

Temam Baru

ISSUE **87** April - May 2016

JAPAN FOUNDATION KUALA LUMPUR
BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

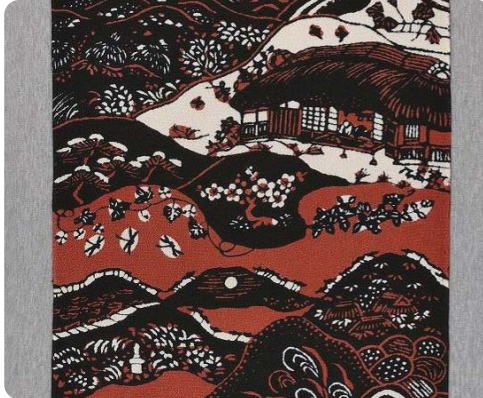
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JAPAN FOUNDATION
国際交流基金

JFKL's Upcoming Programmes

Beautiful Handicrafts of Tohoku, Japan
The 10th Annual Japanese Language Festival
The 32nd Japanese Speech Contest for Open Category
The Weekend Japanese Film Show



The Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition

BEAUTIFUL HANDICRAFTS OF TOHOKU, JAPAN



Beautiful Handicrafts of Tohoku, Japan

Beautiful Handicrafts of Tohoku, Japan is an exhibition planned to mark the March 11 anniversary of the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami. It serves to remind us once again of the distinctive appeal of the region's heritage of arts and craft. On display are works of various genres—ceramics, lacquerware, textiles, metalwork, wood and bamboo crafts, etc.—allowing visitors to enjoy the diverse and exquisite world of Tohoku traditions.

Prior to Malaysia, the exhibition has travelled to Hungary, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, South Korea and Indonesia.

SELANGOR

Venue : Galeri Shah Alam
Date & opening hours : 16 May–5 June, 2016
 9 a.m.–6 p.m. daily
 6 June–21 June, 2016
 9 a.m.–4 p.m. daily
Admission : Free

PENANG

Venue : Penang State Museum
Date : 1 July–7 August, 2016 (tentative)
Opening hours : 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (closed on Fridays and public holidays)
Admission : Free

For more info, visit jfkf.org.my



Kyutaro Ogura
Kokeshi doll (Kijiyama style)
Yuzawa, Akita Prefecture



Sake bottle
Kawatsura, Yuzawa, Akita Prefecture



Shiraiwa ware, suzu (bottle for sake),
Kakunodate, Akita Prefecture

THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

APRIL 2016



© 2010 "Fireworks from the Heart" Film Partners

Fireworks from the Heart

おにいちゃんのハナビ

(KUNIMOTO Masahiro 国本雅広 / 2010 / 119 min)

High school student Hana returns home from the hospital following six months of treatment for acute leukaemia only to find that her older brother has become a social recluse. Determined to draw Taro out of his isolation, she gets him involved in the world-famous Katakai Fireworks Festival, which Hana had fond memories of attending years ago. When she suffers a relapse, Taro exerts more effort into breaking out of his shell and fulfilling his sister's wishes.

Inspired by true events in post-earthquake Niigata, the film offers a tender look at a family dealing with crisis, as well as the phenomenon of *hikikomori*—an affliction associated with individuals who completely shut themselves off from the world.

Date : 9 April, 2016
Time : 3.00 p.m.
Venue : Auditorium, Content Malaysia Pitching Centre,
 Unit G09 & G10, Platinum Sentral
 Jalan Stesen Sentral 50470, Kuala Lumpur



Shiko Munakata
 "The Cave of Lion" from the series Ryurisho hangakan
 (Wandering away from home: compositions on Isamu Yoshii's tanka)
 1953



Nami Anakubo
 Basket
 Iwate Prefecture



Yamagata casting, Habiro iron kettle
 Do-machi, Yamagata Prefecture

UPCOMING EVENTS / FILM

MAY 2016



© "Osaka Hamlet" Production Committee

Osaka Hamlet

大阪ハムレット

(MITSUISHI Fujiro 光石富士朗 / 2008 / 107 min)

