



ISSUE NO. 33 April - May 07

JAPAN FOUNDATION

KUALA LUMPUR

# Temam Baru



## Pinocchio

by Opera Theater Konnyakuza





## Pinocchio

'Pinocchio' has been a familiar story to everyone from children to adult. Opera Theater Konnyakuza will be here to perform 'Opera Pinocchio' which describes children's childlike feeling, with making good use of performer's physical expression and percussions.

'Opera Pinocchio' is performed by 4 opera singers and 1 pianist. Audiences will also feel a time axis and a world view; enjoy the charms of many characters of the story with performers. Opera singers are faithful in singing and performing in order to express their attitude of mind toward audiences directly. It will be in Japanese with English subtitles.

The Opera Theater Konnyakuza was founded in 1971 with the aim of creating and popularizing a new Japanese opera. The troupe began in 1965 as the Konnyaku Exercise Club for students at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. Currently, the Konnyakuza carries on approximately 250 performances a year with HIKARU HAYASHI as the artistic director, KYOKO HAGI as the music director and chairperson and 33 singers.

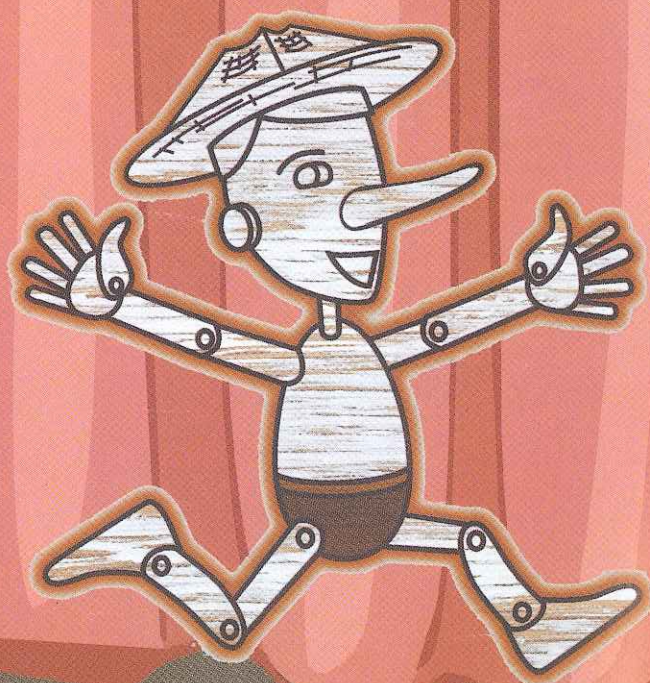
Kuala Lumpur is the place for its world premier and it will be one of their repertoire to be toured to Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan throughout.

This is the second appearance of Opera Theater Konnyakuza on Malaysian stage after their successful performance in 2003 - 'Opera Gauche the Cellist'. They received overwhelming responses from the audiences. Don't miss the opportunity to see this inspiring yet fascinating Opera style of "Pinocchio". It will definite bring joys to you.

This event is jointly organised by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and Opera Theater Konnyakuza.

Date & Time : 12 (Sat) May 2007 @ 3pm & 8:30pm  
13 (Sun) May 2007 @ 3pm  
Venue : The Actors Studio@BSC  
Level 3, West Wing, Bangsar Shopping Centre  
Ticket : RM30, RM15 (Students, Disabled, JFKL Members)  
available at **The Actors Studio@BSC box office** 03-2094 0400

For further enquiries, please contact JFKL at 03-2161 2104, e-mail to [jfcc@jfkf.org.my](mailto:jfcc@jfkf.org.my) or log on to [www.jfkf.org.my](http://www.jfkf.org.my)



## Story of Pinocchio

A poor old carpenter (Geppetto) carves himself a puppet boy out of wood and calls him Pinocchio.

Geppetto always tells Pinocchio to be a good boy, so that he will become a real human boy.

