

# TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **116**  
March - April 2021

**Upcoming Events**  
Nagoya Culture Promotion Unit (NCPU)  
Speech Contest  
Course Intake  
JLPT in Malaysia  
JFKL Mini-series on YouTube



名古屋文化発信局

NAGOYA CULTURE PROMOTION UNIT



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



jf\_kualalumpur



JAPAN FOUNDATION  
國際交流基金

WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY

# Nagoya Culture Promotion Unit Bilateral Visual Art Exhibition: Nagoya x Penang

**Penang Branch**  
**20 Feb (Sat) — 7 Mar (Sun)**  
 Opening Hours 12:00–18:00 | Closed on Monday | Free admission.  
 29 Lebuh Melayu, 10100 George Town Penang

**名古屋 × ペナン 同時開催展：名古屋文化発信局「ペナン支部」**

**Nagoya Culture Promotion Unit Bilateral Visual Art Exhibition: Nagoya x Penang**

Artists: Nagoya Head Office | Yuji Kinoshita, D. D. (Arika Someya + Aetsu Imamura), Tetriana Ahmed Fauzi, Asuka Miyata, Takuya Yamashita  
 Penang Branch | Forrest Wong, Akiyo Miyata, Yuji Kinoshita, Hoo Fan Chon, D. D. (Arika Someya + Aetsu Imamura), Tetriana Ahmed Fauzi, Takuya Yamashita

名古屋文化発信局  
 NAGUYA CULTURE PROMOTION UNIT

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) is proud to introduce "Nagoya Culture Promotion Unit Bilateral Visual Art Exhibition: Nagoya x Penang".

Now that movement is difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are organising an online collaboration project so that artists and cities can interact with each other as well as an exhibition to display the outcome. We have brought together Penang Island, with its history of having developed as a free trade port, and Nagoya Port, which continues to thrive on trade, with the participation of 7 sets of artists from these 2 regions. Nagoya Culture Promotion Unit (NCPU) has been established in the 2 cities, and artworks resulting from joint research by the artists on the theme of Nagoya will be presented concurrently in Nagoya and Georgetown.

### NCPU Nagoya headquarter exhibition

Date : 16 February - 13 March 2021  
 Venue: Minatomachi POTLUCK BUILDING 3F: Exhibition Space, Nagoya, Japan

### NCPU Penang branch exhibition

Date : 20 February - 7 March 2021  
 Venue : 29, Lebuh Melayu, Georgetown, Penang.

### PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

#### (From Penang)

1. Hoo Fan Chon
2. Forrest Wong
3. Tetriana Ahmed Fauzi

#### (From Nagoya)

1. Asuka Miyata
2. D. D. (Tetsu Imamura + Arika Someya)
3. Takuya Yamashita
4. Yuji Kinoshita

Follow NCPU's official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NAGOYAxPENANG> to get the latest updates on online events. Scan the QR code for more info on the exhibition.



## JFKL Mini-series - Episode 1: Origami in Malaysia

JFKL is proud to bring to the Malaysian public a video series called "JFKL Mini-series" where a series of videos about Japanese arts and culture will be shared! The objective of this series is to introduce and share the story of Japanese culture experts based in Malaysia to the world.

The first episode of this video series is regarding Origami in Malaysia presented by Mr. Kenneth Ch'ng, an origami enthusiast and founder of the Malaysia Origami Academy, who has been very passionately promoting origami in Malaysia. He shares his origami journey and later demonstrates the Wau Bulan Origami at the end.

Scan the QR Code to start watching the pilot episode! And don't forget to subscribe to our YouTube channel as we will be sharing more contents for you to enjoy!



# The 18th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools – National Level (2021)

## 第18回マレーシア高校生日本語弁論大会

Theme:

**CHANGE****CLOSING DATE**

30 April 2021 (Friday)

**NATIONAL LEVEL**

19 June 2021 (Saturday)

**THEME****CHANGE****CONTEST DETAILS**

1. Open to Malaysian students who are currently attending secondary school in Malaysia, between the age of 15 and 18 as of 19 June 2021.
2. The contest is divided into 2 categories:
  - A. Public School Learners (Those who learn Japanese Language at Public School)
  - B. Private Learners (Those who learn Japanese Language at other than Public School)
3. Contest latest updates and details, including Rules & Regulations, Eligibility Check Sheet & Endorsement Sheet, A Guide on How to Upload Video on YouTube, A Guide on How to Unlisted Your YouTube Video and the Japanese style manuscript paper, may be retrieved from the following link or scan the QR code below: <https://www.jfkl.org.my/events/jsc2021/>
4. All submissions including the link of speech video uploaded on YouTube, speech manuscript and recent passport-size photo are to be made online via the following link: <http://bit.ly/3a1Qvf3>

