

TEMAN BARU



ISSUE NO.

71

August - September 2013

Japanese Film Festival 2013



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JFKL's Upcoming Programme

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Japanese Film Festival 2013

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Japanese Photography from the 1970s to the Present

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The annual Japanese Film Festival is coming back again this September, and this year marks its 10th Anniversary. The festival this year will not only screening the latest and hottest Japanese films at our familiar venues in Klang Valley and Penang, the festival will also tour to Kuching and Kota Kinabalu!

Japanese Film Festival 2013

Klang Valley

Dates : 12th – 17th September 2013
Venue : GSC Pavilion, GSC Mid Valley, GSC One Utama
Admission: RM6 per screening

Penang

Dates : 19th – 22nd September 2013
Venue : GSC Gurney Plaza
Admission: RM6 per screening

Kuching

Dates : 26th – 29th September 2013
Venue : GSC CityOne Megamall
Admission: RM6 per screening

Kota Kinabalu

Dates : 3rd – 6th October 2013
Venue : GSC Suria Mall
Admission: RM6 per screening

Ken & Mary (ケンとメリー 雨上がりの夜空に)

FUKASAKU Kenta / Color / 2011 / 87min

Cast: TAKENAKA Naoto, Hu Bing, KITANO Rie, Zizan Raja Lawak

"Where is this place?" Kent Katakura has been in charge of pantyhose for 25 year as a trading company employee. He has landed a tiny airport in a remote part of Malaysia, where not even one other airplane is stopped. His airplane to Kuala Lumpur had to make an emergency landing here because of a storm. However, there is something that he must accomplish no matter what.

Opening Film of JFF 2013

And that is the he must break off the engagement of his daughter, whose wedding is scheduled to take place in just two days.

Then, by some freak coincidence, he becomes acquainted with a Chinese truck driver who is strangely partial to Japan and speaks nonsensical Japanese. They set out together towards Kuala Lumpur, where his daughter is..

EXHIBITION

Gazing at the Contemporary World: Japanese Photography from the 1970s to the Present

As part of Japan Foundation visual arts programs, we organize traveling exhibitions with artworks from our own collection that tour countries throughout the world. This traveling exhibition, "Gazing at the Contemporary World: Japanese Photography from the 1970s to the Present" is an overview of the diverse photographic expression that has emerged in Japan since the 1970s. The exhibition includes 76 photographs by 23 photographers such as Nobuyoshi Araki and Daido Moriyama. This exhibition is composed of two sections. The first, "A Changing Society," focuses on human beings as members of society. The second, "Changing Landscapes," looks at cities, the suburbs, and nature.

Kuala Lumpur

Duration: 11th September – 30th October
Venue : Perpustakaan Kuala Lumpur
No. 1, Jalan Raja, 50050 Kuala Lumpur
(Near to Dataran Merdeka)
Free Admission

The Exhibition will also tour to Penang in November.
More information will be coming out in our next issue of Teman Baru.

Film List of JFF 2013

Ken & Mary (ケンとメリー 雨上がりの夜空に)

FUKASAKU Kenta / Color / 2011 / 87min

Cast: TAKENAKA Naoto, Hu Bing, KITANO Rie, Zizan Raja Lawak

Opening Film of JFF 2013

Ogawa no Hotori – At River's Edge (小川の辺)

SHINOHARA Tetsuo / Color / 2011 / 104min

Cast: HIGASHIYAMA Noriyuki, KIKUCHI Rinko, KATSUJI Ryo, KATAOKA Ainosuke

The Chef of South Polar (南極料理人)

OKITA Shuichi / Colour / 2009 / 125min

Cast: SAKAI Masato, NAMASE Katsuhisa, Kitaro, KORA Kengo, TOYOHARA Kousuke

The Great Passage (舟を編む)

ISHII Yuya / Colour / 2013 / 133min

Cast: MATSUDA Rhuhei, MIYAZAKI Aoi, ODAGIRI Joe

The Kirishima Thing (桐島、部活やめるってよ)

YOSHIDA Daihachi / Colour / 2012 / 103min

Cast: KAMIKI Ryunosuke, HASHIMOTO Ai, OHGO Suzuka

Until the Break of Dawn (ツナグ)

