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**TEMAN
BARU**

JAPAN FOUNDATION
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INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS

▶ 'Tokyo Notes' by Seinendan Theatre Company_

Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPac) proudly present "Tokyo Notes", a piece that was written and directed by Oriza Hirata and performed by Seinendan Theatre Company here in Kuala Lumpur. The performance will be in Japanese with **English and Malay subtitles**.

"Tokyo Notes" is Hirata's awarded piece at the 39th Kishida Kunio Drama Award, the most important and prestigious award for Japanese playwrights, in 1995. The piece has been translated into 7 languages including Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Korean and Thai, and has been performed in 12 cities in 9 countries.

Now this internationally acclaimed piece will tour Bangkok and Jakarta as well as Kuala Lumpur in June and July.



Photograph by Tsukasa Aoki

Date & Time : 29 (Thu) June - 1 (Sat) July 2006 @ 8:30pm
2 (Sun) July 2006 @ 3pm
Venue : Pentas 2, KL-Pac
Sentul Park, Jalan Strachan, off Jalan Ipoh
Ticket : RM30, RM15 (students & JFKL members)

Synopsis:

An assortment of people visit this small art museum in Tokyo in 2004 to see collection of paintings evacuated from war-torn Europe. Focusing on their various concerns (family, job, war, art, etc.) this play constructs a whole world of its own, just like a picture made from mosaic tiles.

This piece, whose title pays homage to a masterpiece by filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu, "Tokyo Story (Tokyo Monogatari)", is one of the most renowned works of Oriza Hirata and has been presented not only in Japan but also in Europe, North America, and Korea.

Seinendan URL: <http://www.seinendan.org>

*** We are planning to organize workshop by Mr. Hirata. For more enquiry, please contact Cultural Affairs Department at 03-2161 2104, email to jfcc@jfk.org.my or log on to <http://www.jfk.org.my>

Hirata proposed the "contemporary colloquial theatre theory". It has drawn much attention in the 1990s and has had a great influence on the Japanese theater. This theatre theory practice in Hirata's work, which the actors sometimes speak with their backs to the audience and several people talk at the same time so that conversations overlap just as often happens in real life, and he never uses any music to heighten theatrical effects. According to Hirata, he "rejects advocating any theatrical 'ism' and aims for a theatre that is a direct portrayal of the world."

▶ Ikebana International Kuala Lumpur Chapter 72 Exhibition and Workshop_

Ikebana International K.L. Chapter 72, collaborated with The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur introduces the art of Ikebana through an exhibition and workshop, conducted by three Ohara School Masters from Japan.

The details of the event are as follows:

Date : 8 (Thu) & 9 (Fri) June 2006
Venue : Orchid Ballroom,
Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
Contact : Tel: 03-2094-3119 (Ms. Ju)
Email: eleanor@pc.jaring.my



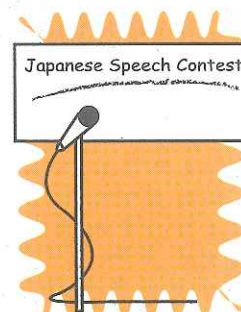
Photograph by Tsukasa Aoki

▶ The 22nd Japanese Speech Contest for Open Category_

The yearly Japanese Speech Contest for Open Category is back!

This contest is to provide an opportunity for Japanese language learners to express their opinions and thoughts in Japanese as well as to show their skills in the language and to raise awareness and deepen understanding among Malaysian people on the importance of intercultural and cross-cultural communication.

The closing date to submit the application forms is **30 June 2006**
You may download the application form from <http://www.jfk.org.my>



Kuala Lumpur Preliminary

Date : 30 (Sun) July 2006
Time : 1pm - 4pm
Venue : The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur Hall (JCKL)

National Level

Date : 3 (Sun) September 2006
Time : 1pm - 4pm
Venue : The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur Hall (JCKL)

Enquiry : Tel: 03-2161 2304 (Mr. Nobli / Mr. Honjo)
Email: jplc@jfk.org.my

▶ Japanese Cultural Festival in Ipoh_

Together with Perak State Department of Culture, Art and Heritage, Perak State Library and Perak Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Society, we are organizing "Japanese Cultural Festival" in Ipoh on 17th & 18th June. At this festival, various activities such as Japanese film screenings, photo exhibition, origami workshop and more will be held. Please bring along your friends and family members to spend your weekend with us!