But Pinocchio disobeys grand-pa Geppetto's order. One day Pinocchio, rather, leaves home, and goes to various places, meet various people. He stops over in a puppet playhouse and comes across the cunning fox and cat. Moreover, he is cheated out of his money, and caught by a peasant. Pinocchio is so tired, losing himself. And a coach bound for The Land of Toys, comes along and Pinocchio ride in it. Pinocchio plays too much in the Land of Toys. Finally Pinocchio become a donkey. The donkey (Pinocchio) is sold at market; what's more, he is threw into the sea and swallowed by a big whale! Pinocchio and grand-pa Geppetto are accidentally reunited inside the whale that has swallowed them both up.

Pinocchio saves grand-pa Geppetto, and they swim away from the whale's big mouth.

"Pinocchio, you've become a strong boy! You've become a good boy, and become a real human boy!" grand-pa Geppetto says.

Pinocchio, who has conquered difficulties through his adventures, says,

"That I am Pinocchio, a wooden puppet! Even a wooden puppet could become strong.

More strapping and more kind. Even I can't become a real human boy, I can be happy now!"

### Award

1976

★ Giraud Opera Prize

1989

★ The Arts Festival Prize for Music by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan

1997

★ The Mitsubishi Trust Music Award

2000

★ Tokyo Selection of Excellent Arts for Young People

★ Japan Arts Association Award

### Staff

Original	Carlo Collodi
Script	YAMAMOTO Kiyokazu
Composer	HAGI Kyoko
Director	ITO Tae
Art & Costumes	ARATA Ryo
Stage Manager	KUSUDA Yoshiharu
Administrator	YAMAZAKI Aki
	Opera Theatre Konnyakuza





## '時紡 TOKITSUMUGI' Exhibition

- *The Grain of Strands from Some Moments*  
**An Exhibition of Kinetic Sculptures by Masato Tanaka**

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and GALERI PETRONAS proudly present **"TOKITSUMUGI - The Grain of Strands from Some Moments"** an exhibition of kinetic sculptures by Masato Tanaka from 10 April - 13 May 2007.

Showing for the 1st time ever in Malaysia from 10 April to 13 May 2007, the exhibition presents a unique display of 12 moving sculptures which combine art and technology to create free movement, dubbed a 'scenic movement presentation'. GALERI PETRONAS and the Japan Foundation present this unique exhibition to the public in celebration of Malaysia's 50th Year of Independence and 50 years of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan.

Masato Tanaka's kinetic sculptures are made of materials such as steel and motor magnets, which then harness elements of nature such as wind and gravity, and even incidental movement by viewers to create an effect of natural rhythms through a range of graceful movements. The result is a mesmerizing display of sculptural beauty and graceful animation that exude from these sophisticated 21st century mobiles.

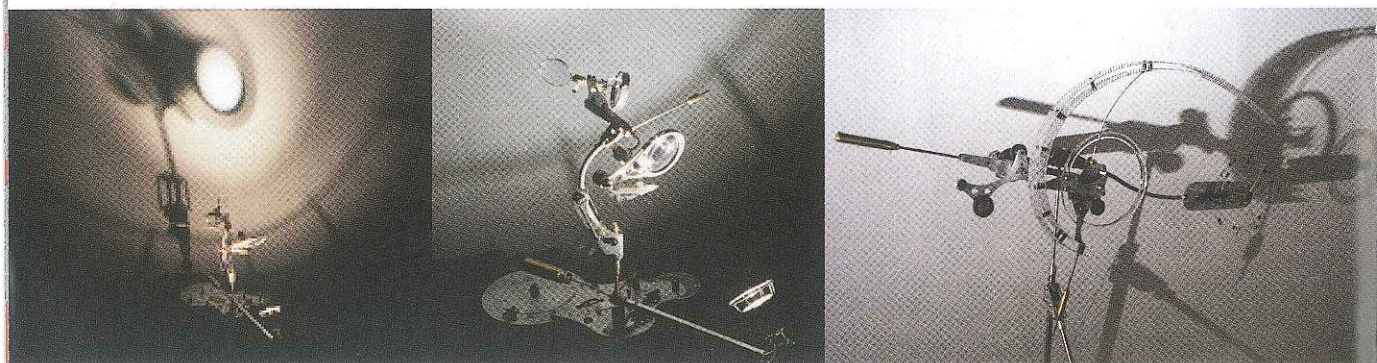
In conjunction with this exciting exhibition, several interesting public programmes have been lined-up for visitors to the exhibition, such as a special **Artist Talk** on **Saturday, 14 April 2007 from 2pm - 3:30pm** and a **'hands-on' workshop** to make kinetic sculptures on **12 May 2007, from 10am - 12:30pm**. Both programmes will be held at GALERI PETRONAS and are presented free of charge.

