

# Temam Baru

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JAPAN FOUNDATION KUALA LUMPUR  
BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY



JAPAN FOUNDATION  
国際交流基金

## JFKL's Upcoming Programmes

Japanese Film Festival 2016

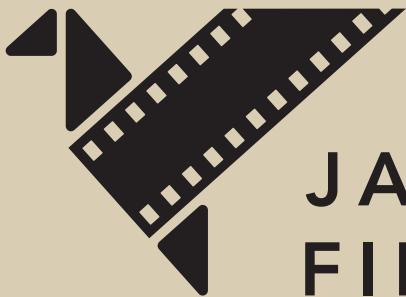
Red, Hot, Furious Love: Asian Traditional Puppet Exchange

Borak Arts Series 2016

New Economic Growth Through Arts – The Role of Corporations, and ASEAN Network

2016 Japanese Skit Contest for University and College Students

The Weekend Japanese Film Show



## JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2016





**JAPANESE  
FILM FESTIVAL  
2016**

Malaysia's premier platform for new Japanese film returns for the 13th year running, boasting over a month of impossible-to-see-anywhere-else screenings of the best movies made in Japan.

Featuring an eclectic lineup of cinematic offerings that includes crowd-pleasing blockbusters, laugh-out-loud comedies, award magnets and the quintessential arthouse gem, the Japanese Film Festival 2016 promises old favourites and new discoveries for moviegoers of all palates.

All films are presented in Japanese with English subtitles.

For showtimes and online booking, visit [gsc.com.my](http://gsc.com.my)

For general information, visit [jfkf.org.my](http://jfkf.org.my)



**What a Wonderful Family! 家族はつらいよ**

d. YAMADA Yoji 山田洋次 • 2016 • 108 min • Comedy, Drama

Enjoying the comfort of a hard-earned retirement, which he spends golfing and boozing at the local hostess bar, patriarch Shuzo has a bit of a shock when Tomiko, his dutiful wife of 50 years, requests for divorce as a birthday present. As family-wide panic sets in, their three grown children are forced to confront their own relationship anxieties and intergenerational miscommunication.



**The Magnificent Nine 殿、利息でござる!**

d. NAKAMURA Yoshihiro 中村義洋 • 2016 • 129 min • Comedy

The residents of an 18th-century town eke out a miserable existence: mired in poverty, forced into manual labour and heavily in debt to their feudal lord. That is until an ingenious idea is introduced to covertly loan money to the samurai estate and redistribute the interest among the people. A plucky band of nine business owners and farmers soon set the plan in motion, at the risk of literally losing their heads.



**Bakuman. バクマン。**

d. ONE Hitoshi 大根仁 • 2015 • 119 min • Youth Drama, Comedy

High schoolers Moritaka Mashiro and Akito Takagi have one burning desire—to make it into Weekly Shonen Jump, the most widely-read, influential manga magazine in Japan. Although the novice writer/illustrator team shows exceptional promise, the competition is fierce. They battle for the top against a legion of talented artists—including Niizuma, an eccentric genius mangaka their same age—all of whom are ultimately judged by Jump's discerning chief editor.



**After the Storm 海よりもまだ深く**

KORE-EDA Hirokazu 是枝裕和 • 2016 • 117 min • Drama

Dwelling on his past glory as a prize-winning author, Ryota wastes the money he makes as a private detective on gambling and can barely pay child support. After the death of his father, his aging mother and beautiful ex-wife seem to be moving on with their lives. Renewing contact with his initially distrustful family, Ryota struggles to take back control of his existence and to find a lasting place in the life of his young son—until a stormy summer night offers them a chance to truly bond again.



**Creepy クリーピー 偽りの隣人**

d. KUROSAWA Kiyoshi 黒沢清 • 2016 • 130 min • Thriller

After narrowly escaping an attempt on his life, police detective Takakura quits active duty and starts anew as a lecturer. Unable to resist old habits, he finds himself delving into an unsolved case concerning a family's disappearance six years ago. As he digs deeper, he begins to suspect that his next-door neighbour may somehow be involved, thrusting the two men into a cat-and-mouse game of lies and deceit.



**The Mohican Comes Home モヒカン故郷に帰る**

d. OKITA Shuichi 沖田修一 • 2016 • 124 min • Comedy, Drama

After years of trying to make it in Tokyo as a punk rocker, deadbeat Eikichi returns to his hometown with girlfriend in tow to share the news of her pregnancy. Initially hostile, Eikichi's disapproving father soon calls the entire town over to celebrate his grandchild—only to collapse in pain during the party. Discovering that his old man has developed terminal cancer, Eikichi tries to stop being a disappointment, with hilarious results.



