

TEMAN BARU

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4K Digital Restoration of “Mukhsin”

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)

In 2020, The Japan Foundation Asia Center at our HQ in Tokyo restored one of the Malaysian masterpieces “Mukhsin” directed by the late Yasmin Ahmad. The 4K digitally restored version of the film was premiered at the Tokyo International Film Festival in October the same year with 3 full-house screenings.

On 11 March this year, after postponing the plan a few times due to the closure of cinemas affected by COVID-19 pandemic, we were finally able to screen it for the original cast and crew with some close friends and families of Yasmin’s at Aurum Theatre, The Gardens.

The two main cast, Syafie Naswip and Sharifah Aryana alongside with the other cast were present, it turned out to be a nice reunion of those who were involved in the production back in 2006.

Two public screenings were also held at GSC Mid Valley on 26 March.

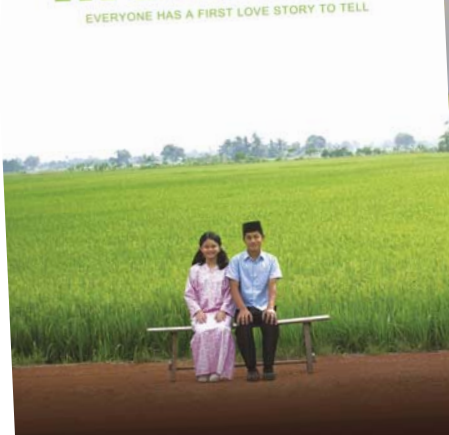


Syafie Naswip (Mukhsin)



Sharifah Aryana (Orked)

A FILM BY YASMIN AHMAD
MUKHSIN
EVERYONE HAS A FIRST LOVE STORY TO TELL



Rozie Rashid



Amira Nasuha Shahiran



The main cast of Mukhsin



Affandi Jamaludin, editor of Mukhsin



Mr. SHIMADA Selya, Director of JFKL



Ho Yuhang

JFKL Talk Series Episode 3 with Lee Swee Keong

Reported by Muhammad Nazreen (JFKL)

The third episode of our JFKL Talk Series was streamed on 25 March via Facebook Live. In this episode, we welcomed Lee Swee Keong, a Malaysian Butoh practitioner who has dedicated years to learning and teaching the art form while featuring special guests Lena Ang and Dr. Richard Chua. Swee Keong is the artistic director of Kuala Lumpur BUTOH Festival (2008 - 2019) & Nyoba Kan Butoh. In the thirty years of immersive experience in the performance arts, Swee Keong has travelled widely around the globe with his art.

During the episode, Swee Keong and the guests shared a wonderful insight on the “Butoh” art form in Malaysia with interesting stories and great exchanges throughout the many years practicing the art form. “Butoh” is a Japanese art form that rose to prominence in the late 1950s, which is known to be one of the most important movement in arts history. It encompasses a diverse range of activities, techniques and motivations for dance, performance, or movement.



Photo Credit Dev Lee



Photo Credit Dev Lee



Photo Credit Dev Lee

About Mr. Lee Swee Keong

He is the artistic director of Kuala Lumpur BUTOH Festival (2008 - 2019) & Nyoba Kan Butoh. In the thirty years of immersive experience in the performance arts, Swee Keong has travelled widely around the globe with his art. Progressing from contemporary dance to ballet to a diverse range of traditional martial arts and different forms of physical training, especially in Qigong, Tai chi, Butoh and Yoga, he developed Dhyana Dance (Dance of Mindfulness), through delving further into buddhism. Dhyana Dance is a combination of Qi and Quietude, that induces even the audience watching the performance, to heal together. In that same regard, he establishes Mindfulness theatre focusing on Meditative performance. By that right mindful spirit and intention, he has created EARTH WOMB 地藏, MASQUE OF REVELATION 四面观音 GREEN SNAKE 青蛇, SPIRITS PLAY 灵戏 & etc.

You can now watch this episode on our YouTube channel! Scan the QR code to enjoy.

The JFKL Talk Series is initiated to reach out to everyone and introduce more about Japan through the lenses of professionals in various fields. For more info, visit <https://www.jfkl.org.my/events/jfkl-talk-series/>.



MAJAS Public Lecture Series by Madam SAKAI Kazue

Reported by Dr. Rohayati Paidi (Universiti Malaya)

Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS) and the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) have been organising the MAJAS Public Lecture Series (MPLS) annually. At the most recent MPLS organized on 14 March 2022, Mdm. SAKAI Kazue was invited as the speaker. Referred to as "Sarawak no Haha" by some Japanese, Mdm. Sakai not only lives in Sarawak but also devotes herself to ensuring the sustainability of the Land of Hornbill which she loves so much.