This is definitely an eye-opening exhibition for Malaysians and should not be missed.



Duration : 10 (Tue) April ~ 13 (Sun) May 2007  
Venue : GALERI PETRONAS, Level 3, Suria KLCC  
Time : 10am - 8pm (Open daily except Mondays)  
Admission : **FREE**

For further enquiries, 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>; or GALERI PETRONAS at 03-2051 9150



## The 4th Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools

Come and show us your support!!!

Ten contestants from secondary schools would vie for the winning title and represent Malaysia in the Japanese Speech Award in Tokyo while another 2 finalists will be selected for the 'Study Tour to Japan' Award.

This event is organized by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, The Japan Club Kuala Lumpur, JACTIM, the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and in cooperation with Ministry of Education, Malaysia, sponsored by Panasonic (M) Sdn Bhd & Kokuyo International (M) Sdn Bhd.

Date : 29 (Sun) April 2007  
Time : 1pm  
Venue : The Japan Club Kuala Lumpur



## The 23rd Japanese Speech Contest for Open Category

The much-awaited annual Japanese Speech Contest for Open Category is back with attractive prizes!

This contest is to provide opportunity for Japanese language learners to express their opinions and thoughts in Japanese; as well as to enhance their understanding on the similarities and differences between the culture of Japan and Malaysia.

The closing date for entry submission is **9 July 2007**.

This event is organized by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, The Japan Club Kuala Lumpur, JACTIM, the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and in cooperation with Japan Graduate's Association of Malaysia (JAGAM), sponsored by Panasonic (M) Sdn Bhd & Kokuyo International (M) Sdn Bhd.

**Kuala Lumpur Preliminary**  
Date : 5 (Sun) August 2007  
Time : 1pm  
Venue : The Japan Club Kuala Lumpur

**National Open Category**  
Date : 26 (Sun) August 2007  
Time : 1pm  
Venue : The Japan Club Kuala Lumpur

For details and application form, please log onto [www.jfkf.org.my](http://www.jfkf.org.my) or contact Mr. Nobli / Mr. Honjo at 03 21612304



## JFKL Regional Seminar (Northern)

The JFKL Regional Seminar is held to upgrade teaching methodology for Japanese language among its teachers across Malaysia and to improve their language proficiency. These seminars are conducted in 3 regions, namely Northern, East Coastal - Southern and Borneo Regions. The above seminar is open to all Japanese language teachers registered with JFKL's Japanese Language Department and admission is free.

For details, log onto [www.jfkf.org.my](http://www.jfkf.org.my) or call Mr. Edward / Mr. Azizul at 03-21612304







## Educational Visit to The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur has received a number of visits recently. These visits are not only opened to Japanese language learners but are also opened to non - Japanese language learners. Activities arranged for each visits were a fusion of Japanese language and culture as well as a guided tour to JFKL library. Below are the recent visits we received.

