

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **119**

September - October 2021

Upcoming Events

SeaShorts 2021

Saturday Half-day Workshop for
Japanese Language Teachers

The 18th ICJLEM 2021
JF General Course



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



jf_kualalumpur



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国際交流基金

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SeaShorts Film Festival 2021

Bringing Southeast Asian cinema to the fore, the fifth edition of the annual SeaShorts Film Festival is returning fully online for the second time this 25 August to 2 September with a diverse range of cinematic and cultural programmes. SeaShorts aims to showcase Southeast Asia's stories and culture through the lens of emerging filmmaking talents and cinema. Audiences can expect a wide array of screenings, forums, masterclasses, and workshops from the comforts of their own home. This year's run is jam packed with a lot of different film programmes in collaboration with various guest curators.



2021 Film Programmes

SeaShorts Competition

20 shortlisted films out of 438 submissions from 8 countries will be chosen as contenders for the SeaShorts Award. Lending their prowess, the 2021 jury who will be choosing the winning film includes Raymond Phathanavirangoon, producer Meiske Taurisia, Phan Dang Di, Alfian Sa'at, and Sonny Liew.



I Took A Nap And I Miss You directed by Shelby Kho (Singapore) - part of the 20 finalist for the SeaShorts Competition in the running for the SeaShorts Award



Pulang directed by Yam Kin Wei (Malaysia/Taiwan) - part of the 20 finalist for the SeaShorts Competition in the running for the SeaShorts Award

Gardens Inside the Box

From micro to macro, time ahead and back. Implosion and Explosion. Selected works from the Image Forum Festival 2020 Asian Experimental Competition section which contains Shinya Isobe's Grand Prize-winning work 13.

"Gardens Inside the Box" is curated by YAMASHITA Koyo, programming director of Image Forum. Image Forum Festival is Japan's largest art film festival, and the largest dedicated to the screening of new experimental films, both in Japan and around the world.

"Revolving"

This selection of short and medium-length works highlights a range of concerns: performance, family, history, velocity, and disappearance. The filmmakers' diverse approaches connect the modes of the personal essay, the film-letter, the documentary, and the avant-garde formal experiment; all are linked by the urgency of the need to communicate the experience of a lived moment in time.

"Returning"

At a time when many people around the world feel the desire to return to conditions as they were before the pandemic, it seems appropriate to explore the ways that the idea of "returning" has been reflected in cinema. This program features essayistic and experimental films that deal with various kinds of return: the physical act of coming back to the same place, the mental act of returning to the past in memory, and haunting by ghosts.

"Revolving" and "Returning" are two programmes curated by Chris FUJIWARA, renowned film critic.

Structures of Feeling: Letters from a Young Poet

Under the guidance of radical, multi-hyphenate Filipino director Khavn de la Cruz, filmmakers participating in the "Film Pantun Workshop" organized by SeaShorts Film Society experiment with rhythm, structure, and cadence of the traditional pantun form to produce fleeting, diaristic shorts that illuminate the mystery of the ordinary everyday, in search of their inner poetic voices. Structures of Feeling: Letters from a Young Poet is the Opening Programme for SeaShorts Film Festival 2021.

No Home Movies

In collaboration with Golden Harvest Film Festival, these 4 shorts explore the liminal spaces immigrant-remigrants drift between, often navigating and aspiring, to become all the selves they thought they could be in another country, while remembering and contesting, all that they have left behind.

A Blessed Place: New Vietnamese Cinema

In the past few years, Vietnamese short films have exploded with vibrant, new energy. Formally daring, highly stylised, and relentlessly inventive with streaks of surrealism, these films have garnered much success and recognition in the global festival circuit. This survey celebrates a fresh movement in which a new generation of trailblazing Vietnamese directors with singular voices emerge collectively from an audaciously innovative time and place.

Dispatches from the Mekong Region

A presentation of guest programmes specially curated to showcase the many local filmmaking scenes of the region. This year countries' works will be shown are that of Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia.

Apart from these film programmes, audiences can also attend a variety of forums, masterclasses, and workshops. Festival passes are now on sale for **USD15**. For more information on the event, visit our website at seashorts.org

JFKL LOGO SUPPORT

This programme provides support to projects that promote international cultural exchange by allowing the use of the name of the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) as a supporter.

Program

Grants the use of the name of the Japan Foundation as a Supporter (Logo Support)

Benefit

Project publicity via JFKL's media channels

Eligibility

Registered organisations in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei

Deadline

2 weeks and considerable time required by applicant before the date of the project

How to apply

Please complete the application form and send it to grant@jfkf.org.my along with the project proposal and organiser information.

