serve as the new director of JFKL in this 30th anniversary year since Japan Foundation opened its Kuala Lumpur office in 1989.

I joined Japan Foundation in 1994 and had the chance to work at JFKL during 2003 and 2009. After nearly six years in Malaysia, I returned to the Headquarters in Tokyo and then had a chance to work at the Embassy of Japan in Israel as Press & Cultural attaché for three years from 2013. Now I am very much looking forward to seeing familiar faces again and making new acquaintances through our activities.

Believing in the power of cultural exchange, I am fully committed to shortening your psychological distance between Japan and Malaysia through various JFKL activities.

Sincerely,  
SHIMADA Seiya



# Staff Greetings

*From Japanese Language Department*

Mina-san, nice to meet you!

My name is Chan Yee Han. I was newly appointed as a Japanese Language Teacher at the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) as of May 1st, 2019. Coincidentally, it was a memorable day filled with joy and excitement as Japan commenced its new "Reiwa" era!

First and foremost, I would like to thank JFKL for giving me this opportunity to introduce myself. I was born and raised in Kota Bharu, Kelantan, before furthering my studies at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, where I received my Bachelor's degree in Japanese language. After that, I furthered my studies and obtained a doctorate in Applied Linguistics from the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya in 2017.

Since I was a child, I have always loved to watch Japanese anime and drama. Ever since, I have dedicated myself to learn the beautiful Japanese language (so that I could understand the dialogue without looking at subtitles... eh-hmm). As a non-native teacher, I understand the difficulties of mastering the language, but I will do my very best to help you overcome it! While it is a teacher's responsibility to teach, I think that lifelong learning is equally important for a language teacher because language is constantly changing. Again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank JFKL for giving me a chance to teach and learn. Thank you.

Mina-san, yoroshiku onegaishimasu.

Chan Yee Han  
Japanese Language Teacher  
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur



Hajimemashite.

I am SATO Osamu, Miura sensei's successor. I have previously been in the Philippines, China, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam, where I assisted Japanese language teachers there. This time, I had hoped to come to Malaysia and lucked out!

I am interested in improving the learning process for each learner through the use of computers, and making it enjoyable. Actually, I myself spend a lot of time browsing the web like Facebook or YouTube, instead of using the time to study.

I will do my best to contribute towards the field of teaching and learning Japanese in Malaysia, and to devote myself to doing what needs to be done now.

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu.  
SATO Osamu



Minasan, Hajimemashite!

I am TOHO Yasuko, the new coordinator of the Nihongo Partners program. I have been at The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur since April. This is my first time living in Malaysia and I am excited to be here.

I am from Kobe City which is in the Kansai (southwestern) region of Japan. Consequently, in addition to speaking standard Japanese, I can speak the Kansai-Ben dialect. So if you have any questions about Kansai-Ben and Kansai culture, please feel free to ask me!

For more than two decades, I was a staff writer at a Japanese local newspaper. Then, as one of the Nihongo Partners, I assisted Japanese language teachers in Thailand for about a year. Back in Japan, I continued to teach Japanese primarily to Asian foreign students in Osaka.

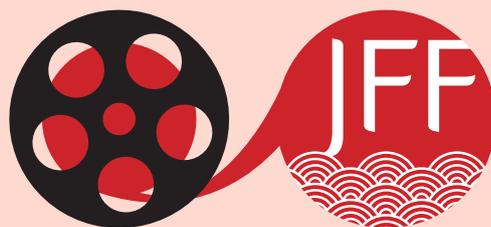
My personal interests are traveling and communicating with people I meet along the way in order to gain a true understanding of their cultures. I am especially excited about my opportunities to experience the diversity of Malaysia, its people and its places.

Yoroshiku Onegai Shimasu!!

TOHO Yasuko  
Coordinator, Nihongo Partners Program



The **JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL** will be coming soon in September. Stay tuned for future updates in our next issue of *Teman Baru*, website and Facebook page!



# JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2019

**PENANG**  
12 – 15 September 2019

**KOTA KINABALU**  
3 – 6 October 2019

**KUALA LUMPUR**  
5 – 11 September 2019

**KUCHING**  
3 – 6 October 2019

**JOHOR BAHRU**  
19 – 22 September 2019

## THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

\*Screening will be in Japanese with English subtitles



**Date** : 17 August 2019 (Saturday)  
**Time** : 10:00 AM (Registration starts at 9:30 am)  
**Venue** : GSC NU Sentral, Kuala Lumpur (Level 5, NU Sentral)

**Admission/Bookings**: Admission is FREE. Booking is REQUIRED via Eventbrite (Updates will be posted on our website and Facebook).

If you have any further inquiries, please write to [info@jfkf.org.my](mailto:info@jfkf.org.my) with the email title "The Weekend Japanese Film Show".

### My Teacher

(先生!...好きになってもいいですか?)\*

(MIKI Takahiro 三木孝浩 / 2017 / 113 min)

\*Movie is subject to change

Cast: Ikuta Toma as Itō Kōsaku, Hirose Suzu as Shimada Hibiki  
Director: MIKI Takahiro 三木孝浩

Based on a manga series "Sensei!" by Kawahara Kazune 河原和音, it tells a story of Hibiki, a high school student who is in the school's *Kyudo* (Japanese Archery) club, and Itō, a History teacher at the same school. Itō seems to be blunt and never smiles, but he actually has a warm heart. After Hibiki encounters a gentle and caring side of Itō, she gradually feels attracted to Itō and realises that her affection towards him is slowly growing.





