

Teman Baru

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JAPAN FOUNDATION KUALA LUMPUR
BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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JAPAN FOUNDATION
国際交流基金

JFKL's Upcoming Programme

Revive the Legend: Revitalising Japan's Traditional Colours from the Nature of Asia
Makoto Nomura Work-in-Progress Malaysia
The 9th International Conference of Asian Arts Management in Malaysia
The Weekend Japanese Film Show
2014 Japanese Skit Contest for University and College Students

Revive the Legend:

Revitalising Japan's Traditional Colours
from the Nature of Asia

Revive the Legend: Revitalising Japan's Traditional Colours from the Nature of Asia



Sachio Yoshioka

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Fifth-Generation Master Dyer and Colour Historian

Born in Kyoto in 1946, Yoshioka founded Art Books Shikosha Publishing Co., Ltd. after graduating from Waseda University. In 1988, he became the fifth-generation head of Studio Yoshioka. In addition to creating dyed Japanese paper materials for ceremonies at temples and shrines, Yoshioka is dedicated to reviving traditional Japanese colours through organic dyes. His expertise has been applied extensively, such as in the restoration of national treasures. Yoshioka has exhibited his work throughout Japan and internationally, including solo shows in Munich and London, and has collaborated with Chanel to produce red lipsticks.

He received the Kan Kikuchi Award in 2010 and Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK) Cultural Award in 2011.

For more information, visit <http://www.jfkl.org.my/> or contact the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur at 03 2284 6228.

Film Screening + Talk

Date : 13 December, 2014
Time : 1:30 p.m.
Venue : Natural History Museum
Jalan Diplomatik, Presint 15,
62000 Putrajaya.
Admission : Free

Exhibition

Date : 13 December, 2014 – 11 January, 2015
Time : 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Venue : Natural History Museum
Jalan Diplomatik, Presint 15,
62000 Putrajaya.
Admission : Malaysian | RM2
Non-Malaysian | RM5
Uniformed student | Free

There will be a shuttle bus service from the Department of Museum Office on 12 December leaving at 2.30 p.m. for Putrajaya. Another bus service will be provided on 13 December leaving at 12.30 p.m. for the talk.



Makoto Nomura Work-in-Progress in Malaysia

Makoto Nomura Work-in-Progress in Malaysia is an attempt of international collaboration of music through the experiences of composer, musician and improviser Makoto Nomura. The project aims to create new music using the traditional instruments of Asia. A group of musicians from Japan has been chosen based on Makoto's recent project "Nomura x Hokusai", which created new compositions inspired by the world renowned 17th-century Ukiyo-e painter Katsushika Hokusai. The Hokusai project paved the way for collaboration between contemporary composers and traditional instrumentalists.

2014 is stage two of this collaboration. Based on research and experimental performances with various artists in Malaysia last year, the troupe led by Makoto Nomura is aiming to travel the island of Borneo. Together with experienced musicians from Indonesia and Thailand, the group aims to further their collaboration through the creation of new music for the region.

Research + Creation

Date : 18th – 22nd January 2015

Venue : Kuching, Sarawak

Research Sharing Session: Talk + Music

Date : 25th January 2015

Venue : To be confirmed

Participating project members

JAPAN



Makoto Nomura is a Japanese composer and improviser. He is keen to expand the boundaries of music composition in many different projects such as "Music with Animals", "Keyboard Choreography Collection", "Remix of Elderly People's Home", etc. He has composed numerous pieces in many styles including works for solo piano, chamber and symphony orchestras, rock and improvising bands, Javanese gamelan, melodicas, traditional Japanese instruments and daily found objects. In many of his works, he has combined trained and non-trained musicians. As an improviser he plays the piano and the melodica.

Makoto Nomura
Project Director/Composition/Piano



Etsuko Takezawa
Koto/ Shamisen/ Voice



Yusuke Kataoka
Percussion



Hiroshi Obiki
Gijil/ Khoomei/ Jew's harp



Hiromu Motonaga
Shakuhachi

THAILAND



Anant Narkkong
Composer/ percussion



Yohanes Subowo
Composer



Yukihiro Nomura
Videography



Kumiko Yabu
Sound & Recording



Unfinished Business: Conference on Krishen Jit's Performance Practice and Contemporary Malaysian Theatre

To mark the 10th anniversary of Krishen Jit's passing, the Five Arts Centre presents a conference exploring the theatre doyen's influence in relation to the ongoing work of contemporaries whom he joined forces with during his outstanding career.

