

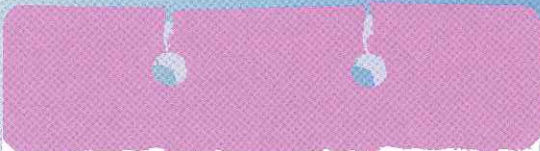
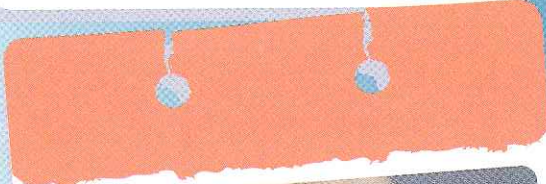


JAPAN FOUNDATION

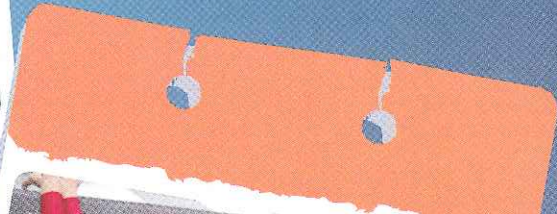
ISSUE NO. 32

Feb - Mar 07

TEMAN BARU



*- Hutan Kenangan -
By Malaysian & Japanese
physically disabled
performers
Coming in April...*



▶ Hutan Kenangan

Final Phase of "Taihen in Malaysia" Project

"Taihen in Malaysia" is a 3year long theatre project, which involves physically disabled casts from Malaysia and Japan organized by The Actors Studio (TAS) and The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL).

The final phase of this project is a theatre production scheduled as below after almost one-year long workshop and rehearsal. This will feature Malaysian disabled performers from three institutions, namely Pusat Latihan Perindustrian & Pemulihan Orang Kurang Upaya (PLPP) Bangi, Persatuan Kanak-Kanak Spastik Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan (Spastic Centre), and Beautiful Gate Foundation, Ms. Kim Manri, the Artistic Director of the theatre troupe Taihen. She will be directing and also performing in this production. This will be Ms. Kim's second appearance on the Malaysian stage after her successful solo performance in "My Mother" January last year at KLPac, to mark the completion of the second phase of the "Taihen in Malaysia" project.

The piece, which will be performed, is titled "Hutan Kenangan." This is based on "Forest of Memory" premiered by Performance Troupe Taihen in 2005 with some of Malaysian flavour. This is a fairy tale on the surface but it does have strong message from Ms. Kim in it. So, it will be an interesting and meaningful piece for children and adult.

Cast

- ▶ Gui Chee Kiong (Beautiful Gate)
- ▶ Maryani bt Abdullah (Spastic Centre)
- ▶ Mohd. Hafizul Aimi bin Roslan (PLPP, Bangi)
- ▶ Mohd Shahrul Rafiq bin Mustafa (Spastic Centre)
- ▶ Mohd Syakirul Nizam bin Sulaiman (PLPP, Bangi)
- ▶ Sabariah bt Osman (PLPP, Bangi)
- ▶ Sivakangai a/p Sivaprasagam (Spastic Centre)
- ▶ Wan Tiara Azira bt Wan Ibrahim (Spastic Centre)
- ▶ Zahidah bt Ahmad (Spastic Centre)
- ▶ Kim Manri (Performance Troupe Taihen)

Playwright / Director

- ▶ Kim Manri (Performance Troupe Taihen)

Presented by

- ▶ Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPac)

Produced by

- ▶ The Actors Studio
- ▶ The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

In cooperation with

- ▶ Beautiful Gate Foundation
- ▶ Spastic Centre
- ▶ PLPP Bangi



Title : Hutan Kenangan
 Date : 6 (Fri) & 7 (Sat) April 2007 @ 8pm
 8 (Sun) April 2007 @ 3pm
 Venue : Pentas 2,
 Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPac)
 Ticket Price : RM30, RM15 (Students, Disabled & JFKL Members)

The details will be updated soon on our website at www.jfkl.org.my



▶ 2006-2007 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar

This year's seminar, Prof. KOBAYASHI Mina of Waseda University, Japan would speak on "Japanese Pedagogical Grammar for Communication". Those who wish to be invited could send in their request to azizul@jfkf.org.my (Please include your full name, organization you represent and fax number) or call Mr. Azizul at 03-2161 2304. The seminar is organized by The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur in collaboration with Ambang Asuhan Jepun, Pusat Asasi Sains, Universiti Malaya.