**General Enquiries:**

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur Tel: 03-22847228 Email: nihongo@jfkl.org.my Website: www.jfkl.org.my

Organised by:

Embassy of  
**Japan**  
in Malaysia

**JAPAN FOUNDATION**  
KUALA LUMPUR

In Cooperation with:



Scan here for more information:



# JFKL JAPANESE GENERAL COURSE

2021/2022

## April Intake for Starter, Elementary 1 & 2



### NOTE

- All courses will be conducted online this year (April 2021 – March 2022).
- Intake for other levels (Pre-intermediate, Intermediate 1 & 2) will be starting in late March.

### APPLICATION PERIOD

16 March – 29 March

- \* Acceptance into the course will be on first-come-first-served basis in accordance with the placement test results.
- \* Our courses are for 16 years old and above.

### ONLINE PLACEMENT TEST

Date: 31 March, 1 April, 2 April

Time: 19:00-21:00

Medium: Zoom

### APPLICATION FORM

<http://bit.ly/3aRXbN3>



### CLASS SCHEDULE

Class	Level	Part	Course Duration	Number of Lessons	Day	Time*2	Fee (RM)
Starter*1	A1	1	20 April 2021 - 22 June 2021	9	Tuesday	19:00 - 20:50	270
	A1	1	21 April 2021 - 7 July 2021	9	Wednesday	19:00 - 20:50	270
Elementary 1	A2	1	21 April 2021 - 6 October 2021	22	Wednesday	19:00 - 20:50	660
Elementary 2	A2	1	20 April 2021 - 12 October 2021	22	Tuesday	19:00 - 20:50	660

\*1 For Starter level, you may either choose Tue or Wed class. Contents for both classes are the same.

\*2 Each lesson includes a 10-minute break.

### CONTACT

THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR,  
Japanese Language Department  
18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B,  
Mid-Valley City, No.1, Medan Syed Putra,  
59200 Kuala Lumpur.  
EMAIL: [japanese\\_course@jfkf.org.my](mailto:japanese_course@jfkf.org.my)  
TEL: (03)2284-7228



JAPAN FOUNDATION   
KUALA LUMPUR

# 日本語能力試験

## JLPT Japanese-Language Proficiency Test

The Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchanges & Services have jointly conducted the test, in cooperation with local institutions as a reliable means of evaluating and certifying the Japanese proficiency of non-native speakers.

Scan for updates on  
JLPT in Malaysia:



# JLPT

in Malaysia

Twice a year:  
July and December

## LEVEL

N5 N4 N3 N2 N1

Easy >>>> Difficult

## TEST SITES

July  
(2 sites) Kuala Lumpur  
Penang

December  
(5 sites) Kuala Lumpur  
Penang  
Ipoh  
Johor Bahru  
Kota Kinabalu

## APPLICATION

Around  
March-April

Around  
August-September

## FEE

N1-N3 RM180 · N4-N5 RM140

(All test arrangements are  
subject to changes by the organisers)

## ANNOUNCEMENT ON JLPT JULY 2021

Deeply concerned over the safety of the candidates in view of the current development of COVID-19 situation in Malaysia, the organisers regret to inform that the JLPT 2021A (July Paper) in Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur and Penang Test Centre) will be cancelled. Your understanding on this tough decision is highly appreciated.

## TEST ADMINISTRATOR

KUALA LUMPUR  
(Main Test Administrator)

Japanese Language Society Malaysia  
Website: [www.jlsm.org](http://www.jlsm.org)

PEN Penang Japanese Language Society  
IPH Perak Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Society  
JB Universiti Teknologi Malaysia  
KK Universiti Malaysia Sabah

GENERAL INFORMATION ON JLPT:  
[www.jlpt.jp](http://www.jlpt.jp)



# LIBRARY



## TRY! START トライ! にほんご はじめよう

By MACHIDA Keiko, FUJITA Momoko / Publisher: ASK 2018 / Library Call No.810.7925

The new title of the TRY! Series for beginners is here!

