THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER



### **107** September - October 2019

Upcoming Programmes Japanese Film Festival 2019 SeaShorts Festival The Weekend Japanese Film Show (October 2019) MAJAS Member Lecture Series The 16th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia 2019 Japanese Course October (Additional Intake) 2019 Japanese Skit Contest











Sth – 11th September GSC Mid Valley GSC 1 Utama GSC Pavilion KL GSC NU Sentral PENANG 12th – 15th September GSC Gurney Plaza

JOHOR BAHRU 19th – 22nd September GSC Paradigm JB Mall KUCHING 3rd – 6th October GSC CityONE Megamall KOTA KINABALU 3rd – 6th October GSC Suria Sabah





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

### Japanese Film Festival 2019 – Film List



#### A Banana? At This Time of Night?

(こんな夜更けにバナナかよ)

#### MAEDA Tetsu / 前田哲 • 121 min • 2018

Cast: OIZUMI Yo, TAKAHATA Mitsuki, MIURA Haruma

Yasuaki Shikano is a 34 year old man who suffers from muscular dystrophy since he was 12 years old. He hires volunteers to help him but they have to cater to his every whim. Especially to Hisashi Tanaka, a med school student, Shikano constantly rags on him and even demands a banana in the middle of the night. He then meets Misaki Ando and falls in love at first sight but he doesn't know that Tanaka and Misaki are a couple.



#### Bento Harassment (今日も嫌がらせ弁当)

TSUKAMOTO Renpei / 塚本連平 • 107 min • 2019 Cast: SHINOHARA Ryoko, YOSHINE Kyoko, MATSUI Rena

Kaori is a single mother and she raises her high-school daughter Futaba. Futaba is in a rebellious phase and ignores her mother, so they hardly have a proper conversation. Kaori decides to take measures to communicate with her daughter and also get some revenge by creating messages with funny charactors in her daughter's *bento* meals.



#### **Brave Father Online – our story of FINAL FANTASY XIV** (光のお父さん)

NOGUCHI Teruo / 野口照夫 • 115 min • 2019 Cast: SAKAGUCHI Kentaro, YOSHIDA Kotaro, SAKUMA Yui Akio wishes he had a better relationship with his reserved f

Akio wishes he had a better relationship with his reserved father, Akira. One day, Akira suddenly quits his job and retires without giving out any explanation to the family. Thinking it could be a good tool to be close to his father, Akio introduces him to an online game "Final Fantasy XIV". By teaching his father how to play the game and secretly interacting with him as an anonymous online avatar, Akio hopes to know his father better through the adventures with other players in the game.



#### Café Funiculi Funicula

(コーヒーが冷めないうちに)

TSUKAHARA Ayuko / 塚原あゆ子 • 126 min • 2018

Cast: ARIMURA Kasumi, ITO Kentaro, Haru, HAYASHI Kento, FUKAMI Motoki Kazu Tokita works at cafe "Funiculi Funicula" which her relative Nagare Tokita runs. There is a mysterious rumor that if a customer takes a specific seat at the cafe, that customer can travel back to a time of their choice. But, there are specific rules for going back into the past.



#### Color Me True

(今夜ロマンス劇場で)

TAKEUCHI Hideki / 武内英樹 • 109 min • 2018 Cast: AYASE Haruka, SAKAGUCHI Kentaro

Kenji is an aspiring young assistant director with a dream of one day becoming a full fledge director, but all he does now is to run errands. He enjoys watching his favorite old romantic movie, an old black & white treasure that only showed for a brief period before being cancelled. One day, the princess from his favorite movie, Miyuki emerged from the silver screen and together, they experience a life of full colours but unbeknownst to Kenji, Miyuki is harboring a secret that she cannot reveal.



Little Nights, Little Love (アイネクライネナハトムジーク)

IMAIZUMI Rikiya / 今泉力哉 • 120 min • 2019

Cast: MIURA Haruma, TABE Mikako

27 year old market researcher Sato is a single man and dreamer who hopes for a dramatic encounter for his love life. One day, a random attractive woman agrees to answer the survey he is conducting after a hard time finding willing participants. He then notices something rather peculiar written on her hand.



#### Lying to Mom (鈴木家の嘘)

NOJIRI Katsumi / 野尻克己 • 134 min • 2018 Cast: KISHIBE Ittoku, HARA Hideko, KIRYU Mai, KASE Ryo, KISHIMOTO Kayoko The Suzuki family consists of the son, Koichi, his sister Fumi, and his parents Sachio and Yuko. Koichi is a *hikikomori* or stay-at-home shut-in. One day, he decides to take his own life and his mother, Yuko, upon discovering his body, she loses consciousness because of the shock. She wakes up after 49 days but devoid of any memory of Koichi's death. Fumi then tells her that Koichi has stopped being a *hikikomori* and now works in Argentina.



### My Dad is a Heel Wrestler (パパはわるものチャンピオン)

#### FUJIMURA Kyohei / 藤村享平 • 112 min • 2018

Cast: TANAHASHI Hiroshi, KIMURA Yoshino, TERADA Kokoro

Takashi Omura was once a popular professional wrestler, but he now wears a cockroach mask and wrestles as a heel, or bad guy wrestler. He is married to Shiori and they have a son named Shota who is currently in primary school. They have not yet told their son what Takashi does for a living. One day, Shota finds out that Takashi is a professional wrestler and a villain with a cockroach mask. Shota is shocked and tells a lie to his classmate that his dad is a popular professional wrestler.



#### Samurai Shifters (引っ越し大名!)

()))))

INUDO Isshin / 犬童一心 • 121 min • 2019 Cast: HOSHINO Gen, TAKAHASHI Issey, TAKAHATA Mitsuki

In the Edo period, Shunnosuke Katagiri is a samurai but loves books than a sword. He is also shy, naive and inexperienced. One day, he is assigned to receives a mission to help a daimyo move. He seeks the aid of his childhood friend Genemon Takamura, as well as the advice of Oran, the beautiful but headstrong daughter of a former magistrate in charge of relocation; he begins to carry out his mission.