### 8 February 2007

#### History and Geography Society, SMK Taman SEA

Activities arranged during SMK Taman SEA's visit:

1. Origami session
2. Japanese crossword puzzle
3. Guided tour to the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur library
4. Animation video on Hiroshima bombing

### 14 March 2007

#### Istimewa Japanese Language Centre, Melaka

Activities arranged during Istimewa Japanese Language Centre, Melaka's visit:

1. Origami session
2. Demonstration on wearing 'Yukata', a traditional Japanese costume during summer.
3. Learn Japanese greetings through 'Manga'
4. Guided tour to the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur library



To find out more on "Visit Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur", please contact Mr. Azizul at 03 - 21612304



## Library News

### English Books

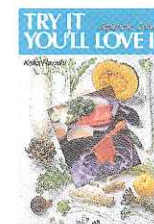


#### Still Life and Other Stories

[Junzo Shono, translated by Wayne P. Lammers. Berkeley, California: Stone Bridge Press, 1992]

Library call number: 895.635 SHO

Delicate tales reveal the flow of life in the Japanese, the accidental pleasure and unexplained misfortunes. The 13 stories in this collection by Japanese writer Junzo Shono are linked by the daily life of a husband and wife and their children. The stories are like the back of a tapestry where threads seem to cross randomly. Births, weddings, and school activities, a suicide attempt, all occur out of view.

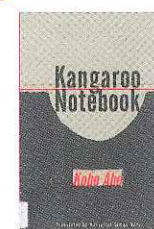


#### Japanese Cooking: Try it, You'll Love it

[Keiko Hayashi. Tokyo: Shufunotomo Co., 1998]

Library call number: 641.5952 HAY

A comprehensive, color illustrated cookbook of popular Japanese recipes *Japanese Cooking: Try it, You'll Love it*, makes use of all season's most plentiful ingredients for preparing delicious meals. Including over 100 recipes, this comprehensive cookbook brings the most popular meals in Japanese homes to your home.



#### Kangaroo Notebook

[Kobo Abe, translated by Maryellen Toman Mori. New York: Alfred A. Knopf., 1996]

Library call number: 895.635 ABE

In the last novel written before his death in 1993, one of Japan's most distinguished novelists give a surreal vision of Japanese society that manages to be simultaneously fearful and jarringly funny. The narrator of *Kangaroo Notebook* wakes on one morning to discover that his legs are growing radish sprouts, an ailment that repulses his doctor but provides the patient with the unusual ability to snack on himself. In short order, Kobo Abe's unraveling protagonist finds himself hurtling in a hospital bed to the very shores of hell. Abe has assembled a cast of oddities into a coherent novel, one imbued with unexpected meaning. Translated from the Japanese by Maryellen Toman Mori.



#### Early Japanese Images

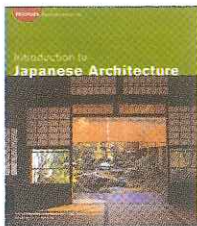
[Terry Bennett. Vermont: Charles E. Tuttle, 1996]

Library call number: 952.025 BEN

*Early Japanese Images* tells the stories of the adventure of photographers presenting their amazing photographs for the first time. The works includes some of the most enduring images ever taken in Japan: 1) the first photo of Emperor Meiji, 2) Edo firemen in their distinctive livery, 3) idyllic views of Mount Fuji and Nagasaki, and many more. This fascinating book reproduces over 140 images taken between 1853 and 1905 by the most important local and foreign photographers. Almost one-fourth of the images are hand colored and superb examples of a rich art form long since vanished.







**Introduction to Japanese Architecture**  
[David and Michiko Young. Singapore: Periplus, 2004]

Library call number: 720.952 YOU (Reference Only)

*Introduction to Japanese Architecture* provides an overview of Japanese architecture in its historical and cultural context. It begins with a discussion of prehistoric dwellings and concludes with a description of contemporary trends in areas as diverse as country inns, underground malls, and love hotels. The intervening 12,000 years are analyzed in reference to major changes in architecture caused by Buddhist and indigenous influences, feudalism, and finally the influence of Western culture in the 19th century.