This book is perfect for learning Japanese with fun and ease as a novice.

You will be able to learn Japanese characters, hiragana & katakana, and simple conversations all in one book. Free additional contents and audio data are downloadable from the ASK publisher website and all text comes with an English translation.

## 基本語力アップ! 初級から学ぶ日本語コロケーション

By EYA Yoko, IIJIMA Michiko / Publisher: Kuroshio Shuppan 2020/ Library Call No.810.7925

電話をかける。電話がなる。電話にでる。Collocations are sets of words (nouns, particles and verbs) that are commonly found together. Knowledge of collocations is one of the effective ways to improve in Japanese and will expand your vocabulary.

This exercise book is helpful to for learning the frequent usages expressions (combinations of nouns with particles and verbs) easily and correctly from core words (nouns) divided into 15 categories that often appear in beginner's textbooks and which are also useful in daily life.

## Tokyo Ueno Station

By YU Miri, Morgan Giles (Translated) / Publisher: Axis Press 2019 / Library Call No.895.635YUM

YU Miri, born to Korean parents and raised in Japan, writes novels, plays and essays. One of her well-known works "Family Cinema" (Kazoku Cinema) was awarded the Akutagawa Prize and her sensational autobiographical best seller, "Life" (Inochi), was adapted into film and is highly esteemed. "Tokyo Ueno Station" (originally published in Japanese in 2014) won the 2020 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD for Translated Literature (U.S).

One of the spots in Tokyo where migrant workers from Tohoku, the northeastern regions, congregate is the park near Ueno Station – Kazu is born in Fukushima in 1933, the same year as the Emperor. He ended up homeless in Ueno Park and finished his life. Now his spirit lingers in the park and narrates his journey which was full of struggles and tragedies in contrast to some of the impressive events that symbolize the era of rapid economic growth in Japan.

## 鬼滅の刃 KIMETSU NO YAIBA (1-23巻)

By GOTOGE Koyoharu / Publisher: Shueisha, Jump Comics 2016-2020/ Library Call No.726.1

KIMETSU NO YAIBA has been a social phenomenon in Japan since the movie "Demon Slayer: Infinity Train" was released and broken the box office records. It has sold over 120 million copies, which is the highest record in decades. The anime series was awarded "Anime of the Year 2020" in the U.S as well, and it has captivated the hearts of fans all over the world.

Tanjiro, a boy who sells charcoals for living, finds his family slaughtered by an oni (demon). At the same time, he knows that Nezuko, his young sister and the only survivor, has been transformed into an oni. Tanjiro resolves to become a "Demon Slayer" to turn his sister back into a human.

### Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!

Join and 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
- having discounted tickets for selected JFKL events

\* For the latest information, please visit our website, Facebook page and Instagram.



# Result Announcement: Japanese Skit Contest 2020

## THE 2020 JAPANESE SKIT CONTEST RESULT IS OUT!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WINNERS!

おめでとうございます!

CHECK OUT THE SPECIAL VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENTS  
AND LINKS TO THE FINALISTS' SKITS AT  
[WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY/EVENTS/2020-SKIT-CONTEST/](http://WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY/EVENTS/2020-SKIT-CONTEST/)

We are delighted to announce that The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and Embassy of Japan have once again successfully organised the 2020 Japanese Skit Contest. Congratulations to all the winners and participants for their enthusiastic responses and efforts in producing inspiring skits based on the theme "X".

Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the participants managed to compose such interesting videos using their creativity while facing the limitations of the Movement Control Orders. Although it was a tough decision, five finalists were selected for the final round where the judges had viewed and decided who walked away with the top prizes!

Here are the winners!

### 1st Place

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

### 2nd Place

秘密 Team (Team Himitsu – Universiti Sains Malaysia)  
Skit Title: OX: 日記の秘密 / OX: The Secret Diary

### 3rd Place

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

### 4th Place

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

### 5th Place

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

\*Their video skits are available on our website. Please refer to the QR code at the bottom of the page.

In the questionnaire that we collected post-contest, the participants expressed their fondness for the interesting themes selected each

year. They were also keen on the nature of the contest this time which involved an online platform starting from registration to submission of the skits. Some of them had to change their scripts a few times to suit the MCO conditions, but they took it as a challenge and came up with fascinating skits in the end!