#### When I get home, My wife always pretends to be dead.

(家に帰ると妻が必ず死んだふりをしています。)

LEE Toshio / 李闘士男 • 116 min • 2018 Cast: EIKURA Nana, YASUDA Ken

Cast: EIKORA Nana, TASUDA Ken Jun returns home one night after a hard day to find his wife, Chie, collapsed near the door in a pool of blood. Panicking, he rushes to her side, but Chie giggles in a feigned unconscious state. When Jun, relieved, demands a reason for her foolishness, Chie can only laugh teasingly. And so it begins. From that point on, every time Jun returns home, he finds her "dead" by different and increasingly outlandish causes. Jun begins to worry when she never really gives him a reason.

### Music! Music! Music!

This year's Japanese Film Festival presents a special feature on music movies "Music! Music! Music!" with 3 selected titles that will make you feel like singing along in the cinema!

Inspired by the hit songs of MONGOL800, "Little Love Song" tells a story about a high school band in Okinawa, while powerful vocal of SHIBUTANI Subaru and NIKAIDO Fumi's charm shine in "La La La at Rock Bottom." "Farewell Song" starring 3 up-and-coming actors in Japanese cinema today is a road movie of a female indie duo. Datanglah ramai-ramai and let's have fun together!



#### Farewell Song (さよならくちびる)

SHIOTA Akihiko / 塩田明彦 • 117 min • 2019

Cast: KOMATSU Nana, KADOWAKI Mugi, NARITA Ryo

A female duo band Haru-Reo which gained popularity with their indie music decided to disband despite their success. After deciding the break-up of the unit, together with their roadie, Shima, they set out on a road trip for their final tour together and as they travel across the country, they realize the scars they created to each other can be only healed on the stage.



#### Little Love Song (小さな恋のうた)

HASHIMOTO Kojiro / 橋本光二郎 • 124 min • 2019 Cast: SANO Hayato, MORINAGA Yuki, YAMADA Anna

A high school band is popular in their small hometown in Okinawa. The band belts out original pop songs with such energy and precision that they have fired up the passions of all who see them, including the attention of a Tokyo record label scout bent on producing them. As the band members enjoy the happiest days in their young lives with full of hopes a tragedy takes place, destroying their hopes and spirit. Then, a girl who lives on the U.S. army base suddenly appears with a demo tape of a song.



### La La La at Rock Bottom

(味園ユニバース)

YAMASHITA Nobuhiro / 山下敦弘 • 104 min • 2015

Cast: SHIBUTANI Subaru, NIKAIDO Fumi, SUZUKI Sarina, KAWAHARA Katsumi

As a band plays for a crowd in a certain town square in Osaka, a young man rushes to the stage, grabs the microphone and begins to sing. The crowd is blown away by his vocal, but soon the band manager Kasumi discovers that he has no memory of his own life. Kasumi becomes interested in working with him anyway, and gives him the nickname *"Pochi-O"*. Before long, Pochi-O is accepted as the lead vocalist of a band, but a major problem from his past will soon come back to haunt him.

\*Tickets for JFF 2019 will be sold at RM 9.00. (Tickets can be purchased from 29th August via GSC Box Office • GSC Ticketing Kiosk • GSC e-payment at gsc.com.my • GSC Mobile Apps) For more information, visit jfkl.org.my/japanese-film-festival-2019/



### INTERNATIONAL

#### SABAH FILMMAKING COURSE

#### **From Story to Screen**

Making a short documentary or narrative film 08-15 September 2019

#### What is it?

4 teams of participants from Malaysia working with international and regional instructors making either a 10-minute documentary OR a 10-minute narrative film

More information can be found on kkiff.com!

In conjunction with Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival, we will be screening "MIRAI" at CINEBALU!

Date : 13 September 2019, Friday Time : 7:00 PM Venue : MBO Imago Mall

Get your tickets at kkiff.com!



# THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

Screening will be in Japanese with English subtitles



#### Date Time

Venue

- : 12 October 2019 (Saturday)
- : 10:00 AM (Registration starts at 9:30 am)
- : GSC NU Sentral, Kuala Lumpur (Level 5, NU Sentral)

**Admission/Bookings** : Admission is FREE. Booking is REQUIRED via Eventbrite (Ticket bookings will start on 5 October 2019, Saturday from 9:00 am onwards at eventbrite.com).

If you have any further inquiries, please write to info@jfkl.org.my with the email title "The Weekend Japanese Film Show".

#### Sakura Guardian in the North (北の桜守)

(TAKITA Yojiro 滝田 洋二郎 / 2018 / 126 min)

Cast: YOSHINAGA Sayuri, SAKAI Masato, SHINOHARA Ryoko Director: TAKITA Yojiro Screenplay: NASU Machiko Director of Photography: HAMADA Takeshi Music: OGURA Kei, HOSHI Katz Producer: TOMINAGA Rioko

Stretching over 30 years from the days of World War II, Tetsu flees Sakhalin in 1945 from the attacks by the Soviet Union and ends up in Hokkaido, grappling with the bitterly cold weather and hunger while trying to keep her two sons alive. Fast forward to 1971, when her second son, Shujiro, returns to Hokkaido after making it big in the United States. Mother and son live together once again, this time in Sapporo. Tetsu, by now is getting on in age, starts exhibiting issues stemming from the post-traumatic stress disorder she developed during the war.

©2018 SAKURA GUARDIAN IN THE NORTH Production Committee

### **SeaShorts Film Festival 2019**



After successful spells in Kuala Lumpur and Penang, SeaShorts Film Festival comes to Malacca this 25 to 29 September 2019. The annual affair will host as usual a fresh line-up of works from emerging and established talents in Southeast Asia and beyond for a celebration of short film.

Across its past two editions, more than 1,500 filmmakers and cinephiles have gathered to indulge in a buffet of stories exploring the vast cultures of the region, as well as exchange industry know-how through screenings, forums, masterclasses, and workshops.