The Kubo family is left to fend for themselves after the sudden death of the patriarch. A mysterious man soon moves in with them after claiming to be the dead father's brother. The sons are puzzled by this unusual turn of events, but are then distracted by problems of their own. The eldest, Masashi, acts beyond his age to impress an older woman with daddy issues, whereas punkish middle child Yukio tempers doubts about his biological parents with a newfound appreciation for Shakespeare. The youngest, grade-schooler Koki, meanwhile dreams of playing Cinderella in the school play.

Based on an award-winning manga series, the film paints a heartwarming portrait of ordinary people facing extraordinary circumstances in a working-class district of Osaka.

Date : 7 November, 2015

Time : 3.00 p.m.

Venue : Auditorium, Content Malaysia Pitching Centre,
 Unit G09 & G10, Platinum Sentral
 Jalan Stesen Sentral 50470, Kuala Lumpur

NOTE:

* Due to limited space, we are unable to accommodate more than 120 people in the hall.

** The film screenings will begin at 3.00 p.m. sharp. Latecomers may have to be turned away at the door so as not to disturb the other viewers. Attendees are advised to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

The 10th Annual Japanese Language Festival (Jlfest 2016)



Catering to learners and non-learners alike, the festival offers a series of experiences designed to immerse participants in the exciting world of Japanese language and culture.

In conjunction with its 10th anniversary, the event will invite students from such neighbouring countries as Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines, making it not only an international gathering but also a platform for like-minded people from across South East Asia to network using Japanese language as a medium of communication.

An estimated crowd of 2,500 is expected to join this year's proceedings, which has an expanded programme of competitions and includes a mini Japan education and career fair.

Date : 7 May (Saturday), 2016
 Venue : Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology
 University Teknologi Malaysia Kuala Lumpur
 Jalan Sultan Yahya Petra (Jalan Semarak)
 54100 Kuala Lumpur

Organised by : Japanese Language Society of Malaysia
 Embassy of Japan in Malaysia
 The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur
 Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology

For more information, visit jlfest.weebly.com

Preliminary Rounds (choose whichever applicable)

第32回 日本語弁論大会一般の部 THE 32ND JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST FOR OPEN CATEGORY

1) Kuala Lumpur Preliminaries (Selection by manuscript screening only)
 For applicants outside of Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Perak.
 All completed application forms and manuscripts must reach the below secretariat by 6 April, 2016.
 Incomplete applications will be rejected.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur
 Japanese Language Department
 18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B
 Mid Valley City, No. 1, Medan Syed Putra
 59200 Kuala Lumpur.

(Attn: Ph. Hasline/En. Nobli)
 Tel: 03 2284 7228
 Email: nihongo@jfk.org.my

2) Penang, Kedah and Perlis Preliminaries (The 37th Japanese Language Speech Contest, Penang)
 For applicants residing in Perlis, Kedah and Penang.
 All completed application forms and manuscripts must reach the below secretariat by 22 April, 2016.
 Incomplete applications will be rejected.

i. Consulate-General of Japan in Penang
 Level 28, Menara BHL,
 No. 51 Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah,
 10050 Penang, Malaysia.
 Tel: 04 226 3030
 Fax: 04 226 1030
 Email: cjgp@pe.mofa.go.jp

ii. Penang Japanese Language Society
 7-H-3, Jalan Gottlieb,
 10350 George Town, Penang
 Tel/Fax: 04 226 5908
 H/P: 010 399 1903

3) Perak Preliminaries (The 30th Japanese Language Speech Contest, Ipoh)
 For applicants residing in Perak.
 All completed application forms and manuscripts must reach the below secretariat by 8 April, 2016.
 Incomplete applications will be rejected.