*"We were given the chance to test and improve our Japanese skills and have some fun."*

*"It was our first time joining such a contest; a very interesting, memorable experience."*

*"The contest was fun, a good experience overall and worthwhile. Though it required a bit of effort (scripting, planning, filming, editing, etc) I would say that regardless of whether we had won or not, I enjoyed the process anyway as we worked as a team and improved our Japanese skills."*

We hope more Japanese language learners will challenge themselves to improve their Japanese language communication skill by participating in future Japanese Skit Contests. As one of the organisers we would be proud to see more Malaysians showing their interest in Japanese language and culture.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude to each and every one of our sponsors and co-organizer who have very generously contributed, among others, amazing prizes for our 2020 Japanese Skit Contest. We are incredibly thankful for their continuous generous contributions.

For the special video announcement, video message from the organiser as well as the links to each team's video skits, please visit our website at <https://www.jfkl.org.my/events/2020-skit-contest/> or scan the code below.



Skit Contest 2020 Result

Organized By:

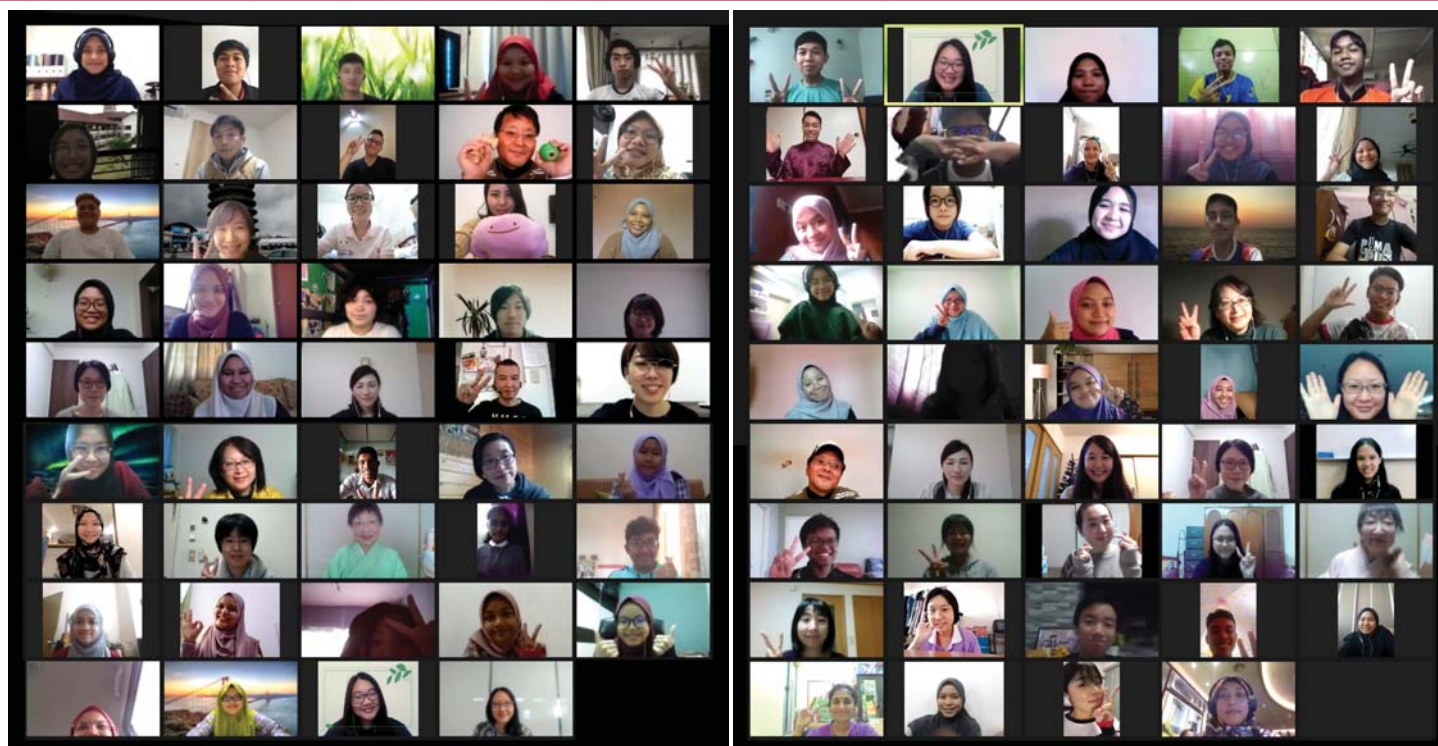


Sponsored By:



# オンライン日本語サロン Online Japanese Salon (OJS): Special Edition for Secondary School Students

By Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)



Having launched the Online Japanese Salon (OJS) series in August 2020, JFKL has moved another step forward by organising a special edition OJS – crafted for secondary school students under the Ministry of Education Malaysia. This monthly event is primarily aimed at Japanese language learners or speakers in Malaysia ranging from beginner to advanced level to casually interact with each other in small groups with native speakers.