Date : 3 (Sat) & 4 (Sun) March 2007

Venue : Ambang Asuhan Jepun, Pusat Asasi Sains- University Malaya

For details, please log on to: <http://www.jfkf.org.my/dept/language/>

▶ 2007-2008 Japanese Language Higher Proficiency Course

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur offers Japanese language courses targeted for learners with basic knowledge in the language. Our courses aim to aid these students to express their thoughts and engage in discussions on their surroundings and interests verbally and in writing.

Application : 12 (Mon) - 30 (Fri) March 2007

Written Entrance Test : 7 (Sat) April 2007

Course Schedule : (Semester 1) 22 May - 5 October 2007
(Semester 2) 29 October 2007 - 26 March 2008

Details of the courses would be available in late February at:
<http://www.jfkf.org.my/dept/language/>

▶ Let's Study Japanese through Manga!

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur proudly presents a unique short course for Japanese language learners enthused by Mangas. A fun and effective way of mastering the Japanese onomatopoeia too! Participation for a bubbly experience to learn Japanese are limited and on first come, first served basis.

Requirement : Minimum JLPT Level 3 & a passion for Japanese language
Course Fee : RM10 for 2 days (Please pay upon registration)

Hurry and register yourself between **2 to 28 February 2007** (Except 19 & 20 February 2007)

For further details, please contact Mr. Nobli or Mr. Azizul at 03-2161 2304 (Mon-Fri, 8:30am-4:30pm) or visit <http://www.jfkf.org.my/dept/language/>

▶ The 4th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools

Three 'all-paid expenses trips to Japan' prizes are up for grabs!

Secondary school students aged 15 - 18 are invited to take up our challenge at the 4th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools. Your speech can be of any topics within 5 minutes' length. The top winner will represent Malaysia in the Japanese Speech Award in Tokyo while another 2 more finalists will be selected for the 'Study Tour to Japan' Award at the final.

Please contact Mr. Nobli / Mr. Honjo at 03 21612304 for more details.

This event is organized by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, The Japan Club, Kuala Lumpur, JACTIM and in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Malaysia

▶ What's new in Library



Japanese Books



『漢字で意味が変わるビミョ〜な日本語』

和田みちこ 著 スリーエーネットワーク 2005年

Library call number: 814.5

「会う」「合う」「遭う」、「努める」「務める」「勤める」、「辞典」「事典」「字典」など、おなじ読み方でも、漢字によって意味がかわることばが、たくさんあります。そして、その使い分けがかなり微妙なケースもあります。この本は、どのケースでどの漢字を使うのが正しいのか、漢字の意味や、そのことばを使う場面などから説明しています。

ほかの本にくらべて説明もやさしく、マンガや例文もあって、とても楽しくわかりやすいです。



『続・生きかた上手』

日野原重明 著 ユーリーグ出版 2003年

Library call number: 490.49

『生きかた上手』という本は、人生の意味を問いかけ、生きるはげましをあたえてミリオンセラーとなりました。この本は、その続編です。著者は90歳をこえた現役の医者です。毎日を元気に生きる心の持ち方を、さりげなくわかりやすく書いています。



『詩と民謡と和太鼓と』

佐藤文夫 著 筑波書房 2001年

Library call number: 388.9

「民謡」というのは、むかしから人々のあいだで歌われ伝えられてきた歌です。著者は、民謡について調べて、詩としてもすぐれている全国の民謡を、この本でくわしく説明しています。著者は、楽しい文化遺産として民謡がつぎの世代に伝えられるようにと、この本を書いたそうです。

また、この本は、最近人気の和太鼓についても案内しています。



『J SELECT』 (magazine)

Issued monthly, Business World Corporation
Language: English

J Select is a progressive English-language magazine providing comprehensive information on arts, culture, lifestyle, business, entertainment and travel for the international community living in Japan. It is an ideal reading magazine for foreigners to know new issues on arts, culture in Japan and what are new development and events of business and entertainment that is on, in Japan today.

