

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **109**

January - February 2020

Upcoming Programmes RASHOMON

武蔵 MUSASHI: Music From The East
Weekend Japanese Film Show in February
Technical Staff Training
Speech Contest
Japanese Language Seminar

30th Anniversary Memorial Collaboration of
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and The Actors Studio (Malaysia)

RASHOMON

pentas 1, klpac | FEB - MAR 2020



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



JAPAN FOUNDATION
国際交流基金

WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY

The Actors Studio (Malaysia) & The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

Present **Rashomon 2020***Celebrating 30 years With a Kurosawa Classic*

Malaysia's pioneer theatre company, the Actors Studio (Malaysia) and the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, will co-organise a memorial collaboration project, "Rashomon 2020" celebrating its 30th anniversary.

The Actors Studio's adaptation of *Rashomon* is based on *Rashomon*, the film, which marked the entrance of Japanese film onto the world stage where it won the Golden Lion Award at Venice Film Festival in 1951 and catapulted influential Japanese filmmaker KUROSAWA Akira to international fame.

"Rashomon 2020" will build on the success of the past three staging, bringing the best of the best together including both old and new team members. Directed and designed by Joe Hasham OAM, "Rashomon 2020" will be presented as a trilingual production (Japanese, English and Mandarin), and aims to be the perfect reflection of our past and our future, a display of multiculturalism at its best that is evident in 21st Century society where borders are increasingly erased.



Rashomon in 2003

Date

29 February – 8 March 2020

Venue

Pentas 1

The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac)
Sentul Park, Jalan Strachan, off Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah
51100 Kuala Lumpur

Tickets

RM40 – RM100

Box Office

Call 03 4047 9000 (klpac) or 7880 7999 (ProTicket)
Walk in to klpac box office or ProTicket outlets
Buy online via www.proticket.com.my

Website
www.theactorsstudio.com.my | www.klpac.org
Synopsis

A samurai is murdered and his wife raped. The body of the samurai is discovered by a woodcutter. Just before the crime took place, a priest passed the couple. A notorious bandit comes forward to claim responsibility for the crime, and the woodcutter and priest are summoned to testify at the trial. So begins the recounting of the crime by ...the bandit ...the woodcutter ...the wife ...and the samurai (through a medium). Each of the four testimonies contradict each other. What really happened on the day of the crime?

Creative Team

Director / Artistic Director: Joe Hasham OAM
Executive Producer: Dato' Dr. Faridah Merican
Set Designer: Paul Hasham
Lighting Designer: Yusman Mokhtar
Musical Director: Khairil Imran
Movement Director: Ho Lee Ching
Co-Movement Director: Chloe Tan

Cast

NARITA Doppo (The Bandit Tajomaru)	Adam Hamizan (Gatekeeper 4)
GOSHIMA Maiya (The Wife)	Tristan Zijuin (Gatekeeper 5)
Omar Ali (The Samurai Husband)	Nabil Musawir (Man 1)
Lee Swee Keong (The Priest)	Clarence Kuna (Man 2)
Ho Lee Ching (The Medium)	Glamorique (Court Official)
Amelia Chen (Gatekeeper 1)	Faridah Merican (Judge)
Chloe Tan (Gatekeeper 2)	
Aiman Aiman (Gatekeeper 3)	

Musicians: Khairil Imran, Coebar Abel, Endee Ahmad, Ian Francis Khoo



Modernised version staged in 2013





武蔵 Musashi

MUSIC FROM THE EAST

Artist **YAMANAKA Nobuto**
Tsugarushamisen

KATANO Satoshi
Shinobue

TAKA
Wadaiko

TSUKAMOTO Junya
Wadaiko

Organized by:



Supported by:



11 February 2020
8:30 p.m.

REXKL

80 Jalan Sultan, Kuala Lumpur

Ticket: RM45 (General)

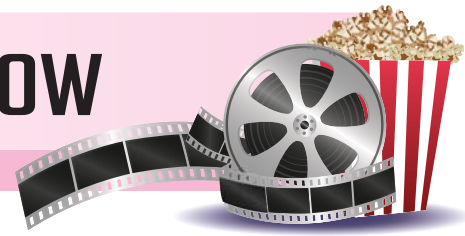
RM25 (Students/Senior citizens/
Disabled/JFKL members)
peatix.com

Enquiry: 03-2284 6228 or 019-322 3329



THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

*Screening will be in Japanese with English subtitles



Date : 15 February 2020 (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 with the email title "The Weekend Japanese Film Show".

Okko's Inn

若おかみは小学生!