A theme will be chosen for each session and registered participants will be free to talk about anything related to this theme by sharing stories, pictures, objects and such. Since introducing OJS, JFKL had received encouraging response from secondary school students and their teachers, which is why we have created special sessions just for them. To provide students with an option, we gladly offered two sessions for this special edition.

Theme	「〇〇が大好きです。」 「Saya suka _____.」	
Platform	Online via ZOOM	
Session	First Session	Second Session
Date	22 December 2020 (Tuesday)	26 December 2020 (Saturday)
Time	2:00 to 3:30 PM	10:00 to 11:30 PM
Participation	35 students	29 students
	12 native speakers	15 native speakers
No. of Schools	28 schools within 5 different regions in Malaysia (Central, Northern, Southern, East Coast and East Malaysia)	

Scan for latest updates on OJS:



Webpage:

[www.jfkl.org.my/events/onlinejapanesesalon](http://www.jfkl.org.my/events/onlinejapanesesalon)

With the tagline 'Have Fun Talking in Japanese!', we divided the students into small groups for two rounds. Each round lasted 30 minutes to allow each member of the group to introduce themselves, talk about the theme and also ask each other questions. The lively interactions in each group were led by a native speaker, specifically our previous Nihongo Partners who had been dispatched to Malaysia within the past 6 years to assist local Japanese language teachers in public secondary schools.

Being away from friends and teachers due to school closures, OJS has been an alternative platform for students to continue learning the language beyond classrooms. It has also served as a co-curricular activity for these students as most physical activities in 2020 were cancelled or held with limitation on numbers. Opportunities to converse in Japanese has also decrease relative to when they could gather in schools, hence OJS is seen as a perfect complement to enhance their Japanese language skills, especially speaking and

listening. The simple theme, which provides a broad range for students to talk about, has fostered interesting conversations, varying from the food they like, music and films that they enjoy, hobby, places in Malaysia or Japan that they have been to or would like to visit, to people they look up to!

JFKL would like to thank all participants, their teachers and schools for supporting OJS. Also, a continuous appreciation to the Ministry of Education Malaysia for always encouraging the involvement of their students and teachers in such events.

As OJS runs monthly, be sure to follow our social media accounts or our website for the latest updates. Hope to see you at the next edition of our Online Japanese Salon – Let's have fun talking in Japanese!



# Strengthen the tie for Japanese Language Education in Malaysia: Annual Coordination Meeting with the Ministry of Education Malaysia for Fiscal Year 2021

By Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)



The Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) through its various divisions has been cooperating with the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) for many years in Japanese language education related programmes involving secondary school teachers and students in Malaysia. To strengthen this rapport and move forward with the improvement plans, JFKL once again organised a coordination meeting with the ministry, by inviting the desk officers in charge of international language in 8 different divisions.

## Meeting details:

Date : 12 January 2021 (Tuesday)

Time : 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM

Venue: Cititel Midvalley Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

## The main purposes of this meeting were:

- To share the initiatives carried out by JFKL to support Japanese language teachers and students in 2020 under COVID-19 and what it is planning to do to provide further support during the next fiscal year.
- To understand the expectations of MOE towards JFKL, in effectively offering support to teachers and students during this challenging period, as well as the projection for upcoming programmes organised in collaboration with the ministry.

JFKL shared the three main types of support we have been offering to various institutions including tertiary level, however in this meeting we focused on our support related to the secondary education level:

### 1. Support for institutions:

Particularly public secondary schools (both fully residential and daily schools) offering Japanese language as one of the subjects.

### 2. Support for teachers:

Particularly local Japanese language teachers teaching in Malaysian public secondary schools.

### 3. Support for learners:

Particularly Japanese language students (Form 1 to Form 5) at Malaysian public secondary schools.

