

Teman Baru

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JAPAN FOUNDATION KUALA LUMPUR
BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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JAPAN FOUNDATION
国際交流基金

Upcoming Programmes

The Dolls of Japan: Shapes of Prayer, Embodiments of Love
Malaysia-Japan Traditional Music Exchange
2017 Japanese Skit Contest for University and College Students

The Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition

THE DOLLS OF JAPAN

Shapes of Prayer, Embodiments of Love



Oyama Ningyō (Kabuki Dolls)
Fuji Musume (Wisteria Maiden)

The Dolls of Japan: Shapes of Prayer, Embodiments of Love

As its moniker “Kingdom of Dolls” suggests, Japan enjoys a rich culture of figurines. Each has its own distinct meaning and purpose, and is deeply connected to daily life. Old Japanese traditions such as Hinamatsuri (Girls’ Festival) have fostered this unique appreciation leading to the belief that dolls are not only children’s toys but also works of art to be displayed and admired. Familiar themes from Noh and Kabuki drama have further been incorporated, thus extending the range of designs.

Even in these modern times, craftsmen use time-honoured methods to create old-style dolls to be forever cherished by their owners. In an exciting development, many new artists have also emerged and are producing their own distinctively personal versions for the decorative art world.

Japanese dolls are characterised by their serene expressions, achieved by carefully sculpting the outer layer of pulverised oyster shells that cover the faces. Another important feature is the vivid colours of their dress, showing the richness of ancient costume and pageantry.

Come join us in celebrating Japan’s legacy of dolls when the travelling exhibition arrives in Malaysia this April to August.

Petaling Jaya Museum

17 April–18 May, 2017
Jalan 10/7, Seksyen 10,
Taman Jaya, 46000 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor

Sabah Art Gallery

3–30 June, 2017 (tentative)
Jalan Muzium,
88000 Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah

Penang State Museum

12 July–30 August, 2017 (tentative)
No. 57, Jalan Macalister,
10400 Penang
(do not confuse with Penang State
Gallery at Lebuhraya Farquhar)

For more info and updates, visit jfkf.org.my

GOGATSU NINGYŌ (Dolls for the Boys’ Festival)

Uijin, Toko-kazari (Warrior's First Battle)

An example of *Gogatsu Ningyo* (dolls for Boys’ Festival), the central gallant figure is a young warrior entering his first battle.



OSHIE HAGOITA (Battledores with Raised Pictures)

From left to right:

Shiokumi (Drawing water by the seaside)

Megumi no Tatsugoro (Fire Chief Tatsugoro)

Shibaraku (Wait a Moment!)



HINA NINGYŌ (Dolls for the Doll Festival)

Kimekomi, Tachibina (Standing dolls)

This is a modern presentation of *tachibina*, the oldest form of *hina* dolls, using the *kimekomi* method.

KOKESHI NINGYŌ (Traditional Kokeshi Dolls)



OYAMA NINGYŌ (Kabuki Dolls)

Oiran (Courtesan)

Clad in a gorgeous kimono, this courtesan, of the highest class, makes her way through Yoshiwara, the leading pleasure quarter in Edo.

HAKATA NINGYŌ (Hakata Dolls)

Dohyō-iri

A *yokozuna*, grand champion sumo wrestler, enacts a spectacular ritual before a match.





MALAYSIA-JAPAN TRADITIONAL MUSIC EXCHANGE PROJECT

Ms. Azumi Yamano (KOTO)
Mr. Hiromu Motonaga (SHAKUHACHI)
Mr. Che Mat Jusoh (REBAB)
Mr. Mohd Jufry Yusoff (GENDANG)

Jointly organised by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and Universiti Sains Malaysia's School of the Arts, the initiative is aimed at bringing together traditional music talents in Malaysia and Japan to create new collaborative songs with reference to the melodic heritage of both countries. Kicking off in Penang last December, the project will culminate in a series of demonstrations.

PENANG

9 May 5.00 p.m. Dewan Budaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia*
(Closing Ceremony, Memorial Events for the 60th Anniversary of Malaysia-Japan Diplomatic Relations)

10 May 3.30 p.m. Penang House of Music*

11 May 9.00 a.m. SMK Bukit Jambul
11.00 a.m. SK Minden Height

KUALA LUMPUR

12 May 10.30 a.m. Japanese School of Kuala Lumpur

13 May 7.00 p.m. ASWARA*

* Open to the public. Admission is free.

