

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **115**

January - February 2021

Upcoming Events

The Weekend Japanese Film Show
JFKL Curatorial Workshop: The Exhibitions
2020 Japanese Skit Contest
2020/2021 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar

DI SITU 在哪里

姓名 NAME: Lee Soon Yang 日期 DATE: 29 January - 7 February 2021
来自 FROM: Kongsikl, Gudang Yee Seng 2 地点 VENUE: Kongsikl, gudang yee seng 2

Z X P P G K P Q H A V Z N U H J E J G X U N
H N T E E R I N A O X S S N N N U V D E I U T
C R Y E V Z L L Z J U D N H V V W S X W D T
P O S S I B I L I T I E S Z R B M E I P K S
D P R U S E I T I C I F I C E P S E T I S I
P L L O N G W S W G P X O G L C O N T E X T
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R B N S V R M K V Z J R Y Y O V F C H K B T
O G H K E L P V F A B D A M Z F Z O A E L I
C D F T T L E K N H G O L U J V Z R G L W M
M M F S I N N S R N B X C M V Z T P B P L L
A X C A S M G Y A V D V D U R F F T I A W U
J Q Y F K R O K Z X O T L I Y W K P V H A Q



event info shortcut

ALIEN
ART MANAGER
ARTIST
ARTSPACE
CONTEXT
CONVERSATION
CREATION
DI SITU
FIELDWORK
GUDANG YEE SENG 2
INHABITANT
NATURE
NEIGHBOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD
OCCUPANT
PLACE
POSSIBILITIES
PROCESS
REFLECTION,
RELATIONSHIP
SELF CRITICAL
SITE
SITE VISIT
SITE-RESPONSIVE
SITE-SPECIFIC
SPECIFICITIES
URBAN
WAREHOUSE

MAY WE...

Ali Alasri

Dhavinder Singh

Paul Nickson

Shamin Sahrum

Jan 16 - Feb 7, 2021

Curated by Rebecca Yeoh

Co-Curated by Azzad Diah

Tun Perak Co-op
No. 62 & 64,
Jalan Tun Perak

IG & FB:
@maywe_exhibition

Organised by



创作者 ARTIST
Site A: Gudang Yee Seng 2
lee soon yang
novia shin
策展人 CURATOR
low pay sien
Site B: Meanwhile Elsewhere
lee ren xin
ridhwan saidi
Site C: Site Now
Fieldwork A
lee ren xin
Fieldwork B
ridhwan saidi
Conversation 1
nisa yordin
afiq durran
shufitri shukardi
shag kayak
Conversation 2
yap sei bin
erak jur yi
zulu kangyawa (ja)
lee chun-bing (hk)
Conversation 3
andrew lao
novia shin
lee soon yang
low pay sien



CO-PRESENTER

KONGSIKL

VENUE COLLABORATOR



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



jf_kualalumpur



JAPAN FOUNDATION
國際交流基金

WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY



JAPANESE
FILM FESTIVAL
2020 PLUS ONE



CANCELLATION NOTICE

The annual Japanese Film Festival, JFF 2020 PLUS ONE which was set to return in late January 2021 is now cancelled.

This is ever due to the high new daily COVID-19 cases and the extension of the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) in several states. The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) has come to the decision to cancel this much anticipated festival after much consideration and stands firm on the belief that it is best to safeguard the safety and health of our loyal fans and movie-goers.

We have put in our best effort to run the annual festival at GSC, including postponing it three times since October 2020. We would like to thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at JFF 2021! Stay tuned on our channels for updates.

Till then, take care and stay safe!

THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

*Screening will be in Japanese with English subtitles



PASSAGE OF LIFE

僕が帰る場所

Directed by Akio Fujimoto

Kaung Myat Thu, Khin Myat Thu, Issace, Htet Myat Naing, Yuki Kitagawa, Niina Kuromiya, Kanji Tsuda

Planned and Presented by J.F.F. / Presented by Japan-Myanmar Media and Culture Association / Collaboration to Myanmar / Hong Kong East Motion Pictures



Date : 20 February 2021 (Saturday)
Time : 12:00 PM (Registration starts at 11:30 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".

Passage of Life

僕が帰る場所

(FUJIMOTO Akio 藤元明緒 / 2017 / 99 min / P13)

*Movie is subject to change

Cast : Kaung Myat Thu, Khin Myat Thu, Issace, Htet Myat Naing, KITAGAWA Yuki, KUROMIYA Niina, TSUDA Kanji

Director & Screenplay : FUJIMOTO Akio

Cinematographer : KISHI Kentaro

Producer : WATANABE Kazutaka, YOSHIDA Fumito

Synopsis

Khin, mother of two young boys, lives in a small apartment in Tokyo. She supports her family when her husband, Issace, is caught by the immigration bureau. She pours her heart and soul into her two boys, raising them in the unfamiliar language of their resident country, even as they fight day in and day out due to the stress of not being able to see their father. In a world of uncertainty, she begins to long for her homeland... A tale woven from the theme of "immigration," an issue of interest to countries around the world, with the democratization of Burma and foreign families on Japanese soil in the background. Performed by a roster of mostly first-time Burmese actors making their film debuts, the film is depicted with such realism that it feels like a documentary, striking the viewer with its severe gaze while depicting the family with real tenderness.