## KLANG VALLEY

Dates : 8–14 September  
Venues : GSC Mid Valley, GSC 1 Utama, GSC Pavilion KL, GSC NU Sentral

## PENANG

Dates : 15–18 September  
Venue : GSC Gurney Plaza

## KUCHING

Dates : 22–25 September  
Venue : GSC CityONE Megamall

## KOTA KINABALU

Dates : 29 September–2 October  
Venue : GSC Suria Sabah Mall

\* Tickets for JFF 2016 will be sold at RM8.00 (incl. of 6% GST).

\*\* Tickets for all screenings (Klang Valley, Penang, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu) can be purchased from 6 September 2016 onwards via GSC box office, GSC e-Payment at gsc.com.my or GSC Mobile App (iOS, Android and Windows Phone).



### Chihayafuru Part 1 ちはやふる 上の句

KOIZUMI Norihiro 小泉徳宏 • 2016 • 111 min • Youth Drama

Chihaya, Taichi and Arata are childhood friends, bound by their passion for competitive karuta. After parting ways upon graduation from elementary school, Chihaya continues to play the game in the hopes of one day impressing Arata. Now in high school, Chihaya reunites with Taichi, and together they form a karuta club in order to enter the national championships.



### Chihayafuru Part 2 ちはやふる 下の句

KOIZUMI Norihiro 小泉徳宏 • 2016 • 112 min • Youth Drama

Picking up where the previous movie left off, Chihaya's karuta club is in dire straits. The stress of the fast-approaching national championships has taken its toll on our beloved protagonist. When she learns that she is about to go toe-to-toe with Shinobu, deemed the Queen of Kurata, Chihaya's once healthy obsession soon turns destructive. Once thorns in her side, it is up to Kanade, Yusei and Tsutomu to look after their leader, and return the club to its former glory.



### The Boy and the Beast バケモノの子

HOSODA Mamoru 細田 守 • 2015 • 120 min • Animation

When Kyuta, a young orphan living on the streets of Shibuya, stumbles into a fantastic world of beasts, he is taken in by Kumatetsu, a gruff warrior in search of the perfect apprentice. Despite their constant bickering, the two begin training together and form a bond as surrogate father and son. But when both the human and beast dimensions threaten to descend into chaos, this unlikely pair must overcome a final showdown where their friendship hangs in the balance.



### My Love Story!! 俺物語!!

d. KAWAI Hayato 河合勇人 • 2015 • 105 min • Romance, Comedy

Takeo Goda is a big guy with an equally big heart whose romantic pursuits always end in failure. Just when the gentle giant accepts his fate, he saves a girl named Yamato from a pervert and subsequently gains an admirer. Used to being on the sidelines, Takeo instead mistakes her crush to be for his more handsome friend, Sunakawa.



### Desperate Sunflowers 嫌な女

d. KUROKI Hitomi 黒木瞳 • 2016 • 105 min • Drama, Comedy

Straight-laced Tetsuko is a successful but unhappy lawyer whose life is upended by an unruly cousin named Natsuko, who becomes her client in a bid to demand financial compensation for breaking off a wedding engagement. Polar opposites since they were kids, the two women must put aside their strong distaste of one another to solve their myriad love and legal troubles.



### An あん

d. KAWASE Naomi 河瀬直美 • 2015 • 113 min • Drama

Introverted loner Sentaro runs a tiny dorayaki (red bean pancake) stand in the suburbs of Tokyo. His business and life is reinvigorated after he hires the 76-year-old Tokue, who holds a mysterious communion with nature and uncanny skills for making red bean paste. As profits come pouring in and time passes, Sentaro and Tokue open their hearts to reveal old wounds and painful secrets.



### Flying Colors ビリギャル

d. DOI Nobuhiro 土井裕泰 • 2015 • 117 min • Drama

Throughout her teens, Sayaka spends her time avoiding study and having fun. By high school, it is clear that her future prospects are bleak and she enrolls at a cram school run by an overly optimistic teacher. With his encouragement, she commits to apply for admission to one of the toughest universities in Japan—a prospect that her friends and family initially laugh off. Inspired to reach her goal and prove a point, Sayaka completely throws herself to the task at hand, burying herself in textbooks and sacrificing her social life along the way.