Perak Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Society
 164A & B, Jalan Bendahara
 31650 Ipoh, Perak.
 Tel: 05 253 7530
 Fax: 05 254 5110

National Level Final

Date : 15 May (Sunday), 2016
 Time : 1.00 p.m.–3.00 p.m.
 Venue : The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur
 No.2 Jalan 1/86
 Off Jalan Taman Seputeh
 Taman Seputeh, 58000 Kuala Lumpur

Japanese Culture Session – Decorative Sushi Roll Workshop

by Sakiko Naito (JFKL) | 23 & 30 January, 2016 @ The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur

Organised by the Japanese Language Department of The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, the Kazari Maki Sushi workshop provides an opportunity for students and their friends to develop greater understanding and appreciation of Japanese culture.

Tomoko Ichikawa, a certified Art Maki Sushi instructor, demonstrated the techniques of making Shikai Maki (Four Seas Roll). Participants were first taught how to prepare sushi rice and tamagoyaki (Japanese rolled omelette), which are used as fillings for the roll. As it was difficult to obtain certain Japanese ingredients from local supermarkets, Tomoko suggested beetroot vinegar to be used as an alternative colouring.

When cut, the blocks of sushi reveal visually and appetisingly delightful mosaics, allowing everyone to bring home fond, edible memories of deepening their interest in Japan.



2015-2016 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar

by Yumi Serizawa (JFKL) | 5-6 March, 2016 @ Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya

This year's iteration of the annual seminar for Japanese language teachers in Malaysia drew more than 90 participants. Assuming the role of keynote speaker was Yoshikazu Kawaguchi, a professor emeritus at Waseda University. Drawing from his rich well of experience, he illustrated methods for turning the classroom into a fun learning environment.

Two guest speakers from the Association of Japanese-Language Teaching (AJALT) also joined the two-day event. Akiko Sekiguchi introduced a sampling of effective ways to teach Kanji to children who are studying Japanese as a second language, while her colleague Yoshiko Niino discussed the development of Japanese communication skills at the workplace using a textbook published by AJALT for technical trainees.



JAPANESE BOOKS



Japanese Language for Learners

- A** 「新にほんご500問 N4-N5」 松本紀子、佐々木仁子【著】アスク
 「実力アップ!日本語能力試験 N2 漢字単語」 JLCI新試験研究会・松本節子(代表)【著】ユニコム
 「Remembering the Kanji 2: 4th Edition」 James W. Heising【著】University of Hawaii Press,

2015年 Library Call No.810.7925
 2015年 Library Call No.810.7925
 2012年 Library Call No.811.2T

Japanese Language for Teachers

- 「日本語教育のための文法ロケーションハンドブック」 中俣尚己【著】くろしお出版
 「9割の日本人が知らない日本語のルール」 佐々木瑞枝【著】中経出版

2014年 Library Call No.815 E
 2012年 Library Call No.810

TADOKU

- 「ハチ公物語 (講談社青い鳥文庫)」 岩貞みこ【作】講談社
 「五体不満足 (講談社青い鳥文庫)」 乙武洋匡【著】講談社

2009年 Library Call No.817.7 T
 2000年 Library Call No.817.7 T

Fiction

- 「火花」 <第153回芥川賞> 又吉直樹【著】文藝春秋
 「ヤモリ、カエル、シジミチョウ」 <第51回谷崎潤一郎賞> 江國香織【著】朝日新聞出版
 「あん」 ドリアン助川【著】ポプラ社

2015年 Library Call No.913.6MAT
 2014年 Library Call No.913.6EKU
 2013年 Library Call No.913.6DOR

Non-Fiction

- 「職業としての小説家」 村上春樹【著】スイッチ・パブリッシング
 「スコット親子、日本を駆ける: 父と息子の自転車4000キロ」 チャールズ・R. スコット【著】児島修【訳】紀伊国屋書店

