JAPAN FOUNDATION KUALA LUMPUR BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Photo of Tugu Station, Jogjakarta by Mahen Bala, The Asia Center Fellow (FY 2019). Full report on page 8.





### "The 17th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia" in 2020 goes ONLINE and is currently calling for proceeding paper submission

In line with the "New Normal" practice due to the spread of the newly discovered coronavirus (Covid-19), the organizers of "The 17th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia" have decided to conduct this yearly conference via ONLINE platforms this year. As a result, participants will need to have an internet connection and a device such as personal computer, tablet or smartphone with audio and video capabilities. Registration for participation will start early August.



The programs and the platforms to be used are as follows:-

Program Title	Via the Online Platform	Date
Keynote Lecture	ZOOM (online conferencing platform)	Live on the conference day (Oct. 3)
Oral Presentation	ZOOM (online conferencing platform)	Live on the conference day (Oct. 3)
Poster Presentation (in pre-recorded video)	YouTube (video sharing platform)	Accessible only by conference applicants from September 25 onwards (Q&A and comment exchange using comment function)

\* Please note that "Teachers' Corner" and the conference dinner will not be conducted this year.

#### [Keynote Lecture]

This year, the keynote lecture will be addressed by Professor YAMADA Tomohisa of Hokkaido University, a specialist on ICT (Information and Communication Technology) for Japanese language education. We are currently working closely with Professor YAMADA to make this online keynote lecture meaningful and attractive for the participants. More details regarding the keynote lecture will be released on the conference official website in August.

#### [Call for Presenters!!]

Oral Presentation (via Zoom) and Poster Presentation (via pre-recorded video)

The organisers are calling for the submission of proceeding paper for both oral and poster presentations. Since this is the first time that the conference will be conducted ONLINE, those who are interested to present must submit their proceeding papers for screening after reading the "submission guidelines" thoroughly and understanding the changes made to this year's conference in terms of "how the online presentation will be carried out?", "what are the required documents to submit for screening?", "when is the due date of submission?", etc.

\* Closing date for submission is August 14, 2020 (Friday) at 12:00p.m. (Noon). Late submissions will not be accepted.



Currently, the whole world is facing unprecedented changes and challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We, the organizers of this conference, are in the same shoes. After much consideration and countless discussions, we have decided to extend our horizon by trying to bring this conference ONLINE this year. As one of the organisers, the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) is dedicated and trying our best to provide support to every teacher and researcher in the field of Japanese language education in Malaysia, as well as those overseas. By deciding to organise this conference, we hope the participants will enjoy this virtual space of sharing and discussion.

More information will be released on the conference official website soon. To keep yourself updated, please bookmark our conference website and check it regularly or stay tuned to our Facebook!

We can't wait to receive your paper submission and see you ONLINE!



## JFKL ONLINE COURSE: ELEMENTARY 1 & ELEMENTARY 2 MARUGOTO A2-1 & MARUGOTO A2-3

### (KATSUDOO & RIKAI)

# TUTOR SUPPORT ONLINE COURSE



# I WANT TO LEARN JAPANESE, BUT...

- I don't have time to attend classes!
- I can't find any Japanese language school in my neighbourhood!
- No classroom-based courses at the moment due to Covid-19!
- I want to practice social distancing at the same time!



### COME JOIN OUR ONLINE COURSE "MARUGOTO TUTOR SUPPORT COURSE"

THESE COURSES ARE NOT FOR BEGINNERS. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND YOU TO TAKE THE "TEST FOR COURSE RECOMMENDATION" FOR LEVEL CHECKING BEFORE APPLYING TO THE COURSE: <u>https://www.marugoto-online.jp/info/level\_check\_test/?lang=eng</u>

### NO WORRIES! WE HAVE A SOLUTION FOR YOU!

Join JFKL ONLINE COURSE and you can:

- Study anytime and anywhere you want ONLINE
- Have your assignments checked by your tutors ONLINE
  Take ONLINE live lessons with
- Take ONLINE live lessons with your tutors
- Interact with your classmates ONLINE