Schedule subject to change.
For more info and updates, visit jfkf.org.my



NIHONGO Partners 2017 Programme in Malaysia


The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur welcomes the third batch of NIHONGO Partners, comprising 30 Japanese native speakers who are dispatched to secondary schools throughout Peninsular Malaysia from February till October 2017. They will serve as assistants of local Japanese language teachers to facilitate education of the subject.

In addition to providing support in the classroom, the NIHONGO Partners will also act as 'ambassadors' responsible for sharing and promoting Japanese culture in the run-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. At the same time, the programme presents a platform for them to discover the people and traditions of a foreign country.

All participants have undergone a one-month intensive course at The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai before their arrival here, where they were equipped with basic proficiency in Bahasa Malaysia to guide them during their stay.

This year sees them stationed in residential and day schools across Kedah, Perak, Kelantan, Terengganu, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Kuala Lumpur, and Putrajaya.

 www.jfac.jp/en/partners

 "NIHONGO Partners" dispatch program (English Version)



ESCAPE from the SEA



News from Nowhere by Aoyama Satoru. 2016–2017. Mixed media installation with embroidery on vintage prints, duplicated 35mm slides, and photographs.



Studies on the Movement of Water by Catalina Africa Espinosa. 2017. Mixed media installation with video, printed tarpaulin, mirrors, desk lamp, felt, and rock.

The month of April represents the last opportunity to view the group exhibition that gathers 13 of Southeast Asia and Japan's most exciting contemporary artists. The diversity of artistic backgrounds on display—ranging from video and installation to performance and research—promises to lead visitors down a rabbit hole of responses to issues of identity, belongingness, and history through the politics of borders in this region and beyond. The public is also welcome to join our line-up of fringe activities to enhance their viewing experience.

FEATURING WORKS BY

Adam David (PH) • Aoyama Satoru (JP) • Au Sow-Yee (MY) • Catalina Africa Espinosa (PH) • Han Ishu (CN/JP) • Ismal Muntaha (ID) • Jeffrey Lim (MY) • Ali Alasri, Faiq Syazwan Kuhiri, Mark Teh, and Wong Tay Sy (MY) • Roslisham Ismail aka ISE (MY) • Shitamichi Motoyuki (JP) • Tita Salina (ID) • Yang02 + Ishige Kenta (JP) • Zai Kuning (SG)

EXHIBITION

Until 23 April, 2017

National Art Gallery (NAG)

10 a.m.–6 p.m. daily
2 Jalan Temerloh
Off Jalan Tun Razak
53200 Kuala Lumpur

Art Printing Works Sdn Bhd. (APW)

12 p.m.–8 p.m. daily
29 Jalan Riong
59100 Kuala Lumpur

PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

The Complete Futures of Malaysia (Chapter 1): Future Ministries

by Ali Alasri, Faiq Syazwan Kuhiri,
Mark Teh and Wong Tay Sy
APW
Sunday, Apr 23 (time TBA)

24 artists, activists, thinkers and citizens will be invited to take on current Malaysian ministerial portfolios and propose their visions, changes and ideas for the year 2063.

Attachment*

by Jeffrey Lim
APW to NAG
Sunday, 23 Apr, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Over the duration of ESCAPE from the SEA, artist/designer Jeffrey Lim will walk from one venue to another—alternating directions over different occasions—to install, retrace, and de-install his work, *Attachment*. He will be marking his trail through the city and tracing parts of Klang River using spools of threads, thus making his journey visible to visitors and simultaneously inviting them to make their own journeys.

* Registration required via phone (03 2284 6228) or email (info@jfkf.org.my)

Gallery Tour

NAG & APW
Saturday, 22 Apr
2.00pm – 4.30pm

ESCAPE from the SEA is open to the public and admission is free.

For more information, visit www.jfkf.org.my, [fb.com/ESCAPEfromtheSEA](https://www.facebook.com/ESCAPEfromtheSEA) or contact The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur at 03 2284 6228/press@jfkf.org.my.