Mdm. SAKAI Kazue

In her lecture Mdm. Sakai, who has been living in Sarawak for 46 years, first shared with us her knowledge about the migration and history of the Japanese community in Sarawak. The earliest documented reference of Japanese presence in Sarawak was in 1889. The first group hailed from Okinawa, followed subsequently by immigrants from Nagasaki, Fukuoka and other prefectures close to the sea who later became fishermen and farmers. As was the case in British Malaya, the majority of the early Japanese inhabitants in Sarawak were mostly prostitutes or commonly referred to as karayuki-san. Apart from karayuki-san, there were Japanese who came to Sarawak voluntarily to seek new opportunities and became petty traders, barbers, dentists, physicians, hairdressers, masseurs and rubber plantation owners.

Mdm. Sakai herself arrived in Sarawak in 1976 and got married there in the same year. She worked at the Hayashi Plywood Company in Miri, Sarawak from 1979 until 1981 before becoming the general manager for Kikyo-Tei Japanese Restaurant, a project under the Look East Policy carried out by the Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (PPES RASA SDN. BHD.) from 1983 until 2003. Currently, she is the CEO of Insar Tours & Travel Sdn.

Bhd., a tourism company based in Kuching.

Interestingly, Mdm. Sakai has not only brought in Japanese tourists to Sarawak, but also invited them to jointly carry out reforestation activities that she conducted with the Forest Department, Sarawak. In addition, she has also extended this invitation to Japanese and local school students to educate them on about the importance of preserving the earth's greenery.

Mdm. Sakai also introduced some of the historical sites related to the Japanese community found around Kuching and nearby cities. According to her, there are three well-known Japanese cemeteries in Sarawak located at Batu Lintang, Kuching; in Kota Samarahan known as the Yorioka Shrine by the local Japanese as well as at the one in Tanjung Lobang in Miri. The oldest tomb at Jalan Batu Lintang is that of a Japanese woman who died in 1902, believed to be a karayuki-san.



Photos Credits: Mdm. SAKAI Kazue



Photos Credits: Mdm. SAKAI Kazue

The maintenance of the graveyard and other historical sites is voluntarily carried out by the Sarawak Japan Club which was resuscitated from the pre-war club. In 1958, as a result of negotiations between the Japanese and Sarawak governments, the latter formally granted a 1.28 acre piece of land at Jalan Murut to Japan. At present, the Japanese Consulate in Sabah is responsible for its upkeep, but the actual work is delegated to an official of the Japan Club of Kuching. One great contribution carried out by Mdm. Sakai and her team was to restore and repair the Yorioka Shrine which was built in 1913.



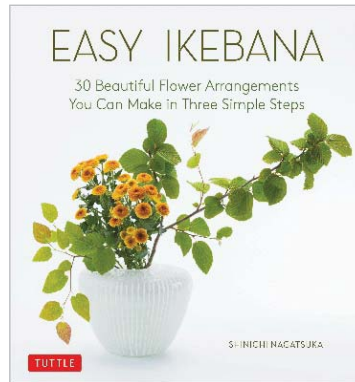
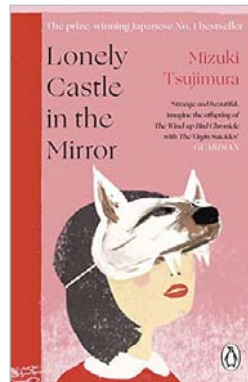
Photos Credits: Mdm. SAKAI Kazue

As someone who works in the tourism industry, Mdm. Sakai also enlightened us with the prospects of tourism that could be generated from the historical sites and the stories accompanying them. Mdm. Sakai mentioned the Japanese four-character idiom, "ichigo ichie", which means that we should appreciate every once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that appeared before us.

In many cities around the world, cemeteries are considered to be a key segment of urban history and identity and, in that sense, a graveyard is an integral part of a city's cultural landscape. Cemeteries are important and of interest in terms of genealogy and family history, and awakens feeling of patriotism when one visits war memorials or hears the history of migration in the case of the Japanese in Sarawak. While the attraction of cemeteries as a tourism commodity has not been fully explored, we believe its existence should be highlighted through exhibitions, PR activities and other mediums.