## The 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia

Teacher's Corner  
アイデア広場

### CALL FOR EXHIBITORS

Would you like to share your idea with other teachers?

A new category called "Teacher's Corner (アイデア広場)" is to provide a venue for exchange of ideas on teaching methodologies and materials. Anyone who meets the content requirement below may participate. However, exhibition for commercial or profit-taking purposes will not be allowed.

Date	October 5, 2019 (Sat)
Venue	University of Malaya
Submission Qualification	Those who are related to and have interest in the Japanese language education in Malaysia
Exhibition Content	Introduction of one's actual improvised teaching methodologies, self developed teaching/learning materials, etc.
Exhibition Style	Exhibitors shall put up a poster of their ideas and explain their poster at the given time. Display of actual materials/tools, flyers as well as demonstration on a computer are allowed.
Language Medium	Japanese, English, Malay
Closing Date	<b>August 25, 2019 (Sun)</b>

【Guidelines for Submission】 <https://www.jfkl.org.my/jle-conference-2019/>

#### How to Apply

- ① Complete the application form at <https://form.jotform.me/jldjfk/IDEA16>
- ② Submit the form together with a) Outline of the Proposed Exhibit, and b) Summary (for publicity purposes)

Oral/Poster  
Presentation

### CALL FOR PAPERS

Date	October 5, 2019 (Sat)
Venue	University of Malaya
Submission Qualification	Those who are related to and have interest in the Japanese language education in Malaysia
Conference Paper	Papers related and beneficial to the Japanese language education in Malaysia, and have not been presented elsewhere. Interim reports are also welcomed.
Presentation Category	Two (2) categories; Oral Presentation and Poster Presentation
Language Medium	Japanese, English, Malay
Closing Date	<b>July 28, 2019 (Sun)</b>

【Guidelines for Submission】 <https://www.jfkl.org.my/jle-conference-2019/>

#### How to Apply

- ① Complete the application form at <https://form.jotform.me/jldjfk/PR16>
- ② Submit the form together with a) Proposal (for screening purposes), and b) Summary (for publicity purposes)

Enquiries

Marutani Shinobu (Ms) at [marutani@jfkl.org.my](mailto:marutani@jfkl.org.my) or Fazrina Said (Ms) at [fazrina@um.edu.my](mailto:fazrina@um.edu.my)

## 2019 JAPANESE SKIT CONTEST

2019年日本語スキットコンテスト

“ 中 ”



Show Your Creativity And  
You Could Walk Away With Awesome Prizes...!

#### About the contest:

Japanese language learners are invited to form a team to create a video skit based on the contest theme.

#### Objective:

The objective of the contest is to enhance Japanese language communication skills among non-native Japanese language learners in Malaysia.

#### Theme of the Video:

“ 中 ”. All video skits must clearly depict this theme and use the Japanese language creatively so as to portray this message.

#### Eligibility:

This contest is open to all Japanese language learners in Malaysia, aged 17 years old and above except non-native speakers (ie. those whose mother tongue is Japanese) who are currently studying Japanese at a college, university, preparatory center, language center or any educational institution in Malaysia. Each team must not have more than ten (10) members, including both cast and crew. Japanese language teachers are not eligible.

#### Contest Procedure:

The video skit must be uploaded on YouTube through the Competing Team's account as an "Unlisted" video. Skit scripts are not required for submission. Entry form must be submitted online at URL: <https://bit.ly/2JcsGFc> by the closing date **30 October 2019**.

#### Results:

The Screening Committee will view all selected Competing Team skits on **23 November 2019**. Simultaneously, all Competing Team members will also be invited to view and interact via "Zoom" during this judging process until result announcement.

#### Further Information:

Application Form and other details may be downloaded from the URL link at JFKL website [www.jfkl.org.my/events/2019-skit-contest/](http://www.jfkl.org.my/events/2019-skit-contest/). Please read the Rules and Regulations thoroughly before applying.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur &amp; The Goethe-Institut Malaysia

Jointly present

# The Strangers

## Dance-Theatre production for young audiences:

“After being touched by “THE STRANGERS”, I started questioning how many “familiar people” in our lives were treated as strangers.” – Shu-ming Ju, Director of Taiwan Dot Go Children’s Art Festival, Kaohsiung/TAIWAN

4 performers from 4 different Asian countries meet a South American director and a dramaturg from Europe — half the world gathers on one small stage. They seem to have nothing in common; they do not share their tastes in food, they do not speak the same language, and they grew up with different tales and lullabies. But what would happen if you did not know that? If everybody on stage looked the same and did not speak a word, how could you tell what was ‘typical’ about them? Typical human, maybe?

Directed by Leandro Kees from Argentina, currently based in Germany, The Strangers is an honest and courageous attempt to look at human condition behind superficial differences. Stories about identity, about belonging to a certain group, about trust and alienation, build this non-verbal, poetical play. Expressing emotions, convictions and beliefs through the body as well as creating scenes with drawings and symbols used in different cultures, this production encourages the audience to look beyond the surface and search for the missing link connecting all of us as human beings.