2017 JAPANESE SKIT CONTEST

FOR UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

2017年 大学生日本語スキットコンテスト



Shoot a Creative Video Skit and You Could Walk Away with Awesome Prizes!

Objective

This contest is aimed at improving the communication proficiency of Japanese language learners in Malaysian colleges and universities.

Theme of the Video

'60' | All videos must clearly depict this theme. Contestants are encouraged to use the Japanese language as creatively as possible to get the message across.

Eligibility

This contest is open to all Malaysian citizens (except native Japanese speakers whose either parent is Japanese) who are currently pursuing an undergraduate, diploma or advanced diploma course at a college or university in Malaysia. Japanese language teachers are not eligible. Contesting groups must have no more than ten (10) members, including both cast and crew.

Contest Procedure

Entries must be uploaded to Youtube through the contesting groups' respective accounts and set as 'unlisted' videos. The link to the video in addition to the application form and skit manuscript must be sent to nihongo@jfkf.org.my by **31 October, 2017**.

Results

The announcement of results will be posted on jfkf.org.my in December of this year. The leader of the 1st Prize-winning group must attend the 2018 Japanese Language Festival in order to claim their prizes and certificates as well as deliver a short presentation of their skit. The date and venue of the event will be advised at a later time.

Further information

Please visit jfkf.org.my, contact Ms. Hasline/Mr. Nobli at 03 2284 7228, or email nihongo@jfkf.org.my

UiTM Chamber Choir Tour of Kansai

Formed only two years ago, the UiTM Chamber Choir has nevertheless stamped its mark on the choral scene with a string of global performances and competitive achievements. The 29 students who make up the award-winning troupe are set to add Japan to their list of touring countries when they visit the Kansai region this May.

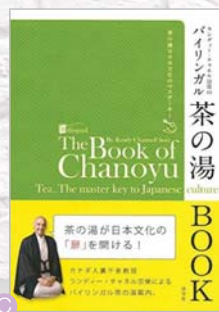
Their week-long trip will kick off with a full-scale concert as part of a conference by Akashi International Association, before winding down with exchange activities at Akashi Nishi High School, Osaka College of Music, and Kunitachi University of Music.

Tour period : 20–28 May, 2017

For more info, visit uitmchamberchoir.wordpress.com and aia-akashi.jp



WHAT'S NEW: JAPANESE BOOKS



Japanese Language for Learners

- A 「話す・書くにつながる!日本語読解:中級」小野恵久子ほか【著】アルク 2016年 Library Call No. 817.5 T
 「PRACTICAL KANJI 基礎500漢字 Vol.1: 英語訳付」AJALT【著】アスク 2016年 Library Call No. 811.2T
 「WADAIKO: An Introduction to the sounds and Rhythms of Japanese」AJALT【著】Kodansha USA 2016年 Library Call No. 811.1 T

Japanese Language for Teachers

- B 「日本語教師のためのCEFR」奥村三菜子ほか【編】くろしお出版 2016年 Library Call No. 810.728
 「日本語文法の要点: 教える前に確認しよう!」富田英夫【著】くろしお出版 2007年 Library Call No. 815 E

TADOKU

- 「にほんご多読ボックス / Vol.1 ~Vol.6: レベル0~5」NPO多言語多読【監修】大修館 2016年 Library Call No. 817.7T

Fiction

- 「海の見える理髪店」<第155回直木賞>荻原 浩【著】集英社 2016年 Library Call No. 913.6OGI
 「コンビニ人間」<第155回直木賞>村田沙耶香【著】文藝春秋 2016年 Library Call No. 913.6MUR
 「私の消滅」中村文則【著】文藝春秋 2016年 Library Call No. 913.6NAK

Non-Fiction

- 「TOKYOオリンピック物語 文庫版」<ミズノスポーツライター賞優秀賞>野地秩嘉【著】小学館 2013年 Library Call No. 780.69
 「字幕屋の気になる日本語」太田 直子【著】新日本出版社 2016年 Library Call No. 778

Sociology

- 「被災地の子どもたちの作文集: 完全版」<第43回 大宅壮一ノンフィクション賞>森 健【著】文藝春秋 2012年 Library Call No. 369.31

