





## ▶ Japanese Drum - Beating and Blazing

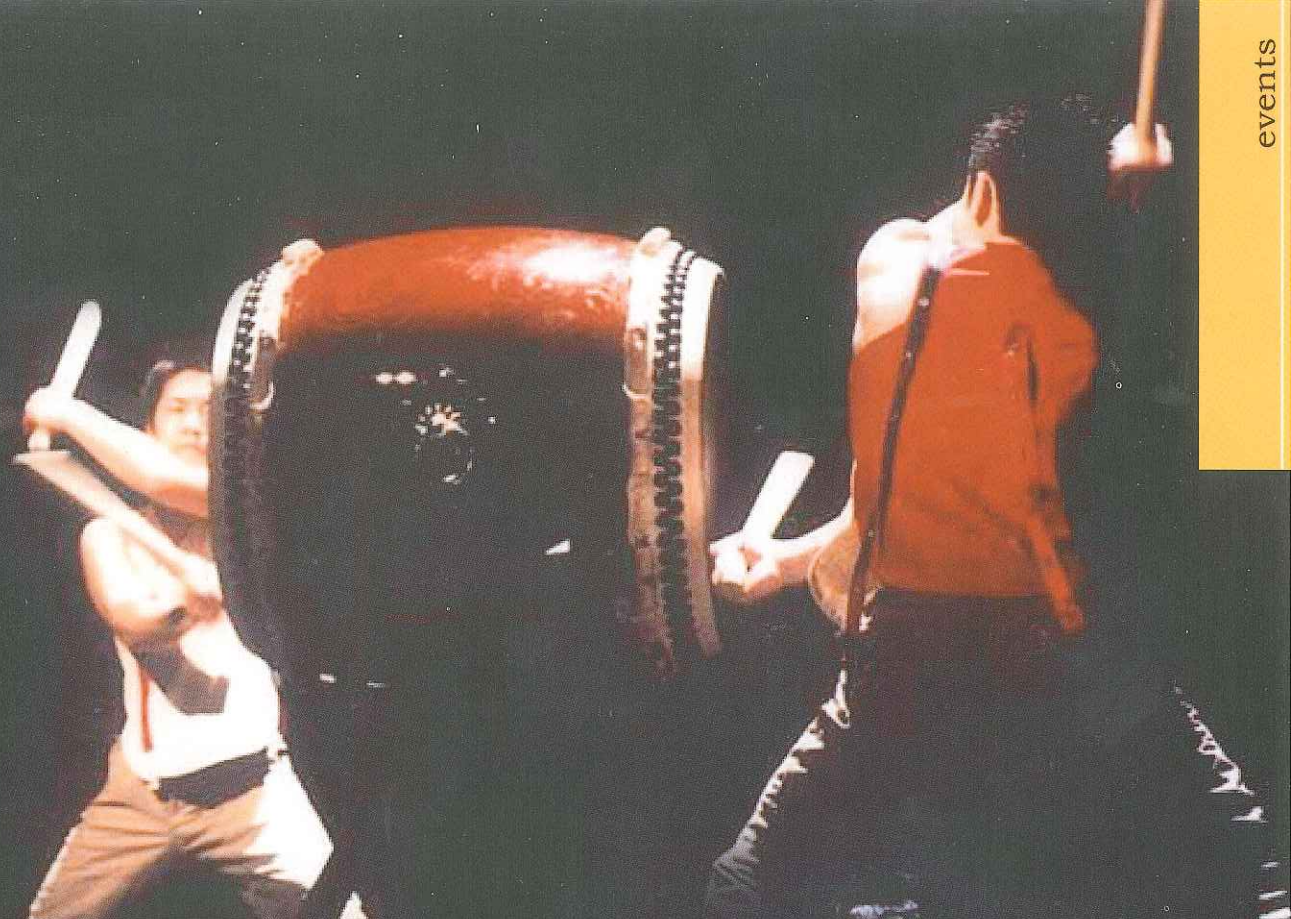