**DATE/TIME:****Kuala Lumpur**

*In conjunction with Damansara International Arts Festival*

Black box, DPAC

H-01, DPAC, Empire Damansara, Jalan PJU 8/8, Damansara Perdana,

47820 Petaling Jaya, Selangor

13 July 2019 (Saturday) 8:00 PM

14 July 2019 (Sunday) 3:00 PM

Ticket booking: <http://www.dpac.com.my/> 03-4065 0001, 4065 0002

**Penang**

*In conjunction with George Town Festival*

Stage 2, PENANGPAC

3H-3A-1, Straits Quay, Jalan Seri Tanjung Pinang,

Tanjung Tokong, 10470 Penang

16 July 2019 (Tuesday) 8:30 PM

17 July 2019 (Wednesday) 8:30 PM

Ticket booking: <https://georgetownfestival.com/>

**PERFORMERS:**

Sang-hun Lee (Korea); Ying Yun Chen (Taiwan); James Kan (Malaysia); Kanako Ihara (Japan)

**DIRECTOR:**

Leandro Kees (Argentina/Germany)

**LANGUAGE**

Silent Text in English

**AGE SUITABILITY**

9 and above

## Physical Theatre Workshop by Leandro Kees

This workshop focus on training, staging strategies and compositional principles coming from dance, theatre and film. It aims to facilitate different approaches to direction and choreography in theatre, dance and physical theatre, in order to create a dramaturgy of physical actions that functions independently from language.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Ages 18 and up. The workshop is meant for theatre practitioners and dancers interested in the field of physical theatre. The level of experience has to be intermediate or advance. The workshop welcomes theatre makers with different physical backgrounds: Dance, martial arts, sports, others.

**DATE/TIME:****Kuala Lumpur**

Studio 1, DPAC, Empire Damansara

20 July (Saturday) & 21 July (Sunday), 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

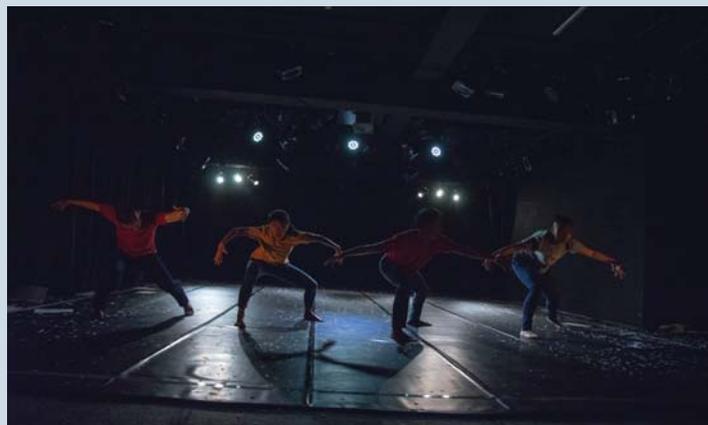
For more information> <http://www.dpac.com.my/>

**Penang**

St. Jo’s Level 3, Gurney Paragon Mall

18 July (Thursday) 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

For more information> <https://georgetownfestival.com/>



# Exhibition “Built Environment: An Alternative Guide to Japan” in IPOH

After one month in REXKL, Kuala Lumpur, the exhibition “Built Environment: An Alternative Guide to Japan” will be travelling to Ipoh!

The exhibition features 80 examples of buildings, civil engineering works and landscapes, etc. from all prefectures in Japan, introduced through photographs, text and video images. It presents a rarely considered aspect of Japan, taking the built environment in various of regions of a country that is geographically diverse and often struck by natural disasters, with the aim of examining how Japanese people have engaged and struggled with the natural environment and how they have carried on and created locality.

Come join us to experience “an alternative guide to Japan”!

**Venue:** Perpustakaan Tun Razak,  
Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab,  
30100 Ipoh, Perak.

**Date :** 22 July – 13 August 2019

**Time :** Monday – Friday - 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Saturday - 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Sunday & Public Holiday - Closed  
(subject to change)



© Hokusai Dam

THE BIGGEST ALL JAPAN EVENT IN MALAYSIA オールジャパンイベント 第3回ジャパンエキスポマレーシア開催!



**JAPAN EXPO  
MALAYSIA 2019**  
**26<sup>th</sup> FRI - 28<sup>th</sup> SUN JULY**  
@Pavilion Kuala Lumpur  
ジャパンエキスポマレーシア 2019年 7月26日(金)～28日(日)

Japan is coming  
to Malaysia

The **Japan Expo Malaysia 2018** which drew a crowd of approximately of **120,000** last year is here again for the 3rd time scheduled to be held on **26th to 28th July 2019** at the Pavillion Kuala Lumpur. Japan Expo Malaysia commemorates the decades- long relationship between **Japan** and **Malaysia** witnessing one and another's history and growth. The previous Japan Expo Malaysia is a testament that it had successfully attracted a substantial crowd. Organized by G-Yu Creative Co., Ltd and Siam Connection Sdn Bhd, Japan Expo Malaysia 2019 (JEMY 2019) will be held on a grander scale than before featuring businesses from Japan, like travel agents, education, live concerts with popular J-Pop artistes and many more.