Applicants will be notified of the results of the screening about two (2) weeks from the date of official receipt of the **completed** application form.

All publicity materials that are to be used for the project shall clearly indicate that it is "**Supported by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur**" together with our logo mark.

The completed application form and supporting documents shall be submitted before or by the deadline for the applicant to prepare publicity materials.

Approved applicant is responsible for:

- Presenting "**Supported by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur**" and the JFKL logo correctly in all publicity materials,
- Informing JFKL of any major changes made to the project proposal or cancellation of the project in a timely manner, and
- Submitting the completed report and supporting documents to JFKL within 1 (one) month after the completion of the project.

JAPANESE CULTURAL MATERIAL LOAN PROGRAM



The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur offers a programme to loan Japanese cultural materials. The objective of this programme is for the respective events to engage and promote Japanese cultures. However, the usage of these cultural materials is mainly for showcasing or educational purposes only; the event shall be free of charge and open to the public.

Eligibility	List of Items	Deadline
<p>Loans of cultural materials open for the event of culture and language festivals that promote Japan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit organisations • Government bodies • Educational institutions/associations <p>Individuals and for-profit companies are not eligible.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukata • Happi • Food display (sushi, tempura, dango, taiyaki, etc) • Toys (kendama, daruma otoshi, koma, naruko, otedama) • Noren • Furoshiki • Tenugui • Ukiyo-e 	<p>1 (one) month before the event date</p>

Application form and list of items are available on the JFKL website at www.jfkf.org.my/support/material/.

For any inquiries regarding JFKL Logo Support and JFKL Cultural Material Loan Program please email grant@jfkf.org.my or call 03-2284 6228.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur
The 3rd Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers, 2021



JAPAN FOUNDATION
KUALA LUMPUR

The Use of Picture : An Interesting Way to “Introduce” and “Practice” Grammar at Elementary Level

When you are teaching, how do you introduce new grammar at elementary level?

Do you implement a lot of speaking practice?

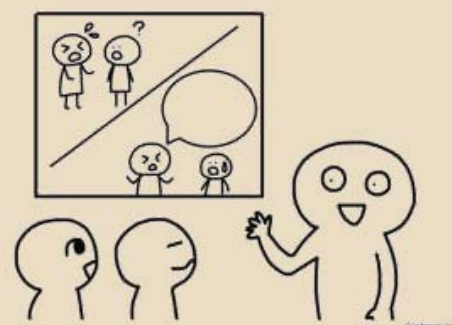
Let's rethink about how to make use of pictures to enhance our students' communication skill by grasping the characteristics of the pictorial materials.

Come and join in the discussion!



Date & Time: Sep 4, 2021 (Sat) 9:30am -12:30pm

- Platform: Online via ZOOM
- Target: the Japanese language teachers from Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam
- Limit: 50 participants
- Speaker: OSADA Kanako
- Fee: Free
- Application: Please click the link or scan the QR code below to register:
<https://forms.gle/wEBEDdHremYxSicT9>
【Closing date】 Aug 29 (Sun), 2021



Apply
NOW!



- ※ Application will close once we reached the participants limit. Kindly apply as soon as possible.
- ※ A confirmation email regarding your eligibility to participate will be sent to your email registered by Aug 30, 2021 (Mon).

Enquiries : osada@jfkf.org.my (OSADA)

THE 18TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA (ICJLEM 2021)

2021年度 第18回マレーシア日本語教育国際研究発表会

In order to support the research and development of Japanese language education in Malaysia and overseas, the 18th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia (ICJLEM 2021) this year will be once again be conducted via ONLINE platforms. We are now calling for audiences to join the Keynote Lecture and other programs.

[KEYNOTE LECTURE]

This year, Prof. Dr KOYANAGI Kaoru from Sophia University will give us a talk via ZOOM entitled "The Role of Teachers from the Viewpoint of Learning Mechanisms of the Second Language: The Effects of Instruction and Learners' Individual Differences." Prof. Dr. Koyanagi is also the author of "*What Japanese Language Teachers Should Know About Second Language Acquisition*" (Kuroshio Publisher).

This seminar will examine "how classroom instruction can activate cognitive learning mechanisms" and "how language teachers can deal with learners' individual differences."

*The keynote lecture will be conducted entirely in Japanese.