Date : 17 (Sat) & 18 (Sun) June 2006
Time : 10am onwards
Venue : Taman Budaya Negeri Perak & Perak State Library

The detail schedule will be announced soon. Please log on to our website at <http://www.jfk.org.my> for the updated information.

▶ The Japan Foundation - Group Tours Program for Secondary School Educators_

This program aims to promote understanding of Japanese education and culture among invited teachers from all over the world engaged in the education at secondary school level (in particular majoring in social studies or international understanding education) through their visiting schools and various institutions or staying at host homes. It is also to make the participants in the program help the younger generation in their own countries easily to understand Japan through their experiences and information they get during their visit in Japan.

A total of 216 participants from 54 countries inclusive 5 teachers from Malaysia are invited to visit Japan under this program in fiscal year 2006-2007.

They will visit Japan for 14 days, from 22 June to 5 July 2006.

Library News



The Japan Foundation Library is introducing special displays for users to enjoy & explore variety of books and information about Japan.



Special Corner



Theme: Japanese Food & Cuisine

Japan has mouth-watering selections of different foods and dishes. Many people nowadays are familiar with sushi and tempura, but besides sushi, do you know about any other Japanese cuisine? The Japanese cuisine offers a great variety of dishes and regional specialties. This month library sets up a special corner with a theme "Japanese Food & Cuisine", and displays variety of books and replicas on Japanese food. There are fun and easy recipes for you to try at home.

Tourism Corner



Theme: Tokyo

Tokyo is Japan's capital and the country's largest city.

Tokyo is also one of Japan's 47 prefectures, but is called a metropolis (to) rather than a prefecture (ken). The metropolis of Tokyo consists of 23 city wards (ku), 26 cities, 5 towns and 8 villages, including the Izu and Ogasawara Islands, several small Pacific Islands in the south of Japan's main island Honshu.

(Information source: japan-guide.com <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2164.html>)

Tokyo offers a wide range of attractions, from large entertainment; shopping and business district and cultural treasures to modern futuristic sights.

Internet Lounge



Introducing new "Internet Lounge" in the Library for members to surf and explore information on Japan.



Japanese Books



ちびまる子ちゃん (Chibi Maruko chan) (著者: さくらももこ 1995年 集英社)

作者、「さくらももこ」の小学生時代をえがいたエッセイ風のマンガです。

「さくらももこ」は、小学3年生です。ちいさな女の子なので、「ちびまる子ちゃん」とよばれています。「まる子」ちゃんのまわりには、おかしな家族やたのしい学校の友だちがたくさんいます。

このマンガは、「まる子」ちゃんの毎日をえがいた、笑いあり、涙ありのコメディです。

第13回 (1989年) 講談社漫画賞受賞



鉄腕アトム (Astro boy) (著者: 手塚治虫 1995年 講談社)

「鉄腕アトム」は、作者、手塚治虫の代表作です。そして、日本のマンガの代表作でもあります。

アトムは、天才科学者・天馬博士が、事故で死んだ息子の代わりに作りました。ですが、アトムはロボットで成長しませんから、やはり息子ではないのだと天馬博士はかなしくなってしまう。それで、アトムはサーカスに売られてしまいますが、それを、お茶の水博士が助け出します。お茶の水博士は、その後、アトムの育ての親になります。

いまの日本人には、ロボットは人間の友だちだと思っている人が多いようです。そんな考え方に、大きな影響をあたえたのは、「鉄腕アトム」でしょう。「鉄腕アトム」は、いまもみんなの心に生きつづけるSFマンガの名作です。