I'm MU CHAN  
ムーちゃん



I'm GEN KUN  
ケンくん



@JAPANEXPOMALAYSIA  
FACEBOOK.COM/JAPANEXPOMALAYSIA  
@JAPANEXPO\_MLY

[WWW.JAPANEXPOMALAYSIA.COM](http://WWW.JAPANEXPOMALAYSIA.COM)

主催:ジーユークリエイティブ  
Organized by G-Yu Creative



## A Wild 'TADOKU' Chase

# What makes TADOKU (or Extensive Reading) so Effective?

Report on the 2018-19 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar and JFKL TADOKU Salon by UMEEDA Masako



Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar 23 March

This was probably the first time that our Japanese Language Department staffs saw so many happy comments in the post-event questionnaire; "It was so much fun and an eye-opener!" "I wanted to read more but not enough time..." "Please organize this event more often." Those were the voices from the participants of JFKL TADOKU Salon, held for the very first time on the morning of 4 May.

Their happiness was apparent from their smiling faces as they held their favourite books in the group photo. It was also the moment that our staffs were convinced of the high potential of TADOKU, or extensive reading, in enhancing Japanese proficiency among Japanese language students. JFKL had taken note in recent years of the TADOKU method as a way to upgrade students' ability especially in reading and had started to think about how we could introduce this into Japanese language teaching in Malaysia.

The first step was the Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar held on 23

March of this year, under the theme of "TADOKU - Extensive Reading for Japanese Language Education". We invited Ms. AWANO Makiko, Vice-President of NPO Tadoku Supporters in Japan, and its member, Ms. SAKUTA Nanae, as lecturers for the full day event which consisted of a seminar and workshop. NPO Tadoku Supporters is one of the most active organizations promoting and propagating the method of TADOKU for foreign language studies in Japan.

At the seminar, participants first learned the basics of this totally different approach; what TADOKU is; the rules to maximize the benefits of TADOKU; how to incorporate it into the actual classes; the role of teachers in TADOKU; why it can improve the students' language proficiency greatly, and so on. Some key features of TADOKU are: read a lot; skip over unknown words, phrases or sentences; if the book is boring or too difficult, move on to another book; and teachers do not teach but simply to observe their students closely and assist them to find

books suitable to their level if needed. As teachers, many would find it difficult when asked not to teach. Some may feel sceptical over this idea. However, after hearing anecdotal reports from several different institutions not only in Japan but also Thailand, the participants seemed more curious about TADOKU and eager to experience it. At the workshop in the afternoon, participants were given a collection of reading materials of various levels and genres to read. Some participants became so engrossed in it that when the reading time is over, they expressed their sadness or disappointment. Participants were then break into smaller groups to share their experiences and ideas of how to incorporate this method in their respective classes. Unfortunately, due to time constraint, participants were not given a chance to experience TADOKU in totality as students were not involved.

Convinced by the enthusiastic reactions of the seminar participants, we organized the JFKL TADOKU Salon in May as a follow-up to the seminar. This time, participants were asked to bring along their students. It was a success as students were given a chance to experience the joy of reading while the teachers gained some ideas on how to guide their students in TADOKU.



MJLE Seminar on 23 March



The participants of TADOKU Salon on 4 May



Sharing session at TADOKU Salon

Following the success of these two consecutive events, JFKL has decided to organize a regular TADOKU Salon at our Library, perhaps monthly or bi-monthly. We are also planning to tour regions outside of KL with a collection of TADOKU materials for those who have an interest but rarely have a chance to come to our office to join the Salon. We also understand that some institutions are not equipped with enough

books and materials to organize TADOKU, so we are already starting to plan a scheme where students of a particular institution led by their Japanese teacher could have a TADOKU workshop at JFKL by using our materials. Prior booking would be necessary for this activity but the details will be announced later. Please check our website and Facebook for more details!

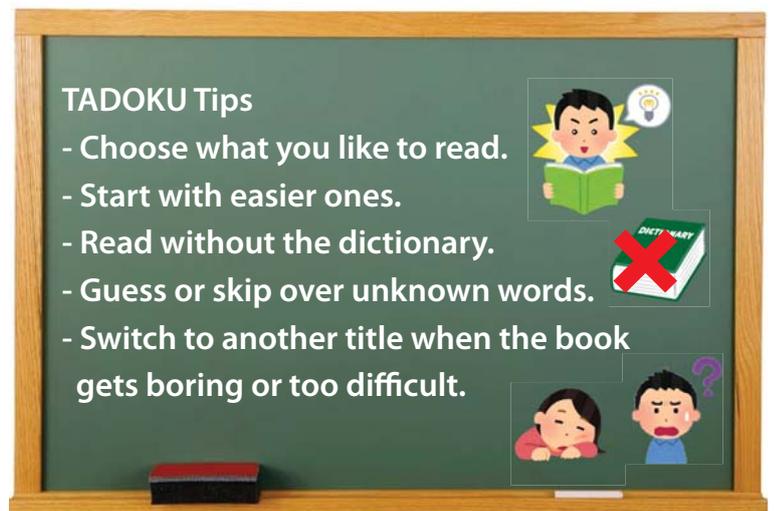


# LIBRARY

Let's TADOKU!