#### 2019 PROGRAMME

#### **Opening Film: Ten Years Thailand**

Four Thai filmmakers envisage their country a decade onwards in this second instalment of the Ten Years project, following the first Hong Kong-based anthology in 2015. Aditya Assarat, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Chulayarnnon Siriphol, and Wisit Sasanatieng offer their takes on a country that has seen authoritarian restraint on creative freedom and political dissent since the military coup of 2014.

#### SeaShorts Award and Next New Wave Award

A competitive category each for Southeast Asian and Malaysian filmmakers. Venice Film Festival Golden Lion winner, Lav Diaz of Philippines, heads the jury for the regional award alongside Malaysia's Bront Palarae and a yet-to-be-announced judge. A shortlist of 20 will be drawn from the more than 350 entries received this year. Indonesian cinema darling Garin Nugroho meanwhile presides over the judging of the local award.

#### S-Express

A presentation of guest programmes specially curated to showcase the many local filmmaking scenes of the region. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia are the ten countries in the spotlight.

#### **Distant Observers**

Curated by Gertjan Zuilhof, three foreign directors provide an outsider's perspective of Southeast Asia. Kimi Takesue, Aline Magrez, and Daishi Matsunaga probe intercultural dynamics in these filmic records of their journeys through Vietnam and Myanmar.

#### **RetrRox Malacca Experimental Animation Workshop**

Philippine auteur Rox Lee takes participants through the process of translating handmade techniques into moving images. Having first made his name with popular comic strip Cesar Asar, he has become known as a local pioneer of independent cinema through his avant-garde pieces.



#### Koyo Yamashita Presents Very Bad Film School

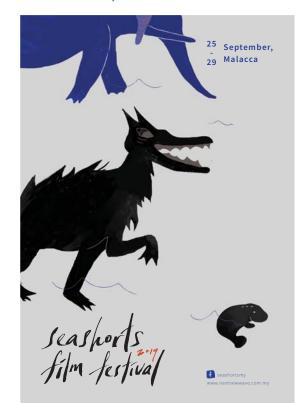
Film curator Koyo Yamashita leads this latest iteration of a challenge that tasks budding filmmakers with creating a work over the span of a week. Finished products will be screened at Image Forum Festival in Tokyo this September, of which he is artistic director.

#### Closing Film: 15Malaysia

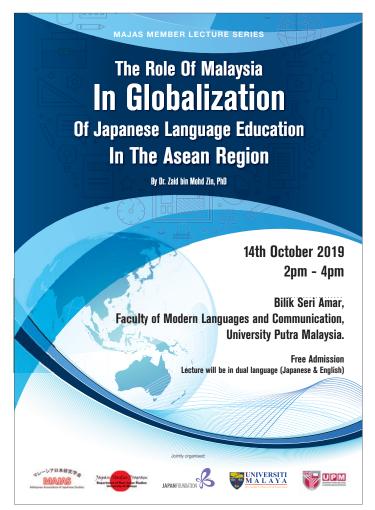
Local filmmakers join hands with unlikely collaborators from across the political spectrum for works of commentary on the country's sensitive subject matters. With a star-studded cast of celebrities and politicians in principal acting roles, the anthology was a massive success upon online release in 2009 and heralded a rise in viral political filmmaking that culminated with the electoral revolution of 2018. Ho Yuhang, Yasmin Ahmad, Amir Muhammad, Linus Chung, Liew Seng Tat, Desmond Ng, Kamal Sabran, Tan Chui Mui, Woo Ming Jin, James Lee, Benji & Bahir, Johan John, Khairil Bahar, Nam Ron, and the Suleiman Brothers all contribute segments to this omnibus.

Admission with purchase of Festival Pass at RM100, RM300, and RM500 respectively at www. seashorts2019.peatix.com

For more information, visit www.nextnewwave.com.my and www.fb.com/seashortsmy



#### JAPANESE STUDIES & INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE / GRANT & FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM



Globalization of Japanese language education around the world is growing rapidly from year to year. The number of Japanese language learners in Asean countries exceeded 1 million. Japanese language education in Malaysia has also shown encouraging developments, especially at the secondary school level. 2017 Japan Foundation Report stated that the number of Japanese language learners in Malaysia amounted to 33,224 students, with 430 teachers and 176 institutions offering Japanese language education.



Dr. Zaid bin Mohd Zin, PhD

Along with that, in September 2015, the international symposium of Japanese language education with the theme "Role of Japanese Language Education in Southeast Asia: Network Connected with Global Human Resource" has made its own history as representatives from 9 Asean countries have met in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. The result of the symposium's discussion focuses on the importance of building academic collaboration not only among Japanese language lecturers and teachers, but also establishing networking between educational institutions and also opening opportunities for students to participate in global activities and mobility programs among Asean countries. In order to foster and enhance cooperation in developing Japanese language education, Malaysia has the potential to play a role with other countries in the Asean region.

For more information, visit www.jfkl.org.my or please contact: Sulatan bin Ibrahim (Mr.) Office: 03 2284 6228 Mobile: 012-528 5789 Email: sulatan@jfkl.org.my

#### Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship Program

This program provides preeminent foreign scholars and researchers in the field of Japanese studies with opportunities to conduct research in Japan, with the aim of supporting them and promoting Japanese studies overseas. Experts in the fields of natural science, medical science, and engineering are excluded. There are three subcategories as follows.

#### Scholars & Researchers (Long-Term)

**Applicants:** Scholars and researchers conducting research related to Japan (comparative research included) in the humanities and social sciences.

**Duration:** 2 to 12 months (excluding 59 days or less)

#### Scholars & Researchers (Short-Term)

**Applicants:** Scholars and researchers conducting research related to Japan (comparative research included) in the humanities and social sciences, whose projects require them to travel to Japan to carry out research, gather materials, etc., intensively over a short period of time.

Duration: 21 to 59 days

#### **Doctoral Candidates**

**Applicants:** Ph.D. candidates, conducting research related to Japan (comparative research included) in the humanities and social sciences, who have completed (or will have completed by the beginning of the fellowship) the necessary coursework, and find it necessary to visit Japan to complete their dissertations.