LIBRARY



4技能でひろがる 中級日本語カルテット I, II

QUARTET Intermediates Japanese Across the Four Language Skills

By Tadashi SAKAMOTO hoka / Publisher: The Japan Times 2020/ Library Call No.810.783

'GENKI : An Integrated Course in Elementary' is a well-known textbook for beginners which was published by the Japan Times and 'QUARTET' is a new series of comprehensive intermediate learning resource for Japanese-language learners who have completed elementary level. It offers a well-balanced study experience of the four language skills – reading, writing, listening, and speaking – by offering expressions, grammatical structures, and other strategies required to properly communicate at the intermediate level. In addition, audio materials (MP3), useful study resources for learners (worksheets), and teaching resources (Power Point /Excel files) are downloadable from the official site

*Quartet Online. Workbooks for I and II are also available in the library.

*Quartet Online <https://quartet.japantimes.co.jp/>

Lonely Castle in the Mirror

By TSUJIMURA Mizuki, Translated by Philip Gabriel / Publisher: Penguin Random House 2021 / Library Call No.895.635TSU

TSUJIMURA Mizuki is a Japanese writer who specialises in fantasy mystery novels both for adults and children. She is the winner of the 2018 Japan Booksellers' Award for her novel 'Kagami no Kōjo' (Lonely Castle in the Mirror). Tender, playful, and gripping as a fantasy fiction, it is also a beautiful and heart-breaking story that reaches into the heart of a modern day problem and provides valuable insight as well.

Kokoro, a twelve-year old girl, cannot bring herself to go to school anymore. She has been the victim of an intense bullying campaign that culminated in a destructive assault on her home. Without school to order her life, she watches television and rarely leaves the house. Then, one especially lonely day months later, her bedroom mirror begins to shine. She places a hand on the mirror and finds herself inside a castle from a Western fairytale.

EASY Ikebana: 30 Beautiful Flower Arrangements You Can Make in Three Simple Steps

By NAGATSUKA Shinichi / Publisher: Tuttle Publishing 2020 / Library Call No. 745.92252NAG

NAGATSUKA Shinichi is an award-winning floral designer and he is president of N Flower Design International, an instructional network teaching floral design throughout Japan. The easy to follow lessons in this book will make flower-arranging a relaxing and satisfying activity season after season, and the stunning photos will inspire practitioners at all levels with the beauty and power of simplicity - the heart of ikebana.

You do not need exotic flowers or expensive vases to create a stunning floral arrangement. Cut, place and embellish. With the easy 3-step technique and design guidelines in Easy Ikebana, making an extraordinary flower arrangement is that simple!

Weathering With You: Volume 1-3

Story by SHINKAI Makoto, Art by KUBOTA Wataru / Publisher: Kodansha USA 2020/ Library Call No.726.1

For fans of SHINKAI Makoto, the director of "Your Name," the long-awaited beautiful animated film, "WEATHERING WITH YOU," is finally available in the library! During the summer of his first year in high school, Hodaka runs away from home to the bustling city of Tokyo. Alone and exhausted, he meets a young woman named Hina who possesses powers that not only affect the weather, but the whole world... The fantasy romance story line is touching and the charming characters will steal the hearts of fans.

Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!

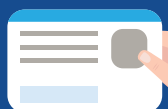
Get a JFKL Membership!

You can enjoy:

- borrowing library materials (up to 5 items for 2 weeks)
- watching DVDs & listening to CDs at the AV corner
- having discount tickets for selected JFKL events

RM10 (annual fee) and 1 photo (passport size) are required for new registration.

For the latest information, please visit our website, Facebook and Instagram page.



2021/2022 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES)

Reported by Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

Under the new-norm due to the COVID-19 pandemic which made physical events difficult, we decided to organise the 2021/2022 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES) online via ZOOM, just like last year, on Saturday, 5 March 2022 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (Malaysia time). We took a step further from last year with a slight twist to include an online workshop in the afternoon instead of just lecture in the morning session. Although it was a long day, all the participants responded positively and most of them were very satisfied with the seminar in general.

Firstly, we would like to thank our invited speaker, Dr. HAMAKAWA Yukiyo for bringing us her lecture entitled, “Discovering the variation of methods in learning Kanji: The ready-to-use classroom activities (漢字学習方法にバリエーションはありますか? 一明日から始められる教室活動一)”. Dr. Hamakawa is an experienced lecturer specialising in the teaching and learning of kanji in the field of Japanese language education. She obtained her PhD from Saitama University. She is also interested in the field of autonomous learning, teacher education and teacher’s mental health. She is the founder and representative of the “Japanese as Second Language (JSL) Kanji Study Group”, founded in 2004 and “Mental Health Study Group for Teachers and Staff Involved in Japanese Language Education”, founded in 2018. She is currently teaching Japanese mainly to international students at the Center for Japanese Language, Waseda University.