In encouraging more people to enjoy reading Japanese, the Library is increasing its effort to make available more TADOKU materials. Besides acquiring the ready-made TADOKU reading materials, we are currently identifying suitable reading materials from our collection and grade them according to its levels of difficulties. This will enable our library users to identify authentic reading materials (such as manga, picture books, etc) that match their Japanese proficiency and thus, enhancing their TADOKU experience.

At the moment, we have over 300 titles classified as TADOKU materials. These materials can be easily identified by its label. But if you have difficulties identifying them, do seek assistance from our librarians.



For the first timers, check out our TADOKU Starter Series, by the NPO 多言語多読Tadoku Supporters:



レベル別日本語多読  
ライブラリーにほんご  
よむよむ文庫  
Japanese Graded Readers  
Level 0-4, Vol 1-3  
ASK  
78 titles with CDs  
Library Call No: 817.7T



日本語多読ボックス  
Taishukan Japanese Readers  
Vol. 1-8  
Taishukan  
45 titles with MP3(downloadable)  
Library Call No: 817.7T

## CHANGES TO OUR CURRENT LIBRARY SERVICE

Due to the discontinuity of our book lending service from 1 April 2020 onwards, any application for new membership or its renewal shall only be accepted with the condition that its validity shall be until March 31, 2020. Other library services remain unchanged. For further enquiries, please write to [library@jfkf.org.my](mailto:library@jfkf.org.my) or call 03-2284 6228 (ext. 401/402/403).

# THE 16TH MALAYSIAN JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL (2019) RESULT

Reported by Hasline Hamid (Japanese Language Department)



Opening speech by the former JFKL Director, Mr. HORIKAWA Koichi

The annual event was successfully held at The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur on Saturday, 20 April 2019. A total of 12 Malaysian students between the age of 15 and 18 studying the Japanese language at public schools and private learners participated in the 16th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School.

The national level Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School was Organised by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and Embassy of Japan in Malaysia with the support from Ministry of

Education Malaysia, The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur and Teikyo (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd.

The contestants delivered a speech each on the theme of "Me, after 10 years...". Through this speech contest, we aim to further improve motivation in learning Japanese language by providing the opportunity to cultivate the ability to think in Japanese, by the Japanese language learners at secondary schools and those who are studying Japanese language outside the school or through co-curriculum activities.

The 1st Prize winner will represent Malaysia in the 24th Japanese Speech Award, an annual International Japanese Speech Contest conducted in Tokyo as well as attending the Cross Cultural Exchange Program and Japanese Language Workshop in Tokyo, Kawasaki and Ehime, Japan organized by a Japanese NPO, the Education Guardianship Group from 21 July until 5 August 2019.

Top six winners 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, Loob Holding Sdn. Bhd. and Telaga Biru Sdn. Bhd..

Please visit our website at <https://www.jfkl.org.my/events/jsc2019/> for the contest winners' details.



The judges, invited guests and audience filled up the hall



The 1st winner delivering her speech



First top 5 winners with their prizes

# Nihongo Partners Programme 2019: Introduction to Japanese Language and Culture Through Activities by 5th Batch NPs

Reported by Shahrul Fatehah Nor Basha (Japanese Language Department)



Speech Contest in Kota Kinabalu



NPs with Universiti Malaysia Sabah students



NPs with Universiti Sains Malaysia students



Japan Carnival in SMK Kepala Batas



JLfest at SJK (C) Lai Meng, Kuala Lumpur



Some of the NP's activities with the students

Since their despatch to local secondary schools in 10 states earlier this year, the Japanese volunteers known as *Nihongo Partners* (NPs) have been enthusiastically introducing Japanese language and culture to students in their respective host schools as well as to the locals. The NPs have been busy from the beginning of February until present in planning, executing and participating in various activities such as culture festival, games and contest which are both fun and educational.

On March 3, the 4 NPs stationed in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah were invited to attend the Kota Kinabalu Japanese Speech Contest 2019 as one of the judges as well as timekeeper. The contest organized by the Consular Office of Japan, Kota Kinabalu had about 13 students from secondary schools and universities in Sabah take part in the contest and the NPs were blown away by the proficiency of the participants. The NPs also performed “*Doraemon Shape Song*” in front of 200 attendees whose lyrics teaches you how to draw the famous Japanese manga character.

Subsequently the Sabah state NPs joined an exchange program with UMS on March 25 where 26 students had the opportunity to discover more about Japan through a “Yes & No” quiz hosted by the four NPs. The quiz covered topics such as customs, sightseeing spots and many more. The NPs further stirred the students’ interest in Japanese

culture by performing a skit about “*Mottainai thinking*”; educating how some common behaviours result in wastefulness. The students were not only interested in popular current culture, but also very keen to learn about other infrequently asked questions, such as the Ainu people of Hokkaido. This exchange program with UMS started with the 4th Batch NPs in 2018 and has now been continued by the 5th Batch. They are hoping that the NPs of the future would continue with this engagement so that the students could be exposed to more knowledge about Japan.