## Japanese Books

### Fiction



はな  
『花まんま』  
しゅかわみなど ぶんげいしゅんじゅう  
朱川湊人 著 文藝春秋 2005年

Library call number: 913.6

しょうわ おおさか したまち ふしぎ しょうせつ たんべんしゅう  
昭和 (1926~1989年) のころ、大阪の下町で起こった不思議な話をえがいた小説の短編集です。どの作品でも、主人公の少年少女が、生活のなかで、ちがう世界のものや、不思議なできごとにあおきしょうじゅしょうさくひん  
てあいます。第133回直木賞受賞作品です。



おき ま  
『沖で待つ』  
いとやまあきこ ぶんげいしゅんじゅう  
糸山秋子 著 文藝春秋 2006年

Library call number: 913.6

じゅうたくせつびき き ふくおかししゃ はいぞく そうごうしょく しゅじんこう ひと  
住宅設備機器の会社に入社して、福岡支社に配属された総合職の女性が主人公です。太っちゃんという同期の男性も、同じ支社に配属されました。この小説は、この2人の男女の仕事を通  
むす しんらい ゆうじょう あくたがわしょうじゅしょうさくひん  
して結ばれた信頼と友情をえがいています。第134回芥川賞受賞作品です。

### Literature



たいやく おりおり  
『対訳 折々のうた』  
おおおかまこと こうだんしゃ  
大岡信 著 ジャニーン・パイチマン 訳 講談社インターナショナル

Library call number: 911.08 [Bilingual: Japanese-English]

日本の四季のときどきにうたわれた、美しい詩を紹介する本です。  
ひつしや あさひしんぶん おりおり はいく たんか かんし げんだいし  
筆者は、「朝日新聞」の「折々のうた」というタイトルのコラムで、俳句、短歌、漢詩、現代詩など、古い詩から新しい詩まで、いろいろな詩を紹介していました。この本には、そのコラム100  
さくひん  
作品が日本語と英語でのっています。日本語で、そして英語で、日本の四季や、そのときどきの心の動きを感じてみませんか。



## Weekend Japanese Film Show

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



**"Ogin Her Love and Faith" Saturday, 7 April starting 4:30pm**

Directed by KUMAI Kei, 1978, 113min, Colour

The harbor town of Sakai was governed by a group of rich merchants including Sen no Rikyu who was Japan's most famed master of tea ceremony. He was also one of the intellectual leaders of the Hideyoshi regime. Ogin grew up in Sakai as Rikyu's adopted daughter. Passionate by nature, she falls in love with a Christian lord, Ukon Takayama, who is married. She dedicates herself to her desperate love.

**"Sen Rikyu" Saturday, 21 April starting 4:30pm**

Directed by KUMAI Kei, 1989, 107min, Colour

Although 27 years have passed since the greatest tea master Sen Rikyu died on the order of the taikou Hideyoshi, his favourite and last disciple, Hongakubo, communicates with him daily as if he is still alive. One day, Hongakubo receives a surprise visit from Lord Oda Urakusai, who has become obsessed with the reason Hideyoshi had become so angry with Sen Rikyu nad why Hideyoshi ordered him to commit ritual suicide.



**"The Yamashita Story" Saturday, 5 May starting 4:30pm**

Directed by MATSUBAYASHI Shue, 1985, 101min, Colour

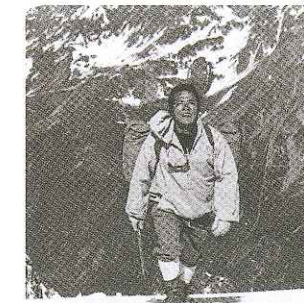
A baby boy was born on June 1, 1957 in a small town at the foot of Mt. Aso in Kumamoto prefecture and was named Yasuhiro. Yasuhiro's grandfather, Taizo, is determined that the boy be brought up to be strong, healthy, and generous. Taizo tries hard and Yasuhiro wins the grand prize at the Kumamoto prefecture baby contest. When he is in fourth grade, Yasuhiro begins taking lessons at Fujitsubo School of Judo. He makes rapid progress, winning championships on prefectural level. He continues strenuous daily training and wins the national championship.