A list of the who's who in Malaysian and Asian performing arts have been gathered for three days of keynote addresses, panel discussions, dialogues and performances. The line-up includes famed director and playwright Makoto Sato, who in the 1980s was one of the pioneers of a new theatre concept focused on a critical re-evaluation of Japanese society.

DATE : 9 - 11 JANUARY 2015
VENUE : KUALA LUMPUR PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE (KLPAAC)
 SENTUL PARK,
 JALAN STRACHAN (OFF JALAN IPOH),
 51100 KUALA LUMPUR.
ADMISSION : RM200 | FULL CONFERENCE PASS
 RM150 | SINGLE DAY PASS
 RM50 | STUDENT FULL CONFERENCE PASS

To register, email fiveartscentre@gmail.com.

For more information, email fiveartscentre@gmail.com or visit www.fiveartscentre.org/conference

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur is the conference partner to support the invitation of Japanese speakers. One of them is theatre director Makoto Sato, who has worked in this region since the '90s.



Makoto Sato

A playwright and director as well as artistic director of Za-Koenji, Sato was born in Tokyo in 1943. In 1966, he founded the Free Stage Company and opened Underground Free Stage, a venue in Roppongi, Tokyo.

His most important work was centred on the activities of the theatre company known as the Black Tent. The company's first production in 1970 was "The Dance of Angels with Flaming Wings", an adaptation of Peter Weiss' "Marat/Sade".

In the 1980s, Sato and his colleagues developed a new concept of Asian Theatre focused on a critical re-evaluation of Japanese society. He collaborated with several South Asian companies and more recently has collaborated with European theatre companies.

Sato has attracted much media attention as a director of opera, dance, revue, drama, and the marionette theatre company, Youkiza. From 1997 to 2002, he was the first artistic director of Setagaya Public Theatre. He is also currently the director of Kamome-Za.

THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASIAN ARTS MANAGEMENT IN MALAYSIA 2014: ARTS MANAGEMENT FOR CREATIVITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN ASIA

A diverse congregation of academia and arts practitioners will descend upon Publika and Multimedia University for a meeting of the minds on the development of a distinctly Asian model of arts management.

The general understanding of the field posits that the purpose is to effectively deliver works of art to audiences in cultural institutions such as concert halls, museums and theatres. However, the conference aims to challenge the orthodox in favour of one – in practice and as an academic subject – that is more in line with the different natures of Asian society.

Jointly organised by Multimedia University's Faculty of Creative Multimedia and Osaka City University's Urban Research Plaza, the conference will bring together prominent members of the Japanese and Malaysian arts communities in deep discussion of a strong practical and theoretical foundation for this alternative aspect of arts management.

Day 1
16 December 2014
at Black Box, MAP @ Publika

- Key Note Speech 1 by Janet Pillai
- Key Note Speech 2 by Prof. Dr. Kazuo Fujino
- Case Study Presentations by practitioners and researchers
- Wrap Up Session by Oriza Hirata

Free and open to the public.

Day 2
17 December 2014
at Multimedia University

- Brief of Day 1
- Study Group Sessions
- Closing Speech

Register by sending your name, organisation and phone number to jpsc@jfkf.org.my

UPCOMING EVENTS / DANCE

Un Yamada Artist Residency at Aswara



Japanese dancer and choreographer Un Yamada will be part of a three-week resident programme at Aswara to conduct intensive workshops with students of the dance and theatre faculties.

The course of study is based on her solo dance act 'Dictee', an experimental interpretation of the biography of Korean-American artist, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha. 'Dictee', or dictation, symbolises the pain of a woman deprived of her mother tongue and her struggles in acquiring a new language.

The project explores the way Yamada transforms multilingual texts into solo pieces, reaching beyond the genre boundaries of dance and drama.

Trained in ballet, gymnastics and Butoh, she has made a name for herself not only for her solos and improvisations but also group performance by her dance company, Co. Un Yamada. Her regular tours have taken her to 28 cities in Japan and 20 cities in 14 other countries. Since 1996, she has worked on a wide range of projects, drawing the attention of dancers, choreographers, mathematicians and physicists.