### **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Level	Course Names on Minato Course Duration Number of		Number of Live Lessons	umber of Live Lessons Day & Time of Live Lessons (Choose only one)		
Elementary 1	Marugoto A2-1 (Katsudoo & Rikai) Tutor Support Course	31 July 2020 - 4 November 2020	11 (+ oral test)	Wednesday	18:45-19:30 (Class 1)	165
					20:00-20:45 (Class 2)	
				Friday	20:00-20:45 (Class 3)	
Elementary 2	Marugoto A2-3 (Katsudoo & Rikai) Tutor Support Course	25 July 2020 - 29 October 2020	11 (+ oral test)	Tuesday	18:45-19:30 (Class 1)	165
					20:00-20:45 (Class 2)	
				Thursday	20:00-20:45 (Class 3)	

# HOW TO REGISTER?



REGISTRATION PERIOD: 1JULY - 14 JULY 2020

#### STEP 1 STEP 2 **STEP 3 STEP 4** SIGN UP AT MINATO WEBSITE WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION **REGISTER HERE:** MAKE PAYMENT A2-1 https://minato-jf.jp/ Via E-mail from https://bit.ly/2ZoO5ka SIGN UP TUTORIAL Through JFKL https://bit.lv/2mk132H A2-3 iPay88 https://bit.ly/2NMOS97

The selection of students will be based on certain selection criteria instead of first-come-first-served basis.

## **ABOUT THE ONLINE COURSE**

These courses will be conducted by using MARUGOTO A2-1 & MARUGOTO A2-3 (Katsudoo & Rikai) as the main learning materials through "JF Japanese e-Learning Platform: Minato". You need to sign-up for "Minato" first before registering\*. Signing up for "Minato" is FREE OF CHARGE! Through the course, you can self-study online while receiving regular support from a tutor.

There are three types of lessons offered in these courses.

- 11 live lessons
- 1 oral test
- Assignment correction: A2-1 (12 times), A2-3 (14 times)

FACEBOOK URL: https://www.facebook.com/theJapanFoundationKL \*Please refer to the procedure above

# New Course Released on Minato: "Hirogaru Nihongo A2 Vol.2 Self-Study Course"

"Hirogaru Nihongo A2 Vol. 2 Self-Study Course" is a FREE self-study course featured on Minato, an e-learning platform created by The Japan Foundation. "Hirogaru" in Japanese means "to spread" or "to widen". In line with the course name, this course is meant for those who wish to widen their knowledge regarding Japanese language and culture.

By taking this course, you will get to know more about Japan on various topics by reading and listening to related information in Japanese, as well as learn a lot of new Japanese vocabulary and Kanji related to Japanese culture through videos and articles on specific topics.





This course is tailored specifically for the beginner learners (JF-Standard A2 level). However, advanced learners (JF Standard B level) will also find this course enjoyable because it covers some interesting topics which you could not learn from text books such as "Sweets", "*Shodo*", "*Anime/Manga*", "Book/Library", "Music" and "Star/Night Sky". For your information, other topics such as "Tea/Café", "Outdoor", "Aquarium", "Supermarket/Market", "Temple/Shrine" and "Martial Arts" are covered in Vol. 1 of this course. If you are interested in any of the topics, do check out "Hirogaru Nihongo A2 Vol. 1 Self-Study Course" on Minato as well (URL is provided below)!

It is very simple to complete the course. You only have to choose at least 3 topics which you are interested in and go through the learning materials. For each topic, there are several questions and fun quizzes to check on your understanding. You can relax and learn at your own pace, without any pressure at all! Furthermore, you can also communicate with students from all around the world via the group page by postings comments with each other. Learners will also get a digital certificate once they finish the course.