# Red, Hot, Furious Love: Asian Traditional Puppet Exchange



In collaboration with Johor Bahru: International Festival City, JFKL is bringing six young leaders of the Japanese bunraku scene who will astound the audience at Mall of Medini with an elaborate showcase of poignant storytelling, live music and large puppets.

The visit marks the third time the group has stepped foot into Malaysia to display the spellbinding appeal of the 300-year-old dramatic art. Members were part of a pioneering entourage that presented South East Asia's first full-scale bunraku performance in Kuala Lumpur in 2013. The following year, these masters-in-training returned to the capital for a joint demonstration with a wayang kulit troupe led by Kamrulbahri Hussin. They then debuted bunraku in Penang at the inaugural Butterworth Fringe Festival in 2015, which saw them share the stage with local practitioners of Potehi glove puppetry.

Split into two parts, the programme in Johor sees them giving a short demonstration before passing the spotlight to the Kim Giak Low Choon Teochew Puppet Troupe.

**Date** : 14 August, 2016 (Sunday)  
**Time** : 1.30 p.m.  
**Admission** : RM50 (front), RM10 (side)  
 Tickets are sold at the door  
**Venue** : Black Box  
 Mall of Medini  
 Iskandar Puteri  
 79250 Johor

For more info, visit [jfkf.org.my](http://jfkf.org.my)

**borak  
arts  
series™**

AUG 27-28  
UST 2016

THE WEMBLEY,  
PENANG

A  
Regional Arts  
Conference For Performing  
Arts Practitioners and Business Leaders

GEORGE  
TOWN  
PENANG



The annual conference returns, once more bringing together arts practitioners and administrators from across the world for a series of keynote addresses, panel discussions, round robin sessions, networking platforms and performances. In line with this year's theme of Bringing Arts Closer To Home, the focal point rests on how artists and creative workers can be engaged to improve and strengthen communities to create a shared space.

#### Pre-Conference: Community Engaged Arts Network

26 August 2016, 2.00 p.m.–5.00 p.m.

Entry for selected registrants only. Email [ces.asia@gmail.com](mailto:ces.asia@gmail.com) with details about yourself to be included.

#### Conference

Day 1 | 27 August 2016, 9.30 a.m.–4.00 p.m.

Day 2 | 28 August 2016, 10.00 a.m.–3.25 p.m.

RM162 per pax

For more info, visit [borakarts.com](http://borakarts.com)

## New Economic Growth Through Arts – The Role of Corporations, and ASEAN Network

Co-organised by Kigyo Mécénat Kyogikai and My Performing Arts Agency, and supported by The Japan Foundation Asia Center, the inaugural conference serves to promote Corporate Mécénat (support of the arts and culture) in Malaysia and advocate it in the ASEAN region. Companies with existing or potential interest in backing the arts are encouraged to leverage on the platform to exchange knowledge and network with counterparts from Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Australia.

**Date** : 24 August, 2016 (Wednesday)  
**Time** : 11.30 a.m.–5.30 p.m.  
**Venue** : Le Méridien Kuala Lumpur  
 2 Jalan Stesen Sentral,  
 Kuala Lumpur Sentral,  
 50470 Kuala Lumpur

**Admission** : RM150

For more info, visit [mypaa.com.my/kmkconference](http://mypaa.com.my/kmkconference)

# 2016 Japanese Skit Contest for University and College Students

**Theme:** 'Sato Gaeri' (里帰り)

The term may hold different meaning to different people, but what does it mean to you? Act out your interpretation in a creative video and you may just walk away with some attractive prizes!

## Eligibility:

1. This contest is open to all Malaysian citizens (except for native Japanese speakers whose either parent is Japanese) who are currently pursuing their studies at a tertiary institution in Malaysia.
2. Japanese language teachers are not eligible.
3. Each participating group is limited to a maximum of five (5) members.
4. Each university/college may only recommend a maximum of three (3) groups. However:
  - a. Different campuses or faculties of a university/college may each recommend up to three (3) groups
  - b. Japanese language/cultural clubs may each recommend one (1) group



## How to Participate:

1. Video submissions must be no more than 10 minutes long.
2. Videos must be uploaded to Youtube through the participating group's account and set as "unlisted".
3. The link to the video, in addition to the application form and skit manuscript, must be sent in hard copy to The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur by **4.00 p.m., 30 November 2016**.