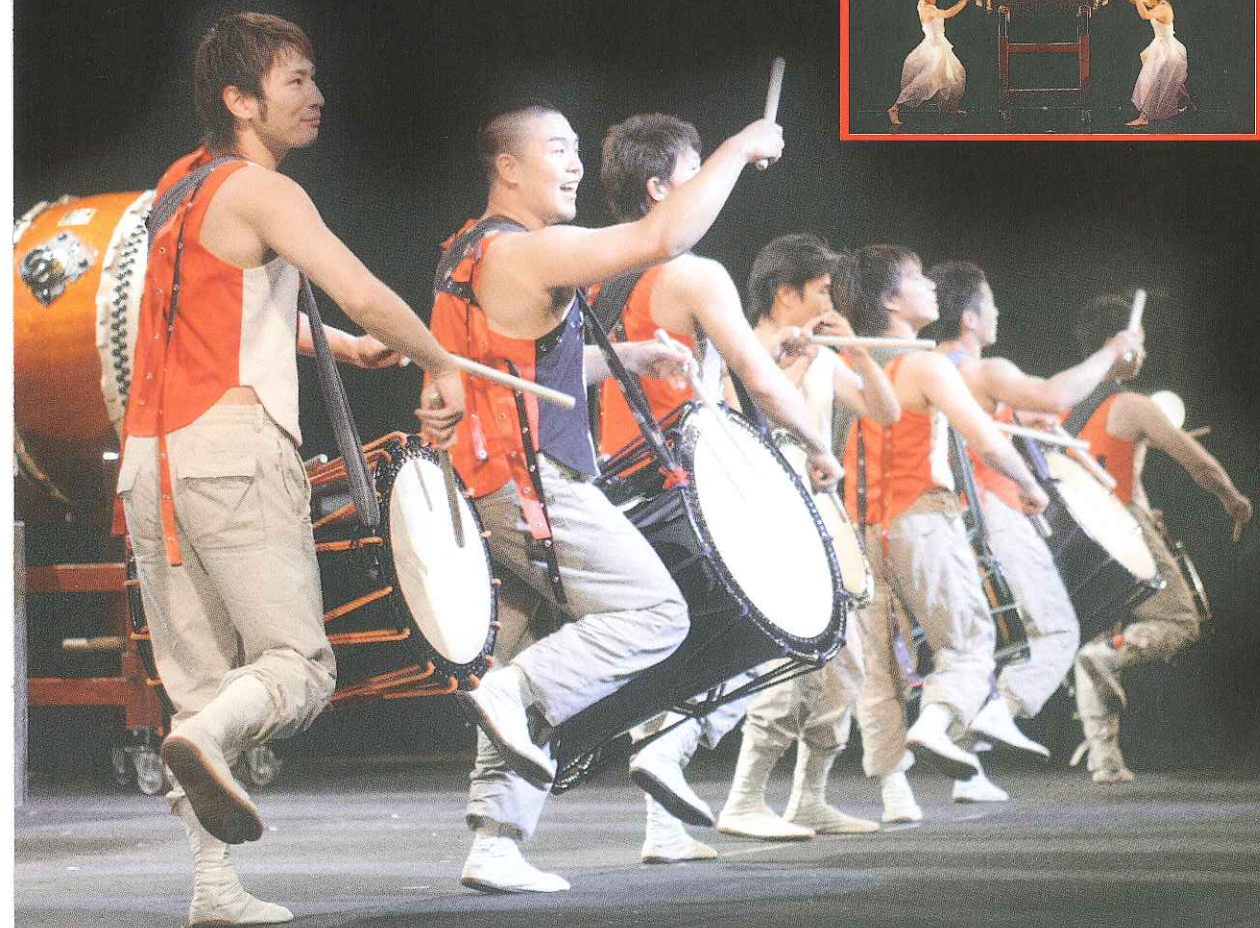
Thong! Thong! Thong!