History

- 「学研まんがNEW日本の伝記: 全6巻」田代 脩【著】学研教育出版 2014 -2015年 Library Call No. 289.1

Art & Culture

- C 「ランディー・チャネル宗栄のバイリンガル茶の湯BOOK」(JAP / ENG) ランディー・チャネル宗栄【著】淡交社 2016年 Library Call No. 791
 「英語訳付きふるしきハンドブック: ふだんづかいの結び方と包み方」(JAP / ENG) 山田悦子【著】誠文堂新光社 2015年 Library Call No. 385.97

Comics

- D 「北欧女子オーサが見つけた日本の不思議」オーサ・イエークストロム【著】KADOKAWA 2015年 Library Call No. 726.1

< Recommended Books >

「話す・書くにつながる!日本語読解:中級」
 N3終了レベルからの学習者に適しています。読んだ後、話したり書いたりすることで「社会に出て役立つ日本語表現力」を養うためのテキストです。内容について正しいのはどれかなどを選ばせるのではなく、自分の力で文章をまとめたり、筆者はなぜそう考えたのかを模索させる設問設定で、より深い理解へと導きます。

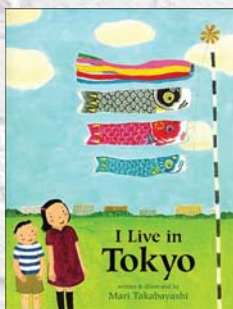
「日本語教師のためのCEFR」

CEFR (外国語の学習、教授、評価のためのヨーロッパ共通参照枠) について、その背景や基本的な考え方、理念について36のQ&Aで紹介した第一部と、CEFRを参照した8つの日本語教育の実践例を紹介した第二部から成るCEFRについての入門書です。

「北欧女子オーサが見つけた日本の不思議」

子どもの頃『セーラムーン』をみて、漫画家になる決意をしたスウェーデン出身のオーサさんが、憧れの日本に住んで発見した不思議を4コマまんがで描きます。

WHAT'S NEW: ENGLISH BOOKS

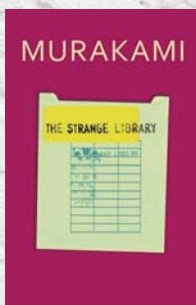


I Live in Tokyo

by *Mari Takabayashi*

Culture | Library Call No. 952.135 TAK

Mari Takabayashi evokes the flurry and enchantment of daily life in Tokyo with exquisitely detailed illustrations and descriptions. Young readers can experience a year-in-the-life of Mimiko, a seven-year-old Japanese girl living in the capital, as she describes the sights and sounds of her city, the food she enjoys eating, native celebrations, and more.



The Strange Library

by *Haruki Murakami*, translated by *Ted Goossen*

Fiction | Library Call No. 895.635 MUR

A quest for knowledge takes an unexpected turn in Haruki Murakami's fantastical illustrated short novel. A young boy pops into the local library to see if it has a book about tax collection in the Ottoman Empire, only to find himself embroiled in a nightmarish scenario involving a mysterious girl, a tormented sheep man, and his old captor, who has a taste for children's brains.

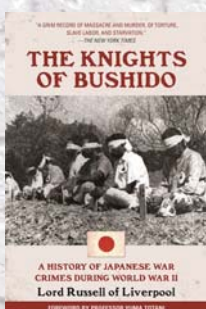


100 Cross-Cultural Misunderstandings Between Japanese People and Foreigners

by *Yamakase Yoji and Jake Ronaldson*

Language | Library Call No. 495.6

The book presents a hundred examples of Japanese communication styles that can be considered both unique to the country and incomprehensible from a foreign point of view. In an attempt to bridge the gap of understanding, the two authors delve deep into Japanese culture to discover why they act the way they do.