## All applications must be sent to:

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

## Further information:

Contact Ms. Hasline/Mr. Nobli at 03 2284 7228 or via email at nihongo@jfkf.org.my

## To download the application form, contest guidelines and other materials:

jfkf.org.my

## UPCOMING EVENTS / FILM

# THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

AUGUST 2016



## Key of Life 鍵泥棒のメソッド

(UCHIDA Kenji 内田けんじ/2012/128 min)

**Date** : 6 August, 2016 (Saturday)  
**Time** : 11.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. (2 shows)  
**Admission** : Free  
**Venue** : Auditorium,  
Content Malaysia Pitching Centre,  
Unit G09 & G10, Platinum Sentral  
Jalan Stesen Sentral 50470, Kuala Lumpur

### Synopsis:

Struggling actor Sakurai switches identities with a stranger named Kondo who slips and falls at a bathhouse, only to find himself filling the shoes of an elite assassin in the employ of the yakuza. His memory lost in the fall, Kondo meanwhile has to learn to live life anew as an aspiring thespian with the help of Kanae, a marriage-minded young woman he met at the hospital. As the truth about the two men comes to light, they must scramble to resolve the chaos of this topsy-turvy chain of events.

Japan's master of screwball comedy Kenji Uchida marks his return after a four-year hiatus with a darkly comical tale about three seemingly disparate protagonists bound together by fate. The movie has been hailed by critics and audience alike for its cleverly constructed screenplay, for which it was honoured at the Shanghai International Film Festival, Japan Academy Prize and Kinema Junpo Awards.

SEPTEMBER 2016



## Twilight: Saya in Sasara トワイライト ささらさや

(FUKAGAWA Yoshihiro 深川栄洋/2014/114 min)

**Date** : 3 September, 2016 (Saturday)  
**Time** : 11.30 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. (2 shows)  
**Admission** : Free  
**Venue** : Auditorium,  
Content Malaysia Pitching Centre,  
Unit G09 & G10, Platinum Sentral  
Jalan Stesen Sentral 50470, Kuala Lumpur

### Synopsis:

Recently-married bride Saya loses her husband to a car accident soon after the birth of their son. Yutaro however is not ready to rest in peace and leave his family just yet. Instead, he possesses the people around his wife in order to help her settle in the countryside as a single mother. Through Yutaro's intervention, Saya obtains new friends and gets to spend a little bit more time with the dearly departed—even if it means she doesn't know how he will look like the next time he appears in her life.



# JAPANESE BOOKS



## Japanese Language for Learners

「日本語能力試験対策N4 文法・語彙・漢字：20日間で合格力を身につける!」山田光子【著】遠藤由美子【監修】三修社 2014年Library Call No.810.7925  
 A 「日本語学習者のための読解厳選テーマ10：中上級」清水正幸,奥山貴之【著】凡人社 2015年Library Call No.817.5T

## Japanese Language for Teachers

「レポート・論文をさらによくする「書き直し」ガイド / 大学生・大学院生のための自己点検法29」  
 佐渡島紗織, 大野真澄, 坂本麻裕子【編著】大修館書店 2015年Library Call No.816.5T  
 「敬語だけじゃない敬語表現：心づかいと思いやりを伝える丁寧さ」蒲谷宏【著】大修館書店 2015年Library Call No.815.8  
 「なぜなに日本語」関根健一【監修】三省堂 2015年Library Call No.810

## TADOKU

B 「レベル別日本語多読ライブラリーレベル0 / vol.3: にほんごよむよむ文庫 / CD付」NPO多言語多読【監修】アスク Library Call No.817.7 T

## Fiction

「愛の夢とか」<第49回谷崎純一郎賞>川上未映子【著】講談社 2013年Library Call No.913.6KAW  
 「流」<第153回直木賞>東山彰良【著】講談社 2015年Library Call No.913.6HAT

## Non-Fiction

「原爆供養塔：忘れられた遺骨の70年」<第47回大宅壮一ノンフィクション賞>堀川恵子【著】文藝春秋 2015年Library Call No.645.3

## History

「データで読む平成期の家族問題：四半世紀で昭和とどう変わったか」湯沢雍彦【著】朝日新聞出版 2014年Library Call No.367.3

## Arts

「終わりなき近代：アジア美術を歩く2009-2014」黒田雷児【著】grambooks 2014年Library Call No.702.2  
 「富士山百画」富士山世界文化遺産登録推進両県合同会議【編】美術出版社 2013年Library Call No.721.02

## Cookery & Crafts

「切り絵作家gardenの切り絵で作る浮世絵」garden【著】朝日新聞出版 2013年Library Call No.754.9  
 「おうちで作れるかわいいおすし」松尾みゆき【著】河出書房新社 2012年Library Call No.596.21