Details

Residency : 1 – 21 December, 2014

Mini showcase : TBC



**11th
PENANG ISLAND
JAZZ FESTIVAL**

The coastline of Penang will come alive with the sound of music as residents welcome the return of the island's showpiece event dedicated to the innovative improvisational styles, thumping rhythms and distinct techniques of the symphonic art that is jazz.

What started out as a weekend festival in 2004 has now grown to feature four days of performances, workshops, forums and exhibitions.

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur added a Japanese touch to the lively proceedings by bringing in post-jazz trio Schroeder-Headz. The group's unique blend of acoustic sounds and electronic beats has seen them strut their stuff at several big-name concerts in their homeland.

Catch them, as well as other venerable artistes, live at the Main Stage on the 7th of December.

4 – 7 December

Venues:

Bayview Beach Resort
Hard Rock Hotel
PARKROYAL Penang Resort
Tropical Spice Garden

Admission:

“Jazz By The Beach” – Main Stage | RM80

Visit www.ticketpro.com.my for online purchases and ticketing outlets.
For ticketing details, call +603 7880 7999
For more information on other festival activities, visit www.penangjazz.com



SINGAPORE FRINGE FESTIVAL 2015

SINGAPORE'S PREMIER FESTIVAL DEVOTED TO THEATRE, DANCE, VISUAL ARTS, AND MIXED MEDIA WILL RETURN FOR ITS 11TH ITERATION IN JANUARY.

A.L.T.E.R S.ESSIO – AN ARTIST COLLECTIVE COMPOSED OF FABRICE PLANQUETTE AND YUM KEIKO TAKAYAMA – HAS BEEN BOOKED FOR TWO PERFORMANCES OF ‘LOSS-LAYERS’, WHICH BRINGS TO FORE THE DUO'S TRADEMARK MIX OF CONTEMPORARY AND NEO-BUTOH DANCE WITH AUDIOVISUAL ELEMENTS.

DATE : 14 – 25 JANUARY, 2015
VENUES : VARIOUS VENUES
ADMISSION : “LOSS-LAYERS BY A.L.T.E.R S.ESSIO” – ESPLANADE THEATRE STUDIO | S\$22/ S\$19 FOR STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS

VISIT [HTTP://SISTIC.COM.SG/](http://SISTIC.COM.SG/) FOR ONLINE BOOKING AND TICKETING OUTLETS.
FOR TICKETING DETAILS, CALL (65) 6348 5555
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OTHER FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES, VISIT WWW.SINGAPOREFRINGE.COM



CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL 2014



OVER 90 ARTISTS FROM ISRAEL, SPAIN, SWEDEN, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA, AUSTRALIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND MORE WILL BE AT T.H.E DANCE COMPANY'S ANNUAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE FESTIVAL.

TWO RENOWNED JAPANESE CHOREOGRAPHERS ARE SET TO PRESENT THEIR WORKS. MIWA OKUNO WILL TEAM UP WITH MALAYSIA'S LEE REN XIN FOR A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY PERFORMANCE BEARING INFLUENCES OF INDONESIAN MARTIAL ARTS, YOGA AND LADY GAGA AT THE ASIAN FESTIVALS EXCHANGE.

OKUNO WILL ALSO FEATURE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARTIST FESTIVAL FINALE ALONG WITH COMPATRIOT SHINTARO OUE, WHO IS SHOWCASING HIS COPENHAGEN INTERNATIONAL CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION PRIZE-WINNING WORK BO.LE.RO.