Professor at the Center for Language Education and Research (CLER) /Graduate School of Languages and Linguistics, Sophia University. She received her Ph.D in Linguistics from Georgetown University in the U.S. She spent one year as a visiting scholar at the Center for Japanese Studies, National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations in France from September 2018. Her main publications include "What Japanese Language Teachers Should Know About Second Language Acquisition" (Kuroshio Publisher), "Language Acquisition Theories for Teachers of Japanese" (3A Network), "Universality and Individuality in Second Language Acquisition" (Co-authored, Kuroshio Publisher) etc.

[CALLING FOR AUDIENCES]

Pre-registration and fee payment is required to participate in all programs. The registration fee is MYR 20, and we only accept online payments. The closing date for registration is 19 September 2021 (Sunday). Early registration is highly recommended. Related information for program participation will be sent to your email.

The programs, platforms and duration are as follows: -

PROGRAM	PLATFORM	DURATION
Keynote Lecture	ZOOM	Live on Conference Day (2 October) morning.
Oral Presentation	ZOOM	Live on the Conference Day (2 October) afternoon.
Poster Presentation	Video recording via YouTube	Videos and posters (PDF) are only accessible to registered participants from 24 September (Friday) to 9 October (Saturday). Q&A and comment exchange using the comment section.
Teacher's Corner	Video recording via YouTube	Videos are only accessible to registered participants until 20 September (Monday). Q&A and comment exchange using the comment section.

Please register via this link:
<https://www.majliskyoshikai.com/icjlem-2021> or scan:

Registration Form:



For more information and update on this event, please visit conference official website:

<https://www.jfkl.org.my/jle-conference-2021/> or scan:

Official Website:



For any inquiries, please contact jle_conference@jfkl.org.my (Conference Secretariat)

JFKL JAPANESE GENERAL COURSE 2021/2022

- We will only be holding classes online this year, anyone from any part of the country can participate!
- Our next intake will open at the **end of SEPTEMBER*** (tentatively for all courses)
- For more info please check out our General Course webpage:

http://bit.ly/3r4eqQe_

*Depending on available slots

MAIN TEXTBOOK



"MARUGOTO: Japanese Language and Culture"

It has the following features:

- A lot of illustrations and photographs are used to make it colorful and fun to study.
- A lot of listening material based on real-life situations.
- Not only the language, about Japanese life and culture also included.

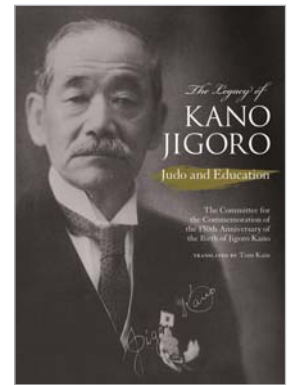
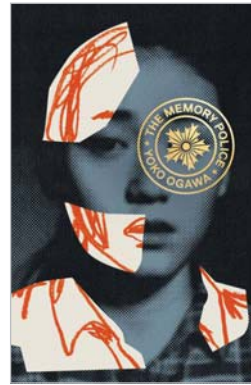
COURSE SCHEDULE AND FEES

Class	Level	Part	Course Duration	Number of Lessons	Day	Time	Fee (RM)		
Starter	A1	1	April 2021 - June 2021	9	Tuesday/ Wednesday	19:00 - 20:50	270		
		2	June 2021 - October 2021	13			390		
		3	November 2021 - December 2021	9			270		
		4	January 2022 - March 2022	9			270		
Elementary 1	A2	1	April 2021 - October 2021	22	Wednesday	19:00 - 20:50	660		
		2	November 2021 - March 2022	18			540		
Elementary 2	A2	1	April 2021 - October 2021	22	Tuesday	19:00 - 20:50	660		
		2	November 2021 - March 2022	18			540		
Pre-intermediate	A2/B1	1	June 2021 - October 2021	20	Thursday	19:00 - 20:50	600		
		2	November 2021 - March 2022	16			480		
		3	These parts are not available for 2021/2022						
		4	These parts are not available for 2021/2022						
Intermediate 1	B1	1	June 2021 - September 2021	15	Wednesday	19:00 - 20:50	450		
		2	November 2021 - March 2022	15			450		
		3	These parts are not available for 2021/2022						
		4	These parts are not available for 2021/2022						
Intermediate 2	B1	1	June 2021 - September 2021	15	Saturday	10:00 - 11:50	450		
		2	November 2021 - March 2022	15			450		
		3	These parts are not available for 2021/2022						
		4	These parts are not available for 2021/2022						

Should you have any inquiries, please call us at 03-2284 7228 or email us at japanese_course@jfkf.org.my.