## Comics

C 「おかあさんの扉 5: なにそれ!? 五歳児」伊藤理佐【著】オレンジページ 2016年Library Call No.726.1  
 「僕だけがいない街 1~6巻」三部けい【著】KADOKAWA 2013年~ 2015年Library Call No.726.1

## Picture Books

D 「プレNEO楽しく遊ぶ学 ぶにっぽんの図鑑」藤森裕治【監修】小学館 2016年Library Call No.382.1K

## < Recommended Books >

### 「日本語学習者のための読解厳選テーマ10：中上級」

JLPT N2~N1 学習者対象。エッセイ、論説文、新聞記事、物語などさまざまなタイプの文章を読み、テーマについて考えたり、ディスカッションをしたりすることで、より広い視野、考える力を養います。

### 「レベル別日本語多読ライブラリーレベル0 / vol.3: にほんごよむよむ文庫 / CD付」

Let's challenge "TADOKU" - Japanese Graded Readers!

Stop translating and enjoy reading in Japanese! Illustrations and Furigana help you read without a dictionary.

タイトル:ウサギとカメ、とうきょうのでんしゃ、たなばた、きむらけのけっこんしき、その他2話

### 「僕だけがいない街 1~6巻」

マンガ大賞3年連続ランクイン。売れない漫画家、藤沼悟は、彼だけに起こる「再上映(リバイバル)」という特殊な現象の持ち主である。母親が殺された事件をきっかけに、小学5年生のころにタイムスリップし、そこで見たものとは・・・ハラハラドキドキのサスペンスです。



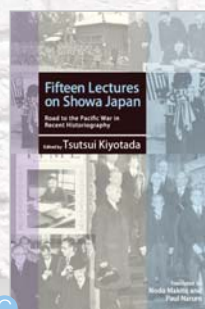
# ENGLISH BOOKS



A



B



C



D

## Novel

- A Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage** by Haruki Murakami; translated from the Japanese by Philip Gabriel. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2014. Library Call No. 895.635 MUR

## General Reading

**Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family** by Yoshiko Uchida. Seattle; London: University of Washington Press, 2015.

Library Call No. 940.53177 UCH

- B Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek across the Pacific** by Christine R. Yano. Durham: Duke University Press, 2013. Library Call No. 306.3 YAN

**Essays on the History of Scientific Thought in Modern Japan]** edited by Osamu Kanamori; translated by Christopher Carr and M.G Sheftall.

Tokyo: Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2016. Library Call No. 330.0952 ESS












- C Fifteen Lectures on Showa Japan: Road to the Pacific War in Recent Historiography** edited by Tsutsui Kiyotada ; translated by Noda Makito and Paul Narum. Tokyo: Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture, 2016. Library Call No. 952.033 FIF

## Comics

- D Nisekoi** | Naoshi Komi's romantic comedy manga series centres on Raku Ichijo, the son of a yakuza mob boss, and Chitoge Kirisaki, the daughter of a rival gang leader, who are forced into a make-believe relationship in order to maintain peace between both crime families. Over time, various complications occur that seemingly worsen Raku's situation, including Chitoge's overprotective bodyguard, the presence of a female hitman, and a stranger who claims to be his fiancée. But what troubles him most is finding the girl he pursued a decade ago, who holds the key to the locket perpetually hung around his neck.

## For Nihongo Learners

**Practical Japanese: Your Guide to Speaking Japanese Quickly and Effortlessly in a Few Hours** by Jun Maeda

3. _____ des. This is a book.		<b>VOCABULARY</b> koko ここ here soko そこ there, over there doko どこ where ← へ (to) is suffix indicating direction in the sense of 'to?' arimasu あります is, are, there is, there are ikimashu (or yukimashu) 行きます いきます	watashi-wa 私は I NOTE: The complete form is watashi-wa but in everyday speech it is shortened to watashi anata-wa あなたは you (as the subject of a sentence) NOTE: The suffix-wa indicates that the word is attached to it the main subject of the sentence.
4. _____ des. This is a dog.		 Tokyo Eki 東京駅 Tokyo Station	 uchi 家 home
5. Kore-wa hana desu-ka? Is this a flower? Iie, kore-wa _____ des. No, this is a fruit.		 hoteru ホテル hotel	
6. Kore-wa kudamono _____ ? Is this a fruit? Iie, kore-wa _____ des. No, this is a flower.		 kiku 飛行機 airport	 simesu 荷物 luggage (or package)
7. Kore-wa jidoshu desu-ka? Is this a car? Iie, so de-wa _____ . No, it is not. Kore-wa _____ des. This is an airplane.		 shinbun 新聞 newspaper	

Intended for beginners who wish to learn to speak Japanese at very basic level within a few hours, this book is written in a clear and simple yet versatile way.