NOTICE: Due to the current situation, the schedule may change. Please check our channels for the latest update.

JFKL Curatorial Workshop: The Exhibitions

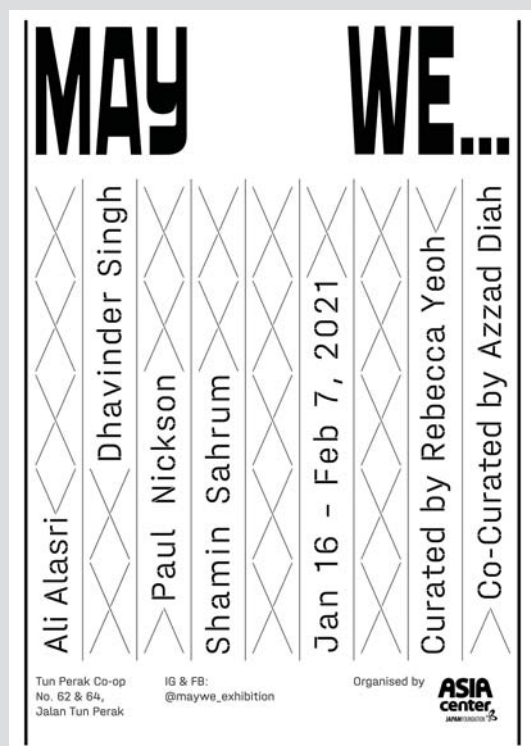
The Curatorial Workshop organised by JFKL is a programme aimed to provide a platform to enhance expertise in curating contemporary art and related fields such as cinema, performance, architecture, music, festivals, etc, with an end goal of successfully organising and curating an art exhibition/art project.

The workshop was held at JFKL for three days from 17 to 19 February 2020 with the theme of "Era / Errata" and has gathered 9 participants from various backgrounds all around Malaysia. Performance maker and researcher Mark Teh from Five Arts Centre and independent curator IIDA Shihoko who is currently based in Japan were invited as lecturers. The participants shared and exchanged ideas on their curatorial proposals together with sharing sessions by the two lecturers.

At the end of the workshop, two curators namely Rebecca Yeoh and Low Pey Sien were selected to realise their proposed plan. Rebecca Yeoh's exhibition titled "May We..." revolves around the perception on May 13, 1969 in the generation today, and Low Pey Sien's exhibition titled "Di Situ: An Exhibition" dives deep in understanding the relationship between their work with a place as an art practitioner or art space.

Due to the current situation, most of the events will be shifted online.

Visit www.jfkl.org.my/events/curatorial-workshop-exhibitions/ and JFKL's FB & IG Page for more info. Make sure to also check out the FB and IG page of each exhibitions for the latest updates and happenings at each exhibition!

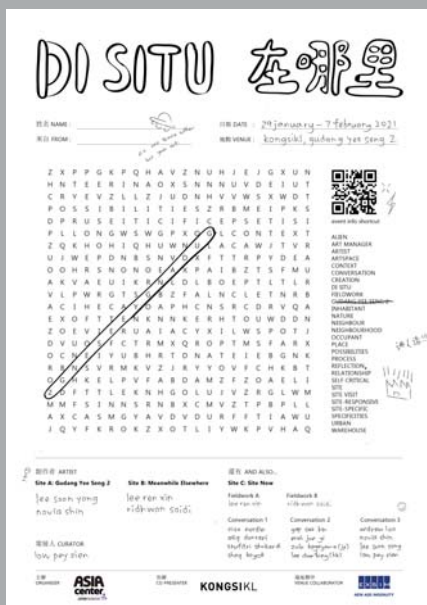


EXHIBITION 1

Title : May We...
 Venue : Tun Perak Co-op
 Duration : 16 January to 7 February 2021
 Admission : Free. Details on operating hours to be announced soon.
 Curator : Rebecca Yeoh
 Co-curator : Azzad Diah
 Artists : Shamin Sahrum, Dhavinder Singh, Ali Alasri, Paul Nickson
 Supported by : Tun Perak Co-op

Outline: "May We..." explores the views of the generation of today around the incident of May 13, 1969, also known to be the darkest day in Malaysia. It was difficult to speak about the incident, due to family trauma or taboo surrounding the subject; especially after the incident is deemed to be a sensitive topic. Leading to the fear of forgetting a significant piece of Malaysia history. The four participating artists will interpret the complex history through layers of resources; the existing artworks, made between 1969 - 1970, in response to the riots, personal family memories and given factual, written accounts of the riots, based on one common connection, an intergenerational fear, anxiety and discontent. These are expressed in the form of installations that fundamentally invites audiences through a process of understanding the importance of memory and questioning, hurting and healing, comprehending the burden of narratives and passing them along, as well as the act of cleansing and respect.

Facebook: May We Exhibition
<https://www.facebook.com/May-We-Exhibition-106357461297613/>
 Instagram: @maywe_exhibition
https://www.instagram.com/maywe_exhibition/



EXHIBITION 2

Title : Di Situ: An Exhibition
 Venue : KongsikL, Gudang Yee Seng 2
 Duration : 29 January to 7 February 2021
 Admission : Free. Details on operating hours to be announced soon.
 Curator : Low Pey Sien
 Artists : Lee Soon Yong, Lee Ren Xin, Ridhwan Saidi, Novia Shin
 Co-presented by : KongsikL
 Venue collaborator : EXSIM

Outline: "Di Situ: An Exhibition" showcases both artists and their artwork that are on site, be it sensitive to their place or out-of-place. The exhibition consists of three fundamental "sites", Gudang Yee Seng 2, Meanwhile Elsewhere and Site Now, looking at interpretation and expression of diverse creatives working on their time and space, in different contexts. This exhibition puts forward a core question on what is the relationship of a place with our work.