#### Eligibility

a. Applicants must hold nationality or lawful permanent resident status in countries that have diplomatic relations with Japan.

b. Applicants must secure all affiliation arrangements by the application deadline (excluding applicants for "Scholars and Researchers (Short-Term)").

c. Applicants must be in good health and proficient in either Japanese or English.

d. In principle, applicants must be able to stay continuously in Japan for the term of Fellowship.

a. Round-trip airfare (discount economy-class [most direct and economical route])

Duration: 4 to 12 months

b. Stipend and other allowances

#### Application Deadline

December 2, 2019 (Applicants who hold U.S. citizenship or permanent residency: November 1, 2019)

#### **Notification of Results**

April 2020

**Benefits** 

For any inquiries, please contact us at 03-22846228 or email grant@jfkl.org.my.

## The 16th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia

#### Date : 5 October, 2019 (Saturday)

Venue : Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ), University of Malaya

Jointly organised by the Malaysia Japanese Language Instructor Society (MAJLIS), Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ) University of Malaya, and The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, this annual conference which aims to provide support for research and development of Japanese language education in Malaysia, will be held at Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ), University of Malaya on the 5th of October, 2019 (Saturday).

#### Keynote Speaker, Professor SUZUKI Katsuaki Director and Professor, Research Center for Instructional Systems, Kumamoto University

First and foremost, we would like to proudly introduce the keynote speaker, Professor SUZUKI Katsuaki. The keynote lecture featuring Prof. SUZUKI will bring you insights regarding "instructional design", whose theories and models are important for educators in order to analyse, assess, plan and develop effective learning environment and materials, both physically and digitally. Prof. SUZUKI is the key person behind the first Instructional Systems Program to be offered at a Japanese university, which was at Kumamoto University in 2006, and it has been the one and only institution in Japan training instructional design specialists.

Prof. SUZUKI Katsuaki, a leading expert in instructional design, will share his expertise and views on how to apply the theories and models of instructional design to Japanese language education in Malaysia where it is being taught as a foreign language. His lecture will be a great opportunity for those who wish to create a learning environment systematically and effectively for the learners. So, do not miss out on this chance!

#### OUTLINE: WHAT A TEACHER MUST CONSIDER TO MAKE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT EFFECTIVE AND ENGAGING



Instructional Design (ID) is a toolbox to solve problems for teachers who struggle in everyday teaching. In this keynote, everyday challenges of Japanese teachers will be taken into account and then used to try to solve problems. Given several scenarios, high school classroom where more pupils just sit down unwillingly than eager students who want to study Japanese or are interested in Japan, as well as Japanese classes in colleges where Japanese may not be seen as a useful means for career advancement, what can teachers do as challenge to make the learning environment better? ID, which has been used as a useful tool to improve educational practices in any sectors and in any contexts, will be introduced and experienced, so that some hints will be noticed to make actions in teaching tomorrow.

Prof. SUZUKI Katsuaki is currently affiliated with the Research Center for Instructional Systems, Kumamoto University, Japan. Some of his publications include "Principles of Instructional Design" (translation supervisor), "Designing Motivation to Learn" (translation supervisor), "Design Manual for Self-learning Material", "Getting Started in Educational Technology Research" (joint translator, commentator), and many more. To know more about Prof. SUZUKI, please refer to: http://www.gsis.kumamoto-u.ac.jp/ksuzuki/.

The keynote lecture is scheduled to take place in the morning of the conference, followed by the teacher's corner exhibition, poster presentation and oral presentation in the afternoon. Finally, a convivial dinner will be held after the conference. We look forward to your participation.

Registration is required to participate. You may register via the online form: https://bit.ly/2LQqkMy or scan:



For more information and update on this event, please visit https://www.jfkl.org.my/jle-conference-2019/ or scan:





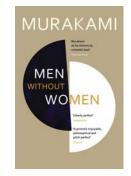
JAPANFOUNDATION & Application Period: 5 Sep 2019 ~ 19 Sep 2019

(Will be notified via email)

KUALA LUMPUR



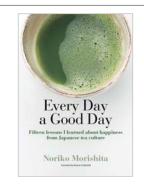
### **English Book**



#### Men Without Women by Haruki Murakami

Haruki Murakami. Tokyo: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Library Call No. 895.635 MUR

Across seven tales, Haruki Murakami brings his powers of observation to bear on the lives of men who, in their own ways, find themselves alone. Here are doctors, students, ex-boyfriends, actors, and even Kafka's Gregor Samsa. Brought together to tell stories that speak to us all. In **Men Without Women Murakami** has crafted another contemporary classic marked by the same wry humour and pathos that have defined his entire body of work.



Every Day a Good Day: Fifteen lessons I learned about happiness from Japanese tea culture by Morishita Noriko

Morishita Noriko. Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture. Library Call No. 394.12 NOR

Reporter and essayist Morishita Noriko reflects on twenty-five years of studying the Japanese Way of Tea. From her first uncertain steps as a college student to her gradual discovery of freedom within the very rules that once seemed to hold her back. Tea is always there to remind her that simply being present in the moment is enough. In this memoir, Morishita vividly connects the Way of Tea to the full span of human experience, culminating in the exhilaration of realizing "I'm alive, right now!"

### Japanese Book



#### [日本語能力試験 公式問題集 第二集

Japanese- Language Proficiency Test Official Practice Workbook Vol.2 / N1~N5]

By The Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchange and Service (JEES) / Publisher : Bonjinsha Inc , 2018 / Library Call No.810.791

Are you planning on taking the JLPT in December? How are you preparing for it? [JLPT Official Practice Workbook Vol.2] for all levels from N1 to N5 are available in the library now! It was released in 2018 as a revised version of日本語能力試験JLPT Official Practice Workbook which was published in 2012.

It includes almost the same number of test items as the actual test papers with selected questions from previous JLPT since the 2010 revision of the test. All levels come with audio CD and scripts of Chokai (listening questions) are attached. Highly recommend that you go through this workbook for your JLPT preparation.  $\delta M I = 0$  (GANBATTE- Good luck!)

#### CHANGES TO OUR CURRENT LIBRARY SERVICE

Due to the discontinuation 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 will be until March 31, 2020. Other library services remain unchanged. For further enquiries, please write to <u>library@jfkl.org.my</u> or call 03-2284 6228 (ext. 401/402/403).