The meeting was also attended by JFKL's Director, Mr. SHIMADA Seiya along with the officers and Japanese language experts in the Japanese Language Department.

Starting with a brief introduction of the Japan Foundation and its Kuala Lumpur office by the chairperson, followed by a welcome speech by Mr. SHIMADA, the agenda items were deliberated thoroughly with optimistic feedbacks by the ministry officers. MOE officers also shared some information from their respective divisions in regard to international language at public schools. There are currently more than 100 public schools in Malaysia offering Japanese language.



The 3-hour session was filled with constructive comments and mutual understanding, and concluded with a luncheon with all members as appreciation for this collaborative work.

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to MOE for constantly supporting and working hand in hand with us, especially these divisions below and their desk officers:

- **Bahagian Pembangunan Kurikulum (BPK)**  
Curriculum Development Division
- **Bahagian Perancangan Strategik & Hubungan Antarabangsa (BPSHA)**  
Strategic Planning & International Division
- **Bahagian Sukan, Kokurikulum & Kesenian (BSKK)**  
Sports, Co-curricular & Arts Division
- **Bahagian Pengurusan Sekolah Berasrama Penuh (BPSBP)**  
Fully Residential School Management Division
- **Bahagian Pengurusan Sekolah Harian (BPSH)**  
School Management Division
- **Lembaga Peperiksaan (LP)**  
Board of Examination
- **Bahagian Profesionalisme Guru (BPG)**  
Teacher's Professionalism Division
- **Bahagian Sumber & Teknologi Pendidikan (BSTP)**  
Education Resources & Technology Division

JFKL looks forward to further cooperation not only with MOE but other associates as well, as part of the effort in bridging Malaysia-Japan and contributing to the growth of both nations.

# Cultivating Environmental-Friendly Habits Through Games

By Ong Ke Shin (HAND'S Fellow 2017-18)

Everyone can recall fond memories of playing games with friends and loved ones at different stages of growing up. It remained a favourite pastime for me up until my study tour when I was selected as a fellow of HANDs – (Hope and Dreams) Project for 'Disaster and Environment Education + Creativity' when the idea of game was embraced to effectively bring about positive change to attain environmentally-friendly habits; this resulted in the collaboration with researcher Lee Kwai Han, artistic director Foo Wei Meng, and myself to create a board game to effectuate a positive change by eliminating addiction to single-use food packaging.

## The Birth of JOM TAPAU! Board Game

Tapau, which means to pack and take away food in Chinese dialect, is commonly used by all races in a multi-racial Malaysia. A high-paced lifestyle has resulted in the growing working community to opt for grab and go meals out of conveniences, and the thriving of food delivery service has contributed to an increase in single-use-plastic packaging, to the detriment of the environment.

While the environmental impact of food packaging is widespread and recognised by many, it remains a major issue; behavioural change is essential but arduous. Instead of embracing reusable containers, plastic packaging provided free of charge is accepted out of habit, received disregarding the negative impact to the environment.



Figure 1: Disposable food packaging is convenient, but poses a serious threat to our environment

With a seed grant from the Japan Foundation, we endeavoured over six months of research, brainstorming, and several playtests to produce the JOM TAPAU! boardgame. This boardgame is designed for 2- 4 players; as players embark on the *Tapau* journey, they have to decide whether to adopt a reusable container and/or single use plastics; every move effects the outcomes as the game advances.



Figure 2: Layout of the JOM TAPAU! boardgame with 4 players (photo credit Foo Wei Meng)

Rather than a traditional classroom setting in which one passively receives information, players actively plan and strategise to take away food in an environmental friendlier manner. As one game tester commented:

- We should plan before we *Tapau* about the nature and quantity of container. Alternatively, we could opt for green packaging, like banana leaf, an environmentally friendly option.

The game is also designed to make people realise that every decision made (mode of *Tapau*) carries an implication to the environment.

- It was a fun session, I enjoyed exploring *Tapau* food and collecting points in the game. I didn't realise we overly used plastic bags in daily life when we *Tapau*. I mean, I am so used to it that I didn't realise so much was being used, and that it was all going to the landfill.