This course is a very good channel for Japanese language teachers who wish to expose their students to more Japanese culture and Japanese society. Also, it will serve as a productive extra assignment for students to make your course more fun and fruitful by asking your students to take the course and print out the digital certificate as proof of completion to earn points for their assignments! Please make use of this self-study course innovatively and encourage your students to take the course (for FREE!). To register for the course, they will have to sign up for Minato at https://minato-jf.jp/ (Again, it's FREE!).

In a nutshell, "Hirogaru Nihongo A2 Self-Study Course" is a course for you to experience Japan and the Japanese language through things that interests you. Start your journey of learning Japanese language and culture with Japan Foundation today! For more details about "Hirogaru" courses, please refer to the URLs or QR Codes below:-

#### [NEW!]

"Hirogaru" Vol.2: https://minato-jf.jp/CourseDetail/Index/KL20\_HRNS\_A202\_EN01 "Hirogaru" Vol.1: https://minato-jf.jp/CourseDetail/Index/KL20\_HRNS\_A201\_EN01





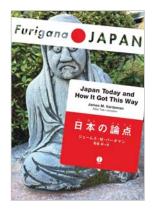












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#### Furigana JAPAN -日本の論点 Japan Today and How It Got This Way

By James M. Vardaman, Tae AIBA (Translated) / Publisher: IBC Publishing 2017 / Library Call No.817.5T

"Furigana JAPAN" is a new reader series for Japanese language learners who would like to improve to a more advanced level and learn about Japan while reading through materials on various topics such as Japanese culture, customs and current social issues. Furigana (phonetic reading) is on every single Kanji. The Japanese text, English translation and word list are all on the same page so you do not have to consult any other reference materials.

In this series, the following titles are also available in the library!

#### -Furigana JAPAN series-

[ニッポンのしきたり Customs of Japan]

旧本人のこころ Heart & Soul of the Japanese]

[現代日本の暮らし Q&A Everything You Should Know about the Life of Modern Japan Q&A]

#### 新・わくわく文法リスニング100 - 耳で学ぶ日本語 - 1,2

By Noriko KOBAYASHI / Publisher: Bonjinsha Inc. 2017 / Library Call No.815T

Learning grammar with your ears! This exercise book is a revised edition of a long seller わくわく文法リスニング99 which was published in 1995 as a teaching material for practicing grammar with listening. Learners will be able to deepen their understanding of the rules of Japanese grammar while they listen carefully to the short conversations that are often used in a daily life at natural speed. Part 1 is suitable for N4 and N5 learners and Part2 is for N4 and above.

#### **Killing Commendatore**

By Haruki MURAKAMI, Philip Gabriel and Ted Goossen (Translated) / Publisher: Vintage 2019 / Library Call No.895.635MUR

The long awaited new novel for HARUKIST is here!

When a thirty-something portrait painter is abandoned by his wife, he holes up in the mountain home of a famous artist. The days drift by, spent painting, listening to music and drinking whiskey in the evenings. But then he discovers a strange painting in the attic and unintentionally begins a journey of self-discovery that involves a mysterious ringing bell.

We all live our lives carrying secrets we cannot disclose.

The mystery of romantic love, loneliness, war and art...Murakami's unique and addictive fictional universe keeps readers hooked.

#### 君の名は。Your Name. (Bilingual version) 1 - 3

By Makoto SHINKAI, Kotone Ranmaru (Comics), Taylor Engel (Translated) / Publisher: KADOKAWA 2018 / Library Call No.726.1

Makoto SHINKAI is a Japanese animator and filmmaker who is best known for directing Your Name, the highest-grossing anime film in both Japan and abroad .

Having suddenly switched places one night, Mitsuha wakes up in Taki's body, and he in hers. This bizarre occurrence continues to happen randomly. The two must adjust their lives around each other and then, they build a connection and communicate by leaving notes and messages.

Containing emotional and beautiful elements of entertainment, this stunning story will never disappoint the reader's expectations.

Lots more new arrivals are available in the library! Please come and visit JFKL Library once we resume our operation. #STAYHOME #STAYSAFE See you soon!