(KOSAKA Kitaro 高坂 希太郎 / 2018 / 94 min/ P13)

*Movie is subject to change

Cast : KOBAYASHI Seiran, MATSUDA Satsumi, MIZUKI Nana
Director : KOSAKA Kitaro
Screenplay : YOSHIDA Reiko
Original Story : REIJO Hiroko
Animation Director : HIROTA Shunsuke

Synopsis

After losing her parents in a car accident, Okko starts living with her grandmother in the countryside who runs a hot-spring ryokan - traditional Japanese inn. There, the young girl can somehow see friendly ghosts who help her get used to the ryokan life, and she becomes the apprentice as its future proprietress after her grandmother.

JAPAN-MALAYSIA TECHNICAL DESIGN WORKSHOP 2020

After 15 years of TECHNICAL DESIGN WORKSHOP which was held from 2004-2005, the workshop is newly formed and we are looking for the participants with strong motivation to learn together!

The workshop intends to develop the skills of Malaysian theatre designers, namely in set, lighting and sound, via a collaborative process with Japanese professionals of the same discipline. Participants will experience the process from the initial creative dialogue, the conceiving of designs through a series of workshops for a possibility of a full performance. This workshop also aims to develop the professional awareness and understanding of the responsibilities of the designer and to explore various design methods.

DATES

8 – 12 MARCH 2020

VENUE

Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre

CONTENT

This workshop is a guided and collaborative exploration of designing set, sound and lighting based on a selected text- Nupegara. Included in the workshops are the study of script from a designer's point of view, spatial exploration, design processes and challenges, amongst others. The workshop will be conducted separately in each section and participants will share the outcome on the last day.

CONDUCTORS

TOKI Kenichi (Set designer), FUJIHARA Mihoko (Sound designer) and KAZAWA Ayako (Lighting designer)

PARTICIPATION FEE

RM200 for 5 days

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS TO BE ACCEPTED

A maximum of 3 persons for each workshop

ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS

Young performing arts practitioners between the ages of 20 – 30. Individuals who have some experience in either set, sound or lighting design. Participants will be selected via an interview process.

APPLICATION

To apply, kindly email nukegaratechws@gmail.com by 20 January 2020 with the following information:

1. CV – including theatrical credits
2. Bio (200 words)
3. The workshop that you would like to attend: set, sound or lighting
4. What you would like to gain through joining this workshop (200 words)
5. Contact Information

Successful applicants will be notified by 24 January 2020 for an interview.

For further information and future updates, please visit JFKL website at <https://www.jfkf.org.my/>

The 17th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools – National Level (2020)

第17回マレーシア高校生日本語弁論大会



Theme:

① REAL LOVE

② REVOLUTION

③ MY INNER VOICE

Students under both categories, Public School Learners and Private Learners, are to complete the Google form (<http://bit.ly/34uOAtQ>) and submit them online by 27th February 2020 (Thursday), together with: -

- The link of the video of their speech uploaded on YouTube;
- Typewritten manuscript of their speech (on Japanese style manuscript paper 20X20 characters);
- Completed Contest's Eligibility Check Sheet endorsed by their legal guardian and school principal; and
- Recent passport-size photo.

Only online applications are accepted for both categories of the contest. Incomplete application will be rejected.

NATIONAL LEVEL

Date : 18 April 2020 (Saturday)

Time : 1:00 pm ~ 5:30 pm

Venue : The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur

General Enquiries:

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur Tel: 03-22847228 Email: nihongo@jfkf.org.my Web: <http://www.jfkf.org.my/events/jsc2020/>



**The Winner will get flown out
to Japan for a 10-day
long exchange program!**

Organised by:

Embassy of
Japan
in Malaysia

JAPAN FOUNDATION 

In Cooperation with:

 KEMENTERIAN
PENDIDIKAN
MALAYSIA

2019-2020 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar [For Teachers]

Theory and Practice of Taigu Communication Education: from “Introduction to Keigo” to “Business Japanese Language Education”

待遇コミュニケーション教育の理論と実践
— 敬語導入からビジネス日本語教育のアプローチとして —

Speaker

Dr. Izumi Walker (National University of Singapore)

Outline

In the morning session, you will gain better understanding of “Taigu Communication” by looking at some visual materials and misuse examples, as well as having a discussion and Q&A session directly with the speaker. In the afternoon, the educational theory will be introduced and practical examples classroom activities will be given in order for the participants to experience how to enhance Taigu communication competence in a workshop style. Through the variety of classroom activities including “Introduction to honorific expressions using a TV drama” and role plays for elementary level learners, this seminar will help Japanese language teachers to understand the concept of Taigu communication and how it can be applied to your own educational context.

Date & Time

7 March 2020, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Venue

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (18th Floor, Block B)

About the speaker



Dr Izumi Walker is an associate professor, and Deputy Director of the Centre for Language Studies and Convenor for the Japanese Language Program, at the National University of Singapore. She has been the President of Japanese Language Teachers' Association in Singapore since 2003. She has continuously received the “Teaching Excellence Award” from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the University since 2005. She also awarded a National Day Commendation Medal from the Ministry of Education of Singapore in 2019.