DATE : 23 NOVEMBER – 13 DECEMBER, 2014
VENUES : VARIOUS VENUES
ADMISSION : ASIAN FESTIVALS EXCHANGE – ESPLANADE THEATRE STUDIO | S\$32/ S\$20 FOR STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS
INTERNATIONAL ARTIST FESTIVAL FINALE – ESPLANADE THEATRE STUDIO | S\$32/ S\$20 FOR STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS

VISIT [HTTP://SISTIC.COM.SG/](http://SISTIC.COM.SG/) FOR ONLINE BOOKING AND TICKETING OUTLETS.
FOR TICKETING DETAILS, CALL (65) 6348 5555
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OTHER FESTIVAL ACTIVITIES, VISIT [HTTP://WWW.THE-CONTACT.ORG/](http://WWW.THE-CONTACT.ORG/)

THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW



Date : 6th December 2014
Time : 3pm
Venue: Dewan Kuliah Utama,
ASWARA

Murasaki

紫

(川瀬美香 KAWASE Mika/2011/ 77 min/Documentary)

Sachio Yoshioka is a Kyoto-based textile dyer renowned for procuring colours from organically grown plants and pure spring water, a technique increasingly rare in the modern age. As a result, his family studio – established at the end of the Edo era (mid-19th century) – creates hues surpassing any produced chemically in a laboratory.

Mika Kawase's debut documentary provides an in-depth look at the daily workings of Yoshioka and his long-serving natural dyeing specialist, Fukuda Denshi; two members of a community intent on protecting nature, history and culture.



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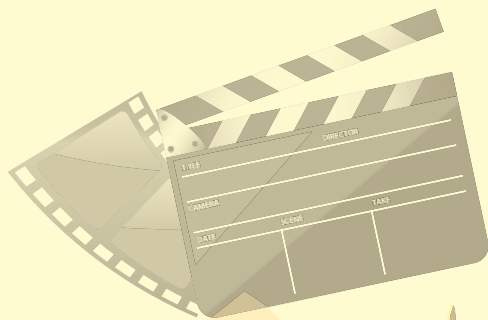
UPCOMING EVENTS / LANGUAGE

2014 Japanese Skit Contest for University and College Students

The annual competition is now open for submissions!

Theme: 'Japanese Proverb'

Write a creative script,
visualize it on the storyboard,
act in video and upload!



Eligibility

Participating team members (max. 5 per team) must be:

- Current students at a university/college in Malaysia at the time of submission;
- Non-native Japanese speakers neither of whose parents is Japanese.

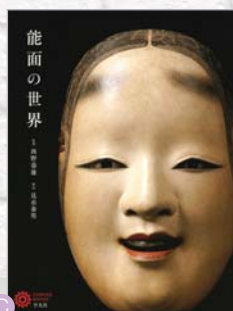
Procedure

1. A skit, not more than 10 minutes in length, depicting the theme 'Japanese Proverb' must be uploaded to Youtube as an unlisted video.
2. Send the link to us together with the application form and a manuscript written in either Japanese or Rōmaji.
3. The judges' decision is final. Announcement of the results will be made by the end of March 2015.

Deadline for submission is 2nd March, 2015.

For further enquiries, please contact Ms. Hasline/Mr. Nobli/Ms. Eva at 03 2284 7228 or email nihongo@jfkf.org.my.