#### LIBRARY NOTICE

After much consideration, we are pleased to inform you that **JFKL library membership and book lending service for certain books will be continued from 1 April 2020** onwards.

However, due to the current situation with COVID-19, our library will be closed until further notice. Please stay tuned for further notice regarding the timing of the re-opening on our Facebook page and website.

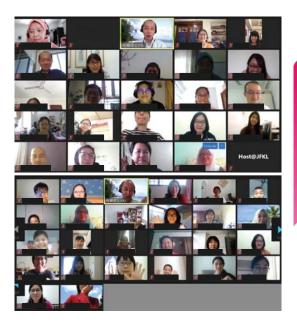
# Online Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers: "How to Make Online Lessons More Active"

Reported by SATO Osamu (JFKL)

Due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) issued by the government to curb the COVID-19 pandemic, teachers have had to start conducting online lessons out of the blue. We understood that many Japanese language teachers are facing difficulties adjusting to the situation, and they needed to know the fundamental framework to kick-starting their very own online Japanese language lessons.

In response to this, a Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese language teachers in Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore entitled "How to make online lessons more active" was organised by JFKL via the video-conferencing platform, ZOOM on 16 and 17 May (Sat & Sun). The workshop was initially supposed to take place on 16 May (Sat) only, but we decided to do a back-to-back rerun on 17 May (Sun) after receiving an overwhelming response where the number of participants was overfilled soon after the opening of the registration. The number of participants for both sessions was 53 people, consisting of Japanese language teachers from Malaysia and also Singapore.

In the workshop, the participants reflected on their own online lessons by discussing "What they teach online?", "How they teach online?", "What problems are they facing?", etc. By analyzing the teaching method and classifying the learning purpose, teachers were able to get a clearer image about the proper online tools, that were suited the three ways of learning mentioned below:-



# オンライン授業を活発にするには



(1) **Individual/self-learning**, which does not require the presence of a teacher. For example, student could practice self-learning through an online quiz, which will score their answers automatically and provide feedback on wrong answers.

(2) **Synchronous learning**, which refers to a learning event in which a group of students are engaged in learning at the same time. An example would be an interview activity in a live lesson where the teacher and students participate together using a web conference system such as Zoom Meetings or Cisco Webex Meetings. (3) **Asynchronous learning**, where the students learn the same material but at different times. An example is writing an essay and having it corrected by a teacher later. Usually a Learning Management System (LMS) like Google Classroom or Moodle is used for this as it enables the teacher to keep track of each student's progress easily.

Online teaching tools (web conferencing system, LMS, etc.) are designed to suit each learning purpose. Therefore, it is vital for teachers to choose a proper tool suited to the targeted purpose. For example, individual/self-learning is a good fit for lesson review where students do self-study before attending the lessons, while synchronous learning is suitable for conversation practice.

Apart from listening to the guidance by JFKL Chief Lecturer, Mr. SATO Osamu, this workshop also focused on small group discussions. The participants were divided into small groups (using the "Breakout Rooms" function in ZOOM Meetings) to discuss about issues such as the current situation and problems, as well as exchanging opinion and questioning each other. Through these discussion sessions, they were able to identify and find solutions to the problem that they are facing. Each participant had different backgrounds and different problems. Thus, the main purpose of this workshop was not to give a one-size-fits-all answer but to provide a virtual place for the participants to gather for discussions and find his/her own answer by listening to the insights of others.

From the feedback collected, we were glad to hear that the participants had a fruitful discussion with one another. On the other hand, we also learned that there are still many issues that need to be addressed regarding online lessons under the "New Normal". Hence, JFKL conducted a series of online discussion sessions in June to follow-up on some of the issues raised in this workshop. We are looking forward to meeting more Japanese language teachers. Hopefully, we will be able to ease the teachers' anxiety towards online lessons and help them become more confident in conducting them in the future.