The loud "Beating and Blazing" symbolizes the launch of the Japan-Malaysia Friendship Year 2007, which is held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations Between Japan and Malaysia.

The Japan Foundation and Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, in cooperation with Ministry of Culture, Art and Heritage, Istana Budaya, The Asano Foundation for Taiko Cultural Research, Japan Club Kuala Lumpur and JACTIM, supported by Hotel Nikko proudly present you the most exciting yet fascinating Japanese drum performance by HONO-O-DAIKO, a renowned Japanese group of women drummers together with TOKYO DAGEKI DAN, a music performers group.

HONO-O-DAIKO consists of three women drummers who formed a TAIKO group in 1986. The group actively composing unique melody for Japanese drums performances. Most of their works are influenced by the beautiful nature around Hakusan City in Ishikawa Prefecture, the place where the group was established. With the aim to broaden the public interest towards Japanese drums, they started to guide young drummers from all over Japan. At the same time, they also perform in overseas in order to introduce Japanese drums at the international level.

TOKYO DAGEKI DAN featuring Japanese drums or "Taiko" founded by HIRANUMA Jin-ichi in 1995. It seeks the possibilities of Taiko through new sensitivity not limited to any style, performing attractive stages of Taiko ensemble.



For further details, please contact The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur at 03-2161 2104, email to [jfcc@jfkf.org.my](mailto:jfcc@jfkf.org.my) or log on to <http://www.jfkf.org.my>

Date & Time : 20 January (Sat), 8:30pm  
21 January (Sun), 3pm

Venue : Istana Budaya  
Jalan Tun Razak, KL

Admission : **FREE**

(Information on ticket redemption will be announced later)



## Public Lecture on Japanese Studies by Professor Akihiko TANAKA



Professor Akihiko TANAKA

Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS), with support from The Japan Foundation will organize a series of Public Lecture on Japanese Studies by Professor Akihiko TANAKA, former Director of the Institute of Oriental Culture, University of Tokyo. Professor Tanaka is a very distinguished Japanese professor specializing in International Politics and Japanese Foreign Relations. He graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1977 and received his PhD degree in politics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1981. Before assuming the directorship of the Institute, he had, among other appointments, been a visiting professor at Ruhr University, Bochum, and a visiting fellow at St. Anthony's College, Oxford University. Tanaka's specialties include theories of international politics, contemporary international relations in East Asia, and issues in Japan-U.S. relations. He has written numerous books and articles in Japanese and English, including *"The New Middle Ages: The World System in the 21st Century"*. He also writes about relations between Japan and ASEAN. Theme of the lecture series will be *"Japanese Policy in Asia under the Abe Administration"*. Everyone is invited and admission is free.

### The schedule of the lecture series:

Date and Time	Venue	Contact No. (Person)
5 January 2007 (Fri) 9:30am - 11:30am	Dewan Kuliah A, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur	03-7967-5631 (Pn. Rofizawati Maarof)
8 January 2007 (Mon) 10am - 12 pm	Dewan Persidangan Universiti, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang	04-653-2042 (Pn. Rohani)
9 January 2007 (Tue) (Time is to be confirmed)	Kuching, Sarawak (Venue is to be confirmed)	(To be confirmed)

For further details, please contact us by e-mail at [jpcc@jfkl.org.my](mailto:jpcc@jfkl.org.my) or call 03-2161-2104

## What's new in Library



### Japanese Books



『英語で伝える日本 = Guiding Japan in English』  
著者：伊藤通子 英訳：澤井雅子 三修社 2006年

Library call number: 291  
Bilingual: Japanese / English

著者は、通訳ガイドです。外国から日本にくる観光客を案内するのがしごとです。この本では、日本の歴史、宗教、文化、そして、東京や京都などの観光名所を日本語・英語で紹介しています。



『日本語で歌おう！ = Let's sing in Japanese!』  
Japanese pops and song for learning Japanese』  
著者：吉田千寿子 アスク 2006年