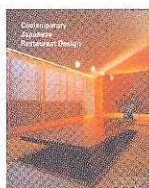
English Books



The Japanese Spa: A Guide to Japan's Finest Ryokan and Onsen
[Akihiko Seki and Elizabeth Heilman Brooke. Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing, 2005]

Library call number: R 613.1220952 SEK (Reference Only)

The Japanese Spa is a beautiful compilation of the finest Ryokan's and Onsen's in Japan, complete with breathtaking photography by Akihiko Seki, as well as detailed descriptions of the spas, and what makes each one so special and welcoming. The book includes essential knowledge for tourist on basic etiquette and the history of the spas throughout Japan, which makes it a must have for those traveling to that country. Each Ryokan and Onsen is described in full detail. The gorgeous, serene pictures invite the reader to read on and enjoy the experience of a Japanese Ryokan without actually being there. Tips on additional activities within the vicinity of the spa help guide the traveler. Actual locations, addresses and contact information are also provided to help you choose the spa experience you would most like to have.



Contemporary Japanese Restaurant Design
[Motoko Jitsukawa. Singapore: Periplus, 2004]

Library call number: R 725.710952 JIT (Reference Only)

Twenty-eight most interesting restaurant and bar interior designs created by 12 different designers, all in Japan, are profiled in this volume. Stunning color photos of each restaurant highlight entrances, general layout, special lighting, wall and floor treatment, furniture, and other details. A ground plan, short initial description, and descriptive captions are provided for each rest.



The Great Festivals of Japan: Spectacle and Spirit
[Hiroyuki Ozawa. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 1999]

Library call number: R 394.26952 OZA (Reference Only)

The Great Festivals of Japan is an illustrated introduction to the colorful world of traditional Japanese celebrations. The book provides an insight into an aspect of Japanese culture rarely seen outside of Japan, with many photographs exploring the human and individual aspects of the whole festival experience.

Theme of the month

In the library, we have a special corner to display books or any other display items according to the theme of the month. Our theme for the month of February & March is "Bonsai & Ikebana". Lots of titles on Bonsai & Ikebana can be found in the library such as: -

Bonsai	Ikebana
1. Beginning bonsai : the gentle art of miniature tree growing	1. Ikebana [video]
2. Bonsai	2. Ikebana
3. Bonsai miniature potted trees : their training and care for beginners	3. Ikebana : 101 plants & 478 arrangements
4. Classic bonsai of Japan	4. Ikebana : a new illustrated guide to mastery
5. Pop bonsai : fun with arranging small trees and plants	5. Ikebana at home

and more!

Notice for closure

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

- 1 February 2007 (Thu) - Federal Territory Day
- 20 February 2007 (Tue) - Replacement of Chinese New Year
- 21 March 2007 (Wed) - Vernal (Spring) Equinox Day [Japan]
- 31 March 2007 (Sat) - Birthday of Prophet Muhammad

Weekend Japanese Film Show

"Tora-san Goes Religious"

Saturday, 3 February starting 4:30pm

Directed by YAMADA Yoji, 1983, 107 min, Colour



While on the road along the western part of Japan, Tora-san thinks of a visit to the grave of his brother-in-law's father. He drops by at a temple where the graveyard belongs to, sees the beautiful daughter of the head priest, and as usual, falls in love with her.

One day, Tora-san holds a service in place of the head priest who has a terrible hangover. By his fluent speech, Tora-san is liked by all the believers who are attending the service. Consequently Tora-san decides to stay at the temple for a while.