### ASIA IN RESONANCE 2019: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Reported by Shahrul Fatehah Nor Basha (JFKL)

#### NURTURING ASEAN – JAPAN COMMUNITY COLLABORATION THROUGH CHARACTER EDUCATION IN NIHONGO PARTNERS PROGRAMME

#### Report

| neport                  |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Date                    | : 19 – 23 May 2019  |
| Main venue              | : Ministry of Education & Culture, Jakarta, Indonesia (Kemdikbud) |
| Participating Countries | : Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Philippines    |
|                         | Laos & Cambodia (video presentation)                              |
| Students' details       | : Tarore Lycie Lea (Indonesia)                                    |
|                         | Nur Nabilah Aqilah Ismaili (Malaysia)                             |
|                         | Sithikorn Krasu (Thailand)  |
|                         | Nway Oo Khine (Myanmar)   |
|                         | Tran Minh Dat (Vietnam)   |
|                         |   |



Sakura Yo performance

#### Day 1: 19 May 2019

Students and chaperones were escorted from their hotel to the Japan Foundation, Jakarta's (JFJA) headquarters by JFJA staffs. To break the ice between the students as well as the chaperones, the JFJA staffs introduced a simple game of passing a ball to one another while stating their names and countries they came from. As a result, everyone present was able to remember their acquaintances names within a short time.

Once the students were comfortable with each other, a discussion session commenced. This session was facilitated by two JFJA Japanese language teachers, Ms. Sato and Ms. Koga. Each student shared their experience and opinion based on the questions given:

#### Questions:

1. Positive feedback/impact on activities done with the Nihongo Partners (NP)

- inside classroom
- outside classroom
- 2. New things learned/acquired from interactions with NP
- 3. Changes to school/class before and after NP's dispatch
- 4. Obstacles faced when interacting with NP (language/culture barrier, etc)
- 5. Message to the NPs
- 6. Plans in the future relating to Japan/Japanese language

The students were required to choose two questions that they would like talk about during the presentation on 21st May. Instead of presenting individually in speech form, the teachers choreographed an interactive way for the students to deliver their points. This method was easier for the students and helped to calm their nerves especially in the presence of a high profile audience.

Once the students learned their parts, they proceeded to practice for their performance in which they would join the Indonesian theatre group, *Enjuku* sing their original song "Sakura Yo". Although the first practice together was a little awkward, the students did very well after a few attempts.

#### Day 2: 20 May 2019

All participants were given a chance to practice on the Auditorium stage at Kemdikbud. *Enjuku* members were also present to practice their performance together.

In the evening, participants and guests attended the reception dinner held at the hotel. The Executive Director of the JF Centre for Japanese Language Testing, Mr. Matsukawa Noriyuki was present to give a speech. He took a moment to meet with the students and looked forward to their presentation the following day.

#### Day 3: 21 May 2019 – International Symposium

Key people from the Kemdikbud, the 5th Advisory Committee Meeting of JF Asia Centre attendees and local media attended the event. The symposium began with the Indonesian national anthem followed by speeches by the President of JF, Mr. Ando Hiroyasu and the Ambassador of Japan to Indonesia, Mr. Ishii Masafumi. The *Enjuku* troupe entertained the audience by dancing and singing to their original song; with the students joining on stage to perform "Sakura Yo". Mdm. Poppy Dewi Puspitawati from Kemdikbud also shared a presentation on "Character Education and its Significance in Japanese Language Learning through the Nihongo Partners Programme".

The Symposium proceeded with presentation from the students, which received supportive feedbacks from the audiences, then continued with a presentation by a CP-NP pair from Lampung, Indonesia and Philippines. Following the presentations was a discussion session by guest panelists together with CP-NP pairs from Nihongo Partners Programme.

The event concluded with closing speeches by the Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia, Mr. Muhadjir Effendi as well as the Director of JFJA (Jakarta Centre for Japanese Culture), Mr. Tsukamoto Norihisa.

#### Day 4: 22 May 2019

The students and guests were taken on an excursion to Taman Mini Indonesia Indah to learn more about the Indonesian culture and people. The students especially, were very intrigued and amazed by the diversity of Indonesian tribes and history.

That evening the participants and guests were invited to join the reception for the 5th Advisory Committee Meeting of the JF Asia Centre which was also being held in Jakarta. During this reception, the students were honoured to meet Mr. Ando Hiroyasu as well as committee member and renowned actor, Mr. Kato Masaya, who were very impressed with their presentations the day before.



Ice Breaking session

Brainstorming session

With Mr. Matsukawa Hiroyuki

With Actor, Kato Masaya

#### Day 5: 23 May 2019

The participants departed from hotel to airport in batches with representative from Malaysia being the last one to fly home.



Presentation

Excursion

Upon the conclusion of the programme, we were able to get Ms. Nur Nabilah Aqilah Ismaili to share her own experience on attending this symposium. Nabilah kindly provided the following response:

### JFKL: Tell me about your feelings when you heard the news of being selected as the participant?

**NNAI:** Well, at first I had quite a mixed feeling. I was very happy to participate in an international programme but at the same time, I was confused. I had longed to communicate with friends in Japanese yet no one was interested in my school. So I thought that this symposium could be a new start for me. I also had never gone overseas, neither with my family nor friends. So, it was amusing to think that I would get to experience it through this program.

### JFKL: What were the preparations before leaving for the symposium?

**NNAI:** As the NP for my school last came in 2016, I had quite a problem gathering pictures and videos of us. I had to consult my friends and teachers and yet the result was not as good as I had hoped. It took a while to gather the information before I could proceed writing the short essay.

#### JFKL: Any challenges/obstacles faced prior to your departure?

**NNAI:** I had to say the decision to accept or decline this offer was quite a big decision. The main issue was the fact that the programme was going to be held on the weekend of my examination week. This is my final year in school, which means, I had to keep up my good results. I was about to turn down the offer but after getting some advice, I finally agreed to participate. Moreover, after learning that no teacher would be assisting me in Jakarta, I had problems convincing my parents to let me participate but eventually, they agreed. Thinking of how tiring it would be being the fasting month was also a problem.