The seminar will be conducted in Japanese.

For more information, please visit our website and Facebook at

www.jfkl.org.my/events/2019-2020-malaysia-japanese-language-education-seminar/

NEWLY LAUNCHED PROGRAM: SAMA-SAMA TADOKU

“TADOKU” means “Extensive Reading” in Japanese. In contrast to “intensive reading” which requires learners to read in detail with specific learning goals and tasks, “extensive reading” or “TADOKU” involves reading texts for enjoyment and to develop general reading skills.

To foster the interest in reading Japanese books among the Japanese language learners in Malaysia, The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) has been implementing a monthly “TADOKU Salon” for the past few months and this program has been a great success. Hence, we have decided to take a step further to raise the awareness of “TADOKU” activity among the Japanese language teachers in Malaysia, and launched a new program named “Sama-sama TADOKU” (“sama-sama” means “together” in Malay) to help interested Japanese language teachers. Through this program, our Japanese language specialists will provide a hands-on demonstration on how to facilitate the “TADOKU” program successfully.

On the 20th of September, 10 students from the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya participated in our first “Sama-sama TADOKU” program. We would like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to Dr. Wong Ngan Ling from the said faculty for participating with her students. After observing how the reading session and book-talk session were conducted, Dr. Wong gained a better understanding of “TADOKU” and expressed interest to implement “TADOKU” at her university.

“Sama-sama TADOKU” is open for application to all Japanese language teachers in Malaysia. Teachers who are interested must participate together with their students (ranging from 10-50 students). The program will be held at JFKL and the duration is about two hours. All “TADOKU” reading materials will be prepared by JFKL.

For more information, please refer to our website:

<https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/tadoku#teachers>



Reading Session: The students were given time to relax and immerse in the world of interesting books.



Book-talk Session: They shared about their favourite books with their friends.



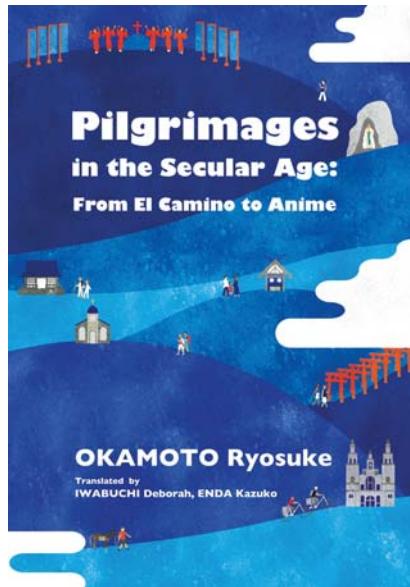
LIBRARY



A Visual Guide to Annual Events in Japan

TAKANO Noriko / Translated by MATANO Reiko, Margaret Breer /
Ehon House Publishing 2016 / Library Call No. 386.1TAK

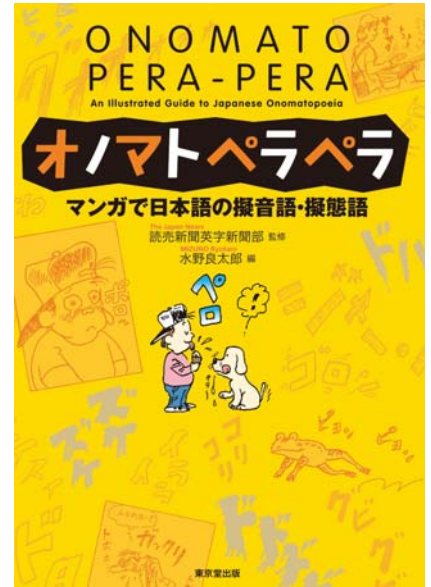
Lovely animals in this illustrated book guide readers to the traditions and customs of everyday life in Japan through annual events. It contains copious amount of useful information and the explanations are enjoyable and makes it easy to understand about Japanese culture. The original book (Japanese version) is also available in the library.



Pilgrimages in the Secular Age: From El Camino to Anime

OKAMOTO Ryosuke / Translated by IWABUCHI Deborah, ENDA Kazuko /
Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture (JPIC) 2019 /
Library Call No. 291OKA

What sort of place comes to mind when you hear the words "sacred site" and "pilgrimage"? Have you had a trip that combines visits to hot springs with visits to power-spot shrines? Holy sites were of immense importance to those who followed a particular religion, and these places used to attract many faithful pilgrims. However, nowadays holy places are full of tourists without faith. The author is investigating the link between tourism and religion and how the two influences each other in modern society. This book discusses how pilgrimage and tourism have merged and what new possibilities have been created for both religious pilgrimage and secular tourism, exploring many case studies from the pilgrimage to Santiago, Spain, designated as a World Heritage site to Jorinji Temple which has become a sacred spot among anime fans thanks to a popular anime.