Meanwhile, Sakura, Tora-san's sister, and Hiroshi, her husband, come all the way from Tokyo to hold a memorial service for Hiroshi's father at the temple. They are surprised to see Tora-san seats by the head priest's side. And Sakura's headache gets even worse when she learns Tora-san is in love with Tomoko; Sakura knows he will be disappointed in love again sooner or later.

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

Feel the wind of Okinawa in March

"Nabbie's Love"

Saturday, 3 March starting 4:30pm

Directed by NAKAE Yuji, 1999, 92 min, Colour

Nanako quits her job in Tokyo and return to her home island where her grandfather Keitatsu and grandmother Nabbie still live. Nabbie and Keitatsu's home is filled with bougainvillea and songs. Life on the island is lazy and content with music seemingly always in the background. Far to the south of the bustling metropolises of Japan, the chain of islands that make up Okinawa are a tropical paradise and the people operate at a much slower pace than their cousins on the mainland. As she renews her acquaintances on the island, Nanako, one day, sees Nabbie and SunRa in each other's arm.



"The Crying Wind"

Saturday, 17 March starting 4:30pm

Directed by HIGASHI Yoichi, 2004, 106 min, Colour



Seikichi, 70, makes his living fishing from a small boat off the coast of Okinawa. He and his 12-year-old grandson Akira live in a small, tree-lined village in the northern part of the island which is surrounded by a white-sand beach and plots of pine and flowering bushes. On the cliff that skirts the shore sits an open-air burial ground containing the skull of a kamikaze pilot who was shot down during the last days of World-War II. When the wind blows through the bullet hole in the skull, it produces a whistling sound which causes the locals to cringe and shudder. They call it the "Crying Head".

▶ Reports

The Japan Foundation Short-Term Visitors Program



Under the auspices of the Japan Foundation, I was awarded a study visit to Japan from 23rd November to 3rd December 2006 with the aim of learning new techniques in museology including museum administration, collection management, conservation and in-reach, out-reach and volunteer programmes and establishing working relationships and networking with museums in Japan both in training and possible exchange of exhibits and personnel. The visit is timely because the National Museum is undergoing a total upgrading of its exhibits. The visit also allows me to meet and discuss with colleagues in the field of anthropology and archaeology in Japan.

The programmes includes visits to six museums namely; the Tokyo National Museum, Tokyo; Hokkaido Museum of Northern People, Abashiri; Nara National Museum, Nara; Kyushu National Museum, Fukuoka; Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum, Naha; and the National Museum of Japanese History. Apart from visiting museums, I had also visited the National Conservation Institute for Cultural Properties, both in Tokyo and Nara, the Archives of Hokkaido City, the Okinawa Commemorative National Government Park which manages the Shuri Castle World Heritage site. I also had the opportunity to visit colleagues at the Chuo University, the University of Hokkaido and the Sapporo University, and also visit the Heijokyu Palace ancient site in Nara where Japanese archaeologists were excavating the site.

By visiting museums in Japan, I have observed that most museums have adopted excellent approaches in museum practices, both in contents and exhibition techniques. I was made to understand that the long established museums such as the Tokyo National Museum and the National Museum of Japanese History have plans to renovate and upgrade their galleries to meet the modern challenges in museum practices but the more recently established museums such as the Hokkaido Museum of Northern People and the Kyushu National Museum have used modern attractive and entertaining techniques in their exhibition. For example, the Hokkaido museum of Northern People is proud of their 'MAGIC VISION', a hollow gram presentation of the four season's livelihood of the northern people. On the other hand, The Kyushu National Museum with its modern architectural building uses main hall to introduce their exhibition in general while the ante-rooms to the main hall would display a more detailed exhibit on various aspects of the exhibition. The approach used at the Okinawa Peace Memorial Museum is very effective in sending the message of peace and the wrath of war.