**"Lost in the Wilderness" Saturday, 19 May starting 4:30pm**

Directed by SATO Jun'ya, 1986, 140min, Colour

UEMURA Naomi comes to Tokyo to go to University. He joins a mountaineering club, but not having the experiences the others do, he is forced to leave the club. He cannot find a job after graduating from university and becomes a drop-out of Japanese society. He begins to travel foreign countries with little money. He goes to US, then to Chamonix in France where he works and joins an alpine group of a university. He starts climbing several difficult mountains such as Mont Blanc and Matterhorn. In May 1978, he becomes the first Japanese climber, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest to reach the top.







### Theatre Workshop in Kuala Lumpur (2~4 March 2007)

The Japan Foundation, in collaboration with Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (KLPac) organized a theatre workshop for Costume and Set Design from 2 (Fri) to 4(Sun) March 2007 at KLPac. Two renowned Japanese specialists in theatre, Mr. Sugiyama Itaru and Ms. Hatano Kazue, were invited as instructors for the three-day program. Mr. Sugiyama graduated from College of Liberal Arts, International Christian University, Japan and also the person in-charge of set design for Seinendan Company, who came to Kuala Lumpur under The Japan Foundation program last year to perform "Tokyo Notes". In 2006, he won the Best Scenography Award at International Experimental Theatre Festival in Cairo for his works on "Rutsubo". While Ms. Hatano, who graduated from Waseda University, is also one of Japan's most sought after theatre designers for set and costume. She is the founder of Society of Japanese Theatre Designers (1991) and actively involving in theatre works inside and outside Japan. She had also worked with John Bury (Head of Design) at the Royal National Theatre in London and winner of numerous local and international awards.



There were 30 participants with various backgrounds - from freelancers, students and lecturers to filmmakers and designers - who had been selected from the public. The workshop mainly focused on costume and set design and the participants were exposed to the world of performing arts from the body to the atmosphere, not only by observation, but also by mobilizing various feelings and senses. Participants had the opportunity to explore the concept of design under certain keywords, understand the concept of "place" and "space", and were asked to sketch them at the end of the three-day workshop. Most of the participants were excited to experience the feeling of "being on stage" as they were required to create a performance based on certain themes and concepts that were learnt throughout the workshop. Workshop was done, not only indoor, but also with outdoor activities including finding spaces, objects and materials.

Based on the response from the participants, the workshop had succeed to become an "eye opener" for a new approach and idea in designing set and costume for performance, not only in theatres, but also films and education at schools. They really enjoyed the sessions and had a good communication with the two instructors from Japan, which might create a broader network in the world of performing arts for both countries.



### Games, Anime, Comic Circle '07

By Chan Loo Mun



Building on the success of its inaugural event last year, this year's GACC, abbreviation for Games, Anime and Comic Circle, organized by EMiNA MMU Malacca Campus, had been expanded to a two-day affair. Furthermore, it is a milestone for the Malaysian ACG event with the appearance of a well known Japanese seiyuu (voice actor), Mr Toru Furuya, best known for his roles as Amuro Ray (Gundam) and Tuxedo Mask (Sailormoon).

With planning started as early as in August 2006, we were confident that we would be able to make GACC '07 even better than before thus the committees embarked on the idea of the

invitation of a seiyuu, undeniably a dream for all ACG (Anime, Comic, Games) fans in Malaysia. Realising this dream had never been easy, especially when it was not fully supported by all the committees due to the low possibility of success. For those who still hold onto faith, it had been indeed an uphill struggle. Yet, with relentless passion and a tint of luck, we achieved the impossible.