JFKL: Since all the participants represented different countries, how did you go around getting to know each other? NNAI: We were at first very quiet, not knowing what to say or do. However, I have to say that the 'icebreaking' session was a life saviour. After that, we slowly took our time discussing and sharing our thoughts with each other and somehow, without us noticing, we became closer. Close enough to exchange social media accounts and hangout in each other's room to discuss and improve each other's presentation. Sometimes, our accompanying advisors would tag along and correct our pronunciation and such.

#### JFKL: Tell us about the presentation.

**NNAI:** Essentially I talked about how the NP changed our way of studying at school. Ayami-san, our NP was a young lady who understood a teenager's point of view which helped us in both speaking and writing in Japanese. She made every class cheerful and enjoyable. We made kanji cards and origami and decorated the classroom not only to enhance our learning but also to understand the cultural traits of Japan. Other than that, Ayami-san always spent her time with her students even outside the classroom on the weekends. She taught us how to cook simple Japanese delicacies such as sushi and dango. The experience itself was a treasure to us and we were really grateful to her for introducing the lovely aspects of Japan.

### JFKL: How does this experience impact your studies of Japanese language from now on?

**NNAI:** It encourages me to further my studies in Japan in the future. It has made me more interested in the culture and the language that I liked since I was younger. In one way or another, the ability to speak in Japanese could help me in the future either in my studies or in life. I'm very grateful that I have learned this language in hopes that I could find scholarship or sponsorship to study in Japan. I really wish that my journey in this field would not just end here. That is why this experience really helped me to work harder with my studies to become the best.

# JFKL: Since this is your last year in school, what would you advise your juniors if your school would host another NP in the future?

**NNAI:** If the school were to again receive another NP, I would say spend as much of your time with her. Don't cast away this chance to really understand how Japanese language works both in speaking and writing. Trust me, you will always gain from what you have learned. Also, the experience itself is priceless. It's not easy to have a native speaker teach you about their language and culture unless you have the chance to study in their country yourself. So, grab this golden chance.

### **JFKL Visit**

#### Reported by Sakinah binti Noor Badaruddin (JFKL)

In June, we received a visit from SMK Pusat Bandar Puchong 1 comprising of 36 students and 4 teachers. The students enjoyed the *Furoshiki* and *Yukata* sessions, Japanese Class and Library Tour.



#### What is JFKL Visit?

JFKL Visit is an activity for those who are interested in Japanese language study and cultural activities. It is open to groups visiting from any school or institute.

Currently we accept visits from Tuesday to Thursday. In principle the minimum participant size is 15 people and the maximum is 40 people but negotiable. No payment is required.

The activities we offer during these visits are Japanese class for Japanese language study and for cultural activities, we have *washitsu*, *yukata*, *origami* and *furoshiki* sessions. We also offer a tour of the JFKL library.



### JAPAFUNCUP: ASIAN ELEVEN VS TOHOKU SELECTION TEAM (U-18) PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP THROUGH FOOTBALL

Reported by Nurul Amira Sabri (JFKL)

The JapaFunCup is an International Friendly Football Match between U-18 players of ASIAN ELEVEN and Tohoku Selection Team. ASIAN ELEVEN is the Asia's most diverse football team, composed of players from 11 Southeast Asian countries which are Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, Philippines and Timor Leste. Tohoku Selection Team consists of players selected from the 6 prefectures of Japan's Tohoku region; Aomori, Niigata, Fukushima, Akita, Iwate and Miyagi. The friendly match was held on 22 June 2019 at J-Village, National Training Center in Naraha-machi/Hirono-machi, Fukushima Prefecture.

This project was initiated by The Japan Foundation Asia Center (JFAC) in collaboration with Japan Football Association (JFA), with support from the Japan Professional Football League (J.League) and cooperation of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM), National Sports Council of Malaysia (NSC) and Mokhtar Dahari National Football Academy (AMD). This program was part of the "Asia in Resonance 2019" program for cultural exchange between Japan and Southeast Asia.

Two players from each country were selected to create the team of ASIAN ELEVEN. The center defense player selected from Malaysia was Mr. Ali Imran Bin Sukari and Mr. Harith Haiqal Bin Adam Afkar as midfielder. Both of them are from Mokhtar Dahari National Football Academy located in Gambang, Pahang.

Players arrived in Japan on 13 June and they underwent training camp from 14 until 21. Other than training, they also experienced some visits and cultural exchange programs, such as a courtesy visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 14, training match with Shooshi High School on the 17 and cultural exchange activities with Futaba Future High School on the 19.





ASIAN ELEVEN Press Conference

The 90 minutes ended in a 0-0 draw, with ASIAN ELEVEN taking control of the game and dominating possession especially in the first half. The 2,000 Japanese football fans and guests were impressed with the performance of the team who won the match by a penalty shoot-out (5-4).

The ASIAN ELEVEN team was led by former J.Leaguer player Takuma Koga, currently involved with youth development in Southeast Asia, and serving as manager of the U 15 Myanmar National team.

"The players selected all have extremely high abilities, and it was a good match. I hope to build experiences like this and strengthen football in Asia overall."

Takuma KOGA, ASIAN ELEVEN Team Coach

"It's too bad that we lost, but the level of the Southeast Asian players was higher than we expected. I think it was a good experience. Going forward, I want to help raise the level of football in the Tohoku region" Hiroshi TEGURAMORI, U-18 Tohoku Selection Team Coach

"Communicating with athletes from various countries was challenging at first, but football is our common language, so it wasn't a problem during the game. We were able to really enjoy ourselves." Channarong Promsrikaew (Thailand), ASIAN ELEVEN Captain

This project successfully introduced young talented players from Southeast Asian Countries to Japanese football professionals and fans to further continue the football connection between South East Asian countries and Japan. The JFAC intends to continue promoting cultural exchange between Southeast Asia and Japan through the sport of football which has the power to connect people's hearts.