In conclusion, the visit has given me the opportunity to learn and study new ideas and techniques used in Japanese museums as well in their organizational management. It has been a fruitful visit which I hope will open to a closer collaboration and cooperation in future through training facilities and exchange of exhibits among museums in both countries.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. Masaya Shimoyama and Mr. Jinuchi Tomioka of the Japan Foundation in Kuala Lumpur and in Tokyo respectively and their staff who have been supportive in ensuring my visit a smooth and memorable one. My sincere thanks also go to Ms. Sumiyo Terai who has been my interpreter and guide, and have assisted me in many ways to make the trip most comfortable one. Lastly, my thanks go to all Museums Directors and staff which I have visited, and to my academic colleagues who have unselfishly shared their knowledge with me. I will treasure this visit as one of the most memorable experience in my career.

Dato' Dr Adi Haji Taha
Director General

Department of Museums and Antiquities
Ministry of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Malaysia

▶ Reports

Asian Designer Group Invitation Program

5 promising fashion designers from Malaysia, India, Indonesia, The Philippines and Thailand were invited to Japan and met some fashion and textile designers, visited galleries and factories in Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. A fashion show "ASIA 5 X Doreme" was also held at the end of their tour at Sugino Dressmaker Gakuin, one of the leading fashion schools in Tokyo.

The participants from Malaysia was Ms Nazleen Noor who is the designer and the managing director of the brand "Nazleen Noor's Creations" with a beautiful collection of Female and Male clothing made of hand drawn batik.

Here's her report on the trip.



"I arrived at Narita Airport, Tokyo on the 6th of December 2006 at 6:30am. I was welcomed by Ms Takako Shimizu, an officer and interpreter from the Japan Foundation. Ms Jarupatcha from Thailand was already there and we together waited for Mr Anuj from India and Mr Oscar Lawalta from Indonesia. Ms Jojie from the Philippines had already arrived in Tokyo the night before. After waiting for about an hour, we all were introduced and were off to the hotel in Roppongi.

On the second day, we went to Doreme Institute to see the classes. Doreme is a very famous fashion school. Doreme is also the sponsor of the venue for our fashion show. We were brought to Shiseido SABFA, to see body painting techniques, hair and make-up

classes. After that, we visited boutiques in the Daikanyama area. Many fashion companies are located in this area. It is an up scale pocket of suburban Tokyo, especially along Yamate-dori.

On the third day, we visited NUNO Corporation and met the owner, Ms Reiko Sudo. It is a well-known company that deals with fabric. NUNO Corporation creates new fabric and also source out different types of fabric from all over Asia. After having a short lunch near-by, we then went to meet top designers Eri Utsuki and Sunao Kuwahara. Both of the designers are very famous in Japan. They produce ready-to-wear clothes inspired by the lifestyle and surroundings. We also managed to see Japan Creation. It is a big exhibition where they have local designers and boutiques showing their latest collection.

On the 9th of December, we visited to Osaka for a day and headed to Kyoto on the following day. During our stay in Kyoto, we went to see Kimono Museum and Kimono shops. I tried putting on one on myself. Kimonos are made of a long, narrow strip of cloth, called tammono, which is as long as 11 meters. There are many beautiful weaves and dyes produced as traditional crafts in different regions across the country.

We went back to Tokyo on 12th December and visited Ginza, and we also went to Kiryu to visit Mr Jun'ichi Arai and his workshop and textile factory. We also met young textile designers there.

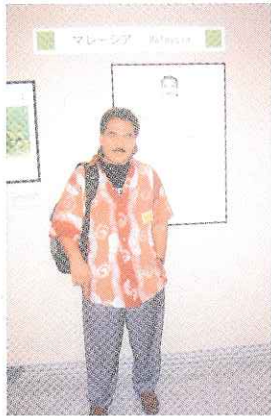
The next day, we had fitting for models at Doreme Institute. Later rehearsal and the show. The fashion show was called "Asia 5 X Doreme", showcased 5 designers from 5 Asian countries. Each country presented different styles and different culture.

After experiencing the Japanese culture, each designer from each country are to propose a design for the Japan Foundation T-shirt. The Japan Foundation hopes that there will be a collaboration between the countries from Asia. I hope that next year, I can come back to Japan and showcase my new collection inspired by Japanese Kimono."