2015年 Library Call No.914.6MUR
 2015年 Library Call No.291.09

Arts and Culture

- 「日本列島現代アートを旅する」 秋元雄史【著】小学館
B 「英語で伝える和のおみやげ: Traditional Japanese Gifts」 広田千悦子【絵・文】ギャビン・フルー【訳】講談社

2015年 Library Call No.702.07
 2012年 Library Call No.602.1

Cookery

- C** 「はじめて作る 和菓子のいろは」 宇佐美桂子、高橋幸子【著】世界文化社

2015年 Library Call No. 596.65

Picture Books

- 「日本人なら知っておきたい!モノの教ええほん」 町田 健【監修】ふわこういちろう【イラスト】日本図書センター

2015年 Library Call No.815.2

Comics

- D** 「バクマン。1巻~10巻」 大場つぐみ【原作】小畑 健【漫画】集英社

2009年 Library Call No.726.1

< Recommended Books >

「新にほんご500問 N4-N5」

This book is for Japanese language learners planning to take JLPT N4 or N5 and it can help you improve your Japanese language skills in all areas, including writing, vocabulary and grammar. You can complete this exercise book in four weeks and be able to focus on fixing your weak points more intensively. A kanji, vocabulary, sentence pattern and grammar list is attached as well.

「英語で伝える和のおみやげ: Traditional Japanese Gifts」

What is omiyage? Literally meaning "local product", it refers to traditional Japanese souvenirs like Furoshiki, Uchiwa and Wagashi. Unique, carefully made and beautiful, these objects place great importance on harmony and possess deep historical significance. A selection of 53 items is described in Japanese and English, each accompanied by lovely illustrations.

「バクマン。1巻~10巻」

1500万部を超える大ヒット作になり、社会現象にもなった漫画です。原作・大場つぐみ、漫画・小畑健の「DEATH NOTE」コンビが創る現代のまんが道。高い画質を持った最高と文才に長ける秋人、二人の少年がコンビを組み、週刊少年ジャンプの頂点を目指します。「友情」「努力」「挫折」「恋」満載の物語です。

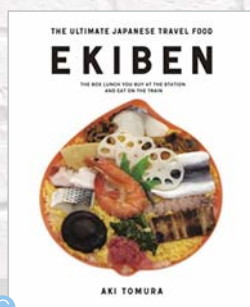
ENGLISH BOOKS



A



B



C



D

Fiction

A **[Jejon Di Jepun: Pengembaraan Ke Jepun Oleh Seorang Awak Yang Tidak Pernah Duduk Luar Malaysia]** by Jonsuraya. Puchong, Malaysia: Vinlin Press Sdn. Bhd., 2016. Library Call No. 726.1

B **[Last Winter We Parted]** by Fuminori Nakamura. New York, NY: Soho, 2014. Library Call No. 895.63 NAK

[The Midnight Queen] by Sylvia Izzo Hunter. New York: Ace Books, 2014. Library Call No. 813.623 HUN

[Tsukuru Tazaki: Tanpa Warna dan Tahun-tahun Kembara] by Haruki Murakami, translated by Togari Yasuko & Ali Aiman Mazwin. Puchong, Malaysia: Buku Fixi, 2013. Library Call No. 895.635 MUR

Food and Drink

C **[Ekiben: The Ultimate Japanese Travel Food: The Box Lunch You Buy at the Station and Eat on the Train]** by Tomura Aki. Tokyo: IBC Publishing, 2015. Library Call No. 641 TOM

Children Fiction

D **[Seven Little Mice Have Fun on the Ice]** by Haruo Yamashita and illustrated by Kazuo Iwamura. New York: North-South Books Inc. 2011. Library Call No. 98.1 YAM

[Seven Little Mice Go to School] by Haruo Yamashita and illustrated by Kazuo Iwamura. New York: North-South Books Inc. 2011. Library Call No. 98.1 YAM

General History

[Visas of Life and the Epic Journey: How Sugihara Survivors Reached Japan] by Akira Kitade. Tokyo: Chobunsha, 2014. Library Call No. 940.5318335 KIT