## Library

Kindly be informed that the library will be closed on the following dates:

31 August 2016 | National Day

16 September 2016 | Malaysia Day





© Huneid Tyeb @ HTMfotografi.com 2016

## Southeast Asian Choreolab 2016

by Bilqis Hijjas and Akiko Kitamura | 28 May–5 June, 2016 @ Rimbun Dahan

Every year, during the annual Southeast Asian Choreolab, somebody tries to do too much.

This year, during his one-hour sharing session, Cambodian participant Noun Sovitou wanted the Choreolab participants to create movements on different levels, to learn the energy of martial arts, to share their ideas about religion, and to practise the way he breathes while dancing. The other participants were overwhelmed. During the lunch break that followed, Choreolab facilitator Akiko Kitamura spoke with Sovitou. By the end of their conversation, Sovitou agreed that he should have chosen one or two things to focus on. But he also still believed strongly in his original idea.

This encounter exemplifies the way the Southeast Asian Choreolab works. During this project, a group of emerging contemporary dancers from the ASEAN region comes to live and work at private arts centre Rimbun Dahan, 45 minutes outside Kuala Lumpur, for 9 days. The project is facilitated by an established contemporary dance choreographer. This year, Japanese choreographer Akiko Kitamura, who has recently made multidisciplinary collaborative work in Indonesia since disbanding her Japanese dance company Leni-Basso, guided the project with her quiet listening and supportive manner.

Each of the participants had a chance to share aspects of their own artistic practice with the group. Citra Pratiwi from Indonesia taught some classical Javanese dance, and encouraged the other participants to mash it up with hip hop. Bernice Lee from Singapore asked the participants—men as well as women—to imagine the bodily changes that happen during pregnancy, and observed how the participants improvised with this sensation. ‘Haste’ Sompong Leartvimolkasame from Thailand taught the group a b-boy step called ‘threading’, transformed into a group exercise. The participants held hands and wound themselves into tighter and tighter knots, their concentration mixed with gales of laughter.



Akiko Kitamura also introduced the group to some of her own artistic practice: energising the body using techniques from martial arts. But most of her focus was on enabling the participants to create their own work. In groups of two, the choreographers spent a week working on creatively introducing their partners. The resulting duets were performed in an informal showing at the end of the Choreolab. Throughout the process, Akiko gently questioned the participants about their decisions. If they got stuck, she prompted them in new directions.

At the end of the project, the group returned to their eight countries of origin, having made firm new friendships which will benefit them throughout their artistic careers. They also gained new insights into the diversity of creative practices in contemporary dance, and an understanding of the international context of their own work. Perhaps most importantly, they had been given the chance to try something new, and even to fail, in a friendly, supportive environment, dedicated to enhancing their artistic lives.

*Comments by Bilqis Hijjas, president of MyDance Alliance and organiser of the Southeast Asian Choreolab*





© Huneid Tyeb @ HTMfotografi.com 2016

Participants perform the zapin, a Malay folk dance, led by Malaysian choreographer Mamad Samsudin (pink pants) as the finale for the final showing



© Huneid Tyeb @ HTMfotografi.com 2016

Chantal Primero from the Philippines (far left) shares her impressions of the Choreolab during the discussion session following the final showing



© Huneid Tyeb @ HTMfotografi.com 2016

Citra Pratiwi from Indonesia (seated) and Mai Minh Anh Khoa from Vietnam perform their introductory duet during the final showing



© Bilqis Hijas

Participants learn a classical Malay dance at the loggia



© Huneid Tyeb @ HTMfotografi.com 2016

Akiko Kitamura at the final showing

During my stay at Rimbun Dahan for the Choreolab, I gave the participants the task to rely on their own sense and judgement in terms of choreography and structuring to create an informal presentation. Along with their respective partners, they were to perform a presentation of each other.

The “individual” itself is very interesting material from which to discover many distinct angles. Their diverse backgrounds made the situation all the more rich and unique, as there is not so much common ground for collaboration just yet.

Cultural differences necessitate dialogue and deep communication, friction notwithstanding, in order to locate something new. Varied awareness and even reference to dance vocabulary requires the sharing of ideas, no matter how unexpected or contentious they

may be. This is what dance creation is all about, finding never-before-thought commonalities to coexist with a wide range of people.