▶ Reports_

11th Asian Cartoon Exhibition 2006



Ohayo gozaimasu! Good morning Mr. Tazidi? How are you? Fine, thank you, asked Ms. Takako Shimizu from Japan Foundation. I am the first cartoonist landed at Narita (07:00 hrs.) Thursday, 26 October 2006 for the 11th Asian Cartoon Exhibition 2006.

Friday, 27 for the first time I meet the cartoonist from China, Mr. Xia Dachuan, Mr. Jayanto Banerjee (India) Mr. Lyndon Gregorio (Philippines) escorted by Mr. Kakinuma, who joining us for lunch at a Japanese restaurant, Imagine (Akasaka) also joining us were Mr. Masaharu Ibaragi, Director, Mr. Toshihiro Tamura and Managing Director, Mr. Junichi Tomioka from Cultural affairs Department of the Japan Foundation. After the lunch, they took us to O Museum, where the Cartoon Exhibition is held.

Saturday, 28 the Symposium where held at the Japan Foundation conference hall. The topic is 'Asian Youth Culture', by four cartoonists. The audiences comprises of cartoonists, students and members of the public. They participated during the open discussion.

The four cartoonists shared the same, youth culture problems in their country, such as drug, gamble, fashion and jobs, the discussion also involved local cartoonist (Japan) Shu Kohma with topic of youth and computer games. The facilitator of the discussion is Associate Professor Masaharu Ibaragi, Tokyo University of Information Sciences.

The next day, 29 assemble at 2nd floor lobby of ANA Hotel and leaved for 'Jalan-jalan'- city tour to Imperial Palace, Temple Senso-Ji (Asakusa), Cartoon Museum (Michio) and Tokyo street style - Harajuku.

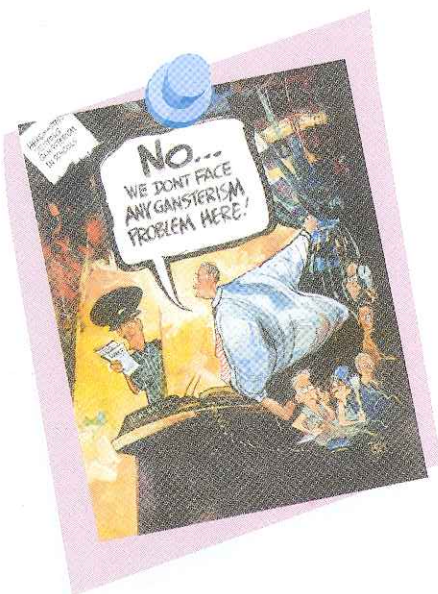
Tuesday, 31 October, takes off from Narita for Kuala Lumpur, leaving Tokyo, Japan Foundation Headquarters, cartoonists and friends. It was a successful exhibition, seminar and meeting cartoonist from other countries with the same theme "Asian Youth Culture". I learned many things through the discussion with them as well as from participants. I would just like to suggest that the exhibition should be continued although we do not speak or read other languages but the language cartoon can be understood by all.

Lastly I wish to thank Japan Foundation for giving me the opportunity to participate in this exhibition. It was also a great memory for me for a year 2006. Thank you.

Tazidi Yusof

Malaysian Cartoonist

- participated in 11th Cartoon Exhibition held in Tokyo
(This exhibition will come to Malaysia This year)



▶ Reports_

Public Lecture on Japanese Studies by Professor Akihiko Tanaka

Every year, the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS) with The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur as the co-organizer, hold a series of lectures by a distinguished professor on some topic related to Japan. Previous professors have included J. Arthur Stockwin from Oxford University and TJ Pempel from the University of California (Berkeley). The venues for the lectures are normally in Kuala Lumpur, Penang, and East Malaysia.



This year, from 5 to 9 January 2007, MAJAS had as their guest

speaker the famous professor, Akihiko Tanaka, who is from Tokyo University and who was previously, the Director of the Institute of Oriental Culture of that university. Professor Tanaka spoke on "Japanese Policy in Asia under the Abe Administration" in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Kuching where the co-hosts were The Department of East Asian Studies, University of Malaya, and The Centre for International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and The Sarawak Development Institute respectively. The lectures aroused much interest given the fact that Abe was a relatively unknown figure to us in Malaysia and the rest of Southeast Asia, and also he was taking power at a time when Japan was undergoing profound change.