JAPANESE BOOKS



Japanese Language for Learners

「文化初級日本語 Ⅰ・Ⅱ テキスト改訂版 / CD付」文化外国語専門学校【編】凡人社

2013年 Library Call No.810.78

A 「読む力 中上級」奥田純子【監修】くろしお出版

2013年 Library Call No.817.5 T

「もっと中級 日本語で挑戦!スピーチ&ディスカッション」黒崎典子【編著】凡人社

2013年 Library Call No.809 T

Japanese Language for Teachers

「大学生・社会人のための言語技術トレーニング」三森ゆりか【著】大修館書店

2013年 Library Call No.816

『「配慮」はどのように示されるか』三宅和子ほか【編】ひつじ書房

2012年 Library Call No.801.03

「対話がクラスにあふれる!国語授業 言語活動アイデア42」石川 晋【著】明治図書

2012年 Library Call No.810.724

Fiction

B 「何者」朝井リョウ【著】<第148回直木賞>新潮社

2012年 Library Call No.913.6ASA

「爪と目」<第149回芥川賞>藤野可織【著】集英社

2013年 Library Call No.913.6FUJ

Criticism

「Nipponの3.0の処方箋」 當作靖彦【著】講談社

2013年 Library Call No.360

「稲の大東亜共栄圏」 藤原辰史【著】吉川弘文館

2012年 Library Call No.616.21

Sociology

「深層文化」ジョセフ・ショールズ【著】鳥飼玖美子【監訳】長沼美香子【訳】大修館書店

2013年 Library Call No.361.45

「まんがクラスメイトは外国人 入門編」外国につながる子どもたちの物語編集委員会【編】みなみなみ【まんが】明石書店

2013年 Library Call No.334.41

Culture

「京都の古寺 庭 [にわ] を読み解く」白幡洋三郎【著】淡交社

2012年 Library Call No.629.21

Arts

「染吾郎の超訳的歌舞伎」市川染吾郎【著】小学館

2013年 Library Call No.774

C 「能面の世界」西野春雄【監修】見市泰男【解説】平凡社

2012年 Library Call No.773.4

Cookery

「エビベジ 野菜レシピ」集英社生活文化編集部【編】集英社

2013年 Library Call No.596.37

Picture Books

「だじゃれ日本一周」長谷川義史【作】理論社

2013年 Library Call No.726.6

「おにのおにぎりや」ちばみなこ【作】偕成社

2012年 Library Call No.726.6

D 「かんじのぼうけん①～④」五味太郎【著】高橋久子、谷部弘子【漢字監修】旺文社

2013年 Library Call No.811.2 T

< Recommended Books >

「読む力 中上級」

読解教材『読む力』の中上級編です。『日本語によるクリティカル・リーディングができること』をねらいとしています。クリティカル・リーディングとは、書かれていることを、安易に批判したり、納得したりすることではなく、様々な角度からテキストを検討するための思考技術の1つです。各課にあるタスクを通して、クリティカル・リーディングができるようになるコツが身に付くよう工夫されています。

「能面の世界」

能面というと思ひ浮かぶのは、女面、その中でも最も有名な般若(はんにや)でしょうか。または、屈託のない笑みの翁面でしょうか。能の魅力の1つに、能面の神秘的な美しさが挙げられます。本書は、能面の魅力を、写真とわかりやすい解説でまとめた能面鑑賞の入門書です。

「かんじのぼうけん①～④」

絵本作家の五味太郎氏が漢字を部首ごとにまとめた絵本「かんじのぼうけん」シリーズです。「にんべん」「さんずい」「きへん」「てへん」の各4冊、すべての漢字に、漢字をイメージする楽しいイラストとコメントがついています。読み方・意味・画数・熟語・漢字の成り立ちも掲載し、楽しみながら、漢字が学習できます。

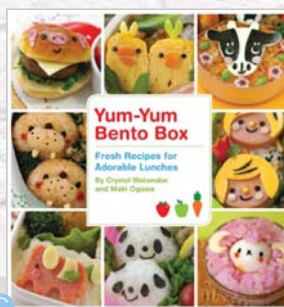
ENGLISH BOOKS



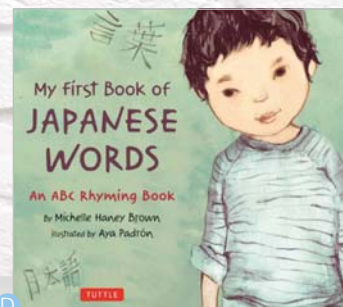
A



B



C



D

General Reading

- A [Leonie Gilmour : when East weds West]**/ by Edward Marx .Santa Barbara, California] : Botchan Books, 2013. Library Call No. 952 MAR
[Henry Black : on stage in Meiji Japan]/ by Ian McArthur.Just so happens. Clayton, Victoria, Australia : Monash University Publishing, 2013.
 Library Call No. 792.092 MCA
- [The Navidad Incident: the downfall of Matias Guili]**/ by Natsuki Ikezawa ; translated by Alfred Birnbaum. San Francisco : Haikasoru, 2012.
 Library Call No. 895.635 IKE
- [Borderline Japan : frontier controls, foreigners and the nation in the postwar era]**/ by Tessa Morris-Suzuki. New York : Cambridge University Press, 2010. Library Call No. 325.52 MOR

Arts and Culture

- B [Geisha & Maiko of Kyoto : beauty, art, & dance]**/ by John Foster.Bending Diversity : Japan and the art of survival. Atglen, PA : Schiffer Pub. Ltd., 2009.
 Library Call No. 792.702 FOS