<Recommended reading>

[Visas of Life and the Epic Journey: How Sugihara Survivors Reached Japan]

A chance discovery of a photo album forms the basis of this intensely personal journey of the seven people whose pictures lied within. Author Akira Kitade's attempt to trace their stories leads to a years-long study of the behind-the-scenes role his country played in supporting the efforts of Chiune Sugihara, who, as an acting consul in the then-Lithuanian capital of Kaunas in 1940, defied his superiors and granted visas to Jews looking to escape Europe by travelling to Japan. Along the way, many more of his compatriots assisted the refugees, which are estimated to be 6,000 people.

Library

Kindly be informed that the library will be closed on:
21 May 2016 | Wesak Day



Co. Un Yamada Double Bill: one◆piece x The Rite of Spring

Written by Yuri Yamada (JFKL), photos by Simon & Riona (Photolink Enterprise)



A scene from the press conference held to drum up interest for the double bill



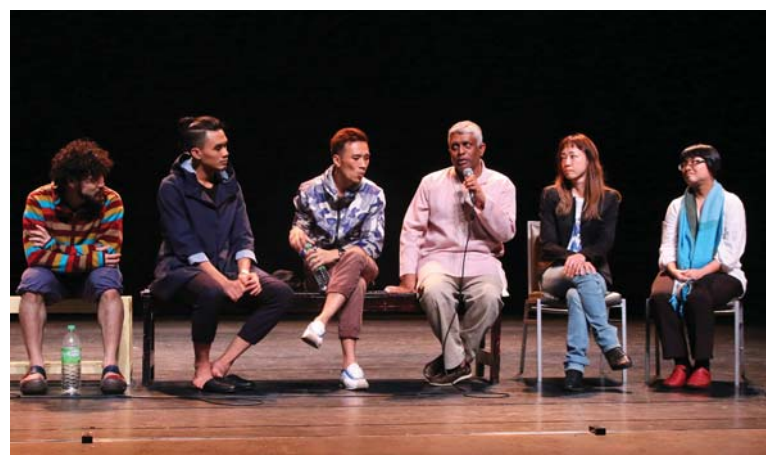
A few of the many happy faces that were at the show

An outstanding Japanese dance choreographer, Un Yamada, presented a double bill of *one◆piece* and *The Rite of Spring* at the Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre (klpac) in January 2016, a joint effort by Co. Un Yamada, The National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (ASWARA), MyDance Alliance, and The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL).

Since 2012, Yamada has returned to Malaysia every year to interact with the art scene here. Beginning with her invitation to dance project *Work It!* at Rimbun Dahan by MyDance Alliance, she has participated in ASWARA's annual dance festival *Tari* in 2013, and instructed a three-week physical theatre course at ASWARA in 2014. Through these engagements, Yamada came to realise the significant quality of local artistes, and strongly desired to work with them.

In response to her passionate call to the country's up-and-coming talents in performing arts, JFKL and the co-organisers joined hands to produce one of Yamada's works with an all-Malaysian cast. The project consisted of three phases: auditions in Malaysia, rehearsals in Japan and back home, and final performances at klpac bringing together Co. Un Yamada's full number for a double bill show.

Five male dancers were selected through very competitive auditions at ASWARA in October 2015. They were then sent to Tokyo for two weeks between the end of December 2015 and early January 2016 to learn the choreography of *one◆piece*. Their Japanese counterparts at Co. Un Yamada supported these Malaysian dancers in many



ASWARA dance lecturer Dr. Joseph Gonzales offers his thoughts at the post-show talk on Sunday

ways while also conducting their own rehearsals for *The Rite of Spring*. Both groups experienced a great deal of international exchange through this collaboration, which would no doubt prove to be great assets for the dancers as well as the two countries.

During one of the media interviews, Yamada said that "*one◆piece* and *The Rite of Spring* are worlds apart in terms of style and concept. Summarised in one word, the latter would be nature, while the former represents society. The common theme binding them is human nature."