Library call number: 810.725

美しい歌詞やメロディー、楽しいリズムの歌を歌いながら、日本語の文型や表現がおぼえられる歌教材です。

パート1「日本語で歌おう！」には16曲、パート2「みんなが好きな日本の歌」には15曲のっていて、CDもついています。



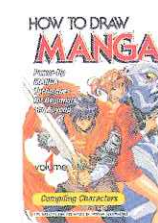
『なぜか、マンガになる日本語』  
著者：いのうえさきこ サンマーク出版 2005年

Library call number: 810.725

「猫をかぶる」「臭い仲」「耳にタコができる」……など、日本語の慣用句を見てみると、ちょっと笑えませんか。

この本は、76の慣用句が、おかしなマンガとしてえがかれています。日本語のふしぎな世界にふれてみてください。中上級の日本語学習者が慣用句をおぼえるときにも使えるかもしれません。

### English Books



How to Draw Manga volume 1: Compiling Characters  
[The Society for the Study of Manga Techniques. Graphic-sha: Tokyo, 1999]

Library call number: 741.5952 HOW





**How to Draw Manga volume 2: Compiling Techniques**  
[The Society for the Study of Manga Techniques. Graphic-sha: Tokyo, 2000]

Library call number: 741.5952 HOW



**How to Draw Manga volume 3: Compiling Applications and Practice**  
[The Society for the Study of Manga Techniques. Graphic-sha: Tokyo, 2000]

Library call number: 741.5952 HOW

Above volumes are aimed at the advancement of Manga and prepared by a group of assistants to popular Manga artist, Yu Kinutani. It begins with the use of drawing utensils and covers character faces, full bodies, arms, legs, hair and so on. The instructions are presented in easy-to-understand 'blocks'. A great start to begin a hobby or career in the field of Japanese Manga.



**Manga: Masters of the Art**  
[Timothy R. Lehmann. Collins Design: New York, 2005]

Library call number: 741.5 LEH

With its stylistic characters and animated colors, Manga has captured the imagination of millions. Now, 'Manga: Masters of the Art' goes straight to the source, the artists themselves for the ultimate insider's look at this global phenomenon. Each section includes a question-and-answer session, allowing the reader has first-hand access to the artist's thoughts and ideas. They discuss how they became interested in Manga, their first published work, where they get their ideas, the creative process, tips and techniques, artistic influences, the genre itself, and much more. Illustrations and photographs of each artist's most seminal works are accompanied by extensive, explanatory captions.



**Anime essentials: Everything a Fan Needs to Know**  
[Gilles Poitras. Stone Bridge Press: California, 2001]

Library call number: 791.4334 POI

What makes Japanese animation Japanese? What are the top, not-to-be missed animated films? Who's got the anime goods? Answering just about every question a fan (or curious parent) has, 'Anime Essentials' is an easy-to-read and fun-to-look-at overview of the pop culture phenomenon sweeping across the world.

It discusses the major players, where to get your anime fix, otaku (devoted fan) etiquette, how to run an anime club (and get pre-release screening!), how to 'talk' anime to outsiders, and lots more of interest both to veterans and newcomers.

This book is a great introduction for people new to anime, and has lots of useful and interesting bits of information from all aspects of anime. This book covers the history, genres, distribution, clubs & conventions and concerns of anime, and includes a list of other useful books and web resources.

#### Notice for closure

Please be informed that JFKL office and library will be closed on the following day:

**25 December 2006 (Mon) - Christmas Day**  
**29 - 31 December 2006 (Fri-Sun) - Year End Holiday**  
**1 - 3 January 2007 (Mon-Wed) - New Year Holiday**  
**20 January 2007 (Sat) - Awal Muharam (Maal Hijrah)**

## Weekend Japanese Film Show

Our film show in December will be focus on MIYAZAWA Kenji, who is a well-known author of children's literature.