ONOMATO PERA-PERA: An Illustrated Guide to Japanese Onomatopoeia: オノマトペラペラ マンガで日本語の擬音語・擬態語

MIZUNO Ryotaro, The Japan News / Tokyodoshuppan 2015 /
Bilingual: English, Japanese/ Library Call No. 814.35T

「ウキウキ」「サクサク」「シトシト」...Have you ever been puzzled hearing Japanese onomatopoeias? Onomatopoeias are one of the difficult expressions for Japanese language learners.

This book describes the fascination of Japanese onomatopoeias in manga scenes. Japanese people often use onomatopoeias in everyday life. They are used as effective explanations of the circumstances and express playful feelings but it is difficult to translate clearly into a foreign language because a lot of them are associated with culture and customs peculiar to Japanese history and tradition. The manga in this book will help you understand its usage perfectly and help you enjoy learning about rich and interesting Japanese onomatopoeias.

CHANGE TO OUR CURRENT LIBRARY SERVICE

After much consideration, we are pleased to inform that the JFKL membership and book lending service for certain books* will be continued from April 2020 onwards. However, there will be changes in our library services effective from 1 April 2020. For further details, please visit our website at www.jfkl.org.my/library/.

*Subject to terms and conditions

New Year, New Volunteers!

The 6th Batch Nihongo Partners is Coming to Town for 2020.

Reported by Shahrul Fatehah Nor Basha (JFKL)



(Awak Berasal Dari Mana) Malay language Practice

Since its commencement in Malaysia in 2015, the 6th batch of Japanese native volunteers will be arriving in Malaysia this year for Nihongo Partners Programme. The initial target of this programme was to send at least 130 volunteers to secondary schools that offer Japanese language classes to Malaysian students. Remarkably, the program has exceeded its goal with this year's dispatch of another 25 Nihongo Partners (NPs) to the 11 states and Federal Territories consisting of Kedah, Penang, Kelantan, Pahang, Perak, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Kuala Lumpur, Johor and Sarawak, resulting in a total of 135 volunteers.

The role of these NPs in schools is to assist in Japanese language classes by sharing the beauty of the language and culture. Aside from an active supporting duty at these schools, they also act as mini ambassadors of Japan especially since the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics 2020 are just around the

corner. Several schools which had hosted an NP in the past have requested to host again this term, because of the positive changes they saw in the school and students. The local counterpart teachers are also excited to work with the NPs, regardless of whether it is for the first or second time.

For some of the NPs, this will be their first time being in Malaysia for a long duration. Therefore, to help them understand about this country, the NPs underwent a one-month training at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai, where they were introduced to several topics to help navigate their daily lives in Malaysia. One of the classes during this training was introduction to basic Malay language. They were also touched on Malaysian history and culture aside from teaching assistant related courses such as team-teaching and pedagogy of Japanese language. The NPs were given homeworks on topics like "How to Introduce Your Hometown in Simple Japanese", presentations and group tasks.

The NPs are having mixed feeling as they are waiting for their departure to Malaysia, some feeling nervous while others are excited. Most of them are looking forward to taking this opportunity to gain more knowledge and experience in promoting Japanese language and culture while helping our local Japanese teachers in the classroom.



One of NP's Self-introduction during the training in Kansai



One of the Sensei in KC providing consultation to NP during group discussion

The NPs are expected to arrive in Malaysia in early February 2020 and will undergo a two-week orientation in Kuala Lumpur. During this post-arrival orientation, they will finally be introduced to their counterpart teachers for the first time in an ice-breaking session. The purpose of this orientation is to equip them with more knowledge about the basis of Japanese language education in Malaysia as well as the local customs which will guide their nine-month stay until mid-October 2020.

2019 Japanese Skit Contest

Reported by Hasline Hamid (JFKL)



We are pleased to report that The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur has successfully organized the 2019 Japanese Skit Contest with the theme '中'. Congratulations to all the winners and participants for their enthusiastic response and efforts in their skits production.

This year's contest was open to all Japanese language learners in Malaysia who were 17 years old and above and currently learning Japanese either at college, university, preparatory centers, language centers or any educational institutions. The skit was produced by a team of not more than ten (10) members, including both casts and crews. By allowing participants to submit their works through YouTube, the contest has made it easier for students to participate irrespective of where they are.