Meanwhile, on March 26, another group of NPs participated in a similar exchange program with Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Penang where over 50 students participated in activities prepared by the NPs. One of the NPs delivered a flawless speech in fluent Bahasa Melayu while three others presented interesting facts about the Japanese education system and university life. The NPs then broke into several smaller groups with the USM students and carried out activities such as *origami*, games, and many more. As the NPs are stationed at secondary schools, they found this experience very enlightening since there were differences in interacting with secondary school and university students. They were amazed by the first year students’ command of the Japanese language and their eagerness to learn more about Japan. The experience further motivated the NPs to teach Japanese language and culture.

The next program was the 8th Penang Japan Carnival held by SMK Kepala Batas, Penang. About 250 students from the surrounding area attended this carnival at the school which currently hosts a 5th Batch NP. Among the activities conducted were *Bon Odori* at the opening ceremony, culture booths and Japanese food stalls. NPs from nearby schools were also invited as facilitators in charge of demonstrations such as the Japanese tea ceremony, *kyudo* (Japanese archery), *yukata* (Japanese traditional costume), amongst others. This event was not only fun but also provided students the opportunity to learn in depth about the culture the Land of the Rising Sun.

The NPs are tirelessly carrying out activities with students and locals in various other events such as Language and Culture Festivals at their host schools, the 16th Japanese Speech Contest on April 20, the Japanese Language Festival held in Kuala Lumpur on April 27 & 28 and most recently the Education & Career Carnival organized by Yayasan Sabah on May 3 – 5. Aside from their duties of being assistants to the local Japanese language teachers’, the NPs are diligently fulfilling their objective of spreading the beauty of Japanese language and culture. With a myriad of activities and events taking place throughout their term here, NPs are proud to introduce their legacy as well as discover the uniqueness of Malaysia from the local people.

# The 10th Hakuho Japanese Language Exchange Program

## Program A: Training Program in Japan for Overseas Teachers (Nov 11- Dec 1, 2018)

## Program B: Japan Experience Program for Overseas Children (Apr 11-25, 2019)

Report by Sia Mee Kee, Japanese Language Teacher, SMK Dato Sri Amar DiRaja

Out of the 14 schools from 12 countries and regions that took part in the Program A, 11 of them participated in the Program B.



Teachers Interactions



Cultural experience



Homestay

Very rare is a program that incorporates a training program in Japan for teachers to prepare their students prior to the latter's departure for the main program. The Hakuho Japanese Language Exchange Program is such a program.

During the 3-week training program, I was exposed to program or activities that were similar to what my students would experience when they go to Japan the following year. I learned how to prepare, manage and support their learning. I was also very much touched by the willingness of teachers in sharing their teaching experiences, ideas and stories which were very inspiring. Upon returning to Malaysia, I conducted an induction session as well as an intensive course on spoken Japanese for my students. My students also prepared a cultural performance and practiced for a few of weeks.

When my students were in Japan, I noticed that they lacked the

confidence to use the language. They were unable to express their needs and opinions in Japanese well. However, thanks to the friendly and encouraging atmosphere within the program and during the homestay, they quickly gained confidence and to my surprise, they were able to communicate in Japanese with both native speakers and foreigners without much barrier!

After their return to Malaysia, I noticed their transformation. They are now highly motivated and pro-active in learning Japanese. They tend to use Japanese more often and have become role models for other students.

This program made me realise that a conducive support environment is important for language learning and human interaction does not depend solely on the language proficiency but also on the socializing skills and attitude of the learner.

## JFKL Visit

Reported by Sakinah binti Noor Badaruddin (Japanese Language Department)



Students from the Japanese Culture Club, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN)



Students from Japanese Culture Club, Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT)



Group photo with the Japanese Language Society, Multimedia University Melaka

We received a visit by the Japanese Culture Club, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) in March. Then in April, 50 visitors from Japanese Culture Club, Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT) came. Subsequently in May, we received a visit from Japanese Language Society, Multimedia University Melaka. These visitors experienced activities such as *washitsu* and *furoshiki* sessions, Japanese class and library tour.

### What is JFKL Visit?

The JFKL Visit is an activity open to schools and institutes interested in getting to know the Japanese culture and language through Japanese Language Studies and cultural activities.

Currently we accept visits from Tuesday to Thursday. Maximum

participant per visit is 40 people in principle but negotiable. No payment is required.

The activities we offer during the visit are Japanese class session and as for cultural activities we have *washitsu*, *yukata*, *origami* and *furoshiki* sessions. We also offer a tour of the JFKL Library.

# THE 13TH ANNUAL JAPANESE LANGUAGE FESTIVAL (JLfest 2019)

## April 27-28, 2019, SJK(C) Lai Meng, Bandar Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur

Reported by Edward Lee (Japanese Language Department)

Among the over 2,700 visitors to the 2-day Festival were 2,038 Japanese language learners from Malaysian schools and universities as well as from Cambodia. There were 83 hands-on workshops, 19 competitions, and 5 student interaction sessions as well as the Japanese Language Market & Fair. The Kanji Mind-Map Competition introduced this year in the festival is probably the world's first.

The festival was organised by the Japanese Language Society of Malaysia, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and the Ministry of Education Malaysia, supported partially by The Japan Foundation Small Grant Program.