Choreolab is one of the most exciting dance programmes in Southeast Asia that brushes and sharpens the ability to think about dance seriously in a dynamic and relaxed natural environment. This is in no small part due to the personal passion and impressive initiative of Bilqis Hijas. The closeness between her and the participants is palpable. The respect shown to each individual ensures that their potential is fully stretched.

*Comments by Akiko Kitamura, Japanese choreographer and facilitator of the Southeast Asian Choreolab 2016*



# The Japan Foundation Touring Lecture: Mega Trends in East Asia – What Is Happening? What Will Happen?

by Keiichiro Oizumi | Kuala Lumpur (9 May, 2016), Penang (11 May, 2016) & Sarawak (12, May, 2016)



In May 2015, I had the opportunity to lecture under the title, “Mega Trends in East Asia” at Universiti Malaya (on the 9th), Universiti Sains Malaysia (11th) and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (12th).

In the lecture, I shared my views on the future of East Asia from the three

angles of “progressively aging population and declining birth rate”, “emergence of megaregions”, and “arrival of digital society”.

“Progressively aging population and declining birth rate” is a phenomenon that is happening throughout Asia. Lower birth rate will not immediately result in an aging society, and for the time being it is a factor for stimulating economic growth (in other words, demographic dividend). However, this effect is fading year by year, and East Asia must deal with the consequences of accelerated aging in the future.

On the other hand, the migration of youth to cities is increasing, creating a different demographic profile in urban versus rural areas. As a result, the sphere of prosperity of megapolises has expanded to form areas known as mega regions. While megaregions become a driver of economic growth as it enjoys the benefits of globalisation, it is also one of the factors responsible for triggering income disparity within a country.

Furthermore, the arrival of a digital society symbolised by mobile and smart phones is a factor that speeds up the abovementioned low birth rate and formation of megaregions. In addition, it will have a transformative effect on the socio-economy. Digital society faces the danger of further aggravating the issues experienced by middle income nations.

However, we should recognise that we are now in an era of exploring new solutions using smartphones and SNS. The World Bank has pointed out that we are moving on from the period of “digital divide” to “digital dividend.” Of course, this is not an automatic progression but conditional on the youth taking the initiative.

After the lecture, there was an active question and answer session. I’d like to take the questions, fertile with ideas, as fodder for future research. I would like to express my gratitude to the universities of Malaysia. I’d also like to thank the Japan Foundation for the irreplaceable memories. Thank you all.

*Keiichiro Oizumi is an economist and award-winning author who was invited by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur to deliver a series of lectures across Malaysia.*



The crowd at Universiti Sains Malaysia in Penang



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Neilson Ian Mersat, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, welcomes the audience to the lecture at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak



Oizumi took time off from his trip to Sarawak with a visit to Kampung Lebor, one of the earliest Iban settlements in Serian





## The 10th Annual Japanese Language Festival (JLfest 2016)

by Edward Lee (JFKL) | 7 May, 2016 @ Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology



An estimated 2,000-strong crowd attended the festival, a number that included 1,678 Japanese language learners from secondary schools and higher education institutions across Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the occasion was graced by the presence of Dr. Makio Miyagawa, the Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia, who was one of the judges for the Japanese Choral Speaking Competition and later presented the Ambassador's Cup to eventual winner SMK (P) Methodist Klang. A total of 15 other competitions and 64 workshops were also held.

Several of the workshops were conducted by the current batch of 20 Japan Foundation Nihongo Partners, who are attached to various local secondary schools. They even opened a booth called ENNICHI, whereby visitors were introduced to a range of Japanese children games.

An added special feature of this year's festival was the "LIVE WORK PLAY in Japanese" Fair, which saw the participation of the organisers, Japanese matriculation programmes, as well as Japanese NGOs and companies. Although heavy downpour forced the Bon Odori to be cancelled, the rain failed to dampen the spirits of all who joined us for yet another successful event.

## The 32nd Japanese Speech Contest for Open Category

by Hasline Sherliza (JFKL) | 15 May, 2016 @ The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur

The final of JFKL's annual public speaking competition saw the cream of the crop from the preliminary rounds in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Perak verbally duke it out for the lion's share of the

prizes. The top three winners were each awarded a study tour in Japan, courtesy of The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai and the Japan Overseas Enterprises Association.