HIRAKAWA Yuichiro / Colour / 2012 / 129 min

Cast: MATSUZAKA Tori, KIKI Kilin, SATO Ryuta

Dearest (あなたへ)

FURUHATA Yasuo / Colour / 2012 / 111min

Cast: TAKAKURA Ken, TANAKA Yuko, SATO Koichi, OTAKI Hideji

Oblivion Island: Haruka and the Magic Mirror (ホッタラケの島～遥と魔法の鏡)

SATO Shinsuke / Colour / 2009 / 100min

Cast: AYASE Haruka, SAWASHIRO Miyuki, TANIMURA Mitsuki

More films are coming! For complete details, film synopsis and schedule updates, please log on to our website www.jfkl.org.my around mid-August. *Titles and information published here are subjected to change.



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Kanagawa, 1969
Daido Moriyama
1969



From the series "SUBWAY LOVE"
Nobuyoshi Araki
1963-72



Yokohama 1997, from the series "New Counting Grains of Sand"
Hiromii Tsuchida
1997



From the series "TOKYO SUBURBIA"
Takashi Homma
1995-98



Venue : Mini Pawagam, Faculty of Film and Video, ASWARA
Admission: Free

With English subtitles. *Titles are subject to change without prior notice

**"The Weekend Japanese Film Show" will take a short break in August for the month of Ramadhan.

Saturday, 7th September at 3pm

Bushido Sixteen

武士道シックスティーン

(FURUMAYA Tomoyuki / Color / 2010 / 109min)

Cast:

NARUMI Riko
KITANO Kie

Synopsis:

Kaori Isoyama is a junior high school kendo champion raised by her strict and stern father. She is undefeated until one day when she loses unexpectedly to an opponent in the same class with a saddlecloth that says, 'Tosho Academy, Komoto.'



©2010 "Bushido Sixteen" Production Committee

Six months later, Kaori enters the prestigious Tosho Academy Girls High School. On the first day of practice, she is reunited with her nemesis only her name is now Nishiogi due to her parents' divorce. Her nemesis has changed and doesn't even take the match seriously. Irritated and bridled, Kaori takes her nemesis to her father's training hall and forces her to go through private lessons.

Sanae Nishiogi simply likes kendo and she does it for fun. Her scientist father had once lost a trial which consequently damaged their family life, so she has learnt not to be so concerned with winning or losing. She finds Kaori's obsession with winning hard to comprehend. Kaori doesn't compromise with seniors in matches and practices constantly even during lunch hour, reading Musashi Miyamoto's "Book of Five Rings" with a dumbbell in one hand, completely isolating herself from others. Sanae becomes interested in Kaori who is the completely opposite of her and takes her out to a cake buffet and game arcade. Kaori, having never been to such places, reluctantly goes along...

SEPT 2013

Borneo Eco Film Festival



The Borneo Eco Film Festival is an annual event that celebrates Borneo's bio-cultural diversity by showcasing environmental films and nurturing local community filmmaking. The festival includes the SUARA series of community filmmaking workshops and ecological talks with exclusive premieres of local and international eco films which are free and open to the public. This year, the festival is happening from 27th until 29th September at Kompleks JKKN, in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

JFKL, as the co-organizer for the Japanese film screening at the festival, is presenting the film "MURASAKI" directed by Mika KAWASE.

MURASAKI- The color of the Japanese tradition.

紫 色に魅了された男の夢
(KAWASE Mika / 77min / 2011)

Date: 28th September (Sat)

Venue: Kompleks JKKN

Time: 3pm

Synopsis:

A man fascinated by color.

The film is an artisan documentary in Kyoto. Sachio Yoshioka is the present head of a dyeing company, "Dye Maker Yoshioka," which has operated in Kyoto since the Edo era. Colors made from the clear springs and plants of Kyoto results in a greater beauty and depth than chemical dyes and attract us.

For more information, please visit Borneo Eco Film Festival website at <http://www.beff.org.my/>



The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) offers grants to cover partial expenses for the implementation of intellectual activities and cultural events that fall into the categories of The Japan Foundation's program. The grants are awarded to projects which can promote further understanding of Japan in terms of social sciences and humanities, or any cultural fields. For program guidelines please log on to; <http://www.jfkl.org.my/grants/new-grant-program-guideline.pdf>

Below are some of the highlight events supported by the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur. Don't miss it!