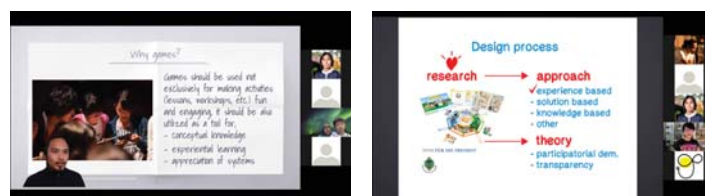
As the team researched on food packaging it came to light that Malaysians have been adopting many creative ways of using materials sourced from nature, like bamboo leaves, *daun simpoh* (*Dillenia suffruticosa* leaves), and the all-time Malaysian favourite banana leaves although they have gradually been displaced by wax paper or single use plastic. These leaves are incorporated in the game to highlight these traditional know-how.



Figure 3: One of the *daun* card - *daun simpoh* (*Dillenia suffruticosa* leaves) incorporated in the board game. Once activated, players can take away Char Kuey Teow with this 100% biodegradable food packaging

## Power of Game Towards Significant Transformation

The project held an online sharing session on 30 January 2021 and received further encouragement when Ms. Ruttikorn Vuttikorn, a renown play activist from Thailand and Mr. Ralph C. Lumbres, HANDs fellow, artist and educator from the Philippines. I successfully presented the session entitled, "Environmental and Disaster Education through Games" which had more than 70 participants.



Screen shot taken during the online sharing session

Despite the overwhelming response at the online sharing session and to the broad game prototype, the team is forging ahead to secure more funding to conduct more playtests, and further refine the boardgame with a hope to empower the game towards achieving actual behavioural change in real-life setting as "educational games are about respect and deep understanding of their audience" – George Kalmpourtzis

More information on JOM TAPAU! game can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/jomtapaugame/>

# JFKL Curatorial Workshop: The Exhibitions

Visit [www.jfkl.org.my/events/curatorial-workshop-exhibitions/](http://www.jfkl.org.my/events/curatorial-workshop-exhibitions/) for more details.

## Di Situ: An Exhibition

Duration : 29 January - 7 February 2021  
 Venue : Gudang Yee Seng 2, KongsikL  
 Report by : Low Pey Sien  
 Photo credit : Low Pey Sien



Initially, I joined the Curatorial Workshop in February 2020 with a curious mind to find out what curating was about. At the end of the workshop, I felt uneasy rather than excited, because being selected meant that the proposal now had to be realised. It was a mixed feeling to suddenly embark and commit to a new project.

There were many meet-ups with mentor Mark Teh, JFKL coordinator Kyoko Kugai, comrade Rebecca Yeoh, to help refine the proposal, budget and action plan. What we are finally seeing now in 'Di Situ: An Exhibition', is close to my heart. I appreciate the opportunity to find my own voice in this manner, and it has been very exciting to see it happen.

Di Situ: An Exhibition is about finding the meaning of working in a place, be it our place of living or workplace. Thus, in this exhibition, sites become our entry point in understanding the artist's work, and vice versa. Ultimately we want to invite the viewers to think about their relationships with their sites as well.

While we pushed hard to set-up on-site, we also had to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. We had to be flexible, from

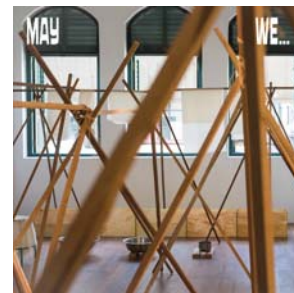
postponement of the exhibition dates, to rescheduling of programs then actively engaging the audience through various online events – a fragmented experience, but each event culminated in a broader understanding of site-specificity.

In this exhibition, we commissioned new works that responded to the site contexts of Gudang Yee Seng 2 (exhibition venue) and we interviewed artists on their relationship with the site in multiple works. We completed two fieldwork workshops to give first-hand experience of working on-site, we chatted about works that are sited in the forest and ocean of Peninsular Malaysia, zoomed out to artistic practice in various Asian cities, and finally reflected on our own work.

The exhibition has now ended with hope that it has opened up new perspectives on working on-site. Behind this humble journey was tremendous support from The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, KongsikL, EXSIM, as well as Di Situ team, artists, friends and neighbours of Gudang Yee Seng 2. Terima kasih dan jumpa lagi.

## May We...

Duration : 16 January - 7 February 2021  
 Venue : Tun Perk Co-op  
 Report by : Rebecca Yeoh  
 Photography by : Alvin Lau  
 Design by : Valen Lim



"What is going to be the outcome?"  
 "Why May 13?"  
 "This is what curating is."