Learning Japanese kanji can be easy or difficult depending on the individual’s background, learning environment and learning methods. In this seminar, Dr. Hamakawa helped us to rethink questions such as “how did you learn kanji?” and “how do you teach kanji?”. By reflecting on these, not only could we recall our own way of learning kanji but also be enlightened by other people’s opinion about kanji learning and teaching, as well as identify suitable teaching methods to suit our students’ needs. Dr. Hamakawa not only introduced various classroom activities, but also gave a hands-on demonstration on how to make kanji classes more attractive with the “oneoresho (己書)” exercise in the afternoon. “Onoresho” is a creative Japanese art form where you draw words/characters freely in a meaningful way to express your own feelings (see picture 2 and 3).

Once again, this year we received support from not only participants in Malaysia but also from Japan and other South-East Asian countries such as Brunei, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam. Last, but not least, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all 114 participants who took part in the seminar. Thank you very much for your continuous support and we hope to see you again at MJLES next year!

For more information about JFKL events, please remember to like and follow our Facebook and Instagram.

Morning Session (Seminar)



みなさん、ご参加いただき、ありがとうございました!

Thank you for your participation!

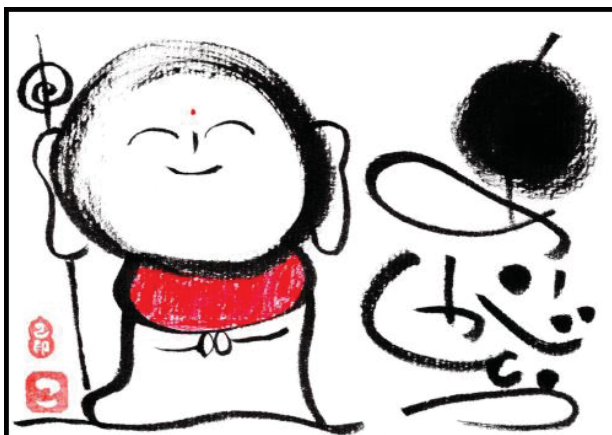


Thank You

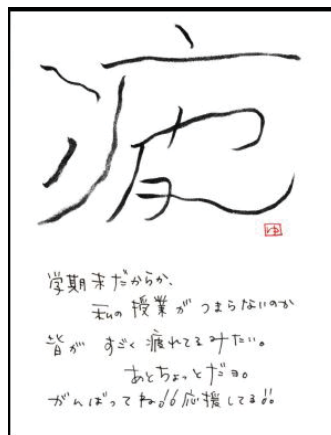
Afternoon Session (Workshop)



The participants



Example of “Onoresho” by Dr. Hamakawa



Another example of “Onoresho” by Dr. Hamakawa

8th Batch NIHONGO Partners: The Anticipated Batch since the Pandemic

Reported by the NP Team



18 NPs being dispatched to Malaysia

The pandemic has impeded the NP Programme for two years, shortening the 6th Batch in 2020 and canceling the 7th Batch in 2021. This year, the programme managed to dispatch its 8th Batch consisting of 18 Japanese citizens we call NIHONGO Partners, or NP, to assist local Japanese language teachers and students with language learning and cultural understanding. They safely arrived in Malaysia on 15 March and have been posted to secondary schools starting 8 April in nine states; Pulau Pinang, Kelantan, Terengganu, Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, and Johor. Aside from supporting educational activities in schools, they also serve as cultural ambassadors between Malaysia and Japan.

To help them understand and prepare for their seven-month long life in Malaysia, the NPs underwent a month-long pre-departure training at The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai, Japan, from 28 November until 25 December 2021. They were introduced to several targeted learning tasks centred on daily life conversation, managing risks and in-school communication. They had Malay language training for three hours every day, totaling to 63 hours. They learned not only Japanese language teaching methods and Malay language, but also a wide range of topics such as Malaysian society and Islam, as well as methods to introduce Japanese culture. "Malaysia and Japan have different living environments. For this reason, it is important to act appropriately for the local community and understand others," one NP commented.