AUGUST 2013

No Black Tie All-Star Band Feat Chika Asamoto (Saxophone), Diego Maroto (Saxophone) & Michael Veerapen Quartet



Date and Venue:

**2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, & 7th August 2013 at No Black Tie Jazz Club
9th & 10th August 2013 at Ubud Village Jazz Festival 2013**

Japanese saxophonist: **Chika Asamoto**

Organizer: **No Black Tie Jazz Club**

For more info, please log on to <http://noblacktie.com.my/>

No Black Tie once is organizing a cross-cultural collaboration in Jazz that will spread its unique sounds through original arrangements by Japanese Saxophonist, Chika Asamoto at No Black Tie Stage on 2nd -7th August 2013 as well as Ubud Village Jazz Festival on 9th and 10th August 2013. The ongoing collaboration with the Malaysian musicians Michael Veerapen Trio, as well as renowned American percussionist residing in Malaysia, Steve Thomson, and tenor saxophonist from Mexico City, Diego Maroto, has received wide recognition beyond Malaysian shores.

SEPTEMBER 2013

The Spirit Play

Date: **26th – 29th September 2013**

Venue: **Damansara PAC**

Japanese musician:

Daisuke Kino-Shita (flutist) & Saori Nakazawa (violinist)

Organizer: **SEGi College Subang Jaya**

For more info, please log on to:

<http://nyobakan.blogspot.com/>



Photo credit: Hiroshi Koike

The Spirit play is a music and dance theatre that will be held at Damansara PAC from 27th until 29th September 2013. This event is a collaboration between artists from Germany, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, France and Albania/Germany where choreographers and composers, dancers and musicians work together to create opportunities for collaboration and growth to broaden the awareness and understanding of each other's culture, values and tradition. The play is valued across generations for its universally embracing theme for Asia and the world and its powerfully delivered message – the triumph of human oral histories over silenced war atrocities.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Mobile II: Flat Cities

Date: **28th August – 8th September 2013**

at **The Necessary Stage Black Box, Singapore**

Date: **12th – 15th September 2013**

at **The Actors Studio @ KuAsh Theatre**

Organizer: **The Necessary Stage Ltd.**

For more info, please log on to: <http://www.necessary.org/>



On the cusp of Japan's surrender during World War II, a Japanese general suffers a stroke and is tended to by a Malay gardener. As they spar, having heated debates about the war, the present is revealed: a Japanese man in a relationship with an Indian woman in Kuala Lumpur; his ex-wife coming to grips with an astrologer's predictions; their son, studying in the United States and confronted by his classmates about Japan's past.

A multilingual production featuring artists from Singapore, Malaysia and Japan, Mobile 2: Flat Cities casts the spotlight on stories of personal, social and universal struggles across Asian cities.

The play is The Necessary Stage's long-awaited follow up to the critically-acclaimed Mobile, which premiered at the 2006 Singapore Arts Festival and toured to Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo.

LANGUAGE

Japanese Language Course New Intake

Good news!

We will be having a new intake in October 2013.

Each class is limited to 16 people only, registration starts from **15th Aug 2013.**

The placement test will be held on **20th, 21st and 24th Sep 2013.**

Details available on our website from 15th Aug 2013.

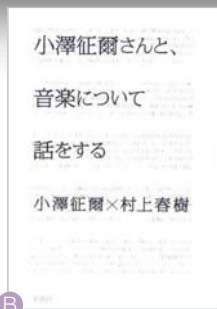
Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) Familiarization Course - 1 day trial -

We will be having a JLPT Familiarization Course (1 day trial) for those who are not sure of their current JLPT level.

Date: 7th Sep 2013

Fee: RM35

Details available on our website from 30th Jul 2013.