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

### "Misty Kid of Wind"

Saturday, 2 December starting 4:30pm

Directed by ITO Toshiya, 1989, 107 min, Colour



Karin has lived alone in a secluded mountain village with her consumptive mother since her father died. She then meets and befriends with Saburo Takada, nicknamed 'Matasaburo of Wind'. She and her classmates gradually realize that he has superhuman powers, and he becomes her protector. Karin learns a song from Matasaburo and delighted to realize she can hear it in her deaf left ear.

### "Night Train to the Stars"

Saturday, 16 December starting 4:30pm

Directed by OMORI Kazuki, 1996, 111 min, Colour

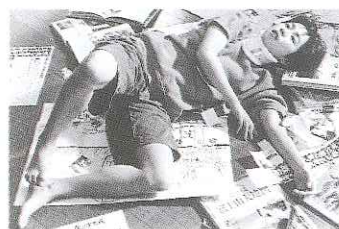
MIYAZAWA Kenji is an idealist from the start, pledging with his friend Hosaka Kanai to work for the happiness of farmers and realize their utopia. He presses such ideals on his pawnbroker father, forcing him in once case to pay more for a pawned item than it is worth, so as to help a poor farmer. His father Masajiro objects to such idealism, however, pointing out to Kenji that the farmer was lying about his conditions.



### "My Secret Cache"

Saturday, 6 January starting 4:30pm

Directed by YAGUCHI Shinobu, 1997, 83 min, Colour



SUZUKI Sakiko loves money. After graduation from school, she works as a bank clerk, just to be near money, but she is still not satisfied because it is not her own. One day, she is abducted by bank robbers who take her to a forest near Mt. Fuji, and there, the robbers crash and burn. Only Sakiko survives and is treated as a hero in the hospital, but all she can think of is the money that she knows survived but which everyone else thinks burned up in the crash.



**The 19th Tokyo International Film Festival**

**Malaysian feature at "Winds of Asia"**

The 19th Tokyo International Film Festival was held in the stormy Tokyo from 21st to 29th October. The festival had some categories including competition, and one of the most popular one was "Winds of Asia", which introduces new Asian films every year. For the festival this year, their focus was on Malaysian films, and 9 films of 5 directors were screened followed by Q&A sessions. Two symposiums on New Malaysian Films were also held with presence of directors, staff and casts.



**Film Malaysia: Truly Asia**

**Screenings**

**Yasmin Ahmad Retrospective:-**

- 🍷 "Rabun"
- 🍷 "Sepet"
- 🍷 "Gubra"
- 🍷 "Mukhsin"
- 🍷 "Before We Fall in Love Again" - **James Lee**
- 🍷 "Goodbye Boys" - **Bernard Chauly**
- 🍷 "Love Conquers All" - **Tan Chui Mui**
- 🍷 "Rain Dogs" - **Ho Yuhang**
- 🍷 "The Bird House" - **Khoo Eng Yow**



Sharifah Aryana Syed Zainal Rashid & Mohd Syafie Bin Naswip



Yasmin Ahmad, Ho Yuhang & Pete Teo

**\*Symposium 1, "Outline of the Malaysian New Wave" on 24th October**

Guests: Bernard Chauly, Khoo Eng Yow, Pete Teo (Cast "Before We Fall in Love Again" and "Rain Dogs", Theme Song "Gubra") Tan Chui Mui  
Moderator: Kenji ISHIZAKA (Film coordinator, Film, TV and Publication Division, Arts Department, The Japan Foundation)

**\*Symposium 2, "Access to Yasmin World" on 26th October**

Guests: Yasmin Ahmad, Ho Yuhang, Lorna Tee (Producer "Before We Fall in Love Again" and "Rain Dogs"), Pete Teo, Mohd Syafie Bin Naswip & Sharifah Aryana Syed Zainal Rashid (Casts of "Mukhsin")  
Moderator: Kenji ISHIZAKA (Film coordinator, Film, TV and Publication Division, Arts Department, The Japan Foundation)