スラムダンク (Slam dunk) (著者: 井上雄彦 1994年 集英社)

主人公の不良少年、桜木花道は、背が高く、運動が上手なので、バスケットボール部にさそわれます。桜木は、主将の妹を好きになり、バスケットボール部に入部します。バスケットボールは、まったくはじめてでしたが、練習や試合を通して、だんだんバスケットボールがおもしろくなり、どんどん上手になっていきます。

自信家の桜木花道が成長していくようすをえがいたマンガです。このマンガは31巻で終わりましたが、いまでも続編を出してほしいというファンが多いそうです。

第40回 (1994年) 小学館漫画賞受賞

その他にもたくさんのマンガが入りました!!!

Weekend Japanese Film Show

Here are the 4 films to be screened in June and July.
The dates, times and titles as follows:

"Kikujiro"

Saturday, 3 June starting 4:30pm

Directed by KITANO Takeshi, 1999, 121 min. Colour



Masao, a 3rd grade student, lives with his grandmother. His father died soon after he was born and his mother left him in order to work somewhere else. Summer vacation started and Masao feeling bored decides to go on an adventure to visit his mother. At the beginning of the journey, he meets a couple who are friends of his grandmother. The wife suggested that Kikujiro, the husband, accompanies Masao, and the journey of the two starts.

We have conducted the popularity contest for the films screened in 2004 and 2005.
We would like to thank those who participated in the vote, and here's the result!

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| No.1 Shall We Dance? | No.4 Gomen |
| No.2 Water Boys | No.5 Poppoya |
| No.3 Haunted School | |

As we promised, we are going to screen the top 3 films in July.

No.3

"Haunted School"

Saturday, 1 July starting 4:30pm

Directed by HIRAYAMA Hideyuki, 1995, 100min, Colour

It's the last day of school before the summer vacation. 2nd grader Mika returns to collect the drawing material she left in the classroom. Fascinated by uncannily bouncing soccer ball that she finds, she is tempted into the old school, where she is abducted by an unseen presence. One after another, four other children are trapped in the old building.



No.2

"Water Boys"

Saturday, 15 July starting 4:30pm

Directed by YAGUCHI Shinobu, 2001, 91min, Colour



When a pretty new coach at Tadano High School swimming team turns up with the nutty idea of creating a top synchronized swimming team of her own, she has a few problems to overcome. First, she's teaching at an all-boys school; second, the 5 boys in the team are all hopelessly bad swimmers; third, she suddenly discovers that she is 8-month pregnant and due for maternity leave.

No.1

"Shall We Dance?"

Saturday, 15 July starting 7:30pm

Directed by IZUTSU Kazuyuki, 1999, 112min, Colour

Shohei Sugiyama leads a safe but dull life of a corporate accountant. One day, on the way from work, he spots a beautiful but forlorn face staring out the window of a dance studio. The image haunts him so much that a few days later he impulsively jumps off the train and applies for ballroom dancing lessons at the studio, hoping to learn from the lovely instructor whose face he saw.



admission is FREE!!!
with English subtitles
at Mini Auditorium,
Malaysia Tourism Centre (MTC)

Reports

Asian Technical Theatre Workshop in Manila



First of all, I would like to say thanks to the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur for giving me a great opportunity to attend this workshop. It was a very essential experience to me. I want to say, I really enjoyed this workshop and it was a great program to learn technical theater. This program is suitable for a beginner or an experienced person. Indeed, the participants of the workshop were required to attend the entire design lesson for a Lighting design, Sound design, Set design, Stage management and Technical director. It helped us to understand and know how to work together with different parties. On the other hand, I'm actually a sound technician in Malaysia, but in the workshop, I was doing lighting design for the show case. I really enjoyed trying a different work and this workshop actually made me believe that I can make it. I also made a lot of new friends who came from different countries. We promised to keep in touch; therefore we might work together again or share what we had learned in the future. Thank you.