Mr ORIKASA Hiroyuki  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
Embassy of Japan



Cosplay Anime-Manga Act Competition



Soran Bushi Dance Championship



Japanese Choral Speaking Competition



Koinobori Competition "Malaysian Batik"



Sugoroku Language Board Game Competition



Participants from Cambodia



Yosakoi Boleh Competition



Story Telling Competition



Scenes from the workshops



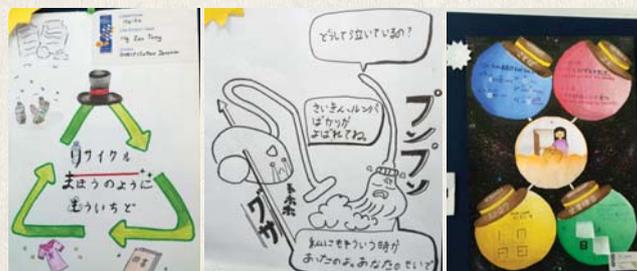
One of the 5 Student Interaction Activities



Reactions from the audience



Check out the highlights of the festival and the list of winners of all the competitions and some of their winning entries.



Winning entries from the Haiku, Manga Dialogue and Kanji Mind Map Poster Competitions



JFLK's Booth

# Japanese Language & Culture Week 2019 in Brunei

Reported by KURIHARA Tsuyoshi, Deputy Director of The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

The Embassy of Japan in Brunei together with The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) organized a "Japanese Language & Culture Week 2019" at Times Square Shopping Centre in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei on 2 and 3 March 2019. Ambassador of Japan to Brunei Darussalam, Mr. KATO Motohiko and Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Yang Berhormat Major General (Rtd) Dato Paduka Seri Haji Aminuddin Ihsan bin Pehin Orang Kaya Saiful Mulok Dato Seri Paduka Haji Abidin officiated the opening held in the evening of March 2.

There were many Japanese cultural events throughout the Festival such as judo demonstration, anime drawing competition, Japanese song performance, cooking demonstration, Japanese studies sharing session and so on. JFKL invited Mr. Gakuzinzan, a *shakuhachi* (traditional bamboo flute) player from Japan to perform a variety of traditional and modern Japanese music such as "Tonari-no-Totoro" (animation theme song), "Mira" (popular song by Japanese singers Kiroro) etc. Mr. Gakuzinzan also played the Brunei folk song "Adai-Adai" and Malaysian song "Balik Kampong" which received a shower of applause from the audience.

As part of the event, JFKL set up a booth to introduce the Japanese language e-learning platform "Minato" and displayed items related to Japanese culture and food. JFKL also had a short presentation regarding "Minato" on the second day of the Festival. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who attended the event and visited our JFKL booth.



Shakuhachi performance by Mr. Gakuzinzan



Shakuhachi performance by Mr. Gakuzinzan



Stage performance by Brunei students



Visitors at the JFKL booth



Japanese e-Learning platform "Minato" presentation to the audience



Teaching the visitors how to fold origami

# BATIK: From Seed To Textile

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (Cultural Affairs Department)

BATIK: From Seed To Textile was the third phase in a 5-year research-based project aimed at rediscovering natural dye practices in Malaysian batik making. In this phase, JFKL and Kuala Lumpur Natural Dye attempted to explore the use of natural indigo in batik dyeing.

A small exhibition of batik works was held at JFKL Gallery from 11 till 31 March to introduce the natural indigo dyeing as the result of our research.



# Asia Centre Fellowship Report

Reported by Noorul Fadzlee Khamis | 19 January – 19 March 2019



Office of Design Team Architects



Conversation with Professor Satoshi Okada



The office of Atelier Kazuki Wakahara

The field of Architecture within the Asian region has always been significantly decorated with names from the land of the rising sun. We are fortunate to have known names like Kenzo Tange and Fumihiko Maki amongst others, and looking towards the near future, there are many emerging architectural practices that are paving their way towards the next generation of Japanese contemporary architecture.

This project aims to shed light on the thinking of architecture practitioners in Japan by understanding what drives them forward in the context of the 21st century contemporary Japanese Architecture. The outcome of this project can be used as a guide for other architecture practices across the Asian region. The 4 selected architects I have interviewed are Mr Kazuki Wakahara of (Atelier Kazuki Wakahara), Mr Ryukichi Tatsuki of (Design Team Architects), Professor Satoshi Okada of (Satoshi Okada Architects) and Mr Ryo Abe of (Atelier Ryo Abe).

The summary that I have gathered after conducting these interviews were very intriguing. Japan is regarded as a country that is full of history and rich in culture. Its people are well respected throughout the world and are known for their high level of discipline. These factors played an important role in developing their thinking towards the development of their community. These philosophies also constitute within the development of their architectural and design thinking.