Recipes and cooking

- [A cook's journey to Japan : fish tales and rice paddies : 100 home style recipes from Japanese kitchens]**/ by Sarah Marx Feldner.
 Tokyo : Tuttle Pub., 2010.Library Call No. 641.5951 FEL
- [Donburi : delightful Japanese meals in a bowl]**/ by Aki Watanabe. Singapore : Marshall Cavendish Cuisine, 2014. Library Call No. 641.5952 WAT
- C [Yum-yum bento box : fresh recipes for adorable lunches]**/ by Crystal Watanabe and Maki Ogawa. Philadelphia, PA : Quirk Books, 2010.
 Library Call No. 641.534 WAT

Children Collection

- D [My first book of Japanese words : an ABC rhyming book]**/ by Michelle Haney Brown; Illustrated by Aya Padron. Tokyo: Tuttle Pub., 2013.
 Library Call No. 495.682 BRO
- [My awesome Japan adventure : a diary about the best 4 months ever!]**/ written and illustrated by Rebecca Otowa. Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing, 2013.
 Library Call No. 915.204 OTO

<Recommended books for reading>

[Leonie Gilmour : when East weds West]

Leonie Gilmour was a remarkable woman, not merely because her chance encounter with the Japanese poet Yone Noguchi (1875-1947) in New York produced a gifted artist, but because of the free-thinking and independence that made it possible. Leonie Gilmour: When East Weds West is the first complete portrait of the unique, pioneering American educator, editor and writer whose story inspired Hisako Matsui's acclaimed film Leonie, starring Emily Mortimer and Shido Nakamura. Gilmour's fascinating tale is told here through her own writings and those of her associates, including rare and unpublished stories and intimate correspondence, along with a detailed biographical account by Edward Marx.

Library

Please kindly be informed that the library will be closed on:

- 8th – 29th of December 2014 for stocktaking
- 30th December 2014 – 3rd January 2015 for New Year's Holidays

During the stock take, members who wish to return borrowed items may do so through the library drop-off box, but it is advisable to return the borrowed items before 8th December 2014 (Monday).

The last day for borrowing books is 29th November (Saturday).

The library will resume operations on 6th January 2015 (Tuesday).



Japanese Film Festival 2014

11 September – 5 October, 2014

Written by: Tristan Toh

Ardent cinephiles reveled in a month-long celebration of Japanese motion pictures with the return of the Japanese Film Festival at selected Golden Screen Cinemas in September and October.

The 11th edition of the annual event saw 11,816 tickets snapped up for the 13 titles, which range from prize-winners and blockbusters to tearjerkers and headscratchers.

Period action farce 'Samurai Hustle' – which was the top local production at the Japanese box office for three consecutive weeks – enjoyed similar success on the Malaysian charts, sharing top spot with 'The Snow White Murder Case' for highest occupancy rates.

Not to be outdone, screenings of Naoko Oigigami's quirky feline comedy 'Rent-a-Cat' were completely sold out at GSC Pavilion KL, GSC One Utama and GSC Gurney Plaza. Owing to their award pedigree, even re-runs of 'Like Father, Like Son' and 'The Wind Rises' drew throngs of moviegoers.

The anime faithful also turned up in droves for the silver screen adaptations of the two long-running hit series 'Initial D' and 'Saint Seiya', which premiered just a few months after their official release.

At each show, it was clear that Japanese films have a strong following here. Everyone from students and working professionals to retirees and expatriates gave a warm reception, with some even bringing their entire families in tow! The stamp collection was also a big hit, as it encouraged visitors to give movies outside of their usual viewing preference a try in order to redeem awesome gifts.

At the grand opening ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, Japanese minister and deputy chief of mission Yoshinori Kodama is pleased with the high turnout and hopes it continues to serve as a gateway to the Far Eastern country.

"It has been a wonderful 11 years since the Japanese Film Festival made its debut in Malaysia," he said. "The main objective of this festival is to introduce contemporary Japanese films to the audience in Malaysia and in turn open a window of understanding to Japanese culture and ideas."

Golden Screen Cinemas CEO Koh Mei Lee concurred, adding that rising occupancy rates reflect a greater appreciation for Japan's cinematic heritage. This year, the number peaked at 73%, a substantial jump from 65% the year before.