A Japanese Language for Learners

「漢字たまご 初級 CD付一できる日本語 準拠」嶋田和子【監修】凡人社
 「にほんご会話上手!CD-ROM付」岩田夏穂・初鹿野阿れ【著】アスク
 「課題達成のプロセスで学ぶビジネスコミュニケーション CD-ROM付」近藤彩ほか【著】
 アプリコット出版

2012年 Library Call No.811.2 T
 2012年 Library Call No.817.9T
 2012年 Library Call No.336 T

Japanese Language for Teachers

「日本語力をつける文章読本」二通信子 ほか【編】東京大学出版
 「私たちの日本語」定延利之【編著】朝倉書店
 「ピアで学ぶ大学生・留学生の日本語コミュニケーション / プレゼンテーションとライティング」
 大森弥生 ほか【著】ひつじ書房

2012年 Library Call No.817.5
 2012年 Library Call No.810.4
 2012年 Library Call No.816

B Non Fiction

「小澤征爾さんと、音楽について話をする」<第11回小林秀雄賞>小澤征爾×村上春樹【著】新潮社
 「中山伸弥先生に人生とips細胞について聞いてみた」中山伸弥・緑慎也【著】講談社
 「日本人の生死観を読む 明治武士道から『おくりびと』へ」島蘭進【著】朝日新聞出版

2011年 Library Call No.760.4
 2011年 Library Call No.491.11
 2012年 Library Call No.114.2

History

「日本遊戯史」増川宏一【著】平凡社
 「わたしの少女マンガ史」小長井信少昌【著】西田書店

2012年 Library Call No.384.55
 2010年 Library Call No.726.101

Poetry

「金子みすず 心の詩集 / The Poetry of Misuzu」(Bilingual: Jap / Eng)
 よしだみどり【英訳・絵】藤原書店

2012年 Library Call No.911.56

C Arts & Culture

「野村萬斎 狂言サイボーグ」野村萬斎【著】文藝春秋
 「三毛猫ホームズの文楽夜嘯」赤川次郎【著】桐竹勤十郎【監修】角川書店

2013年 Library Call No.733.9
 2010年 Library Call No.777.1

D Cooking & Craft

「日本百貨店」鈴木正晴【著】飛鳥新社
 「やっぱりママのお弁当が好き!」藤井恵【著】PHP研究所

2012年 Library Call No.675.1
 2012年 Library Call No.596.4

Comics & Children's Books

「子ども武士道 大切な教えの巻」高橋和の助【文】大垣友紀恵【絵】講談社

2010年 Library Call No.156 K

< Recommended Books >

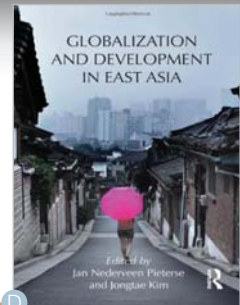
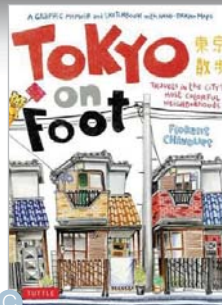
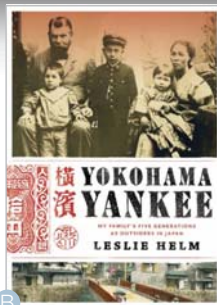
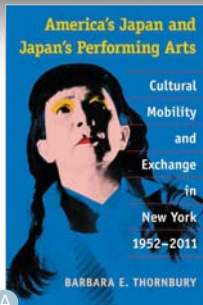
「漢字たまご 初級 CD付一できる日本語 準拠」
 「漢字ができるようになる」とはどういうことかという疑問からできた本書は、「買い物」「家族」「旅行」などテーマ別になっています。実際の場面から、必要な情報を漢字で読む、書くといった練習をすることで、漢字が身近にあるという実感が生まれ、明確な学習目標を設定することができます。

「小澤征爾さんと、音楽について話をする」

「そういえば、俺これまで、こういう話をきちんとしてこなかったねえ。」指揮者はタクトを振るように語り、小説家は心の響きを聴くように書き留める。クラシック音楽ファンはもちろん、そうでない方も、楽しめるお二人の対談です。そして読み終わった後、本に登場する曲を聴いてみたくなることでしょう。

「やっぱりママのお弁当が好き!」

本書は15年間の子どものおべんとう日記とヒント集です。著者は、おべんとうは子どもたちとの言葉のない交換日記だったといいます。著者が撮影した15年間のおべんとうの写真や子どもたちとのエピソードや失敗談、おべんとう作りのコツなどの情報が満載です。



Arts and Culture

[An Introduction to Japanese Folk Performing Arts]/by Terrence A. Lancashire. England : Ashgate Pub., 2011.