Event page: Di Situ: An Exhibition <https://www.kongsikl.com/di-situ>
 Instagram: @disitu.diary <https://www.instagram.com/disitu.diary/>

2020 JAPANESE SKIT CONTEST

2020 年日本語スキットコンテスト

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the current Movement Control Order (MCO), the **Final Screening** scheduled on 23 January 2021 had to be **cancelled**.

Nevertheless, the judges and organisers will still proceed with the judgement of the video skits and the **result** will be announced in the **final week of January**.

Details will be updated, so don't forget to check our website and social media platforms!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL FINALISTS!

ALL ENTRIES ARE BASED ON THIS YEAR'S THEME "X"

In no particular order:

だるまTeam (Team Daruma) - Pusat Bahasa Teikyo
Skit Title: "X"の日 / The "X" Day

NotNotts Team - University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus
Skit Title: 人生のまるばつ / The X's and O's of Life

秘密Team (Team Himitsu) - Universiti Sains Malaysia
Skit Title: 0X: 日記の秘密 / 0X: The Secret Diary

Maguro Team - Universiti Sains Malaysia
Skit Title: クリスマス / X'mas

輝く星 Team (Team Kagayaku Hoshi) - Universiti Sains Malaysia
Skit Title: 何してるの / What are you doing

Information on the winners' skits will be uploaded to our website at www.jfkl.org.my/events/2020-skit-contest/

Organized By:

JAPAN FOUNDATION
KUALA LUMPUR

Sponsored By:

Embassy of
Japan
in Malaysia

Panasonic

THE JAPAN CLUB
OF KUALA LUMPUR

Kinokuniya

KOKUYO

★E-Certificate will be provided★

JAPAN FOUNDATION
KUALA LUMPUR

2020年度 マレーシア日本語教育セミナー 2020/2021 MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION SEMINAR

言語学習をこえた日本語教育に向かって
—海外の現場で「文化」を取り入れる意味—

Towards Japanese Language Education Beyond Language Learning:
The Significance of Incorporating "Culture" into the Field of Language
Education Outside Japan

About the Seminar

When I talk to teachers who are teaching Japanese in countries other than Japan, I often hear the following voices:

"I'm not a Japanese, so I can't teach culture."

"I don't have time, so I can't incorporate culture into my classes."

You might also feel the same way.

But let's take a moment and think again.

What exactly is "culture"? What does it mean to learn "culture"?

What is the relationship between "culture" and

Japanese language education?

What benefits or positive impacts teachers can provide to learners by incorporating "culture" into a language classroom?

Amidst the rapid change of social landscape, skills needed and skills should be acquired by learners are changing as well.

Using the keyword "culture", let us rethink together about the advancement of Japanese language education in response to the changes of social situation.

This seminar will focus on and discuss Japanese language education practices suitable for learners who are learning Japanese outside Japan.

※The Seminar will be conducted in Japanese
(Recommended for those with JLPT N3 or JF Standard B1 level and above)



The Speaker

OFUNE Chisato (大船ちさと)

Lecturer at the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa.

She specializes in Japanese language education at the secondary education level and intercultural education. She received Master of Education in 2004, and is expected to be conferred a Ph.D in Global Japanese Studies from Meiji University, Graduate school of Global Japanese Studies in March, 2021. She has been engaging in the development of teaching materials and teacher training programs, especially for Secondary School Japanese Language Education in China, Vietnam, and the Philippines. She has been holding her current position since 2014. She is currently engaging with the research and practice to create a learning environment that aimed to foster learners' holistic development and stimulate the intellectual curiosity for both children and adults.



Target Audience

Japanese Language Teachers & Those Involved in
the Field of Japanese Language Education
in South-East Asian Countries

Date & Time

Mar 13, 2021 (Sat)

09:00-12:00 (Malaysia Time)

Official Website

<https://www.jfkl.org.my/events/MJLES2020-2021>

Platform

ZOOM

Admission Fee



We look forward to your participation!

Registration

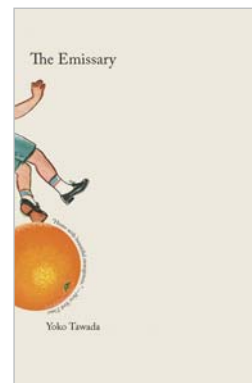
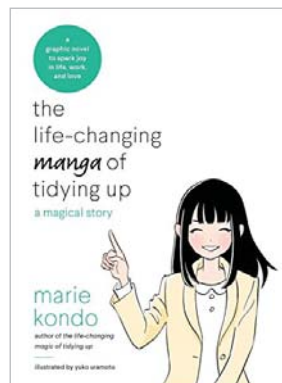
Registration Period :
Jan 15 (Fri) ~ Mar 7 (Sun)



<https://forms.gle/Qj95cqvdarig82m46>

Inquiry seminar@jfkl.org.my

What's New: LIBRARY



新人日本語教師のための授業づくり練習帖

By KONO Toyoko, TAKAGI Mika / Publisher: Shoeisha 2016 / Library Call No.810.724KOU

"I wonder if I could find a better way."