The Rite of Spring



The Malaysian dancers in action during their performance of *one◆piece*



Co. Un Yamada put up a spirited display in *The Rite of Spring*



The Malaysian dancers rehearsing in Japan from end-December 2015 to early-January 2016



Yamada and all the dancers strike a pose for the cameras outside Klpac

one◆piece was performed on a white linoleum-covered floor, with large boxes designed specifically for this work. The boxes anchored the clever choreography as dancers entered, exited, pushed and moved them around the stage in a sequential fashion. Composed by Satoru Wono, the musical score is a mixture of silence, machine-made sounds and noise, classical Western melodies and even a marching tune. In contrast to the inorganic setting, the dancers were the picture of liveliness as they flawlessly executed much energetic movement, served well by their distinguished physical ability and multitudinous effort. Combined with a carefully deliberated lighting set-up, they created a new dimension of *one◆piece* that is identifiable as uniquely Malaysian.

The Rite of Spring by Co. Un Yamada followed after. Both choreographer and dancers studied the score by Igor Stravinsky, composed for a ballet in 1913. The recording used at Klpac is the renowned 1999 rendition by Kirov Orchestra with Valery Gergiev as conductor. Due to

the many years that the company has performed this work, the movements of the twelve dancers were poised and harmonious yet intense at the same time. The dance is the second of the show to impose great physical challenge, with Lion Kawai providing a captivating solo in the middle of the performance. The dramatic character of the orchestral music enhanced their dynamic interplay, lending power and impact that may convert those in the audience who have never seen contemporary dance into diehard fans.

Both *one◆piece* and *The Rite of Spring* were well received by the crowd. Since there were no age restrictions, we had many young viewers including infants in the theatre. However, there was no distraction during the performance, and many stayed for the post-show talk as well. The ticket sales went really well, with the first show on Saturday being considered a full house!



My Asian Youth Jazz Orchestra Experience

by Muhammad Abdul Karim, Musician



AYJO live in Malaysia at Dewan Filharmonik Petronas on 7 October, 2015.

My First Day

I recall the first day of rehearsals; I had mixed emotions about it all. I was already in beautiful Japan yet I found myself asking all sorts of questions. "Is this really happening? Why am I really here? Why was I chosen? Am I the weakest link? What is the other percussionist like?" All these and more were constantly circling in my head. But the instant I stepped into the rehearsal room, all I can remember was laughter. In spite of our different countries, backgrounds and languages, we shared a joy that transcended any barrier.

I was at ease. I knew I was among friends.

Rehearsals and Touring

Throughout our rehearsals and tours, we were always laughing and having fun. But the reality was that we were actually working, and we were working hard. Our two weeks in Japan were intense, made even more difficult by the Japanese adherence to punctuality. Our day started early at 9 a.m. and wrapped up at either 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. Our only breaks happened to be lunch and prayer time. While there would be a five-minute breather every two hours, more often than not we would be practising individually or in sections instead of resting due to our dedication to the betterment of the orchestra.

Occasionally, we would side track from the songs and show off our dance moves to unwind and celebrate having survived rehearsals, much to the amusement of our music director.

The rehearsals prepared us for an even more gruelling month-long tour. It was not easy, especially when you have such a large group that balancing everyone's luggage, customs clearance, instruments and health can be a nightmare. Check-ins were early, flights were many, loading and unloading became routine. But our spirits were high and the journey only made us closer.



Abdul Karim and fellow section member Jacques Dufourt of Philippines introduce the audience to Afro Latin percussion



The ensemble listen attentively as music director Osamu Matsumoto offers some comments at the Tokyo rehearsals

That bond we had was reflected in our music. We poured our hearts out during each performance, and we knew that the audience felt it. Our greatest gratification is the standing ovation we receive at the end. These moments are worth all the effort we put in.