Library Call No. 398.20952 LAN

[The Japanese Arts and Self –Cultivation]/by Robert E. Carter ; foreword by Eliot Deutsch. New York: State University of New York, 2008. Library Call No. 700.952 CAR

A [America's Japan and Japan's Performing Arts : Cultural Mobility and Exchange in New York, 1952-2011]/by Barbara Thornbury. Ann Arbor : University of Michigan Press, 2013. Library Call No. 792.0973 THO

[Structure, Audience and Soft Power in East Asian Pop Culture]/by Chua Beng Huat. Hong Kong : Hong Kong University Press, 2012. Library Call No. 306.095 CHU

[Culture Smart ! Japan: The Essential Guide to Custom's & Culture]/by Paul Norbury. Portland :Graphic Arts Center Publishing, 2003. Library Call No. 952.21 NOR

[The Japanese Mind : Understanding Contemporary Japanese Culture]/edited by Roger J. Davies and Osamu Ikeno. Tokyo: Tuttle Pub., 2002. Library Call No. 952.03 JAP

General Reading

B [Yokohama Yankee: My Family's Five Generations as Outsiders in Japan]/ by Leslie Helm. Seattle : Chin Music Press, 2013. Library Call No. 929.20952 HEI

[Subjectivity in Asian Children's Literature and Film : Global Theories and Implications]/ edited by John Stephens. New York : Routledge, 2012. Library Call No. 809.89282 SUB

[Manufacturing Enterprise in Asia : Size Structure and Economic Growth]/ by Dipak Mazumdar and Sandip Sarkar. Abingdon, Oxon : Routledge, 2013. Library Call No. 338.095 MAZ

C [Tokyo on Foot : Travels in the City's Most Colorful Neighborhoods]/ text and illustrations by Florent Chavouet. Tokyo : Tuttle Pub.,c2011. Library Call No.915.2135 CHA

[Aging, Economic Growth, and Old-age Security in Asia]/ edited by Donghyun Park, Sang-Hyop Lee, Andrew Mason. Mandaluyong City : Asian Development Bank, 2012. Library Call No. 304.6095 AGI

[Encounter with Enlightenment : A Study of Japanese Ethics]/ by Robert E. Carter ; foreword by Yuasa Yasuo. New York: University of New York Press , 2001. Library Call No. 170.952 CAR

D [Globalization and Development in East Asia]/ edited by Jan Nederveen Pieterse and Jongtae Kim. New York Rutledge, 2012. Library Call No. 338.95 GLO

<Recommended Books for Reading>

[Yokohama Yankee: My Family's Five Generations as Outsiders in Japan].

Summary: Leslie Helm's decision to adopt Japanese children launches him on a personal journey through his family's 140 years in Japan, beginning with his great-grandfather, who worked as a military advisor in 1870 and defied custom to marry his Japanese mistress. The family's poignant experiences of love and war help Helm overcome his cynicism and embrace his Japanese and American heritage.

This is the first book to look at Japan across five generations, with perspective that is both from the inside and through foreign eyes. Helm draws on his great-grandfather's unpublished memoir and a wealth of primary source material to bring his family history to life.

Report: BUNRAKU- Traditional Japanese Puppet Theatre

By Siah Jian Kher, Harry (Cultural Affairs Department, JFKL) 28th – 29th June 2013



Picture taken during press conference with the BUNRAKU in Malaysia Committee 2013



© KELAB SHASHIN FOTOGRAFI KUALA LUMPUR (Ene Anuar & Bart Huzaimi)

Guest of Honor His Royal Highness Raja Dato' Dr. Nazrin Shah, Raja Muda Perak, Her Royal Highness Raja Puan Besar Tuanku Zara Salim, H.E. Mr Shigeru Nakamura, Ambassador of Japan in Malaysia



© KELAB SHASHIN FOTOGRAFI KUALA LUMPUR (Ene Anuar & Bart Huzaimi)

Harvest Celebration Dance "Ninin Sambaso"



© KELAB SHASHIN FOTOGRAFI KUALA LUMPUR (Ene Anuar & Bart Huzaimi)

Princess Yaegaki in the act from "Fox Fires in the Inner Garden"

It's a very rare occasion for someone to be able to watch an authentic Japanese Traditional Arts outside of Japan. "I think that we are very fortunate to have it here in Malaysia" said Dato' Faridah Merican, Executive Producer of Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac) during the Press Conference of BUNRAKU- Traditional Japanese Puppet Theatre.