If you are still new and do not have much experience as a teacher, this book will be a good reference for when you are confronted with various teaching problems.

Practical examples are introduced in each of the seven chapters, which focus on such topics as teaching writing, speaking, grammar and you will be able to find useful tips to develop your teaching skills. Another book in this series, **新人日本語教師のためのお助け便利帖**, is also available in the library.

どんどん読める! 日本語ショートストーリーズ vol.1 / vol.2 / vol.3

By ALC (edited) / Publisher: ALC 2017-2018 / Library Call No.817.7T

This series is for those who are around JLPT N3 level who would like to practice reading in Japanese, and will also be enjoyable as TADOKU readers.

Each book includes heartwarming stories, tearjerkers and more than 20 unforgettable short stories collected from all over the world. English notes are provided on each page for words and expressions considered harder than N3 level. Illustrations help you guess the story while reading and Furigana is provided for all of the Kanji.

The Life-Changing Manga of Tidying up a Magical Story

: A graphic novel to spark joy in life, work, and love

By KONDO Marie, URAMOTO Yuko (illustrated) / Publisher: Ten Speed Press, Penguin Random House 2017 / Library Call No.648.5KON

KONDO Marie, also well known as KONMARI, is a tidying expert and created the global decluttering sensation through a major series on Netflix.

This book is a visual guide from A to Z about the KONMARI method through manga.

She advocates tidying by categories, not by location, and keeping only the things that spark Joy (ときめき TOKIMEKI) in your heart. Her unique method will inspire you to start decluttering. Let's tidy up and have a happier life!

The Emissary

By TAWADA Yoko, MITSUTANI Margaret (Translated) / Publisher: New Directions 2018 / Library Call No.895.635TAW

TAWADA Yoko has lived in Berlin for more than 35 years and writes novels, poems, plays and essays in both Japanese and Germany. Her books have received the Akutagawa Prize, Goethe-Medal, and Kleist Prize among others. The Emissary (originally published in Japanese as KENTOSHI in 2014) won the National Book Award for Translated Literature (U.S) in 2018.

Japan, after suffering from a massive irreparable disaster, cuts itself off from the world. Children are so weak they can barely stand or walk: the only people with any get-go are the elderly. It is a dystopian novel illustrating post-Fukushima Japan in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011 with a legerdemain that is uniquely Tawada.

Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!

Get a JFKL Membership!

You can enjoy:

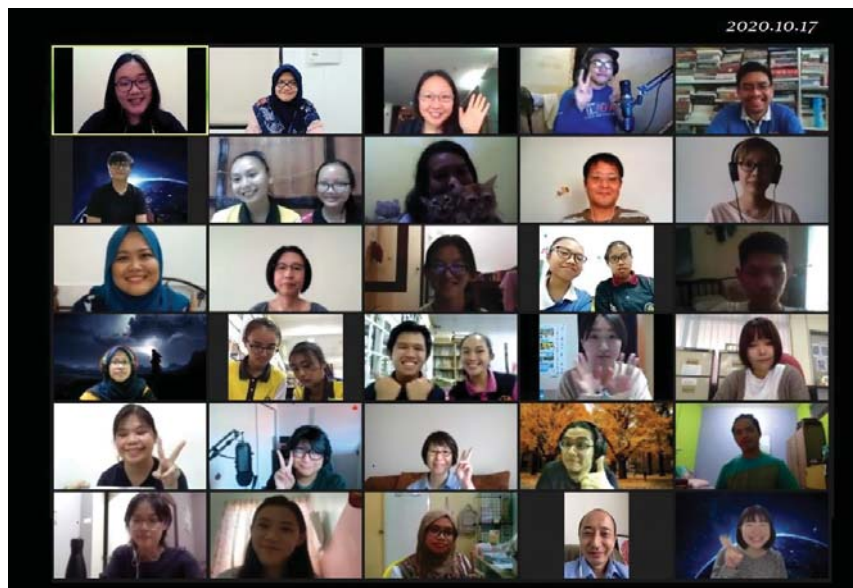
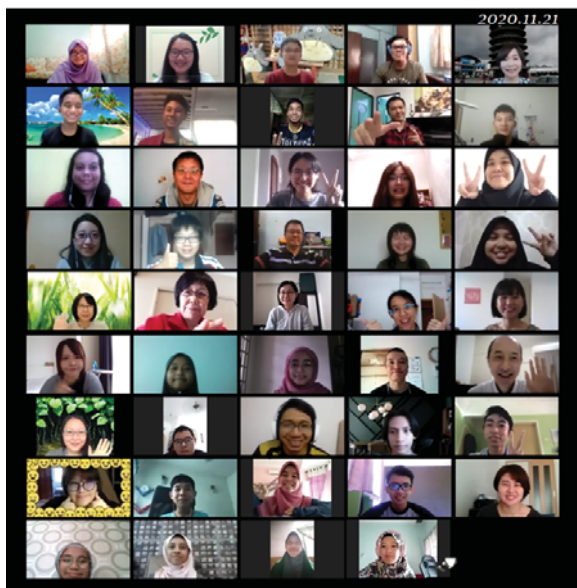
- borrowing library materials (up to 5 items for 2 weeks)
- watching DVDs & listening to CDs at the AV corner



Following the implementation of MCO, our JFKL Library will be temporarily closed from 13 January 2021 until further notice. Stay tuned on our website, Facebook and IG page for the latest information. For inquiries, please email library@jfkf.org.my.