This year we have received many applications and most of them are very creative and of high quality, thus making the competition very keen and our task difficult this year. We have shortlisted 6 finalists' team videos which have passed the preliminary screening. The Final Judge Screening was shown through Live streaming via Zoom 2-way online interaction application on 23rd November 2019 (Saturday) which allowed anyone to watch and join through their desktop, laptop, smartphone, tablet etc.

The contest outline, the results and the winning Finalist teams' skits can also be viewed via URL links on JFKL website. <https://www.jfkl.org.my/events/2019-skit-contest/>

RESULT:-

1st Prize: "心の中 In One's Heart"

Tsukigawa Team (MARA Japan Industrial Institute)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXHLep8Zd4&feature=youtu.be>

2nd Prize: "中君(あたるくん) Ataru Kun"

PMJFS Team (Perak-Malaysian Japanese Friendship Society)

<https://youtu.be/ZrvEQ83BOJ8>

3rd Prize: "中がいっぱい It's full of "Chuu" "

Origami Team (Sarawak Japan Friendship Club)

<https://youtu.be/6PVgGWcShpA>

4th Prize: "心の願い Wish of Heart"

Kokoro no Negai Team (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu)

<https://youtu.be/94kszhCSs8k>

5th Prize: "教室の中 Inside the Classroom "

G2 UMT Team (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu)

<https://youtu.be/TNRPcydFTBg>

6th Prize: "mono to no aida no baransu (chuyou) Ordinary is extraordinary"

Black Black Heart Team (Universiti Tun Hussien Onn Malaysia)

<https://youtu.be/pOWQzMVmmMI>

The skits of other participants can also be viewed via URL links as follows (in alphabetical order):-

"咲く花火 Blooming Firework"

咲く花火 Team (Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia)

<https://youtu.be/3n-0tv9olzE>

"心の中 In The Heart"

Kokoro Team (Malaysia Japan Higher Education Programme)

<https://youtu.be/J9sf4pbifHQ>

"内面の美しさ Naimen no utsukushisa (Inner Beauty)"

Gostan Team (Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Bahasa Antarabangsa)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHMn4yL4bIM>

"奇妙な中村と田中は私の友達です The strange Tanaka and Nakamura is my friend"

UMTIANS Team (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu)

https://youtu.be/ECjAXhw_vlw

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to each and every one of the following Sponsors, Supporter and Organizers who have very generously contributed among others, amazing prizes for our 2019 Japanese Skit Contest. We are incredibly thankful for their continuous generous contributions.

Sponsored by:

Panasonic KOKUYO



Organized by:



Supported by:



The Japanese Consulate of Trade & Industry, Malaysia

JFKL Visit Recap 2019

Reported by Rafaad Roslan (JFKL)

We have received many wonderful visits in the past year, and we have been blessed with numerous moments that gave us new perspectives on Japanese language learners in this country, as well as the progressive and awe-aspiring milieu signifying all its blessings. As 2020 unfolds, we are also ready to welcome more visits in the Year of the Rat. We would like to thank everyone for connecting with us, and sincerely appreciate the time you spent visiting our foundation.

We hope that the network we have built will continue to flourish and that all of you would act as a bridge of good relations for the future of Japan and Malaysia alike.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the visitors in 2019, and look forward to more visits in 2020!



What is the JFKL Visit?

The JFKL Visit is open to any schools or institutes interested in Japanese Language Studies and Japan Cultural Activities.

We accept visits from Tuesday to Thursday. A duration of 2 hours required for each visit and a maximum participant of 40 per visit. No payments are required.

We are still open for visits from February 2020 onwards.

For further details please contact, Mr. Rafaad at rafaad@jfkf.org.my or 03 2284 7228.

ITO Hiromi in Malaysia

Reported by Muhammad Nazreen (JFKL)



Ms. Ito during the reading session at GTLF



The panellist during "Women Writing the Body" at GTLF



Ms. Ito during "Public Talk - Life of ITO Hiromi" at Kinokuniya KLCC



After the Public Talk at Kinokuniya KLCC

Ms. ITO Hiromi, one of the most prominent poets and writers of Japan, has graced the ever growing George Town Literary Festival (GLTF) 2019 in Penang held from 21 to 24 November. She shared with the audience her writings during the reading session on 22 November and talked about her life and appealed her view of life. In the discussion titled "Women Writing the Body" on 23 November, she sat down together with Ameena Hussein, Kim Yideum, Regina Ibrahim with moderator Dina Zaman and discussed about their views about ambivalence, obsession and also social problems related to female including sexuality and feminism.

Ameena Hussein is a Sri Lankan sociologist, writer and editor with her debut novel "The Moon in the Water" (2009) was long-listed for the first "Man Asian Literary Award" in 2007. She is co-founder of the Perera Hussein Publishing House, which publishes Sri Lankan fiction and non-fiction.