# The 17th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools: Thank You for Your Support!

Reported by Nur Diyana Abdul Rahman (JFKL)

If I Have Magic (My Inner Voice)

もし魔法があったら

We received overwhelming submissions in February for our 17th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools – National Level (2020) which was initially scheduled to be held on 18th April 2020 at the Japan Club Kuala Lumpur (JCKL), co-organised with the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and Ministry of Education Malaysia (MoE). We offered 3 themes for the contestants to choose for their speech; Real Love, Revolution or My Inner Voice.

Together with MoE, we managed to conduct our initial screening and selected 21 contestants for the next stage. Unfortunately, due to CoVid-19, we were unable to proceed with this contest this year.

We would like to thank you for your submissions and hope you will continue to support this contest in the future. Here are the 21 contestants who were short-listed:

	AELIYA MASNIZA ANAK JAMEL SM Sains Kuching Friendship Needs Love (Real Love) 愛と友情		LOO QI YUAN SMK King Edward VII Believe in Yourself (My Inner Voice) 自分を信じて
E.	AISHA ZARIFAH BINTI NORDIN SBP Integrasi Selandar My Revolution Hero (Revolution) レヴュレションのヒロ	Contraction of the second seco	MOHAMMAD ATIQ ZUHAILI BIN AZIZ SM Sains Kuching The Beauty of True Love (Real Love) 本当の愛
	ALEEYA NATASHA BT AHMAD SHABERI SM Sains Kepala Batas Keep on Believing ~ My Inner Voice (My Inner Voice) キープ オン ビリービング 自分の声	<b>P</b>	MUHAMMAD ASRI BIN ZULKIFLI The Malay College Kuala Kangsar Incomplete Revolution (Revolution) 未完成の革命
	BATRISYIA HANICKY LEE ZHEN BT MOHD AZHARI ISMAIL LEE SMK Convent Klang The Fear in Me (My Inner Voice) 私の恐怖		NEW WEI JUN SMK Dato Sri Amar Diraja Real Love (Real Love) 真の愛
	CHAI YUNG ZHENG SMK Perimbun (Dynamic Vision Resources) Inner Revolution (Revolution) 内なる革命		NG YAN YI SMJK Sam Tet (Perak Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Society) My Inner Voice (My Inner Voice) 心の声
	COHEN RILEY ONG YU SMK Batu Lintang (Sarawak-Japan Friendship Club) Youths and Self Love (Real Love) 若者と自己愛		NORHAZIQ SHAHMI BIN MOHD NORHISHAM Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah Once and For All (Revolution) 一挙両得
	EFFAN HAZEEQ BIN ISKANDAR Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah You Can Do It If You Try (My Inner Voice) やればできる		<b>PATRICIA HON XIN JIE</b> Tsun Jin High School My Inner Voice - Save The World (My Inner Voice) 私の内なる声ー地球を救え
	<b>EMELIA CHARLES</b> SMK Putrajaya Presint 8(1) The Impacts of Listening to Our Inner Voice (My Inner Voice) 内なる声を聞くことの影響		SAYESHWARAYA SUBRAMANIAM SMK (P) Methodist Klang My Inner Demon (My Inner Voice) 「憎しみ」を乗り越えて
6	FAHIMA HUSNA BINTI TIPOL Kolej Datu Patinggi Abang Haji Abdillah Believe in Myself (My Inner Voice) 自分をしんじること		TAN KERRY SMK (P) Temenggong Ibrahim Listen to Your Heart (My Inner Voice) 自分の心の声を聞いてください
R	GILLIAN CHIN ZHIEN (Dynamic Vision Resources) "I Love You Because I Need You" (Real Love) 「愛してるよ、君が必要だから」		TEH YU QIAN SMJK Yok Bin (ISTIMEWA Japanese Language Centre) Please Appreciate the Person You Really Love (Real Love) 真愛する相手を大切にしてください
60	<b>LEE KAH SIAN</b> SMK Dato Sri Amar Diraja		

## Asia Center Fellowship Program

Written by Mahen Bala, The Asia Center Fellow (FY 2019) Fellowship Period in Indonesia is from 8 December 2019 – 8 February 2020



Passengers waiting for the train at Tugu Station, Jogjakarta.