Online Japanese Salon (OJS) Monthly Report

By Sakinah Noor Badaruddin (JFKL)



The third OJS with the theme, 「人生最大の挑戦」**The Biggest Challenge in My Life**, was held on Saturday, 17 October 2020. The participants shared how the challenge they faced affected their life and made them who they are today. Some shared about a challenge they struggled in the past, others about the challenge they are facing now. We hope that by sharing with others, the participants would be able gain some courage and faith to overcome their own challenge in life, big or small.

We held the fourth OJS with the theme, 「出身地のおすすめの食べ物」**Recommended Dish/Food from My Hometown**, on Saturday, 21 November 2020. As what you would expect from the title, a lot of delicious food was introduced. Through this OJS, the Malaysian participants made new discoveries about Japanese food through our Japanese guests. On top of that, we were surprised to find out that there are in fact still a lot of Malaysian food that we Malaysians do not know about! For example, the variety of "laksa" across the country made us very hungry during the event.

What is "Online Japanese Salon"?

Online Japanese Salon (OJS), is a monthly event for Japanese language learners/speakers in Malaysia to gather and talk freely via an online platform. Moreover, you will have chance to talk with native Japanese who we have invited as volunteers to join the event. The key idea is to "Have Fun Talking in Japanese"! At this event, you will talk to other Japanese language learners and native speakers in small groups based on a selected theme. You can show related photos, pictures or objects to support your talk.

This event is open to all Japanese language learners/speakers in Malaysia from beginner to advanced levels. This will be a great chance for you to casually practice (or show off) your Japanese and eventually become friends with other Japanese learners in Malaysia.

For more information, please follow our Facebook and Instagram page, or visit our website.



-TADOKU- New Reading Materials and Audio



Newly Added Reading Materials and Audio are Now Available on our Website!

Do you know what TADOKU is?

TADOKU (TA: a-lot, DOKU: Reading) is a reading method whereby the reader chooses a book from a vast selection of graded reading materials and discovers the joy of reading in Japanese. You will be able to read books in Japanese even if you are a beginner by choosing the level that suits your proficiency!

It's a fun way to learn and totally different from the approaches of intensive reading and reading comprehension.

You can now read the TWO newly uploaded original TADOKU materials (for beginner level) on our website for FREE!

Do you have difficulties reading in Japanese? Don't worry, you can start off slowly by reading them along with the audio!



The materials are here: <https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/tadoku/malysiabooks>

What is TADOKU? : <https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/tadoku#What%20is%20TADOKU>

Exploring Online Contents on “MARUGOTO Plus” for Your Japanese Class : Hints and Tips to Make Good Use of It

Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers on Nov. 7, 2020

By MARUTANI Shinobu (JFKL)



Online language learning has become quite popular especially these days since face-to-face classes have to be suspended due to the spreading of the new corona virus. Online materials are very handy for learning Japanese remotely, and helpful for both teachers and the learners. On 7 November, we featured one of The Japan Foundation's free online materials for learning Japanese, “MARUGOTO Plus (まるごと+)” in a Saturday half-day workshop for Japanese language teachers, with the aim of introducing the contents and how to make good use of them.

MARUGOTO Plus contents are designed based on the Japan Foundation's Japanese language coursebook “MARUGOTO: Japanese Life and Culture”, Starter & Elementary levels (CEFR A1 and A2). On the MARUGOTO Plus website, you can practice conversation interactively using videos, learn grammar, vocabulary and Kanji by doing quizzes with immediate feedbacks, and enrich your learning with the videos, photos and articles regarding Japanese life and culture.

At this Saturday half-day workshop with 34 attendees from Malaysia and Singapore via Zoom, we first explored the MARUGOTO Plus website together to learn about its overall structure. Then, we dove into the contents to examine some of the functions provided, such as the interactive conversation practices and immediate feedback to the quiz. After a short break, we continued with idea sharing on how to use the contents for MARUGOTO textbook learners and elementary level learners in general, as well as for online and remote classes. Thanks to everyone's active participation, this three-hour workshop ended successfully. We would like to express our gratitude to all the participants, and hopefully, the workshop was an opportunity for the Japanese teachers to consider using MARUGOTO Plus for their own classes.

In fact, there are still many useful features on the MARUGOTO Plus website, especially the “Japanese Life and Culture” contents which we were not able to cover at the workshop due to time constraint. We have decided to make a series of Facebook posts to supplement what was not covered, entitled “I Want to Live in Japan for a While Someday (いつか、日本にちょっと住んでみたいな～)”, to introduce the life and culture contents at the MARUGOTO Plus website.

We have already made several posts, which are written in easy Japanese with some instructions in English so that both Japanese teachers and learners would be able to read the post, explore the life and culture contents of MARUGOTO Plus and share their comments

with us. Please visit our Facebook to read the posts and start commenting! We hope you enjoy them!