Terence Chong
KLPac's resident technician

Curator Conference - Cubism in Asia

From 24 to 28 March 2006, the Japan Foundation organized the first Asia Museum Curators Conference in Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo. The objective is to bring together the next generation of curators to participate in a workshop and meeting to discuss common issues, and explore the possibility of networking and working on long-term collaborative projects covering modern and contemporary art within the Asian region.

Participants came from the National Museum of China, Guangdong Museum of Art, China, The National Museum of Art, Osaka, Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (MOMAT), Japan, The National Art Center, Japan, The National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea, The National Art Gallery of Malaysia, Ayala Museum, Philippines and Singapore Art Museum.

The outcomes of the conference are: the same members will work together for three years terms to achieve a common goal, fixed membership to meet at least once a year and initiate information / pursue collaborative projects where possible. For the next conference, 3 areas of interest will be explored in the agenda and will cover one area per day. In preparing for the conference, members are expected to make at least 1 presentation under the following section and each section is expected to have 3 to 4 speakers each:

- a. Modern
 - Impressionism
 - Realism for social concerns
- b. Contemporary
 - Presentation on topics that may provoke interest of the group
- c. Curatorial issues in museums
 - Conservation on media art
 - Publicity and marketing
 - Visitorship / performance
 - Protocol between museums in mounting exhibitions / general guideline to achieve equal partnership
 - Common website



From this conference the participants felt that it's a good start for us (next generation curators) to find our own definition of art and try to define our own history rather than always comparing and depending on the history that came from the west. We should work together closely to pursue our own dreams and goals so that we can be the next respected region in art. We wish the Japan Foundation would not stop this kind of activities and invite all Asian countries to participate in the same conference so that we can know each other more and plan our own activities in order to help each other to develop art. It is For All.

Mohamad Majidi Bin Amir
Curator (Exhibition & Design Department)
The National Art Gallery of Malaysia

List of Grantees for The Japan Foundation Annual Grant 2006-2007_

● The Japan Foundation Research Grant Program for Japanese Studies

1. Title of Project: Level of Scientific Culture Among Secondary School Students
- A Comparative Study Between Malaysia and Japan
Grantee : Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Faculty of Education

2. Title of Project: Education for Sustainable Development
- Comparative Analysis of Policy, Activities and Organizational Structure Between Japan and Malaysia
Grantee : Universiti Sains Malaysia, Corporate and Sustainable Development Division

● Grant Program for Intellectual Exchange Conference

- Name of Project: Empowering Environmental Journalists and Communicators in Reporting on Sustainable Development
Grantee : Asian Institute for Development Communication (Aidcom)

● The Japan Foundation Japanese Studies Fellowship 2006-07

- Grantee : Professor Dr. Rosnani Hashim
International Islamic University Malaysia, Institute of Education
Project Title: Englishization of Education as a Strategy for Meeting the Challenge of Globalization
- A Comparative Study of Malaysia and Japan's Response

● The Japan Foundation Library Support Program 2006-07

- Grantees: 1. University of Malaya, Department of East Asian Studies
2. Universiti Malaysia Sabah, University Library

Hinamatsuri Tea Ceremony Demonstration & Origami Workshop_

Hinamatsuri or The Doll Festival is celebrated on 3rd March every year. On this day, families pray for the growth and happiness of young girls in their household. Another name for this festival is Momo no sekku (Peach Festival) because of the peach blossom season on the old lunar calendar.

To celebrate this seasonal event here in Kuala Lumpur, we organized a special event on 26 February at our office. 130 participants separated into 5 sessions enjoyed the Tea Ceremony Demonstration, Tea Tasting in the tatami room (Japanese room), and origami workshop in a classroom. Hina Dolls on the 7-tiered stand were also exhibited at the lobby area to create Hinamatsuri atmosphere at the venue.



Tea Ceremony Demonstration:



Origami Workshop:



JAPAN FOUNDATION

"TEMAN BARU" is distributed to JFKL members.
JFKL membership is available upon application. Membership fee is RM10 per year.

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