Before he discussed the policies of the Abe administration, Professor Tanaka, in his slightly more than an hour-long lecture, spoke first of Koizumi's foreign policies which had mixed results. While on one hand, Koizumi developed very good relations with the US, in particular President Bush, on the other hand he was unable to get along with Japan's neighbors, such as China and South Korea. Thus, many would expect that Abe, in many respects more nationalistic than Koizumi, would have the same difficult problems with China and South Korea as Koizumi had. This, Professor Tanaka argued, however was not the case. While there was no doubt Abe would ensure the maintenance of good relations with the United States, he nevertheless went out of his way to mend relations with the two Northeast Asian countries. As a gesture in that direction, he made China his first foreign destination upon assuming the premiership. That Abe succeeded to some extent in this regard can be seen in the joint communiqué that was issued between him and Wen Jia Bao, the Chinese premier, which referred to the problem of history in a non contentious manner and which left out any mention of Taiwan.

Professor Tanaka continued with an exposition of two important themes of the Abe administration, that Japan should strive to be a beautiful country and should have a more assertive policy. The way Abe expounded the former theme, according to Professor Tanaka, amounted to no more than an assertion of traditional Japanese values while implementing the latter could lead to a more active Japanese foreign policy role. Apart from these themes, Abe also wanted to make Japan into a gateway to Asia, which on the surface would mean the somewhat anachronistic notion of Japan being the intermediary between Asia and the West. On the contrary, Professor Tanaka argued that such an intermediary function was not realistic given the openness of so many Asian countries to the world. Rather this concept of the gateway suggested a Japan wanting to reinvigorate itself by associating more closely with the vigorous economies of Asia.

Professor Tanaka departed somewhat from the theme of Abe by expatiating on the vision of Abe's foreign minister and a one-time rival to the presidency of the Liberal Democratic Party, Taro Aso. Aso, according to Professor Tanaka, had a vision of Japan implementing an arc of freedom and prosperity in the countries in Asia

continue >>>



surrounding China to the countries in Europe proximate to Russia such as the Ukraine and the Baltic states. Professor Tanaka argued that this vision did not suggest that Aso was a Japanese neocon or that he wanted an encirclement of China. (Aso has good relations with the Chinese foreign minister, Li Zhaoxing) Rather Aso was concerned that the Japanese were losing enthusiasm over official development assistance (ODA). By talking of the spread of democratic values to, for example, the mainland Southeast Asian countries, such as Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar, by the use of Japanese aid, Aso hoped to rekindle the previous strong Japanese support for ODA.

Professor Tanaka ended his lecture with a brief account of domestic Japanese politics and how the fortunes of the Abe administration could rest on a good LDP showing in the coming upper house elections in July.

The audience in the three venues revealed a good mix of diplomats, academics, graduate students and undergraduates and other members of the public. Their questions evinced a lively interest in the topic. Among the questions were whether Abe would visit the Yasukuni shrine, the structure of decision making in Japanese foreign policy, Japan's role in international peacekeeping, factionalism in Japanese politics and so on. Professor Tanaka handled the questions masterfully.

Professor Dr. Lee Poh Ping
President of MAJAS

Outline of the lecture schedule was:

5 January 2007 (Fri)	University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur
8 January 2007 (Mon)	University Sains Malaysia, Pulau Pinang
9 January 2007 (Tue)	Wisma Bapa Malaysia, Kuching

► Theatre Staff Workshop

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur and Malaysian Association of Technical Theatre (MATT) will organize a workshop for theatre staff from 2 to 4 March 2007, at the Studio of Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPac), Sentul West, Kuala Lumpur. Two Japanese theatre specialists in Stage Set design and Costume design will conduct the workshop.

Please contact JFKL at 03-21612104 for details.



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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