It was the first time in its more than 300 years history of BUNRAKU that the full scale performance was brought to here in Pentas 2, klpac for 3 shows on 28th and 29th last June. More than 600 people came to the performance to witness the grace and grandeur of this Japanese traditional art form. Some of the audiences found that it was really interesting how the three puppeteers who are visible to the audiences manipulate a large articulated puppet on the stage behind a waist high screen. The demonstration before each shows gave a clearer image to the audiences on how was that to be done. A brief explanation on the Three Artstries (*Sangyo*) namely the Narrator (*Tayu*), Three-stringed Instrument (*Shamisen*) and the Puppeteer (*Ningyo-zukai*) was conducted by the performers from Minosuke-kai and this led to a better understanding of the performance.

The puppet performance consisted of two part: Harvest Celebration Dance, "Ninin Sambaso" and Act of Fox Fires in the Inner Garden "Okuniwa Kitsune-bi no Dan". *Sambaso* is one of the oldest dance pieces and during ancient ritual ceremony, it is a prayer for a harvest and peace. "It is indeed very timely to have BUNRAKU performed in KL as part of this yearlong celebration as this year mark the "40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation" said H.E. Mr. Shigeru NAKAMURA, Ambassador of Japan in Malaysia, who attended the Opening Night of the Performance. Together with H.E Mr. Nakamura, the opening night was graced with the presence of the Guest of Honor His Royal Highness Raja Dato' Dr. Nazrin Shah, Raja Muda Perak and Her Royal Highness Raja Puan Besar Tuanku Zara Salim.

In the second part of the performance, Master Puppeteer, Mr. Kanjuro KIRITAKE III brought up a beautiful princess dressed in red kimono to the stage. Manipulated by three puppeteers, the princess did not act like the usual puppet attached by strings, but she moves gracefully as if she is alive on the stage, telling her story that she wanted to go to warn her fiancé about the pursuers sent by the enemy. She



© KELAB SHASHIN FOTOGRAFI KUALA LUMPUR (Ene Anuar & Bart Huzaimi)

Fox Fires in the Inner Garden "Okuniwa Kitsune-bi no dan"



© KELAB SHASHIN FOTOGRAFI KUALA LUMPUR (Ene Anuar & Bart Huzaimi)

The Narrators/Singers and the Musicians



© KELAB SHASHIN FOTOGRAFI KUALA LUMPUR (Ene Anuar & Bart Huzaimi)

Mr. Kanjiro Kiritake III showing the movement of puppet head to the students of Japanese School of Kuala Lumpur



© KELAB SHASHIN FOTOGRAFI KUALA LUMPUR (Ene Anuar & Bart Huzaimi)

Demonstration at AEON, One Utama Shopping Centre

'cried' and asking the help from her family treasure, a samurai helmet made of fox skin but at last, she was possessed by the fox spirits and started to move like a fox.

Manipulated by three men puppeteers, but the audiences believed that it was a young princess who was struggling for love on the stage. This is something that can be done with a BUNRAKU puppet. During the interview of Mr. Kanjiro, he said "For a 75-year-old to perform a 14-year-old role that really looks 14 is a testament to the artistry of the master and also a testament to the amazing art of BUNRAKU".

Besides these performances, the group also conducted a workshop to the pupils of grade 6 in the Japanese School of Kuala Lumpur in Subang on June 28th. During the press conference, Mr. Toshiyuki TSUKADA, President of the BUNRAKU in Malaysia Committee 2013 said that the students was very excited because even pupils in Japan may not have a chance to have such experience watching a live BUNRAKU performance. Another demonstration was also conducted in AEON of One Utama Shopping Centre on 29th June. The demonstration in AEON One Utama was

well received and some participants mentioned that it was a great experience for them who did not manage to purchase the ticket for the performance in Klpac.