At **symposium 1**, the guests talked and explained on how the new Malaysian films are produced; the situation of Malaysian independent films, how their independent films get funding, how well independent filmmakers

**continue >>>**

cooperate for each other's film. The audience was quite surprised to know how closely the directors work together by changing their roles as a producer, a cinematographer or an editor. Acknowledging that the friendship and the teamwork of the indie filmmakers helped a lot, Chui Mui said, "But we can't keep doing this forever". She mentioned that the creating industry is very important for their future rather than some friends helping each other forever. Bernard also pointed out that even though their films go to International Film Festivals overseas, the important thing is that their films to be watched by Malaysian audience in Malaysia. Asked about the feature of new Malaysian films, they told that it is impossible to give just one identity to Malaysian films, and that is the strength as well. Each film shows the different background of race and language of the directors. Someday, when the directors are able to make films not based on their memories of the first 20 years of their lives, they will be all exciting writers, filmmakers and musicians. This is just the beginning.

**Symposium 2** had two special guests; Mohd Syafie and Sharifah Aryana, the main casts of Yasmin Ahmad's latest film "Mukhsin". With shy smiles on their faces, they told the audience that they were happy to be in Tokyo. As the theme of symposium 2 was "Access to Yasmin World", the moderator asked the guests questions on Yasmin's films as well as Yasmin as an actress in "Rain Dogs". It seemed like many of the audience there had seen "Sepet" last year when it won 'The Best Asian Film' award. Being asked how he feels on working with Yasmin and Yuhang, two different and unique directors, Pete answered that one thing that is common in their films is the humanity. "There's a lot of love in their films but maybe Yuhang doesn't want to admit it", Pete said. Yasmin told the audience that it was not her plan to make a series of films on a same girl, and she has been making films to make her family, especially her parents happy, and she that "Mukhsin" would be the last as a story of Orchid's. To answer the question by the moderator, "Aren't you a bit older than the other filmmakers in this wave?" she said, "I'm glad I'm late, because I have more stories to write just like old Malay women have a lot of stories in them. My imagination is very small and I have to write from my experience." Being asked on her objectives in making films, she answered that she would like to make films like Charlie Chaplin's if she keeps making films. Then she read the words by Jack Lemmon. "It's hard to write a good drama. It's even harder to write a comedy. The hardest is to write a drama with comedy".



Ho Yuhang & Yasmin Ahmad at Symposium

After the festival was over, we asked some questions to Malaysian guests.

**Q1. How did you enjoy Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF)?**

**Bernard:** As usual, I thoroughly enjoyed TIFF (my 3rd time being there, twice to screen my films) and I never tired of going back to Tokyo!

I think it's great that TIFF gives emphasis to the Asian films with the prominence of the winds of Asia category and it was an honour having Malaysia be the focus this year.

**Eng Yow:** I enjoyed the festival especially the Q&A session very much. The audience was very observant. In the Q&A sessions they participated very well too.

**Yasmin:** I enjoyed it immensely, of course. It was such an honour to have all four of my films shown in a retrospective like that. And it was also so delightful to have my lead child actors from "Mukhsin" be there with me. They were so excited to be there. At one time, we left them alone for 15 minutes at the foyer of the cineplex. When we came back, we found them swarmed by Japanese fans who wanted their autographs and take pictures with them. I think they will never forget this experience, and neither will I.

**Q2. What were the interesting/unexpected questions your audience asked you?**

**Bernard:** 1) They were wanting to know about the education system in Malaysia, 2) The history of Kinta valley where "Goodbye Boys" is set. 3) Is the film about you? 4) What it is like working with guys, compared with girls! 5) Why the film is shot on digital video?

**Chui Mui:** They were interested in Malaysian films and filmmaking activities. They asked me a lot about filmmaking in Malaysia.