## New FREE online course is now available! [HIROGARU Nihongo A2 Self-Study Course]





This new course, "HIROGARU Nihongo A2 Self-Study Course", is a FREE online Japanese course on JF Japanese e-learning platform, "Minato".

This course is very suitable for the beginner level learners (JF Standard: A2 Level), who wish to know more about Japan. You will be able to explore various topics related to Japan through reading and listening activities, as well as to learn new vocabulary related to the topics of your interest.

To take the online course, you simply have to register on "Minato" (JF Japanese e-learning platform). Then, select and register the course, "HIROGARU Nihongo A2 Self-Study Course". To date, this course has already received more than 400 registrations from all over the world! Why don't you join in and discover the benefits of learning Japanese via "Minato" today!

Minato: https://minato-jf.jp/ Hirogaru Nihongo A2 Self-study Course: https://minato-jf.jp/CourseDetail/Index/KL19\_HRNS\_A200\_EN01

## **TADOKU Seminar and Workshop** for Japanese Language Teachers in Malaysia

Reported by KONDO Maiko (JFKL)



To understand the different levels of TADOKU reading materials

Rewriting the story with group members

A TADOKU ("graded Reading" in English) seminar and workshop for Japanese language teachers titled, "Rewriting TADOKU material," was held at JFKL on the 20th of July. Currently, there is a vast variety of reading materials (fiction and non-fiction) in our TADOKU Salon, but only a handful of stories are related to Malaysia. To make the TADOKU experience more fun and relatable to our local audiences, JFKL wanted to "rewrite" or create some original stories related to Malaysia with the Malaysian Japanese language teachers in the near future. This workshop was the first step towards this goal.

TADOKU books consist of 6 levels, where Level 0 is the easiest (for beginner learners) and Level 5 is the hardest (for more advanced learners). In this workshop, the participants were divided into groups and they had to rewrite one of the two stories from the "Aesop's Fables" into a Level 0 TADOKU reading materials, targeting beginner level. The two choices were "The Tortoise and the Hare" and "The Ant and the Grasshopper".

The participants seemed to really enjoy the "rewrite" activity and the venue was filled with joy and laughter. Apart from trying to rewrite the stories, the participants also gained the knowledge of how to differentiate the levels of TADOKU reading materials, as well as the tips and tricks of writing a TADOKU book.

We believe this activity has sparked an interest among Malaysian Japanese language teachers in writing more authentic Malaysian stories in the Japanese language, to be used by their students.

We look forward to receiving feedbacks from the participants and hope some new TADOKU reading materials will be created soon!

### AAS-in-ASIA Conference 2019 Report By Dr. Rohayati Paidi

Japan Foundation Travel Grant Awardee



This my first time taking part in the AAS-in-Asia Conference. The recent AAS-in-Asia in Bangkok, Thailand that took place between 1st to 3rd of July was the sixth of the conference series after Singapore (2014), Taipei, Taiwan (2015), Kyoto, Japan (2016), Seoul, South Korea (2017) and Delhi, India (2018). Although the AAS-in-ASIA conferences are intended to be smaller in scale as compared to the typical AAS Annual Conferences held in North America, the experience I went through was by no means inferior.

I was given the opportunity to select and attend presentation panels that aligned with my interests from a field of 178 panel sessions. I manage to participate in 11 panels dedicated to discussing recent topics related to Japan. Some of the panels that I took part in were "The Dynamic of Tourism Industries in Indonesia and Japan", "The Future of Asian IR: Emotion, Language, and the New Norms in China-Japan Relations" and "Japan Town: Mobility, Cultural Exchange, Co-Prosperity". A number of presentations had a profound impact on me as it opened up a whole new perspective on how I should evaluate the situations that Japan had to face in its quest to maintain, uphold and protect its position and interests in alignment with the rise of other prominent world powers. I also gained insight and inspiration from the various approaches of research that was presented by panelists in the sessions that I joined.

The third day of conference afforded me the chance to participate in a special roundtable hosted by The Japan Foundation titled "Metamorphosis of Japanese Studies - Towards Multidisciplinary Collaboration in the Global Age-". Four Japanese Studies experts contributed their views and knowledge in the roundtable session chaired by Professor Dr. Kazuo Kuroda (Waseda University), namely Professor Dr. Kitti Prasirtsuk (Thammasat University), Associate Professor Dr. Thang Leng Leng (National University of Singapore), Professor Dr. Michael K. Bourdaghs (University of Chicago) and Associate Professor Dr. Shoya Unoda (Osaka University). My personal view is that more time should be allocated for such a session as the keenness of the participants was evident from the multiple views shared and numerous comments made after the panelists were done with their presentations. Considering the high relevance of the topic discussed for the majority of the participants, regular opportunities to meet in such a manner would allow stakeholders to share their differing views, agreements and suggestions for improvements to further mutually develop Japanese Studies.

As one of the participants under the grant of from The Japan Foundation, I joined 27 others from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam in a scheduled visit to the Institute of East Asian Studies, Thammasat University (IEAS) on the day after the conclusion of the conference. We had the opportunity to visit the Center for Japanese Studies and followed by a sharing session on the development of Japanese Studies in Thailand. The session was organized by four representatives from IEAS, Japanese Studies Association of Thailand (JSAT), Japanese Studies Centre, Chiang Mai University (JSC) and Japanese Literature Study Club, Chulalongkorn University (JLSC). The session enabled the participants to share their views on how to further strengthen the field of Japanese Studies in their respective countries.

My priceless experience did not just end there. In the final evening before returning to Malaysia, all the participants under the banner of The Japan Foundation were gathered in a closing ceremony hosted by the Foundation. Seating arrangements at the ceremony was such that participants of similar research interest would find themselves at the same table. We made the most of this to establish and strengthen the networking between experts of Japanese Studies in South and Southeast Asia.

#### **Travelling Exhibition "Built Environment: An Alternative Guide to Japan" in KL** Reported by TANJI Haruka (JFKL) 12 June–14 July 2019 (KL)





view of the exhibition space at REXKI

Exhibiting Japan from the perspective of built environment through a collection architectural masterpieces in photographs, texts and videos at REXKL, in conjunction with Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival 2019, KLAF2019.