LIBRARY



文法まとめリスニング 初級1/初級2 -日本語初級大地準拠-

By SASAKI Kaoru and others / Publisher: 3A Corporation 2017/ Library Call No.815SAS

It is often said that language learning is through the ears. This exercise book follows this concept, allowing you to practice grammatical rules and sentence patterns by answering questions while listening to simple daily conversations, and you will be able to improve communication skills at the same time. It is highly recommended for beginners who would like to master elementary level grammar. Audio content is provided on the CDs attached with the book or through a free App. (**There is a charge if you want to display the script.)

<https://www.3anet.co.jp/np/resrcs/322220/>

第二言語習得について日本語教師が知っておくべきこと

By KOYANAGI Kaoru / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishing 2020/ Library Call No.810KOY

Dr. KOYANAGI is the keynote speaker of the 18th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia (ICJLEM 2021), and is one of the experts in the field of Japanese language as Second Language Acquisition (SLA). This is a perfect reference which will enhance your knowledge of SLA from the latest research and improve your teaching style with more interactive classroom activities. It consists of 3 chapters covering basic theoretical matters, cognitive process, pedagogical interventions in acquisition, the role of instructors in language learning, and so on.

The Memory Police

By OGAWA Yoko, Stephen Snyder (Translator)/ Publisher: Vintage 2019/ Library Call No. 895.635KAW

OGAWA Yoko has been awarded every major Japanese literature prize, and her works are highly acclaimed internationally. The popular film "The Professor and his Beloved Equation" (2006, Japan) was also adapted from her bestseller. "The Memory Police" is the newly released English translation of her work which was shortlisted for the 2020 International Booker Prize, but originally published in Japan as "密やかな結晶" (Hisoyaka na kesshō) in 1994, more than 25 years ago. The story is about a young woman writer living on an unnamed island where objects are disappearing together with the words from memories, and people have lost the ability to be impressed by such beauty. So, she desperately wants to hide her endangered editor 'R' in a tiny secret room from the Memory Police who enforce these disappearances. "Obliteration and remembrance" is the theme of this beautiful and haunting allegorical novel and it will leave readers propounding questions in inconspicuous ways.

The Legacy of Kano Jigoro -Judo and Education-

By The Committee for the Commemoration of the 150 Anniversary of the Birth of Kano Jigoro (Editor), Tom Kain (Translator) / Publisher: JAPAN LIBRARY 2020 / Library Call No.796.5KAN

The Summer Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 has finally taken place safely after a year-long postponement because of the unexpected Covid-19 pandemic. But do you know of the legendary figure who devoted himself to bringing the Olympics to Japan in 1940 (cancelled due to war), long before it was held for the first time in Asia in Tokyo 1964? Dr. KANO Jigoro (1860-1938) is best known as the founder of Judo which is now practiced in over 200 countries and for laying the foundation for Japanese sports education. Beside his career as an educator, he was the first Asian member on the International Olympic Committee and promoted cultural exchanges and friendship through sports with countries around the world. This is a comprehensive biography of his life, achievements, and philosophies. His immense devotion and commitment are impressive and his legacy has been passed down to subsequent generations with his well-known mottoes, "maximum efficiency with minimum effort" (精力善用 seiryoku zen'yō) and "mutual welfare and benefit" (自他共栄 jita kyōei)

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
- having discount tickets for selected JFKL events

RM10 (annual fee) and 1 photo (passport size) are required for new registration.

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



The Second JFKL Saturday Half-day Teacher's Workshop

Reported by MARUTANI Shinobu (JFKL)

The Second JFKL Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers, 2021 took place on 24 July via Zoom under the theme of "Let's create reading materials that beginner level learners could enjoy: What are the key points to be aware of?" or 「初級の学生も楽しく読める読み物を作ろうーそのために必要なことって、なに?ー」.

The 2nd Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Teachers, 2021

Let's Create Reading Materials

that the beginner level learners could enjoy
-What are the key points to be aware of?-

- Reading a lot of short stories from beginner level could help students to understand and memorise words/phrases in a natural way.
- In this workshop, you will be creating "reading materials" to be used in such reading activity. During the workshop:
 - You will create reading material according to your own preferences.
 - You will create it together with your group members.
- While creating the fun reading materials, we will rethink about:
 - our writing ability as a teacher, and
 - what we should consider when supporting our students in writing essay.

We look forward to your participation!

Date & Time: July 24 (Sat), 9:30am - 12:30pm

- Platform: Online via ZOOM
- Target: the Japanese language teachers from Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam
- Limit: 30 participants
- Speaker: MARUTANI Shinobu
- Fee: Free

● Please click the link or scan the QR code below to register:
<https://forms.gle/m5KZKropzEQYtMYE7>



Apply NOW!