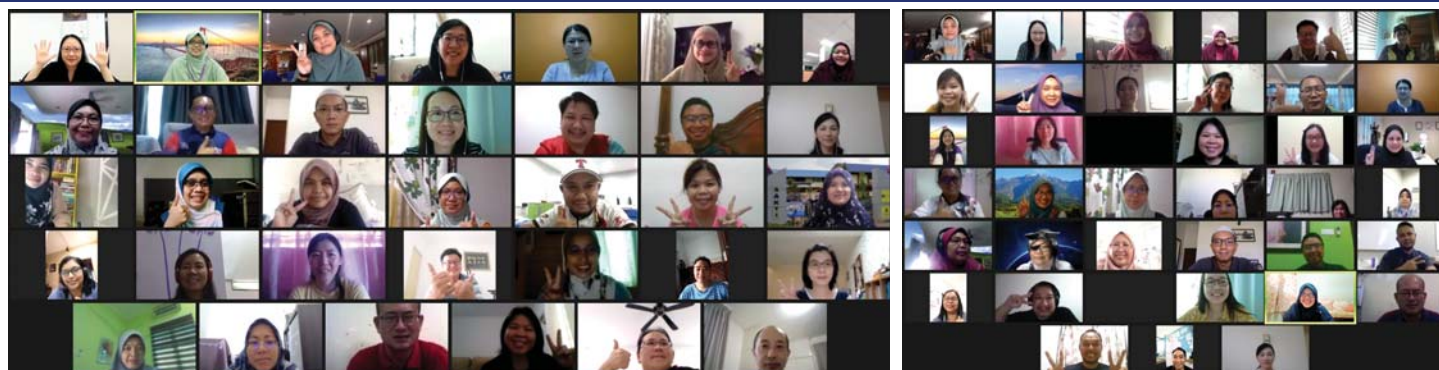
To read “I Want to Live a little while in Japan for a While Someday” Series, please head on to our Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/theJapanFoundationKL> or scan the QR code below to go directly to these two posts.

There will be more coming soon!



ONLINE WORKSHOP TAILORED FOR JAPANESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS OF MALAYSIAN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

By KONDO Maiko & Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman



The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) has ventured into another training programme that was slightly different than the usual ones we had been organising. Firstly, we conducted it online via Zoom specially for Malaysian Japanese language teachers who are currently teaching in public secondary schools. Secondly, all sessions were carried out mainly in Malay with a mixture of English and Japanese in order to foster wider discussion and interaction between the teachers and facilitators.

This workshop was divided into 3 sessions over the course of 3 days:

PRE-SESSION 1: 20 November 2020 (Friday)

Number of Participants: 42 teachers

Content:

- o Sharing session where mainly five teachers shared their experiences in teaching and guiding their students during these challenging times.
- o Exchanged ideas on useful tools and online applications.

PRE-SESSION 2: 25 November 2020 (Wednesday)

Number of Participants: 42 teachers

Content:

- o Participants were divided into small groups to interact and exchange information effectively, continuing on the input obtained during Pre-Session 1.
- o JFKL introduced free e-learning materials by the Japan Foundation, accessible world-wide.

MAIN SESSION: 27 November 2020 (Friday)

Number of Participants: 38 teachers

Content:

- o Focused on the acquisition of Japanese language skills for students.
- o Discussion on how to support our students via home-based learning, mostly focusing on online tools.
- o Tips on Second Language Acquisition (SLA).

We have been pleased with all the responses and hope this workshop has served as a platform to further assist and motivate these teachers. Special thanks to the Ministry of Education Malaysia and its officers for their support and for joining our sessions as well. Now that the new norm has taken over our approach in teaching and learning Japanese language, JFKL is committed to continue working hand in hand with these teachers and strive through this difficult time!

REMARKS FROM MINISTRY OF EDUCATION MALAYSIA:

Ms. Mariana Najmudin (BSTP - Education Resources & Technology Division)

A big appreciation to JFKL for organising this course – both the content and form of the course were interesting. Teachers were able to share their method of teaching using various online platforms and the challenges in teaching beyond the classroom settings. It was lively with active participation. With uncertainties in this current situation, teachers must always explore for suitable teaching method to ensure that their students will be able to obtain optimum learning experience. A workshop like this – surely a bless to all teachers! I hope that JFKL will continue to support our teachers with related development programmes (as you always do) to ensure that they grow further.

Ms. Dayang Nor Ashikin Harun (BPK - Curriculum Development Division)

Thanks to JFKL for always assisting the Ministry, especially our Japanese language teachers in improving their skills. This workshop was conducted with the new normal; opening a platform for the teachers to share their expertise, mainly on how to overcome the challenges in teaching and learning during this period. I am personally very proud of the teachers' responsibility and their initiatives to ensure their students are able to obtain relevant skills, knowledge, and values. They have shown their spirit as teachers and are indeed very enthusiastic in ensuring that students are not left behind in learning even while being at home. This could not have happened without the support from JFKL.

Ms. Noor Lidyawani Mat Rani (BPSBP - Fully Residential School Management Division)

A fundamental concept of meaningful knowledge is to be shared with others and to benefit them the most. This workshop held by JFKL, in gathering the Japanese language teachers from around Malaysia, is a crucial platform for these teachers to share various teaching techniques and activities in adapting to the current revolution in teaching and learning process due to the pandemic; the online learning. It is hoped that this workshop can be a way forward in cultivating a learning community that meets commonly and works collaboratively to improve teaching skills and thus increase the academic performance of students. Kudos JFKL! A well-done effort in sustaining the excellence of Japanese language in Malaysian schools. ARIGATOU GOZAIMASU!