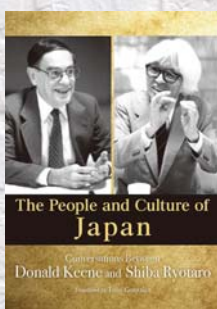


The Knights of Bushido: A History of Japanese War Crimes During World War II

by *Edward Frederick Langley Russell*

History | Library Call No. 940.54 RUS

Carefully compiling evidence given at the Tokyo war crimes tribunal, Russell describes how the noble founding principles of the Empire of Japan were perverted by the military into a systematic campaign of torture, murder, starvation, rape, and carnage. Their conduct in the Pacific is a harrowing example of the doctrine of mutual destruction carried to the extreme, and begs the question of what is acceptable—and unacceptable—in total war.



The People and Culture of Japan

by *Ryotaro Shiba and Donald Keene*, translated by *Tony Gonzalez*

History, Culture | Library Call No. 952.033 PEO

This book features conversations between Donald Keene, a preeminent scholar of Japanese literature, and Ryotaro Shiba, the author who continued to contemplate the human condition through his original and distinctive lens of history. Drawing on their profound insights into Japan's relations with foreign nations over the course of its history, the two engage in a passionate discussion of their first-hand impressions and observations of Japanese culture.

Library

Kindly be informed that the library will be closed on 10 May for Wesak Day.

Members of Liverpool wish to return borrowed materials on this day may do so via the library dropbox in front of the JFKL entrance.

For further enquiries and assistance, please call the JFKL library at 03 2284 6228 (ext. 401/402/403).



Exchange with Southeast Asian Muslim Youth

by Nurul Hafizah | 21–30 November, 2016

Words cannot express my gratitude and happiness for being able to represent Malaysia as one of seven participants of Exchange with Southeast Asian Muslim Youth, held in Japan at the tail-end of November last year. It was such a beautiful experience and I have gained a lot from it.

The programme primarily focuses on tackling a variety of subject matter including Islamophobia, what Islam truly is about, the religions and cultures of Japan, as well as the practice and grasp of Islam in Southeast Asian Muslim countries. Each discussion that we had at the universities and schools we visited left us satisfied and equipped with useful information. I feel relieved because this is what is crucial, to gain mutual understanding and knowledge through study and conversation, instead of believing in mere assumptions and false news.

Frankly speaking, every aspect of our dialogue fascinated me. I was excited about sharing my opinions regarding Islam and am also happy to correct some common misconceptions. Furthermore, being able to learn about Japan's own cultures and religions helped me to broaden my mindset. A majority of the Japanese people claimed to not have a particular religion, and this was an eye-opening talking point. It never crossed my mind that there would be a chance for me to actually speak about irreligion with such persons themselves. Of course, one cannot fail to mention the food and sight-seeing, my favourite part of the trip.

Thank you to Japan Foundation for allowing me this golden opportunity. I will continue to treasure every moment and share the details of my involvement with anyone so that they too can benefit from it.

Nurul Hafizah is an undergraduate student at International Islamic University Malaysia who successfully applied for the inaugural edition of the Exchange with Southeast Asian Muslim Youth programme.





Hibikiya @ Japanese Language and Culture Week in Brunei

by Namiko Sakai | 17–19 February, 2017 @ Brunei Times Square

© Brunei Times Square

We were very happy to be invited to participate in the Japanese Language and Culture Week in Brunei from 17 to 19 February, 2017.

Our last visit to the country was three years ago, albeit in a smaller group then. But this trip saw us arrive with a large delegation and more Japanese cultural activities planned, including *origami* (paper folding art), *kendama* (cup-and-ball game), *koma* (spinning top), *fukuwarai* (blindfolded face assembly game), fans to be painted on with Japanese names, and exciting *taiko* (drum) performances.

The venue was Times Square Shopping Centre, which housed a huge stage and many booths, two of which were ours to set up a display of traditional Japanese objects and to serve as our base for engaging visitors to the fair.

Our most well-received booth activity was the *kendama*. Players must hold a handle with three saucer-like ends and one spike. A ball is attached to the handle with a string. The goal is to toss the ball and land it in one of the saucers, changing techniques each time. The greatest test is to land the ball on the spike (there is a hole on the ball for this purpose). Children and adults alike were fascinated by this tricky skill-based game. Three local *kendama* enthusiasts were invited to join our finale performance on-stage to show off their mastery of the centuries-old pastime.