Co-organized by
JAPAN FOUNDATION Kuala Lumpur
MAJLIS マレーシア日本語教師協会 Malaysia Japanese Language Instructors Society

[Closing date] July 18 (Sun), 2021
※ Application will close once we reached the participants limit. Kindly apply as soon as possible.
※ A confirmation email regarding your eligibility to participate will be sent to your email registered by July 19, 2021 (Mon).

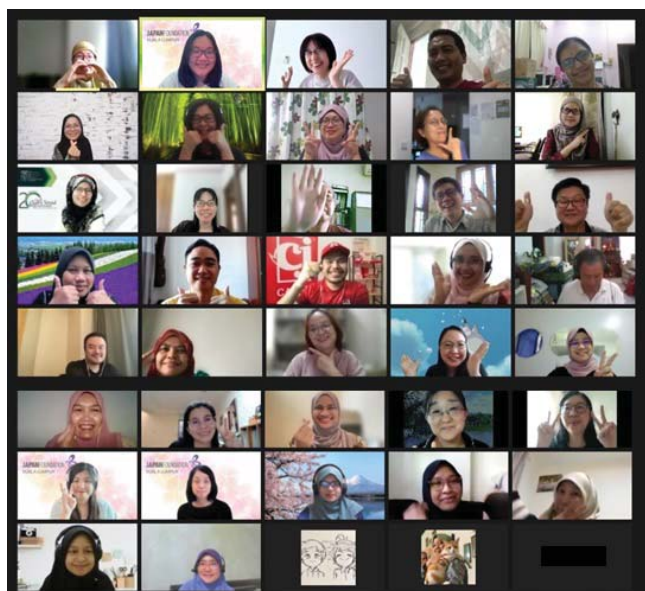
Enquiries marutani@jfkf.org.my (Marutani)

On the day of the workshop, 39 participants attended and tried to create reading materials with their beginner level students in mind. Through their hard work spanning more than an hour and a half, 33 new reading materials were created. Many of them were only half completed but everybody seemed to enjoy creating stories, sharing ideas and exchanging comments on what they had created.

These reading materials have been uploaded to the online noticeboard for the participants to share and exchange comments both during and after the workshop. What surprised us was even after the workshop, some refined and re-uploaded their reading materials, and some uploaded totally new materials to the noticeboard! As Albert Einstein said, "Creativity is contagious, pass it on."

In addition, new reading materials created from the workshop have been published on the JFKL website, "Reading Materials for Japanese Language Learners; made by teachers in Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam" or 「日本語の先生が作った読み物ーマレーシアとブルネイの先生が作りましてー」. Now, there are 18 reading materials available. All of them are suitable for the beginner level learners. Please check the website if you are interested.

<https://www.jfkf.org.my/language/tadoku/malaysiabooks>



みなさま、ご参加ありがとうございました！

Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to the Malaysian Japanese Language Instructors Society (MAJLIS) for supporting this event as a co-organizer. The president and some members of MAJLIS also attended the workshop.

So, what's next for the Saturday Half-day Workshop? Check it out on page 4 of this issue of Teman Baru...

日本語の先生が作った読み物
ーマレーシアとブルネイの先生が作りましてー
>>Click Here to go Back to Tadoku Top Page<<



New Reading Materials Available!!

The New Ambassadors

~Online Exchange in Japanese Opens New Doors~

Reported by ABE Nobuyuki, Nihongo Partners Malaysia 2nd Batch (2016), Coordinator of International Education, Oguni Junior and Senior High School Oguni Town, Yamagata Prefecture, Japan. Due to the pandemic, the 7th batch of the NIHONGO Partners (NP) Programme to Malaysia in 2021 was forced to be cancelled. Nevertheless, JFKL continues to conduct various projects through online engagements with the aim to support Japanese language education in local schools. One example of such projects was a school-to-school interactive session done with the cooperation of a former NP Mr. ABE Nobuyuki. This is his experience.

On 5 and 7 July 2021, the junior and senior high school students of Oguni, Japan and Sarawak (KOLEJ TUN DATU TUANKU HJ BUJANG and SMS MIRI) held an online exchange event in Japanese with the help of JFKL.

Before the students met one another, I gave the students in Oguni a brief explanation of Malaysia and its culture. Then, we tackled a difficult question that we have all thought about at least once: "Why do we need to learn about foreign languages and cultures in school in the first place?"