Locomotives from various decades on display at the Ambarawa locomotive depot.

Passengers in a local train, which offers the most economical means of long-distance travelling in Java.

Mahen Bala is a visual artist and researcher based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He is currently working on researching the relationship between people and railway heritage in Java and Japan as part of the Japan Foundation Asia Center Fellowship Programme FY2019.

#### Longing and Belonging in Java

My project, titled *Longing and Belonging*, is primarily interested in understanding the relationship between people and railway heritage in contemporary Southeast Asia and Japan. For the first part of my research project, I was based in Java, Indonesia. The Dutch East Indies was the second country in Asia to establish rail transport, after India. The first line built by the Dutch began operations in 1867, connecting Semarang and Tanggung in Central Java. After independence, Indonesia nationalised the railways and continued to develop it, creating a system that continues to mobilise people, resources and cultures between the furthest points of the island.

To paint a portrait of Java and its railways, I had to see the land and meet her people. I travelled on crowded local trains, where people smiled at each other, sang songs, shared food and stories to pass the time. Some of them were going home, some were going to work, and some only wanted to enjoy the view of villages, towns, rivers and mountains of his own country.

At the **Ambarawa** Railway Museum I met a group of teachers. The refurbished old station building and steam locomotives reminded them of their childhood, and they hoped to share it with their young students. The railway station was built by the Dutch in 1873, and then converted into a museum in 1976. In **Semarang** I visited Kampung Spoorlaan, where I found remains of the first railway station in Indonesia, now hidden between houses. The station was built in 1864, and then demolished in 1914 to make way for the new Semarang station. In **Surabaya** I met Doraemon, Spongebob, Mickey Mouse, and a *pontianak*. They were dancing on the streets in the old quarter, between empty Dutch-era buildings.

In **Jember** I met a young barber. He was happy to meet someone whom he considered '*serumpun*', meaning we shared the same roots. I, as a Malaysian, and he, as an Indonesian. In **Banyuwangi** I visited a local coffeeshop for a cup of *kopi tubruk*, the local way of brewing coffee. During the Dutch colonial period, farmers were forced to plant coffee and sugarcane, which is why both coffee and sugar are still consumed widely by the Javanese. A cup of bitter history. In **Jakarta**, I met Pak Joko, Pak Girin, and Pak Subakhir. They were building a small playground next to the railway line, a safe space for the children who enjoy looking at passing trains. They call it Taman 007.

At an interactive workshop at the Indonesian Visual Arts Archive (IVAA) in **Jogjakarta**, I met participants who each came from different parts of Java. Together we drew a new map of Java, one that was based on personal memory, cultural icons, stereotypes and ambitions. Interestingly, the resulting map had no borders, but it did have a railway line, stitching together identity and histories from every corner of the island.

Two months of seeing, listening, and feeling has allowed me to understand how railway heritage empowers the Javanese to have a direct connection with their own past. Railway stations, museums, trains from different decades, all continue to play an important part in shaping the way the Javanese think about themselves and their nation.

Soon it was time to leave. I looked out the window of the airplane at Java for the last time. First I saw the city, then the mountains, and then the sea. I was on my way to Japan, floating high above a blanket of soft clouds. Who will I meet next, I wondered.

KTM nuter

Station

#### JFKL Holiday Notice: Office: The Gardens Mal B Library\*\*: 31 July - Hari Raya Aidiladha 31 July - Hari Raya Aidiladha 20 August - Awal Muharram 20 August - Awal Muharram Signature Offices 31 August - National Day Mid Valley **ENORTHPOINT** AFON hanhanaha JAPANFOUNDATION 国際交流基金 Pedestrian Bridge "TEMAN BARU" is distributed to JFKL members. JFKL membership is available upon application\*. Membership fee is RM10 per year. Please refer to footnote on page 5. \*\*Due to the current situation with COVID-19, our library will be closed until further notice. Please stay tuned for updates on our Facebook and website page.

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