Some 200 prominent members of the diplomatic, academic and performing arts communities had joined in the night's festivities, including Philippine Vice Consul Alvin Malasig, British Council director Gavin Anderson and some local filmmakers.

The guests-of-honour for the Kuching opening were Sarawak State Secretary Tan Sri Mohamad Morshidi Abdul Ghani and Mitsubishi Corporation Kuala Lumpur general manager Kenji Ohta, who delivered the opening addresses to a jam-packed hall.

Borak Art Series – Building Knowledge Capacity in Funding and Mobility

By Mio Yachita/ 22–23 November, 2014



On the 22nd and 23rd November this year, we invited five people to join the second Borak Art Series to share ideas and practices from Japan. Borak was organised by My Performing Arts Agency to foster dialogue between practitioners, founders and governments about the value of arts in society and how it should be supported.

On the morning of the first day, Mr. Kato Taneo, from the Association of Corporate Support of the Arts (KMK), sat down together with Datin Marion D'cruz of Five Arts Centre and En. Hamdan of Think City. The topic was the value of culture, in which each discussed their own perception. All agreed that more awareness should be raised among the government and organisations that support the arts on how it can play a role in society. After the morning session,

Mr. Shimoyama Masaya shared information on the Asia Centre as part of the funder's session with other funding organisations such as ASEF and Res Artis.

On the second day, Mr. Masanari Okuno (On-PAM) and Ms. Hiromi Maruoka (TPAM) presented in sessions entitled "Cultural Entrepreneurship and Innovation" and "Investing Time in Networks" respectively.

Mr. Kato and Ms. Ogiwara from the KMK stayed further to meet corporate members and discuss about private sector support for the arts before heading home to Japan.

MAJAS Public Lecture Series: The Formation of Japanese Cosplay Subculture in Malaysia

By Sulatan bin Ibrahim/ 21 November, 2014



The 6th MAJAS Public Lecture Series was held at the National University of Malaysia on 21st November. It is part of an ongoing series by University of Malaya's East Asian Studies Department, Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur and the Institute of Malaysian & International Studies (IKMAS).

The presenter was University of Malaya senior lecturer Dr. Rohayati Paidi, who expounded on the spread of cosplay nationwide. The event was attended by a crowd of 70 comprising students and

lecturer of the two co-organising universities as well as cosplay enthusiasts.

Dr. Rohayati's hour-long lecture covered the background of this rising youth subculture and whether globalisation, cultural development and advancements in computing technology have facilitated its growth. She also reported that there are approximately 200,000 cosplayers in Japan alone.

Japanese Language Programme for Foreign Students

Written by: Farouq Azhan Aug 27 – Sept 10, 2014 @ Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Kansai

Joined by 63 other students from 62 countries, I communicated in the only language we shared – Nihongo – and learned more about the country's language, culture and history during my stay in Japan. One of the highlights of the trip was when the Aiki-jūjutsu sensei showed us how easily we can overcome a much stronger opponent. I even had the opportunity to hold a real katana. My host family was great and we were able to talk about a lot of things. My host mother's cooking was really delicious!

Among all the places that we visited, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum left the deepest impression on me. Learning about the disastrous aftermath of the atomic bombing made me realise how important it is to preserve the peace we enjoy now.

This was the best two weeks of my life. The programme has given me the motivation to study Japanese even harder from now onwards.



Japanese Culture Session – Tea Tasting Skill

Written by: Naito Sakiko

Can you tell the difference between Coca-Cola and Pepsi in a blind taste test? Well, the participants of our most recent Japanese Culture Session could after attending a workshop presented by Hojo Akira, a tea expert and managing director of Hojo Tea (M) Sdn Bhd.

affected by such factors as the time the leaves are plucked, the chosen processing technique, water purity and the type of tea pot used. Like cooking, a good cup of tea depends on both ingredients and skill.

Participants discovered that all types of tea hail from the same plant but undergo a different processing technique. Quality and taste are

Everyone left the workshop feeling like tea connoisseurs having learned ways to enhance tea as well as whether the tea has 'body' or 'aftertaste'.



JFKL Holiday Notice

Office

Please kindly be informed that the office will be closed on:

- 25th December 2014 for Christmas
- 30th December 2014 – 4th January 2015 for New Year's Holidays.

The office will resume operations on 5th January 2015 (Monday).



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