After some time to think, the students from Oguni and Sarawak jumped into real dialogue online with one another, asking various questions in turn to expand their conversation. The first group conversed in Japanese, and the second in English. Japanese students who participated in the exchange were thrilled and later wrote comments like;

"I was nervous at first, but all the Malaysians were so kind. I want to talk to them again!"

"I became interested in Malaysian food."

"Talking about anime together was so fun!"

"I was nervous they wouldn't understand my English, but they did! I was so happy!" "They have only studied Japanese for a few years, but they are already so good!" and

"I want to move to Malaysia!" among others. Over 90% of the students were very satisfied with their experience.

With the spread of the internet, and in part to the influence of COVID-19, the use of ICT has become commonplace in schools. People can connect with foreign countries anytime. Because of this, children have more opportunities to study international education than ever before. But I believe no matter how widespread the internet is and how affordable and convenient communications services have become, children's passions can only be ignited by those who they connect with every day -- teachers, parents, and others who they trust.

Since we have such a great responsibility, I ask myself every day: "Is my class able to enrich students' lives? How can I get students to open their eyes to the world? Our school now has a well-established ICT environment, but am I using it to its fullest potential for my students?"

My experience in the Nihongo Partners Program prepared me to take charge of international education classes. Five years have passed since then. At that time, I did everything I could to learn about Terengganu people. I studied the Malaysian language, learned to love the local cuisine, and honored their religious practices, such as prayer at mosques. People in Malaysia were so kind, and my time with them was wonderful. Now I think I love Malaysia more than anyone else in Japan. That love now guides me every day.



ABE Nobuyuki



Mr. Abe with the students in Malaysia

As an international educator, I believe the important thing is not how well we use ICT, but how much love we feel for the foreign country. Of all the countries I have introduced in my classes, Malaysia elicited the best reactions from students. I never have enough time to talk about the cultures, colorful foods, and incredibly beautiful landscapes in Malaysia.

I hope that all public schools in Japan will hold online Japanese exchanges with foreign countries. Generally speaking, Japanese students have difficulty with English and communicating with foreigners, and some people are not very interested in learning foreign culture, history, and religion from textbooks. But, they can change their views by actually talking to foreign people. If they are allowed to communicate in their native language, their faces light up, and the conversation comes alive. By speaking with each other, the world opens up to them in a way adults could never expect. When they look at the world map, the shape of each country will remind them of the faces of their friends, and they will want to learn more. And, they will want to be an ally to the people in that country. I think this is true international education.

After introducing the online Japanese exchange into my class, students' motivation for international education has increased dramatically. Why? "Because it is fun!!" Many students have also found an answer to that difficult question, "Why do we need to learn about foreign languages and cultures in school?"

This feeling of fun will enrich their lives and spark their passion for other subjects such as English and social studies. The students who finished the online exchange are truly the ambassadors of our age, and I believe they will lead Japan and Malaysia to a future of mutual understanding and - most importantly - fun.



The students from Oguni, Japan during one of the online activities

THE 18TH JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS – NATIONAL LEVEL (2021)

Reported by Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

Initially scheduled for 19 June 2021 at the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur (JCKL), this annual event specifically crafted for Malaysian secondary school students finally concluded its final contest in July and lived up to its theme, CHANGE, as it was shifted fully to an online platform for the first time. The contest and its official result announcement were also broadcasted to the public via Facebook Live on 24 July 2021 (Saturday) for the first time as well.

Although the platform of the contest was changed in response to the current pandemic, the format remained the same with 14 finalists presenting their speeches, followed by a Q&A session with Ms. TENGAN Celica (Japanese language lecturer of JFKL) as the interviewer and some brief comments by one of the judges after each speech.

Closing submissions on 30 April, we received more than 50 speech videos this year from secondary school students all over Malaysia. Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE) through one of its divisions, Sports, Co-curricular and Arts (BSKK), was also a part of the screening process to decide the 14 finalists. Co-organised with the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, this 18th edition of the contest had 5 judges:

Mr. ODA Ryusuke (Managing Director, HAKUHODO Malaysia)

Ms. OKA Rieko (Honorable President of Katorea-Kai, The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur)

Mr. SAITO Yuki Yoshi (First Secretary, Japan Information Service, Embassy of Japan in Malaysia)

Dr. Wong Ngan Ling (Japanese Language Lecturer, Faculty of Languages & Linguistics, University of Malaya)