The next item that caught the eye of many kids was the *koma*. I personally am a big fan and own a collection that comprises a variety of origins, sizes, designs, and even ways of playing. I was so happy to see the young ones fully immersed in the entrancing revolving motion of the tops. There was even a little competition among players to have the last *koma* standing!

As for the *fukuwarai*, the challenge was to correctly and neatly place the facial features of two of Japan's most popular folktale characters, Hyottoko and Okame. However, the game comes with the added difficulty of requiring players to be blindfolded. This resulted in some truly comical faces. I saw many otherwise shy children burst into laughter when they viewed the outcome! Parents and friends also enjoyed witnessing this and chuckled along.

When we asked our visitors if they knew *origami*, most of them replied "yes!" Instead of the usual crane, we decided to make things a bit more interesting by folding paper into a *koma* and flapping crane. The participants patiently sat and followed our instructions, with satisfaction clearly evident in their smiles upon successful completion. It must feel great to receive that sense of achievement.

We had the honour of presenting *taiko* performances during the opening ceremony and closing finale of the event. It was our pleasure to find that the audience very much enjoyed our arrangement that embraced hundreds of years of musical history—from traditional and folk songs to contemporary pieces—together with *shinobue* and *shamisen* accompaniment.

The audience were in for a treat as well as we conducted short *taiko* workshops, which had them asking about our classes. We were extremely happy to know that we sparked more interest in Japanese culture among Bruneians. We believe that we should not only perform or introduce, but also get people trying and getting involved! On behalf of the members of Hibikiya, I would like to extend our thanks to The Japan Foundation and the Japanese Embassy in Brunei for giving us the opportunity to interact with our Bruneian friends.



© Brunei Times Square



© Brunei Times Square

Japanese Culture Session – Dorayaki Workshop

by Yennie Poon (JFKL) | 18 & 25 February, 2017 @ The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur



In February, the Japanese Language Department brought together JFKL students and the wider public to make *dorayaki*, a type of traditional Japanese confectionery. The workshop was held as part of an introduction to Japanese language and culture course to present opportunities for learners to practise their fluency and experience Japanese customs at the same time.

Following step-by-step instructions, the participants ran the entire gamut from preparing the batter and cooking the cakes to spooning

the anko (red bean paste) filling between the two golden brown patties. As the process was fairly simple and straightforward, the class succeeded without much difficulty even on their first attempt.

Some participants also got creative and moulded the cakes into various shapes, rather than the conventional round one. All in all, they enjoyed the sessions and expressed their wish to join future culinary workshops.

Japanese-Language Programme for Outstanding Students of JF Japanese-Language Courses (Autumn) 2016

by Wong Lai Yin | 30 November–14 December, 2016

Last November, I was fortunate enough to be selected to join the Autumn iteration of the Japanese-Language Programme for Outstanding Students of JF Japanese-Language Courses sponsored by The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai.

By the end of the trip, I not only gained new friends and extra knowledge but also a lot of precious memories and first-time encounters too! Among them were:

- Getting acquainted with traditional Japanese cultural activities | While practising shodo (calligraphy) is said to be a calming exercise in concentration, wadaiko is the complete opposite. Beating the drums left me weary but I had a tonne of fun.
- Discovering ancient Tokyo at the Edo-Tokyo Museum | A guide brought us around and gave very detailed explanations on the lifestyles of Edo period society. I was especially impressed with the unique designs of the era's buildings.

- Learning lifesaving techniques at the Tokyo Rinkai Disaster Prevention Park | I was taught the ways to protect myself in case an earthquake strikes and how to survive the first 72 hours in times of natural adversity. It was extremely valuable for participants like me who reside in countries less prone to such calamities.

- Meeting my host family through a homestay programme | My newfound family took me to their ancestral home that is more than a hundred years old, as well as treated me to a traditional Japanese pot stew. It was really *oishi* (delicious)!

I am very grateful that I could be a part of this study trip. It was very meaningful because I got the chance to apply what I've learnt all these years. The tour has truly enhanced my language learning experience as a whole and motivated me to continue my journey of personal development.



JFKL Holiday Notice

Office
 1 May 2017 | Labour Day
 10 May 2017 | Wesak Day

Library
 10 May 2017 | Wesak Day



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金



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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: jfcc@jfkl.org.my