**Eng Yow:** They were keen to know about the ending of the movie. Contrasting with the whole movie, the ending is surreal and subjective. The questions the audience asked actually led me to a more personal side of me.

**Pete:** I think most were interested in how a musician end up acting in films. Some were very curious with my role in "Before We Fall in Love Again", which is very different from me in real life. They were also very

**continue >>>**



interested to hear anecdotes about the shoot, the difference between Yuhang and James in directorial style. **Yuhang:** I don't remember very much. I know that there were many young people who were excited about the film, and I was very pleased about that.

**Q3. What kind of things in your film do you think attracted Japanese audience?**

**Chui Mui:** I heard there is a popular Japanese song with the same title "Love Conquers All", maybe that was one of the reasons they came to watch my film?

**Pete:** I think most Japanese audience were intrigued by the multi-lingual aspects of 'New Wave' Malaysian films shown at TIFF were so different from each other is also a major draw. Japanese people are very curious, and I think through these films they understand a little more about Malaysia. It's a wonderful thing.

**Yasmin:** One Japanese otaku artist who saw 'Mukhsin' said, "Yasmin-san, I think your Japanese DNA was at work when you were making this film." When I asked him what he meant, he said he could sense very clearly that the writing of the script and the way the film was directed was distinctly Japanese. I don't think the fact that my grandmother was Japanese had anything to do with this; it's just that I'm very much influenced by Japanese filmmakers like Yasujiro Ozu, Shohei Imamura, Kohei Oguri and Ryosuke Hashiguchi.

We also got a comment by a Japanese Film and TV director, **Mr Yoichiro TAKAHASHI.**

"I've been paying attention to the rise of Malaysian Films for some years, but this time, by watching 9 films in bulk, I was again astonished by the diversity. What all the films have in common is the cinematic sensitivity that is intelligent and sophisticated. Also, their collaborative work regardless of their different backgrounds in race, religion and language is an ideal model for film production, and I even feel that it predicts the globalized film industry in the future."

by **Kugai Kyoko** (Senior Program Officer of JFKL)



Khoo Eng Yow with his film's poster



Bernard Chauly & Daniel Henry at Q&A session after the screening of "Goodbye Boys"

**Reports**

**Butoh Workshop by SEMIMARU (member Sankai Juku)**

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) organized a performance of \*Butoh dance entitled "Hibiki" by Sankai Juku on 25th and 26th November at Kuala Lumpur Performing Art Centre (KLPac). Sankai Juku is one of the most well-known Butoh companies that were founded in 1975. In conjunction with the performance, Sankai Juku had kindly collaborated to organize 2 sessions of Butoh workshop at Akademi Seni Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (Aswara) the next day. The first session in the afternoon participated by 35 students of Aswara who are majoring in dance, while the evening session was open to the public with attendance of 30 participants. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Semimaru, one of the dancers who have been a part of Sankai Juku for more than 30 years. He taught the participants on some techniques of movement, breathing, and body posture as well as concentration and imagination.



\*Butoh dance is a contemporary form of dance that originated in Post World-War II Japan and was first performed in 1959.

**Reports**

**National University of Singapore Japanese Studies Department**

**The National University of Singapore Japanese Studies Department Brings Together International and regional scholars of Japanese Studies to celebrate its 25th Anniversary**

The National University of Singapore (NUS) Department of Japanese Studies turns 25 years old in 2006. As part of the events to celebrate this milestone, the Department has organized the 25th Anniversary International Symposium on 12th October and The Inaugural Conference of Japanese Studies Association in Southeast Asia (JSA-ASEAN) from 13th till 14th October 2006. The Guest-of-honour, Ambassador Kojima Taka-aki of Embassy of Japan to Singapore opened the celebration with an address reiterating the significance of Japan-Southeast Asian ties to over 120 guests on the morning of 12th October 2006.