Kim Yideum on the other hand has published six books of poetry, one novel, and two essays in Korean. Her poetry has garnered awards and honours including the "Poetry & the World Literary Award" (2010), the "22nd Century Literary Award" (2015) and the "Kim Chunsoo Award" (2015) and she is currently teaching at Gyeongsang National University.

Regina Ibrahim is an author and holistic artiste based in Penang with a strong passion for freedom of expression and transparency in storytelling with works including "Perjalanan" (2014), "Noor: Memoir Seorang Transwoman" (2017) and "Manusia" (2018), a novel co-written with Fahmi Mustafa. She is currently training young writers online via Wattpad.

Festival Moderator Dina Zaman is a Malaysian writer and editor. Her works include "I Am Muslim" (2007) and "Holy Men, Holy Women: A Journey Into the Faiths of Malaysians and Other Essays" (2018). She translated her passion for writing about religion into co-founding IMAN Research, a think tank focusing on society, beliefs, and perception. She is currently the Director of Fundraising and Business Development at IMAN.



After GLTF, JFKL has invited Ms. ITO to Kuala Lumpur for "Public Talk: Life of ITO Hiromi – Family and Distance" at Books Kinokuniya, KLCC on 1 December. Ms. ITO who is well known in giving life advices as she has been writing for a life advice column in a local Japanese newspaper for more than 20 years, also gave honest yet empathetic responses to the various queries thrown by the audience during the "life consultation" session with topics surrounding her inspirations, life, belief, perception together and various interesting and intriguing questions during her sessions here in Malaysia.

We would like to thank everyone who has attended the events in both Penang and KL. We would also like to express our gratitude to Books Kinokuniya, KLCC especially as they offered great support for this event and everyone involved in making her visit to Malaysia a wonderful one.

ASIAN ELEVEN

Reported by Sultan Ibrahim (JFKL)



The teams after the friendly match

The Japan Foundation Asia Center and the Football Association of Thailand recently organised "The Japan Foundation Bangkok Cup", an international friendly football match between "ASIAN ELEVEN" and U-16 Thailand National Team in Bangkok, Thailand on 3 November 2019 as part of "Asia in Resonance 2019" programme.

The selected players from Malaysia were Mohammad Marwan bin Abdul Rahman as central defender and Ziad El Basheer bin Norhisham as left forward position from Mokhtar Dahari National Football Academy (AMD).

This project was held with hopes to further provide leadership and character building opportunities for young football players in Southeast Asian countries and Japan, bring together a team that is harmonious and capable of teamwork while grooming and enhancing mutual understanding from different backgrounds and culture. In addition, this event is organised in the occasion of Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting, symbolising the unity of Southeast Asian countries and growing friendship with Japan.

The ASIAN ELEVEN team consists of talented U-16 players from Southeast Asian countries and Japan. The manager of ASIAN ELEVEN, Mr. KOGA Takuma, was also involved in "JapaFunCup" held earlier in June 2019 with Mr. Robin Chitrakar from Singapore as head coach, Mr. Nino Datoy from the Philippines as goalkeeper coach and Mr. OHARA Kazunori as team manager from the Football Federation of Cambodia. Mr. Mail Tanjong from the National Football Association of Brunei Darussalam also joined to assist ASIAN ELEVEN in Thailand.

The programme started with a training camp from 26 October to 2 November 2019. Before the international friendly match, several cultural exchange programmes were held in order to let the players interact with Thai people and experience their culture. The team also had a practice match against a local football team on the 5th day of their training camp before their actual friendly game.

The ASIAN ELEVEN team won 2-1 in a practice match against Thai Beverage, a Thai young football team. The practice match was a crucial input for team in identifying and rectifying the problems with the defence. They then focused on the training to improve their game on the following day.

During the actual friendly match on 3 November, the team and coaching staff had a final tactical meeting after lunch. The team's tactics and movements in the game were demonstrated on the screen by using a video animation technology created by the coaching staffs. On the first half of the match, the U-16 Thailand national team managed to score the first goal in the 4th minute through a header shot followed by their second goal in the 28th minute and finished the first half with a 2-0 lead.

Over 300 spectators including local football fans and Japanese people residing in Thailand watched the game.

During the second half, ASIAN ELEVEN's Vietnamese player, Do Van Chi made a stunning goal from a free kick with his left foot in the 50th minute. The ASIAN ELEVEN team did not take much time to equalize with Singaporean player, Zakaria Syari bin Aidit who scored another goal in the 53rd minute. Mohammad Marwan played as a captain and his leadership have inspired other players both on and off the pitch.

The match went into a penalty shootout after 2-2 stalemate into the final whistle. In the shootout, Indonesian goalkeeper Dimas Maulana made outstanding saves from three penalty kicks taken by the opponent team. Eventually, ASIAN ELEVEN won the JFB Cup after the penalty shootout with a final score of 4-1.