The performance would not have be successful without the help of the sponsors. We would like to offer heartfelt gratitude to AEON Malaysia, Mitsui & Co., Malaysia Airlines, Japan Malaysia Club, Japan Chamber of Trade and Industry Malaysia and Agency for Cultural Affairs in Japan.

Report: Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival

By Kyoko Kugai (Cultural Affairs Department, JFKL) 13th June 2013

It was the 5th Anniversary of Kota Kinabalu International Film Festival (KKIFF), and the 4th year that the Japan Foundation participated as co-organizers of the Japanese film screening.

We've always enjoyed coming back to KK for the Festival to meet the organizer Ms. Jude Day and the great audience who react so honestly to the films we screen.

This year's venue, GC Woolley Hall at Sabah State Museum was a bit different from the venues of the previous years'. First of all, they had a double sided screen with normal chair seats as the main venue while there were comfortable bead cushion seats on the other side!

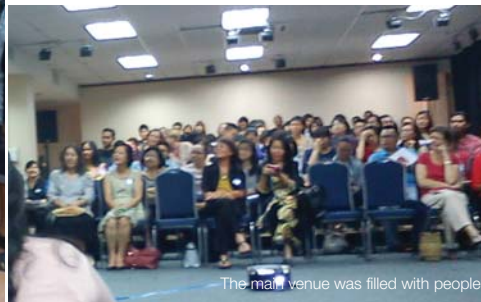
The roughly 140 people who came to our screening of "Happy Flight" seemed to enjoy the film a lot and had a happy trip together.



KKIFF bunting for the movie nights



Mr. Hirofumi Morikawa of Consular Office of Japan in Kota Kinabalu giving a speech



The main venue was filled with people



Cushion seat

Report: Chirimen Handicraft Workshop at Sabah Art Gallery

By Nurul Amira Binti Sabri (Cultural Affairs Department, JFKL) 13th June 2013

"Could you help me thread this needle?" Eyes narrowed and wrinkles formed on the forehead of a 64-years old participant as she attempted to start sewing. Having difficulties seeing clearly surely was not an obstacle for her as she enthusiastically participated in the Chirimen Handicraft Workshop that was held at the Sabah Art Gallery on 13th June 2013, in conjunction with the 8th Sabah International Folklore Festival. The theme for this year's festival which falls under the Folk Art program is "Understanding Eastern Culture." Two workshop sessions were conducted with the total number of 42 participants.

During this workshop, the participants made a "netsuke" which was originally a little sculpture used to hang a little bag or basket containing personal belongings from an obi/belt in Edo period. Nowadays, the role of "netsuke" has expanded to the realm of accessories such as a key chain attached to a wallet, handbag, or mobile phone.

It was a delightful event where the participants had fun together and they were eager to join upcoming cultural activities by JFKL!



Report: Japanese Language Choral Speaking Competition for Secondary Schools

By Ms. Arulselvi A/P Manoharan, Student, SMK(P) Methodist, Klang 16 June 2013

The Japanese Choral Speaking Competition during the Japanese Language Festival (JLFest) is held annually, and 2013 was its third year. The competition aims at raising the level of interest and motivation among secondary school students learning Japanese. It also helps to build up their confidence in using Japanese and enable them to enjoy the beauty of the language.

Here's the report by Ms. Arulselvi A/P Manoharan, representative from the Japanese Language class of SMK(P) Methodist, Klang, who were the winners of the 2013 Japanese Language Choral Speaking Competition.



Japanese Language Choral Speaking Competition

The year was 2012 when I moved up into secondary school. In the midst of all the changes (new peers, teachers and tougher subjects), I discovered a new interest in the language of the Land of the Rising Sun, Japan. I was one of the lucky few who got a chance to join the Japanese language classes. As I attended classes, I realised that the beautiful language could be incorporated into a fun activity. Hence, my friends and I went to the auditions for the Japanese Language Choral Speaking Competition. I was one of the few, talented, lucky chosen ones who got the chance to practise hard and participate. The time, energy and dedication put in by not only the students but also our teacher paid off as we won 1st prize. We gained wonderful memories as well as valuable experiences along the way.