AYJO

The Asian Youth Jazz Orchestra has impacted my life to a huge extent, providing an experience that has broadened my vision, reinforced my love for music, and made me reassess myself as a human being and as a musician. I can proudly say that the whole programme has changed my life.

I am certain that wherever we are, the Asian Youth Jazz Orchestra will always be like family.

Abdul Karim is a professional percussionist who successfully auditioned for and performed with the Asian Youth Jazz Orchestra, a 28-strong ensemble of young musicians that toured Southeast Asia (17 Sept–7 Oct, 2015) and Japan (28–31 Jan, 2016).

Invitation Programme for Young Intellectuals in Southeast Asia 2015

by Bemem Wong, Lecturer, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak | 9–18 December, 2015

Thanks to the Japan Foundation, I was selected to represent my university, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, at a regional programme exploring the revitalisation of rural areas and creation of new values. I was among 11 young intellectuals from six countries; namely Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

Spread over a period of nine days, we visited Tokyo, Noto Peninsula, Kanazawa and Toshima. Throughout the trip, we attended lectures and seminars given by government officials as well as experts from relevant fields. The experiences and stories shared by the people of Noto Peninsula enlightened us on the many efforts, initiatives and interventions the Japanese government has conducted in addressing the issues of depopulation and rural revitalisation, which thus far has produced positive results.

I would like to thank the Japan Foundation once again for extending me this opportunity. The ideas, knowledge and networks I have gained from this programme has sparked a flame within me to further study Japan in my future research activities.



Hinamatsuri Tea Ceremony

by Nurul Amira (JFKL) | 27 February, 2016 @ The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur



One Saturday near the end of February, JFKL held a Hinamatsuri-themed tea ceremony in front of the tatami room at our library, hosted by the Urasenke Tea Ceremony Group and led by Ms. Takano. The event attracted an attendance of 43 people, who were able to enjoy a gorgeous night view of the city while observing the rituals of a centuries-old custom.

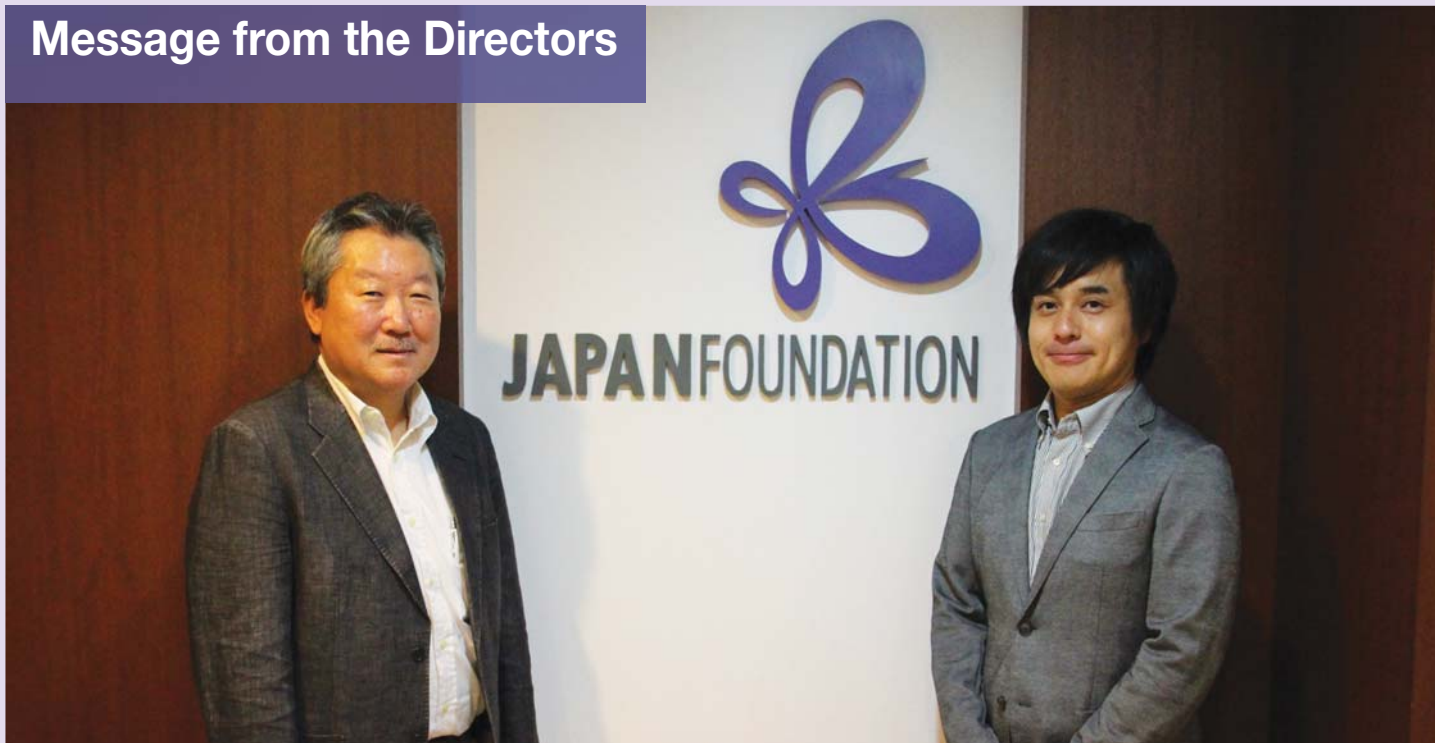
Kicking off with a brief introduction, the participants were then presented with a demonstration and subsequent description by Ms. Takano before being served with their own cups of green tea. They