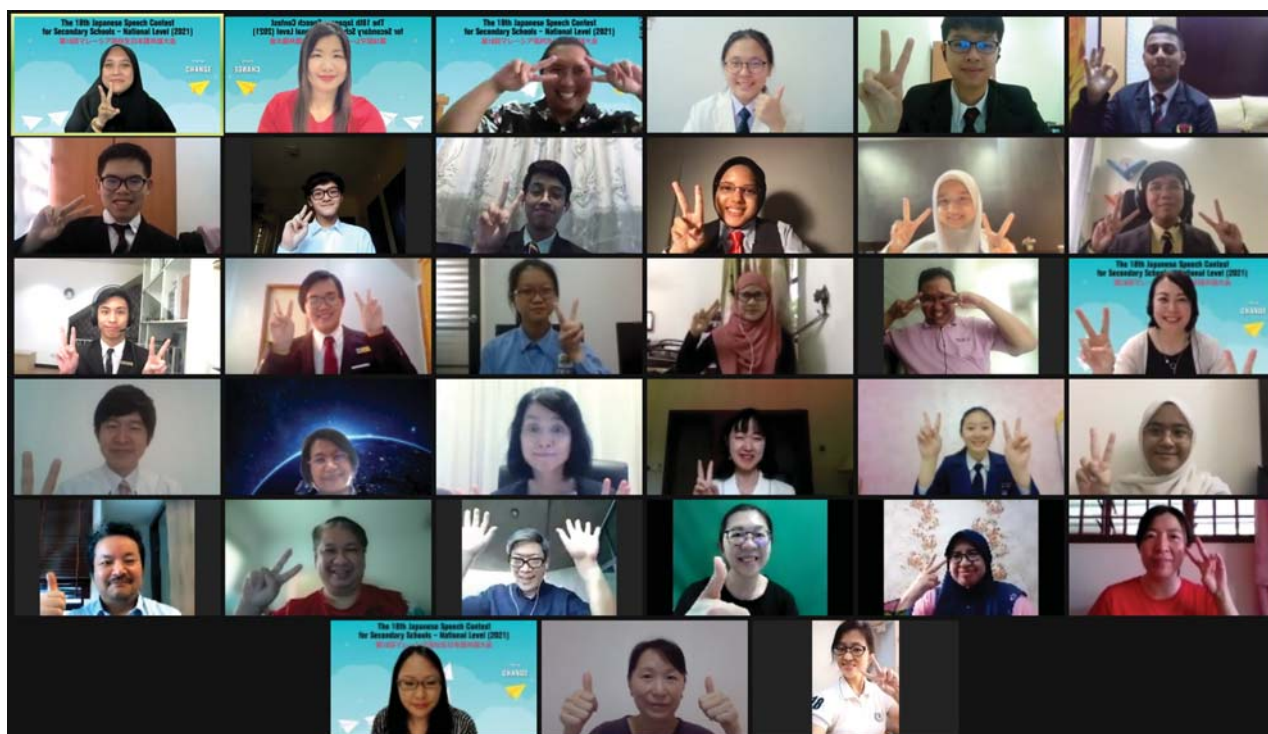
Ms. OSADA Kanako (Chief Lecturer, JFKL)

Not only mesmerised by the proficiency of all finalists, the judges were also surprised by the various perspectives reflecting the theme and attention-grabbing stories, which left a strong impression as expressed in their comments.

TOP 6 WINNERS

1	GURUPRASHANT NAIR A/L RAVINTHERAN (SMK King Edward VII)	スマホが好きなそば The Grandma Who Likes Smartphones
2	SEW JIA PAO (SMJK YuHua)	コロナ禍から失ったことと得たこと Gained and Lost from Corona
3	MUHAMMAD HAZIQ IZZAN BIN MOHD SYAHRIL (Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah)	変化から学んだことを活かして Learning From Change
4*	LOO QI YUAN (SMK King Edward VII)	あたらしいはっけん New Discovery
4*	AMMAR FIRDAUS BIN MOHAMMAD AIZAL (Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah)	石の上にも三年 Perseverance Prevails
6	NURINA SHAFIYA BATRISYIA BINTI MOHD BADLI (Sekolah Seri Puteri)	毛虫のたび A Caterpillar's Journey

*There was a tie for 4th place.



14 finalists with their teachers, judges, MOE officers & organizers

As the winner of this contest, Guruprashant Nair will represent Malaysia at the 26th Japanese Speech Award which is an international competition organised by the Education Guardianship Group (E.G.G), a Japanese NPO. Alongside with the title, he received the Japanese Ambassador's Trophy, a special stationery box sponsored by KOKUYO International Malaysia, a headphone sponsored by PANASONIC Malaysia, an Instax Mini 11 camera sponsored by FUJIFILM Malaysia, book voucher sponsored by KINOKUNIYA Book Stores, and some merchandises from JFKL with a special Japanese language course with our Japanese language lecturer.