By 2013, the hype of the JL fest had increased greatly. The seniors and the teacher advisor were faced with a greater number of students at the auditions. By this time, I was more confident due to good exposure and past experience. However, due to the tough fight for limited places as a choral speaker, my confidence shook a little and a wee bit of doubt crept into my hopeful heart. However it was all wiped clean when I saw my name was on the chosen list. Then the real work started with the brainstorming session where the script was finalised and many interesting ideas were brought up and discussed. After that, the seniors and our teacher advisor discussed and combined all the ideas contributed to finalise the intonation as well as actions for the choral speaking. Miss Nadia Soh, our teacher advisor, trained us throughout this process. She not only guided us, but also inspired and motivated each and every one of us in such a way that we became better team players. Along the way, we sharpened our choral speaking skills as we enhanced our grasp of the Japanese

Language. In addition to this, we learned many values like tolerance, respect, teamwork, patience and many more which made us better humans.

On 16 June 2013, Sunday, all our hard work paid off when we performed at SMK Putrajaya 1 Presint 8, and were announced champions. Our performance entertained and cheered the audience from throughout the country who clapped loudly to show their hearty support. This was an accomplishment we took back to home and presented as a gift to our respected principal, Cik Roziah bt Roslan and our beloved school. We, the choral speakers are very happy because we have not only contributed to the school's reputation but also our cash prize helped to purchase a cabin in which our Japanese language classes will be held. As the defending champions for three consecutive years, we are hopeful and enthusiastic to maintain this prestigious title at the upcoming competition next year.

During the JL Fest we learned more about Japanese culture. We had hands-on experience in the arts like origami, furoshiki, Japanese gift wrapping, yukata wearing, and martial arts like aikido, ninjitsu and karate. Other than that, we also got the golden opportunity to taste various types of Japanese cuisine like yakisoba, wagashi, okonomiyaki and others. Then, we learned how to play Japanese games. We were able to understand Japanese language better by learning about the culture. I personally have realised that I can understand and enjoy Japanese cartoons and anime such as Doraemon and Detective Conan. We were more confident speaking in Japanese to others at the JL Fest. We also bought some souvenirs for momentos.

Report: The 29th Japanese Speech Contest for Open Category

By Hasline Sheliza (Japanese Language Department, JFKL) 26th May 2013

The annual event was held at The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, 26th May 2013. A total of 14 finalists were selected to participate in the contest comprising of winners from the preliminary rounds held at Kuala Lumpur, Penang, and Perak.

The Top 3 winners were awarded with a Study Tour Program to Japan, courtesy of the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai and the Japan Overseas Enterprises Association. The winners are as follows:-

1st Prize	Regina Teh Shi-Yii A To Z Language Centre Title: "[The Two Japanese Things] I'd like to have in Malaysia"
2nd Prize	Sew Kean Wai Inter-Cultural Language School Title: "The Fascination of Yoga"
3rd Prize	Peck Xiang Yi Universiti Malaya Title: "Evolving Japanese"
4th Prize	Choo Seah Ling Universiti Sains Malaysia Title: "Me and Computer Science"
5th Prize	Widad Damia binti Azman Universiti Sains Malaysia Title: "Japanese Language and I"
Special Prize (50th Anniversary of JCKL)	Regina Teh Shi-Yii A To Z Language Centre Title: "[The Two Japanese Things] I'd like to have in Malaysia"



1st Prize Winner Regina Teh Shi-Yii



2nd Prize Winner Sew Kean Wai



3rd Prize Winner Peck Xiang Yi



This annual event was co-organized by the Embassy of Japan (EOJ), The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, The Japanese Chamber of Trade & Industry, Malaysia (JACTIM) and The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur (JCKL) in cooperation with the Consulate-General of Japan in Penang, Penang Japanese Language Society and the Perak Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Society. It was also held in conjunction with the celebration of the 40th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of JCKL and the 30th Anniversary of JACTIM.

Sponsors of the event included the Japan Overseas Enterprises Association, Panasonic Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., Kokuyo (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd., Japan Airlines Co., Ltd., and Kinokuniya Bookstores Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.

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