The Opening Ceremony held at REXKL on Thursday, 13 June attracted a crowd of some 200 guests intrigued by what the exhibition had to offer. This exhibition covered 80 buildings, civil-engineering projects and landscapes that ranged from the late 19th century to the present from all 47 prefectures of Japan. It was displayed on the 1st floor of the newly refurbished REXKL, which is currently being rebuilt by a group of talented and passionate architects who hopes to revive this iconic site by inserting a community-based program to incubate creative local entrepreneurs and help traditional trades within the vicinity.

"This rarely considered aspect of 'built environment' also aims to express the engagement and struggle of the Japanese people with the natural environment and how the community adapted and created locality." said Mr. SHIMADA, Director of JFKL in his introduction speech.

Mr. Terence Lee, representative of YB Tuan Fong Kui Lun, Member of Parliament for Bukit Bintang, also noted that architecture is a kind of social art and we should therefore research the history and culture of a society through existing buildings as it had been made by the people and shaped the society.



Ar. Ms. Lillian Tay Wai Fun, President of Deptubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM), Mr. SHIMADA Seiya, Director of JFKL, Mr. Terence Lee Bing Hong, Representative of YB Tuan Fong Kui Lun, Member of Parliament for Bukit Bintang, Associate Professor Tony Liew Voon Fun, Dean of School of Architecture, Building and Design, Taylor's University, Ar. Dr. Tan Loke Mun, Director of Kuala Lumpur Architecture Festival 2019

During the second week of the exhibition, Mr. TAKAHASHI Ippei, an up and coming architect from Japan visited Kuala Lumpur from 21 to 24 June and took part in three different events targeting different audiences; local architects, university students and the local community. On 22 June, he gave a talk on "Rebuilding after the Great East Japan Earthquake" at the opening ceremony of the "AWAS!" exhibition at Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) Centre. He was also invited to talk at REXKL on 23 June on the topic of "Reviving Architecture: Community and Placemaking", joined by the co-founders of REXKL, Shin Chang and Shin Tseng with Asst. Professor Teoh Chee Keong from UCSI University. On the last day of his stay, he gave a lecture at Taylor's University Lakeside Campus entitled "Ippei TAKAHASHI: Explorations in Contemporary Japanese Architecture".



A talk session at REXKL with the theme of Reviving Architecture: Community and Placemaking





Mr. TAKAHASHI (in white) delivering his talk with the theme of Rebuilding after the Great East Japan Earthquake at PAM centre

Mr.Takahashi with the students of Taylor's University

#### The Role of JFKL in Support for the Development of the Japanese Language Education in Malaysia: From Internationalization to Localization and towards Globalization (SUMMARY) By Edward Lee (JFKL)

#### Internationalization of Japanese Language Education (JLE) through the Look East Policy (LEP)

The Look East Policy accelerated its growth in the 80s through internationalization with the influx of native speaker teachers and the mushrooming of private language schools. Learning Japanese had a purpose - preparing oneself for further education or training in Japan or seeking employment or trade opportunities.

The LEP not only introduced Japanese to secondary school education but also created a unique feature of JLE in Malaysia - the Japanese Language Preparatory Education. The Japan Foundation (JF) sent its overseas Japanese language specialists to support these preparatory programmes at University of Malaya and University Technology of Malaysia.

#### Localization of JLE in Secondary School Education

The return of the 1st batch of 15 batches of JPA-sponsored teachers in 1995 marked the start of its localization. In 2005 JLE was expanded to day schools and new Japanese language teachers are locally trained. In 2008 the new Japanese syllabus and textbooks written by Malaysian teachers under KSBM curriculum were rolled out. Learning Japanese was now shifted to communicating with the Japanese and cultural appreciation.

Many local programs in support for the professional development of teachers were implemented by JF with its establishment of it Language Centre in 1995. Collaboration with the Ministry of Education Malaysia was intensified to support its localization effort.

#### Globalization of JLE and the concept of 'Nihongo-jin'

In 2017, the Ministry of Education Malaysia rolled out the new KSSM curriculum to meet global trends and the needs of the future, such as the 21st century skills

JSF MY-Forum Workshops was an offshoot programme from the Japanese Speakers' Forum to introduce Project Based Learning to both teachers and students as one of the approaches in cultivating 21st century skills and raising awareness among students of society issues surrounding them. The Japanese Speakers' Forum (JSF) which gathers teachers to explore new approaches in Foreign Language Education to meet future needs of the young generation and students to interact with each other in Japanese while working on a task or project together. Participants come from 5 ASEAN countries (including Malaysia) and Japan.

Through these interactions, many were made to be aware of how much they have gained when they were able to interact with people from countries other than Japan in Japanese - the NIHONGO-JIN. Having teachers from countries other than Japan to teach Japanese in Malaysian schools would lead to a rich pollination of teaching ideas as well as exposing our students to global issues. Would Malaysian schools globalize its JLE to gain this competitive edge?

(The full article can be viewed at https://www.jfkl.org.my)

#### **EDWARD LEE (PROFILE)**

He joined JFKL in 1994 to help start its Japanese Language Department. Prior to this, he was with the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) Malaysia for 5 years. He is currently the Vice President of the Japanese Language Society of Malaysia and the Hon, Auditor of the Malaysia Japanese Language Instructors Society.

His experience in these 3 organizations enabled him to gain a deep insight of the Japanese Language Education in Malaysia, particularly of the challenges faced by teachers and students. Hence, he was able to work well with the Ministry of Education Malaysia in developing many meaningful support programs for teachers and students to enhance their professional development and motivate their interest in the Japanese language and culture respectively. Some of his achievement included the JSF MY-Forum Workshops, the Annual Japanese Language Festival (JLfest), Japanese Choral Speaking Competition for Secondary Schools.



He was awarded the 2019 Japan Foreign Minister's Commendation in recognition of his contributions.

#### **JFKL Holiday Notice:**

Office & Library: 2 September 2019 - Awal Muharram 9 September 2019 - Birthday of Yang di-Pertuan Agong

16 September 2019 - Malaysia Day 28 October 2019 - Deepavali



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