Deepest appreciation to our sponsors:

instax
FUJIFILM

Panasonic



KOKUYO



Head over to our YouTube channel to watch the full video of the contest as well as the individual speech videos of all finalists:



<https://tinyurl.com/JFKLspeechcontest>



MESSAGES FROM THE TOP 3 WINNERS

"I would like to thank the judges and organisers for allowing me and my friends to show our best side in this contest. I hope many other students take up this challenge in the future and become a shining example to everyone!" – **Guruprashant Nair (Winner)**

"I do not learn Japanese language in my daily school lessons, so I had to put extra effort and practice focusing on the content, pronunciation, body movements, intonation and hand gestures. I have participated in public speaking before, but not in Japanese. Although I was inspired by TED Talk speakers, I delivered the speech in my own style and I am honored to be selected as one of the winners. Thank you to my mother who is also a mentor and teacher of mine who supports me endlessly. Also, the organisers for providing such an opportunity for students, and my friends who supported me. Without the support, I don't think I could do it. I also want to thank God for letting me and helping me spiritually." – **Sew Jia Pao (2nd Prize Winner)**

"It started in April when I started writing my speech and at least 4 days a week of online training. When we were allowed to return to school, I was training almost every day to improve my intonation and pronunciation. Eventually, my efforts paid off! Thank you Chin-sensei, Nabilla-sensei, Syafiqah-sensei and Ayumi-sensei for guiding me and thanks to my friend Ammar for participating alongside me. Also my parents, close friends, and JFKL. It was a very fun journey, an amazing and exciting competition. I hope it attracts more participants in the future. 皆さん、サポートしてくれて本当にありがとうございました。" – **Muhammad Haziq Izzan (3rd Prize Winner)**

CONGRATULATIONS – not only to the winners and finalists, but also to all students who submitted their speeches this year! We had fun listening to your interesting speeches and hope it brought a wholesome change to your life as well.

On behalf of the organisers, collaborators and sponsors, we wish you all the best in your journey exploring the beauty of Japanese language!

Thank you to all students, teachers, schools, judges, collaborators and sponsors. Although fairly challenging but we believe it was a momentous CHANGE for everyone and we look forward to the next edition of this Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools in 2022!

オンライン日本語サロン ONLINE JAPANESE SALON



I was thrilled to join JFKL's Online Salon as it was a perfect platform to practice my Japanese speaking in a fun environment. I met new people during the event and we would help each other correct pronunciations or grammar while listening to each other's sharing. I learnt a lot and look forward to participating in the event again!

(Nadia Nurdiana/Nadia Kiyoshi, Malaysian Participant)

What is "Online Japanese Salon"?

Online Japanese Salon (OJS) is a monthly event for Japanese language learners/speakers in Malaysia and native Japanese speakers to gather and talk freely based on a certain topic via an online platform. The key idea is to "Have Fun Talking in Japanese" in a relaxing atmosphere. In our recent rounds, we found that many were repeaters and the number of participants for each round has increased gradually. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants for their continuous support!

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 those who are interested to join, please follow our Facebook and Instagram page, or visit our website by scanning the QR code.

SCAN ME



JFKL Talk Series Episode 1 now on YouTube!



Photos by Mahen Bala

"JFKL Talk Series" is a programme initiated to reach out to everyone and introduce more about Japan through the lens of professionals in various fields. The first episode titled "Longing and belonging: Portraits of different people in Japan" was presented by Mr. Mahen Bala, a Malaysian documentarian and visual artist.

In this first episode, Mahen shared on the culture and history of Japan through his research on railway heritage undertaken during his trip to Japan under the Asia Center FY2019 Fellowship. He also shared his encounters with the people and places along the way as he observed how train travel, museums, and railway history defined national and communal constructs of identity across the Japanese landscape.

Just head over to our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code to watch this light-hearted sharing that will remind you of the magic of connecting with strangers, and in the process discover new insights into Japanese culture and history. And make sure to keep a lookout for new updates on future episodes on our SNS channels!



JFKL Holiday Notice:

JFKL Office Holiday

16 September 2021 – Malaysia Day
19 October 2021 – Prophet Muhammad's Birthday

JFKL Library Holiday

16 September 2021 – Malaysia Day
19 October 2021 – Prophet Muhammad's Birthday

*Due to the current situation, please refer to footnote below for more info on our operating hours.



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.

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ISSN 1394-3448



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