MAJAS Member Lecture Series

By Sulatan Ibrahim (JFKL)

MAJAS MEMBER LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Mohd Ikbal Mohd Huda
Moderator

Speakers:

1. Dr. Geetha Govindasamy
"Regime Change and Malaysia-Japan Relations: Explaining Shifts and Continuity in Foreign Policy"

2. Dr. Muhammad Danial Azman
"Another Case of Look East Policy? Malaysia Response Towards China's and Japan's Infrastructure Investment and Economic Arrangements"

17 December 2020 (Thu) 12.30 – 2.30 pm is.gd/b42W1F (Microsoft Teams)

Jointly organised by:

MAJAS JAPAN FOUNDATION UNIVERSITI MALAYA

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MAJAS Member Lecture Series is an annual program held to promote understanding of Japanese studies and language among the Malaysian public, especially Malaysian scholars, and to broaden the network of scholars in this field.

Back in 1994, MAJAS and the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) organised the first public lecture on Japanese studies entitled "Model of Development: The Role of Japanese Studies". Since then, we have invited scholars from the United States, Japan, United Kingdom, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and Malaysia to present topics about Japan such as security, sociology, culture, literature, language, history and economy.

This lecture had previously been held at various venues such as Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and University Malaysia Sabah (UMS). For the record, Universiti Malaya (UM) has hosted the event many years ago as well.

The previous MAJAS Member Lecture Series was held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah in February this year, and the next one will be held around February 2021.

This time, a virtual seminar was held on 17 December 2020. The online event started from 12:30 PM and ended at 3:00 PM, attended by around 80 participants. Two lecturers presented their research. The first was by Dr. Muhammad Danial Azman, entitled "Another Case of Look East Policy? Malaysia's Response towards China's and Japan's Infrastructure Investment and Economic Arrangements". He examined *Pakatan Harapan's* (PH) (May 2018 - December 2019) attempts to renegotiate a better deal with China while renewing ties with Japan. Based on a fieldwork among Malaysian economic authorities, his study provided an account of the early reforms,

focusing on the measures taken related to China and Japan. Cooperation with the two East Asian giants was rapidly reconfigured with a negotiated dependence on China, and Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's renewed interest in Japan. The competition between these two foreign aid leaders especially after China's Belt and Road Initiative has shaped the region's infrastructure development dynamics, as PH government strove for a better foreign policy deal that reflected the political sensitivity of Malaysia's domestic development. Such attempts to achieve equilibrium through policy diffusion has had important implications on Malaysia's foreign policy outlook with regard to China and Japan.

The second presenter was Dr. Geetha Govindasamy with the title "Regime Change and Malaysia-Japan Relations: Explaining Shifts and Continuity in Foreign Policy." The talk was an initial exploration into the causal linkage between domestic political regime changes and foreign policy restructuring. While not popular, the notion that foreign policy objectives are more often than not shaped by internal dynamics is true in the Malaysian case. The discussion examined Malaysia's relations with Japan during the *Pakatan Harapan* government which began in May 2018 but collapsed by February 2020. After being sworn in as the Prime Minister of Malaysia for the second time, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad pledged to re-energise the Look East Policy (LEP) to facilitate economic growth and investments into the country. Though the move was far from surprising, the consequence of the development should be understood within the broader context of Malaysia's domestic ties with China. Malaysia's move to expand cooperation with Japan came from its desire to reduce overreliance on Chinese investments. The basic premise of the talk was that Malaysia was not tilting towards Japan, but that the move to court the Abe administration through the LEP 2.0 was part of *Pakatan Harapan's* effort to diversify its foreign policy partners to expand investment and collaboration opportunities.



Dr. Muhammad Danial Azman is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. He obtained his PhD in International Relations from University of St Andrews, UK. His teaching and research interest is on Africa-Asia Relations and Peace and Conflict Studies.



Dr. Geetha Govindasamy is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of East Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya. She obtained her M. Phil in Oriental Studies from Queens' College Cambridge University, M.A in International Relations from the International University of Japan and a PhD in International Relations from Monash University. She is a committee member of the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies and a member of the Malaysian Scholars on Korea (MASK) Network. She teaches and publishes on inter-Korean relations, Korean foreign policy and East Asian international relations. Her publications can mostly be found in international journals like the Asian Perspective, International Journal of Korean Unification, Asia Europe Journal, International Review of Korean Studies, Asian Profile and the Journal of Asian and African Studies.

The Benefit of Music and Dance for People with Dementia

By Dr. Kamal Sabran, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) / Artist-Researcher

Dementia is one of the most major health problems, effecting more than 50 million people worldwide. Dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that are severe enough to interfere with daily life. Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia. Unfortunately, there is no cure for the disease. However, non-clinical interventions using the arts for dementia patients has shown many positive effects that help improve their quality of life.

Numerous significant impacts and visible change occur when dementia patients listen to sound and music. My research entitled *"A Study on Sound Art and its Applicability as Therapy for Alzheimer's Patients"* (2017), concluded several positive findings. In this research, we are explored the potential of using sound art for Alzheimer's institutional care in Malaysia. A special composition of sound art was played for 20 minutes every day for 3 months in dementia home cares. Data was collected mainly through observations and interviews. Sixty Alzheimer's patients were involved in this study.