They departed from Japan and arrived in Malaysia on 15 March and proceeded with the post-arrival orientation for one month. From 15 until 28 March, these NPs were briefed by the officers and lecturers of Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) regarding official matters, life in Malaysia, and Malaysian schools.



Discussion session between NP and CP

From 29 March until 1 April, the NPs participated in an immersion programme, a collaboration of JFKL and Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Raja Melewar (IPGKRM), Seremban. The purposes of this programme were for the NPs to acquire practical Malay language skills by reviewing what they had learned during the pre-departure training in Japan, interact with local students to experience the daily life of Malaysians, and get used to the local lifestyle and communication before being dispatched to their designated school. The NPs were partnered with students of IPGKRM that they called "buddies" and participated in lessons on the many aspects of Malaysian culture, like food, festivals, and traditional games. They also had the chance to experience them first-hand with well-planned practical sessions that let them order food, ride Grab cars, and buy tickets at the counter in Malay. It was indeed a cherished experience, as one NP stated, "Since my buddy was always with me, I was more exposed to English and Malay, and gained confidence in speaking Malay. It was also a very valuable experience for me to learn and feel not only the language but also a wide range of things such as Malaysia's traditional culture, religion, customs, food, and sports."

The last orientation was the joint-session with Japanese language school teachers who were to be their Counterpart Teachers (CP) for the duration of their volunteer period at their host schools. The aim of the joint-session was to introduce the NPs to the CPs, build a cohesive working partnership, and provide resources for enhancing class activities carried out by local CPs at schools. The sessions consisted of general briefing by JFKL officers and lecturers and the Ministry of Education (MOE) officers. Most of this year's CPs had hosted an NP in the past and were grateful to be chosen for the second (or third) time, with two new CPs participating for the first time. One CP also expressed hope that they would be able to finish what has been planned for the NP up till October, unlike what happened during 6th Batch. The NPs will be stationed at their respective schools until mid-October 2022. JFKL will be sharing their journey in Malaysia in upcoming issues of Teman Baru and social media.

*NP Programme was first commenced in 2015 with its first batch. As of 2022, 153 NPs have participated with the involvement of 120 host schools.



NP interacting with buddies during Immersion Programme at IPGKRM



NP experiencing Malay wedding during Immersion Programme at IPGKRM



NP, CP, and JFKL staff in the end of post-arrival orientation

EVENT LISTING

MAY 16 (Mon)	The 19th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia Calling for Oral/Poster Presentations for 19th ICJLEM 2021
MAY 28 (Sat)	Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers First workshop for year 2022
JUNE 25 (Sat)	16th Online Japanese Salon For all Japanese language learners of all levels in Malaysia, Brunei & Singapore

Event listings will be updated from time to time. Stay tuned for updates on our website and official channels.

Cakap-Cakap Corner



Mr. SHIMADA Seiya,
Director, The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

The Look East Policy, which was implemented by the government of Malaysia in 1982, marks the 40th anniversary this year and it is a major diplomatic experiment. The number of Malaysians who have studied and participated in programmes in Japan under the Policy is approximately 26,000 to date. The Japan Foundation currently sends eight Japanese language teachers to Special Preparatory Program to Enter Japanese Universities (Ambang Asuhan Jepun or AAJ) at University Malaya to support Japanese language education for students who intend to study in undergraduate courses at Japanese universities.

With the increasing role of English in today's internet-enabled society, it is natural that studying abroad in English-speaking countries is becoming increasingly popular. On the other hand, as the significance of diversity is being emphasised in various fields, encouraging studying in non-English speaking countries and helping mutual understanding with these countries may become more important in the future, but in a different way from the past. I believe that the importance of exposure to foreign cultures and

languages other than English, not limited to Japan, will not be lost and it gives you additional perspective. In that sense, I believe that the Look East Policy has not lost its importance and I wish it would continue in the many years to come.

On 4 February this year, I had the opportunity to attend the completion ceremony of AAJ. The smiling faces of the students who received their certificates and took photos with their friends after the ceremony were very dazzling. I hope they would be able to have a great time in Japan.

JFKL Holiday Notice:

JFKL Office Holiday

2 May – Labour Day
3 – 5 May – Hari Raya Aidilfitri
16 May – Wesak Day
6 June – Birthday of Y. P. Agong

JFKL Library Holiday

3 – 7 May – Hari Raya Aidilfitri



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JFKL membership is available upon application. Membership fee is RM10 per year.

For library operation notices, please refer to our Facebook, Instagram and website for the latest information.

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