The blessing came when JFKL (The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur) would be willing to cover the expenses of the appearance of seiyuu. The days were spent waiting anxiously for replies. It had been a joyous and wonderous moment when Aoni Production, a Japanese Seiyuu company, was interested in our invitation. We could not believe our ears when we had gotten a nod from Mr. Toru Furuya to our event.

With the days approaching, we were literally challenged with problems from each possible aspect: venue, sponsorship, vendors, manpower and etc. What pulled us through was the ever ready support given to us from our friends, family members and most importantly the belief we had from others in us. Luckily, everything went well and preparation of venue was a breeze as compared to previous year.

At the struck of 10 in the morning of 17th March 2007, we opened our doors to welcome the visitors. The admission to GACC is free and early birds are treated to goodies sponsored by Animax and Game Flier, complete with GACC event booklet.

The Opening Ceremony started with a bang having a band performance led by the President of EMiNA, Kheirul Aizat with the song 'Rewrite' from Full Metal Alchemist. Then there were speeches by Kheirul Aizat, President of EMiNA and also Yeow Li Sa, the Event Director. The event was officiated by the Multimedia University Assistant Director of Student Affairs and Sports Division, Mr. Syukor Hashim, followed by a video presentation created by GACC committee. Other VIPs of the event were Mr. Shimada Seiya, Head Cultural Affairs Department accompanied by Mr. Muhammad Hafiz bin Othman, program officer of the JFKL. During the second day of the event, we were graced by the presence of Mr Shimoyama Masaya, Director of the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur.

The turnout of the event was more than encouraging that by noon, the hall was jam-packed with people bustling about taking photographs, trying out games, browsing out merchandise booths and gearing up for respective competitions. Many visitors were also seen dressing up into characters from various games, manga and anime. Emcee of the event, Alfred also lived up to the expectation of entertaining the crowd every now and then, bringing the crowd to enjoy the event.

This year, GACC had once again successfully blended all the three elements, Anime, Comic and Games onto the menu and served it to the crowd of over 3000 visitors during this two-day event, mostly from KL and some from as far Singapore.

### Seiyuu Appearance

The main attraction for our event this year was the appearance of our special guest of honour, Mr. Toru Furuya. His appearance in our event marked the first appearance of seiyuu in South East Asia. The venue was jam-packed with visitors and Mr. Toru Furuya entertained them with much enthusiasm, making the crowd wanting for

continued >>>





**>>> from previous page**

more! First off was the talk show where he shared his experience as a seiyuu and also answered some question posed by selected fans which he finds it tricky. The 5 lucky fans even have the opportunity to take a picture with him on stage. Besides, it is very lucky for Malaysian fans that Mr. Toru Furuya willingly performed voice acting LIVE in GACC.

One of the special treats the committee arranged for him is an exclusive trip around Melaka and also a taste of all the famous culinary delights in Malaysia. His first impression of Malaysia is that it is extremely hot. As for his opinion on the food, 'Spicy but sedap!' All in all, he was glad that he was able to come to Malaysia and at the end of the day he assured that there would further opportunities for other seiyuus to come over to Malaysia ACG event.

**Overall**

There was a vast improvement as compared to last year event since the organizing committees had erudite in coordination with the preparation of task list and check list prior to the event. Though there were some technical glitches throughout the event, everything was able to proceed smoothly without much interference following on the tight schedule. The visitors suggested bigger venue, better air-conditioning (the hall was too packed till it was hot), more vendors and Doujins, and more seiyuus or maybe comic artists coming next time. In conclusion, the crowd were satisfied with GACC and wanted more.

Organising GACC '07 has been a long winding journey for the committees and what really pays off is when we see the satisfactory and content smile on each visitors faces. Thus, we would like to express our gratitude to JFKL, all sponsors as well as everyone for supporting GACC throughout the way.



**Notice for Closure**

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

- 1 May 2007 (Tue) - Labour Day & Wesak Day**
- 2 May 2007 (Wed) - Replacement of Wesak Day**



"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)**  
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