Two questions and one statement to sum up most of the conversations I had this year, in preparation for **May We...** From the start of **May We...**, there was a lot of uncertainty surrounding the exhibition's visual outcome. Although the exhibition's crux was to build on conversations and research with the co-curator and artists, it was challenging to curate the exhibition's physical space at first. Every aspect was imaginative and abstract.

The exhibition went through many changes to adapt to the pandemic situation. Still, the main idea to create conversations about May 13, 1969, out of the fear of forgetting — did not shift.

**May We...** may have departed from fear, but the weekly conversations with the participating artists and co-curator revealed multiple intergenerational connections. These were emotions such as fear, discontent, taboo and anxiety. Their investigative approaches shed light on a new standpoint over similar sentiments.

The act of curating **May We...** was multifaceted. It was made more complex due to the pandemic. However, the turbulent year took Pey Sien and I through a journey that enabled us to challenge the traditional notion of 'curating'. The process of curating **May We...** challenged me to consider the site and space of the virtual world and the possibilities of bringing an immersive experience to our audiences in their homes.

A large part of **May We...** involved difficult memories, narratives, histories and fragments of the incident of May 13, 1969. The concept was large yet delicate. Despite the difficulties in attempting to translate emotions and history into mediums of art, there was a sense of urgency throughout the conversations and which was ultimately expressed when the exhibition had to be installed before the State of Emergency began on 13 January 2021.

**May We...** fell timely in between the two states of emergency. It gave us more room to contemplate our responsibilities as curators and artists who worked to put together an exhibition about May 13, 1969 — the current circumstances we are placed in and the futures it involves.

## Prof. Diraja Dr. Ungku Abdul Aziz (1922 - 2020)

On 15 December 2020, we were deeply saddened by the news of the passing of Prof. Diraja Dr. Ungku Abdul Aziz. Known affectionately to many as Pak Ungku, he is, till today, a towering leader to many Malaysians. His strong grasp of multidisciplinary knowledge earned him the name "Renaissance Man", and that led to his game-changing ideas that have transformed the nation entirely.

Born on 28 January 1922 in London, he returned to Malaya a few years later to pursue his early education in Johor before heading to Raffles College in Singapore to complete his secondary schooling. He then pursued a Diploma in Arts at Raffles College in 1947 and graduated with a first class Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the newly formed University of Malaya four years later. He remained at the university to teach economics.

In 1964, he received his doctorate in Economics from Waseda University, Japan. In 1968, he was promoted to Vice Chancellor (VC) of University of Malaya (UM) and during his tenure as the 3rd VC, he was one of the founding fathers of Ambang Asuhan Jepun (a special preparatory programme to enter Japanese universities). He was the longest serving VC in UM, having held the position for 20 years from 1968 until 1988. Pak Ungku was also the only recipient of the Japan Foundation Award in 1981 from Malaysia and was a very significant figure in the development of JFKL since its establishment in 1989.

Malaysia has lost an education and economic icon that who had contributed greatly to the development of the nation, especially in bridging and strengthening the mutual understanding between Malaysia and Japan. His legacy will continue to live on, and his memories with us will forever be cherished. The Japan Foundation, specially its Kuala Lumpur office would like to express our sincerest condolences to the family members of Prof. Diraja Dr. Ungku Abdul Aziz. His passing is certainly a great loss to the nation and to us as well.

May he rest in peace.

Photo caption from top:

Photo 1: Prof. Diraja Dr. Ungku Abdul Aziz at "A Series of Talks in Japanese on Malaysia-Japan Encounters"

Photo 2: Prof. Diraja Dr. Ungku Abdul Aziz during his talk on "Japanese and Malay Culture through Haiku and Pantun" at JFKL's Appreciation Evening in 2008

Photo 3: Prof. Diraja Dr. Ungku Abdul Aziz (third from right) during the Opening of Japan Cultural Center Kuala Lumpur with the late Prince Takamado (most left) on 14 February 1992



### JFKL Holiday Notice:

#### JFKL Library and Office Holiday

29 April 2021 – Nuzul Al-Quran



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

For library operation notices, please refer to our Facebook, Instagram and website for the latest information.

#### The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)

18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B, Mid-Valley City, No. 1, Medan Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: (03) 2284 6228 Fax: (03) 2287 5859

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

ISSN 1394-3448



9 771394 344001