**The 25th Anniversary International Symposium**

The International Symposium brought together five renowned international scholars: Professor J A A Stockwin (University of Oxford); Professor Naoki Sakai (Cornell University), Professor Patricia Steinhoff (University of Hawaii at Manoa), Professor Tamotsu Aoki (Waseda University) and Professor Peter Drysdale (Australian National University). Their perceptive presentations have provided invaluable insights into the study of Japan in their respective regional and disciplinary contexts. Input from these international scholars were also of crucial importance in mapping out a direction for the fledgling JSA-ASEAN.

**The Inaugural Conference of JSA-ASEAN**

The Japanese Studies Association in Southeast Asia (JSA-ASEAN) is a new network set up only in 2005 to serve as a catalyst in promoting Japanese studies in the region. The association aims to organise a biennial conference in the region to enable Japanese Studies scholars to come together regularly, present their research and explore the many opportunities for collaborative research. JSA-ASEAN aspires to be the major platform for a trans-disciplinary international exchange and networking among scholars in Southeast Asia, as well as other parts of the world.

The first biennial conference in Singapore has certainly met the expectations with an encouraging turn-out of about 100 participants from over 40 universities in Southeast Asia and beyond. The wide range of topics represented by the presentations is an illustration to the inter-disciplinary richness and diversity of Japanese Studies in the region and beyond. The success of the inaugural conference has enthused the participants to look out for the next conference which will be held in Hanoi in 2008.

**Developing Japanese Studies with an uniquely Southeast-Asian perspective**

Looking ahead, as a member of the Southeast Asian community, the NUS Department of Japanese Studies is set to grow and generate more interests in research on Japan in Singapore and the region. Together with the regional colleagues in JSA-ASEAN, NUS envision an exciting journey towards the development of Japanese Studies that ultimately has an uniquely Southeast-Asian perspective.

**Acknowledgement:**

The NUS Department of Japanese Studies wishes to thank the Japan Foundation, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Singapore (JCCI), Toshiba International Foundation and NUS for their generous funding and support towards the events. JSA-ASEAN is also included as part of the 40th anniversary celebration event on Japan-Singapore diplomatic relations.

by **Associate Professor Thang Leng Leng**  
Head of Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore





## Books Presentation Ceremony at University of Malaya



*Dr. Nasrudin, Director of the Department delivered a welcoming speech*

Department of East Asian Studies, University of Malaya had been granted 38 titles of books related to Japanese Studies through The Japan Foundation (JF) Library Support Program 2006-07. The Department had kindly organized a ceremony of the books presentation at University of Malaya on 24th November 2006. Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Director of The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur were among the distinguish guests invited for the ceremony. In his speech, Dr. Mohammad Raduan Mohd Ariff, Dean of the Faculty, thanked JF for awarding the books amount ¥578 419 in order to further promote the field of Japanese Studies in the Department. He also wished that JF would continuously support the development of Japanese Studies in the institution since it is becoming popular among the students. After the ceremony, guests were invited to visit the library of the Department and followed by a lunch reception. *(For further information regarding Library Support Program, please contact us at 03-2161-2104 or email at [jpcc@jfkl.org.my](mailto:jpcc@jfkl.org.my))*

*Pengajian Jepun di Universiti Malaya  
Satu-satunya program di seluruh Malaysia  
Buku dan sumbangan sudah diterima  
Jasa Japan Foundation dikenang sentiasa*

*Pengajian Jepun di Fakulti Sastera  
Fakulti ke-49 ternama di dunia  
Library Support Program akan dipinta  
Mohon diluluskan Encik Shimoyama*

*(Pantun recited by Dr. Nasrudin to end his speech)*

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The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur wishing you

A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007

どうぞ良いお年を



JAPAN FOUNDATION

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

**The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)**  
Suite 30.01, Level 30, Menara Citibank, 165, Jalan Ampang, 50450 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel: (03) 2161 2104 Fax: (03) 2161 2344  
Homepage: <http://www.jfkl.org.my> E-mail: [jpcc@jfkl.org.my](mailto:jpcc@jfkl.org.my)