## The Condition

In overall, all the interview subjects are very optimistic in regards to the future of architectural practices in Japan. As mentioned by Mr Kazuki Wakahara, he believes that the future of the profession lies within small practices. Japan is a country with the most registered architects per capita. According to the International Union of Architects, Japan has almost 2.5 Architects per 1000 residents in comparison to the UK, where they only have half an architect per 1000 residents. The US has only 0.33 architects per 1000 residents and Canada has 0.22. Japan, in other words, has 11 times as many architects per capita as Canada. This reflects the number of small and medium scale practices in Japan. If we were to look at projects done by these small practices, it mainly consists of private houses and a mixture of other various scale projects. Looking into the case of Japanese private houses, the value of a house in Japan is very much different from other countries. Rather than appreciating in value as it gets older, it is the opposite. An average lifespan of a house in Japan is 26 years to 30 years, after which the house will be demolished to make way for a new one. Reason being is to ensure that buildings comply to the governments safety standards and by demolishing these buildings, high costs of maintenance can be avoided. This gives opportunities for architects, especially those running small practices to thrive. For example, Mr Kazuki Wakahara has built over 23 private houses to date. Furthermore, if you are wondering why there are an abundance of Japanese experimental housing projects, the answer lies in this logic of value depreciation. Without worrying on the value of the house, potential clients and the architects are able to design these houses according to the clients specific lifestyle and taste. Most of these “experimental” houses are designed together with the client, with the client's approval and in most cases, the clients are young, adventurous first time Japanese homeowners.



The office of Atelier Ryo Abe

## The Japanese Aesthetics

Speaking to the architects, when they were asked, “What defines Japanese aesthetics?”, their answers were particularly interesting. It seems like they are unaware of the aesthetics that they are creating. To them, it is beyond than just creating a “style”. It can be theorize that the Japanese definition of “forms and spaces” are created within the subconscious mind of these architects, this is because the philosophies are deeply embedded within their understanding of life as a whole.

From an outsiders point of view, we seem to understand Japanese aesthetics through its attention to detail and the sense of “purenness”. All elements were designed in a specific way, for a specific function. This can be reflected from the understanding of their beliefs and culture. I remembered reading Junichiro Tanizaki's book “In Praise of Shadows” which he spoke about understanding the history of Japanese aesthetics in tradition, architecture and materiality. He contends that buildings from the West are often times design in a way that it exists by the virtue of cloistering, and it had to distribute lights through artificial sources so that they can eliminate shadows. In comparison to this, Japanese buildings value shadows. A Japanese room values shadows as a separate object that should not be removed, but strapped to its boundaries with respect to the object that is casting it. This shows how that the Japanese aesthetics are beyond than just objects or physicality. The merge between materiality and the natural context plays an important role in defining the Japanese aesthetics. Furthermore, the origins of the Japanese aesthetics can be traced back to the Japanese believes of Shinto. Shinto is a traditional religion of Japan that consists of a collection of rituals, native beliefs and myths. The attention to detail, the cultivation of nature and the understanding of the “Wabi-Sabi”. To understand this, in the Zen philosophy, there are seven aesthetic principles in achieving Wabi-Sabi, Kanso (simplicity), Fukinsei (asymmetry or irregularity), Shibumi (beauty in the understated), Shizen (naturalness without pretense), Yugen (subtle grace), Datsuzoku (freeness), and lastly Seijaku (tranquility). These points are often times translated to the everyday life of the Japanese, consciously or subconsciously.

In conclusion, the fellowship program has benefited my understanding towards the Japanese architectural profession in ways unimaginable. The interviews allowed me to discover more interesting topics, not just within the architectural field, but in a wider area of Japanese contemporary culture and history. To note that this research will continue to its second chapter, which will be looking at small practices in Malaysia, and to eventually draw a comparative narrative to the mentioned topic.

# JAPANESE CLASSICS

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (Cultural Affairs Department)

Special screenings of classic Japanese films titled, "JAPANESE CLASSICS," was held at the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (ASWARA) on 16th and 17th March as part of the celebrations commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Japanese Film Festival in Malaysia. The masterpieces screened at the event were "The Story of the Last Chrysanthemums/残菊物語" (Kenji MIZOGUCHI 溝口健二/1939), "Late Spring/晩春" (Yasujiro OZU 小津安二郎/1949) and "Early Summer/麦秋" (Yasujiro OZU 小津安二郎/1951).

Kenji MIZOGUCHI has made eighty six films from 1922 to 1956 and among them, The Story of Last Chrysanthemums (1939) is considered as one of the masterpiece recognised by aficionados. Yasujiro OZU on the other hand directed the famous Tokyo Story (1953) that is often cited as one of the greatest films ever made. Setsuko HARA, famously known to the world as Noriko in OZU's films, her performance won acclaim due to her sublime portrayals of woman who follow family duties rather than pursue her own independence.

Approximately 300 guests and audience members attended including the Opening Ceremony held on 15th March, and many of them spent the weekend with us to catch all 3 films. Using digitally remastered screening materials, all 3 films were very vivid and bright even though they were in black & white, and some viewers were even moved to tears by the beautiful story lines, great acting and amazing cinematography.



During the Opening Ceremony



Former JFKL Director, Mr. HORIKAWA Koichi giving his speech



Exchanging token of Appreciation



## JFKL Holiday Notice:

**Library:**  
31 August 2019 – National Day

**Office:**  
12 August 2019 – Hari Raya Haji



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

"TEMAN BARU" is distributed to JFKL members.  
JFKL membership is available upon application\*. Membership fee is RM10 per year.  
\*Please refer to footnote on page 9.

## The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)

18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B, Mid-Valley City, No. 1, Medan Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: (03) 2284 6228 Fax: (03) 2287 5859

Homepage: <http://www.jfkl.org.my> E-mail: [info@jfkl.org.my](mailto:info@jfkl.org.my) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/theJapanFoundationKL](https://www.facebook.com/theJapanFoundationKL)