### Honour roll

#### 1ST PRIZE

*"Futsuu" for Me*

by Micheal Law Mao Sheng, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia

#### 2ND PRIZE

*My Experience as a Teacher*

by Lee Chou Yew, Perak Malaysian-Japanese Friendship Society

#### 3RD PRIZE

*Natto and I*

by Hew Lu Ee, Monash University Clayton

#### 4TH PRIZE

*Goodbye to Money*

by Gan Wen Shuoh, University of Malaya

#### 5TH PRIZE

*What is "Love"*

by Choong Kuo Yuh, University Sains Malaysia

#### JURY SPECIAL PRIZE (2 winners)

*Dream Comes True*

by Sharmaine Ng Sze Min, Universiti Utara Malaysia

*Ultraman and I*

by Mohamad Alif Hakimi bin Hamdan, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia



1st MICHEAL LAW MAO SHENG



2nd LEE CHOU YEW



3rd HEW LU EE

# Tenugui Pocket Tissue Case Making Workshop

by Yuri Yamada (JFKL) | 9 July, 2016 @ The Star Pitt St.

You may have one or two tenugui at home as a souvenir from Japan. Tenugui are flat-woven cotton cloths with multiple colours or patterns, mostly 90 cm x 35 cm in size. They are usually explained as "traditional Japanese towels", but may be used in many other ways; namely to wrap and cover objects, as the inner collar of a kimono (han eri), as well as decorations in households and stores. Moreover, you can transform them into a variety of other items through cutting and sewing.

At the workshop, participants learned how to turn tenugui into a portable tissue case. One full-sized tenugui can actually produce two tissue cases. The key technique lies in folding the tenugui before sewing, though some of

the participants seemed to have more trouble with the latter. Despite the initial difficulty, all of them managed to make a tenugui tissue case of their own.



## Message from the Heads of Cultural Affairs Department

### So Long and Farewell by Mio Yachita

Dear all friends of JFKL,

Time indeed flies like an arrow, as an old saying goes, and it is my turn to go home to Japan. On this occasion, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all of you, for the kind support and cooperation that you have extended to me.



My time in Kuala Lumpur has given me many of my life's most precious moments. I was extremely privileged to have welcomed a full performance of Bunraku traditional puppetry for the very first time in South East Asia in 2013 in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation, in addition to Mr. Mansai Nomura and his company to KL in 2012 for the 30th Anniversary of Look East Policy as well as for the George Town Festival in 2013. Working with such a vibrant contemporary dance community was a blissful, and it was such a privilege to be part of the production for Japan's top talents like Nibroll, Co. Un Yamada, Hiroshi Koike, and many others. It was also mesmerising to witness how music brought people together in different places: Wadaiko Yamato in Kota Baru, Kitsu Shigeri (Ryuz) in KK, Makoto Nomura in Kuching, and Isso Yukihiro in Penang. Last not but least, it was exciting to see how arts support grew over the years, while having the honour of connecting people with programmes such as Borak Art Series and Community-Engaged Art Network.

None of these programmes were made possible without the tireless effort and passionate contribution by a number of partners in Malaysia. It is impossible to name all those who have loved, worked, enjoyed and spent time with us, but I would like to send my biggest gratitude to every single one of them. Thank you for making arts exciting in Malaysia. Because of your compassion and ability to embrace diversity (and of course delicious food!), it makes Japanese and other international artist constantly desire to come back to Malaysia.

My position will be succeeded by Ms. Hiromi Ikeda. I am excited myself to see how different perspective she will bring to Malaysia in the coming days. I would be very grateful if you could extend to her the same unwavering support and cooperation that you have given to me.

Last but not least, thank you once again. Hope our path will cross again in the future.

### Hello and Greetings from Hiromi Ikeda

*Apa khabar, kawan-kawan!*

My name is Hiromi Ikeda and I would like to extend my greetings as the newly appointed Head of the Cultural Affairs Department at the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL). It is a great pleasure and honour to have a chance to work here in Malaysia.



Until recently I worked for the Asia Center within the Japan Foundation for around two years and was in charge of several arts and culture, sports and intellectual projects.

When I was a student, I studied about Japanese society from the perspective of multiculturalism and realised the importance of imagination and creativity in order to overcome differences in people's backgrounds and values. I think Malaysia has deep experience in this field and there are a lot of things that Japanese people can learn from your society.

I hope many people take full advantage of JFKL's programmes and projects to get to know new people in Japan and other countries, develop a better understanding of each other and collaborate with artists and intellectuals across borders. I myself also look forward to learning deeply about life and culture in Malaysia.

### JFKL Holiday Notice

#### Office

Kindly be informed that the office will be closed on:

31 August 2016 | National Day

12 September 2016 | Hari Raya Haji

16 September 2016 | Malaysia Day



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