Based on the results, we found that sound art can significantly improve the patients' ability to focus, stay calm and communicate. They became more alert and aware of their surroundings by responding to the sound we played. In the research findings, we used three main sources of sound which we called "Alzheimer's Soundscape," namely Nature Soundscape, Abstract Soundscape and Drum Soundscape.

Nature Soundscape, a ncomposition with water and jungle sounds, produced significant improvement in the patients' ability to focus and communicate. Meanwhile, Abstract Soundscape, designed with white noise, particularly helped patients to keep calm, be less agitated, relax and obtain better sleep. Drum Soundscape on the other hand stimulated the patients to be physically active. Patients were observed actively clapping, toe tapping and even dancing to the drum pattern and rhythm.

Another study conducted was *"Totsu-Totsu Dance Online: The Possibility of Non-contact Communication Through Dance and Music with the Elderly with Dementia"*, (2020) a collaborative performance-research project between a Japanese dancer-choreographer, Jareo Osamu, and myself. This research took place in a Japanese nursing home for the elderly, utilizing a web-based platform. The online workshop was held on 14th September with 2 participants from the Graceville Maizuru nursing home for the elderly in Maizuru City, Kyoto. The first session was with a female patient in her 90s, and the second was with a male in his 80s, each session lasting approx. 1 hour.

Based on the outcome of the workshop, an online panel discussion titled "Totsu-Totsu Dance Online Talk Session" was organised on 1 November with guest speakers, namely Fujinami Tsutomu (Professor of Intelligent Informatics, Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), Ito Asa (Aesthete/Associate Professor, Tokyo Institute of Technology) and Okui Lala (Visual Artist/Cultural Worker) with Mori Mariko (Art Producer/Representative Director, torindo) as the moderator. In my view, this research strongly suggested that music and dance have a positive effect on patients. The results showed how music-dance is effective in stimulating social interaction, enhancing mood, reducing anxiety and symptoms of depression, increasing self-awareness and self-expression in the patients involved in this study. We concluded that music and dance stimulate the brain, affecting language, mood, movements along with the sense of sight, sound and touch among patients.

The findings from this research confirmed the positive efficacy of using sound, music and dancing on cognitive, physical, emotional



Jareo, Kamal and panelists



totsutotsu-zoom

and social performance of people with dementia. The power of the arts is a cost-effective way to help overcome the burden of dementia in the general population and care homes globally.

"Totsu-Totsu Dance Online Talk Session" was co-organized by torindo and The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur.



Pentas Staged Reading Project

by Pentas Project Theatre Production



Pentas Staged Reading #2

The Other Story of Ah-Q

Pentas Project's artistic director Loh Kok Man and young arts practitioner John Wong jointly curated the "Pentas Staged Reading Project". Due to the current pandemic, the second staged reading was rescheduled from May to 5 & 6 December, and was held as an online streaming performance on Cloud Theatre. This project is supported and in collaboration with The Asia Center Japan Foundation. "The Other Story of Ah-Q" is a work of the notable late Japanese playwright, Ken Miyamoto (a "Kishida Kunio Drama Award" winner) from his Revolution Series.

Lu Xun, a contemporary Chinese literary master who abandoned his medical profession, believed that in order to change one's or societal destiny, an ideological revolution was needed and be made widely known. He habitually used critical writings to vent his anger and helplessness towards the foolish.

Miyamoto - born during World War II and having spent his youth in Beijing - deconstructed and reconstructed Lu Xun's beliefs to write "The Other Story of Ah Q" in the late sixties using his expert style of depicting revolutions and social relationships. He transported many of Lu Xun's classic characters onto the stage, such as: Ah Q (a lowly

fool who symbolises self-defeating and self-consoling psychological victory). They shared the space and engaged in dialogue with Lu Xun and the tumultuous times they belonged to. Through these characters of different social status, the story examined what a social revolution could bring: the dilemmas, rage, and grief. Miyamoto dissected the feudal system in its dying days, ruthlessly bursting the revolutionary's passion and apathy, examining the commoner's good and evil.

Placing the script closer to today's setting, director Loh Kok Man deliberately shortened its text to make the performance more concise and relatable, hoping to introduce the audience to this satirical Japanese classical work and trigger reflection about different ideological positions, and social and reform issues inspired by dilemmas. This adapted version was performed by Tammy Yee, Lee Yee Han, Ho Mun Hann, Koh Xin Yu, Ang Chee Chong, Lee Woei Zhong, John Wong and special guest artist Yui Kar Hoe.

"Pentas Project Stage Reading", projected as a long-term initiative, is also an opportunity for local playwrights to collaborate with Pentas Project so that more exciting local works to be presented as "staged readings".



JFKL Holiday Notice:

Office:

1 January - New Year's Holiday
28 January - Thai Pusam
1 February - Federal Territory Day
12 February - Chinese New Year

Library*:

1 January - New Year's Holiday
28 January - Thai Pusam
1 February - Federal Territory Day
12 - 13 February - Chinese New Year



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

*Due to MCO, our Library will be temporarily closed.

Please refer to page 6 for more information.

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