were also encouraged to visit our gallery at the Mezzanine Floor of the building to view our display of Hinamatsuri dolls.

All were pleased and expressed joy at having experienced a slice of traditional Japanese culture right here in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

Message from the Directors



A Message from Our Outgoing Director

Dear Teman Baru readers,

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation to Teman Baru and us, the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL).

During a Japanese tea ceremony, one would say "Ichigo Ichie" (一期一会), which translates to "once-in-a-lifetime chance". Our encounter here in Malaysia is similarly so and we should therefore relish it.

I would be back in Japan finally at the end of March but I would still keep the memories with all of you in my mind.

Thank you for keeping in touch with JFKL. *Terima kasih banyak-banyak dan jumpa lagi.*

All the best,
TOYODA Shoichi

A Message from Our Incoming Director

*Apa khabar teman-teman di Malaysia?
Salam sejahtera kepada anda semua!*

I am pleased to be assigned to work at The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and am also honored to be the successor to Toyoda-san, who served as the Director of JFKL for almost 6 years.

I joined The Japan Foundation in 1996, and since then have been posted to two international representative offices; namely The Japan Foundation, Jakarta (2000–2004) and the Embassy of Japan in Singapore (2011–2015). So this will be the third time I am working overseas.

I majored in Bahasa Indonesia at a university in Japan, thus having plenty of interest in Malay culture with its unique diversity.

Although I have visited Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Johor Bahru, Kota Kinabalu, Malacca, Kuching, Penang, Langkawi and Tioman Island) many times as a *pelancong* before, this is the very first time I will work in Malaysia, so I feel excited for this opportunity to be with you all.

Using this opportunity, I would like to know much deeper about Malaysia just like you do about our country.

Please stay tuned to JFKL's activities as usual!

We would appreciate if you could give us constructive feedback in order to enhance good relationship between Malaysia and Japan.

Best regards,
HORIKAWA Koichi

JFKL Holiday Notice

Office

Kindly be informed that the office will be closed on:

29 April 2016 | Showa Day

2 May 2016 | Labour Day



JAPAN FOUNDATION 國際交流基金



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"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)

18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B, Mid-Valley City, No. 1, Medan Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: (03) 2284 6228 Fax: (03) 2287 5859

Homepage: <http://www.jfkl.org.my> E-mail: jpcc@jfkl.org.my