Despite of the difficulties in communicating due to diverse cultural backgrounds, the team bonded well through playing football together and living together under the same roof for an extended period of time. The players selected have showed great character and generosity for acknowledging other players from different countries and cultures. The unity of the team and exemplary sportsmanship of the players are manifested in ASIAN ELEVEN's team performance.

On their last day in Bangkok, the players and coaching staffs were brought around for sightseeing in Bangkok. Big thanks to Football Association of Malaysia (FAM)'s significant cooperation for forming the Southeast Asian selection team "ASIAN ELEVEN".



During one of the cultural exchange program



ASIAN ELEVEN players during the practice session



The ASIAN ELEVEN team



3D Origami

Reported by Muhammad Nazreen (JFKL)



Prof. Dr. MITANI Jun from the computer science department at the Graduate School of Systems and Information Engineering, University of Tsukuba visited Malaysia from 10 to 17 November as a Japan Cultural Envoy of the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan to conduct the “3D Origami Lecture and Workshop”.

Prof. MITANI, whose expertise is computational geometry, began exploring the field of 3D Origami as he was interested in designing three-dimensional geometry with certain constraints during the creation process. In 3D Origami, he combines various folding methods such as multiple folds, where a regular pattern is folded repeatedly, and curved folds to create shapes that were not possible in traditional origami. The name '3D origami' is given to distinguish his computer based origami design from traditional Japanese origami. Whereas most traditional origami produces flat works, 3D origami has special folds and curved surfaces.

According to Prof. MITANI, origami has the potential to be applied in many different industries such as when a product has to be created from a single sheet of material, or it needs to be folded into a smaller size. His unique origami designs have attracted attention from different disciplines, and has collaborated with designers of fashion, lampshade, and department store show window among others. He also helped design the Player of the Match trophy for the Rugby World Cup 2019.

During his visit to Malaysia, he successfully conducted a lecture and workshop at Penang Science Cluster and School of Computer Science, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) in Penang. In KL, the lecture and workshop were carried out at Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT), UTM and as well as Sunway University, Subang Jaya.

Un Yamada x Kelantanese Traditional Music Collaboration

Reported by TANJI Haruka (JFKL)



The showcase, "Blessing of Life," was presented by Un Yamada, a Japanese contemporary dancer with an ensemble of traditional musicians from Kelantan on 26 and 27 October at BlackBox, National Academy of Arts and Culture (ASWARA). It was organized by the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with ASWARA. The musicians involved were Mat Din Hussin, Salihin Bin Azman and Ahmad Ridwan Hussin.

Yamada started off the project by meeting Eddin Khoo, the founder of PUSAKA to gain basic knowledge about traditional performing arts in Malaysia, especially about Main Puteri, which was the main focus in this collaboration.

"I got interested in Main Puteri because of its relationship with disease. I started dancing when I got an incurable disease when I was 14," said Yamada while sharing about her rheumatic disease. "Without the disease, I would not have started dancing. Without dancing, I would have been defeated by the disease. Until now, my relationship with the 'disease' has continued and it is the theme of my life. I feel like I am coming back to my origin by working on this showcase," said Yamada before the start of the project.

Their method of rehearsing was through multiple rehearsal sessions, sharing of experiences, and further discussions on how to proceed. Kamarul Baisah Hussin, the music director, and Zamzuriah Zahari, the project coordinator, took Yamada to their hometown in Kelantan for her to see and experience Main Puteri and study how the tradition has continued till today, which in turn contributed greatly to their creation.

"This was a very meaningful experience through various processes that incorporated different cultures, religions and ways of life," shared Zamzuriah.

"As a music director, I tried my very best to understand and adapt Kelantan's musical elements to Un Yamada's movements. It was challenging but we managed to find comfort in Un Yamada and her choreography," said Kamarul Baisah Hussin.

"This showcase is composed of 2 different cultures, the traditions of Kelantan and Japan combined with some elements of *Main Puteri* such as dialogues, singing dialogues, physicality of the patient with disease, physical sensation of shamanic possession by another spirit, and movements reminiscent of being in a trance. Throughout this work in progress, I thought about how I could transform 'tradition' and 'presentness' and the freshest and purest place to land. This has been my assignment, as well as a big question to myself," said Yamada.

The process of the creation was, for both musicians and Yamada, a struggle with the fear of ruining something crucial in a tradition but also full of joy and excitement.

After requests from people from various fields, Yamada is now preparing for an event to share this collaboration in Japan.

Natural Dye

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)



View of the exhibition

Following the 2 successful exhibitions “BATIK: EXPLORING NATURAL DYES” (May, 2017) and “BATIK: FROM SEED TO TEXTILE” (March, 2019), The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur presents a new exhibition showcasing selected works from the said 2 previous exhibitions created by Kuala Lumpur Natural Dye (KLND) and Natural Indigo Lab & Atelier (NILA). The exhibition this time around is simply titled “Natural Dye Exhibition” and co-organized by Yayasan Warisan Johor and Think City, happening at Galeri Tenun Johor, Johor Bahru from 1 December, 2019 until 26 February, 2020.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a natural dye workshop was held on 1 December at Galeri Tenun with 20 participants with various backgrounds from batik designers to art teachers and craftsmen. The workshop started with a short lecture as introduction to natural dye and the practical workshop which introduced dyeing methods using indigo vat for blue and dyeing liquid made of boiled mango leaves for yellow, then the combination of indigo and mango for green.

We would like to express our deepest condolences to the craftsmen at Somenotsukasa Yoshioka in Kyoto and the family of the late Sachio Yoshioka, a natural dye master who passed away on 30 September. Our natural dye project all started with his exhibition back in 2014 and his kind guidance and support made us possible to come this far in the last 5 years. We sincerely hope that his knowledge will continue to be shared with more Malaysian dyers in the future.

Venue : Galeri Tenun Johor
Kompleks Warisan Sultan Abu Bakar,
Lot 888, Jalan Sungai Chat,
80100 Johor Bahru, Johor

Duration : 1 December 2019 – 26 February 2020

Opening Hours : 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM (Sun-Wed)
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM (Thu)
Closed on Friday and Saturday, and
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM (Sun-Thu)

Admission : Free



Indigo batik works on display



Washing the cloth after dyeing it in the indigo vat



Dyeing in the liquid made with mango leaves



Participants of the workshop

Although I am no stranger in this field of work, I still think that bridging two cultures of two nations is certainly a challenging task!

But I am committed in contributing to the development of Japanese language education for both Malaysia and Japan. To Japan Foundation, thank you very much for entrusting me with this responsibility.

I was greeted with a warm welcome from my colleagues and many familiar faces in this field, especially our local Japanese language teachers in secondary schools and universities, and also the officers in the Ministry of Education, Malaysia. I am very pleased too, to see some fresh faces of talented and dedicated young Malaysians in the office!

Not to forget, the Japanese counterparts who are more than willing to assist Malaysians in exploring Japanese language and culture. Hand in hand with all of you, I have every confidence that we will persevere and deliver.

And a special shout out for Mr. Edward Lee for his years of hard work and commitment - thank you very much! I am sure your contribution doesn't end here with your retirement.

So God willing, let me take this challenging, exciting and most importantly necessary journey to serve the nation as a grateful Malaysian who loves cultures and languages, and as someone who believes in the importance of education!

Nur Diyana Abdul Rahman
Japanese Language Department



I was asked by a newly arrived Japanese diplomat who had heard I was a 'famous figure' in Japanese language education in Malaysia, "What are you famous for?" Till today I still do not have an answer, but it has made me reflect on my passion.

"Is there a future in Japanese language education in Malaysia?" I once asked the deputy director of Japan Foundation who answered "Our Japanese Language Centre is starting next year. Join us and together we shall find out." That was 1994 and I have worked feverishly for the answer.

During my time, I was much inspired by Malaysian teachers, especially from secondary schools, many who became close friends. They said, "We do not only teach our students Japanese but also educate them." I have held fast to this ideal emphasizing on personal development as being equally important as enhancing understanding and appreciation for Japanese language and culture.

"Is there still a future for Japanese language education?" I pondered again on my retirement. A week before, two local staff from the Bangkok and Jakarta office stayed at my house. We had a wonderful 4 days sharing our past, cooking, eating, visiting Ipoh as well as reading a book together! The strange thing was... we did everything in Japanese! 3 non-Japanese in a non-Japanese environment speaking and thinking in Japanese! We even forgot in Japanese, saying 「あれ、あれ!」、「あのひと!」。As my ASEAN friends showed, I think the future lies in the language's globalization.

I have been indebted to countless people and institutions while at JFKL. No words could adequately express my gratitude but 「長い間、本当にお世話になりました。」. I sincerely hope that everyone will continue to cooperate and work together, for a better future through Japanese language education.

Edward Lee Chee Peng
Japanese Language Department

JFKL Holiday Notice:

Office:

1 – 3 January - New Year Holiday
27 January - Chinese New Year
24 February - Emperor's Birthday

Library:

1 – 3 January - New Year Holiday
24 – 27 January - Chinese New Year
1 February - Federal Territory Day
8 February - Thaipusam

24 February - Emperor's Birthday
1 – 31 March - Temporarily Closed for Renovation



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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JFKL membership is available upon application*. Membership fee is RM10 per year.

*Please refer to footnote on page 7.

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