

# TEMAN BARU

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NIHONGO Partners 8th Batch

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ANGQASA  
Arief Hamizan,  
Bryan Chang  
and  
Tung Jit Yang  
Azzad Diah  
Blankmalaysia  
Dhan Illiani Yusof  
Harold Egn Eswar  
Jun Ong  
Linus Chung  
Ridhwan Saidi  
Roopesh Sitharan  
and  
Katsuyuki Hattori  
Shaman Tearoom  
Wong Xiang Yi  
Yvonne Tan

## Kaleidoscope Japan: *Online Exhibition*

28.03  
24.04.22

Organised by

JAPAN FOUNDATION  
KUALA LUMPUR

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KONGSIKL

MAJLIS SYARIAH  
KUALA LUMPUR

Kaleidoscope Japan: Online Exhibition



NIHONGO Partners 8th Batch



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



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# Kaleidoscope Japan: Online Exhibition

Reported by Low Pey Sien, curator of the exhibition



Performance by Arief, Bryan and Jit



During the Pre-launch event at KongsikL

"Kaleidoscope Japan: Online Exhibition" ran smoothly from 28 March 2022 to 24 April 2022 after half a year of planning by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL). The exhibition had a pre-launch on 27 March 2022 at a local art space, KongsikL when COVID-19 restriction measures were finally eased. Themed "Kaleidoscope Japan", the project called for personal reflections of encounters, memories, thoughts or hope surrounding Malaysia and Japan from Malaysia-based artists. From the submissions, a total of 13 artworks are selected by a jury panel of arts experts namely, Beverly Yong & Rachel Ng (Rogue Art), June Tan (Five Arts Centre), Ng Chor Guan (Toccata Studio), and Nur Hanim Khairuddin (PORT Ipoh).



First meeting with all the artists

The selected artists ranged from architectural designer, performance maker, musician, visual artist, filmmaker, multidisciplinary artist, researcher to writer. It was intriguing to note that most of the selected artists are in their 20s-40s and based in Peninsular Malaysia; many had visited Japan as travellers, while others had never set foot. Upon selection, the artists had one month to produce their final artwork.

Each artist's work showed unique perspectives of looking at Japan, while relating to our social, cultural, political, and economic climate. The diverse works were brought together in a website sensitively tailored to exhibit each medium, forming a multifaceted view of Malaysia-Japan. Additionally, a series of planned events gave a loose narration in viewing the works, providing opportunities for the audiences to interact with artists both physically and remotely on Zoom.

## Pre-launch/ Free jamming

During the Pre-launch, ANGQASA was joined by emysyahmi to perform '*Kamu-Kimi*', continued by a spontaneous free jamming with local artists as a celebration to come together for arts.

## Pandang Ke Mana?

In week 1, we asked, 'What are we looking at when we are looking East?'. Roopesh Sitharan's remote collaboration with Japan-based Katsuyuki HATTORI in '*bertemu sōgū*' playfully captured the essence of encounters in our life experience. Azzad Diah gazed at the South China Sea while reflecting on the Look East Policy in '*Pandang Timur: Gema*'. Dhan Illiani Yusof shared her struggle and joy in learning Japanese language during the pandemic through a

performance art, '*Aisukurimu アイスクリム*', whereas '*Wondering if there was one*' by Linus Chung consolidated his vast library of precious life moments in a haiku film.

## Identity

In week 2, we cruised through different ideas of identities. Wong Xiang Yi painted '*Consolation*' as a healing process during this pandemic, with inward inspection of gender and cultural identity. Whereas both Shaman Tearoom and Jun Ong explored what it means to be a Japanese, a Malaysian or an outsider via the lens of three individuals in '*Some Random Stories of the Coincidence*' and two lightbulbs in '*Between Two Bulbs*' respectively.

## Myth and Phenomenon

In week 3, we appreciated our mythic culture and watched a curious experiment of train of thoughts. Yvonne Tan weaved together women in myth stories from two different cultures in '*Reprise after the meeting of a Biwa hōshi and Penglipur Lara*'. On the other hand, Arief Hamizan, Bryan Chang, and Tung Jit Yang pulled off a gruelling 12-hours performance, '*EveryThoughtI'veEverHad: Contemplating the origin of the sun*' at KongsikL and on Twitch, which ended with a satisfying sunrise.

## Spatial Memory

In the final week of the exhibition, we came home to different localities through memories and space. Harold Reagan Eswar @ Egn compared places he visited in Japan and his hometown in Sabah in a spatial-memory mapping in '*Dari Pagalan Ke Motoyasu*'. Blankmalaysia strung together the past and present of his neighbourhood, Setapak, using a collection of images taken over years into a moving image, '*53300/220328*'. While Ridhwan Saidi dived into his memory, sparked by the once popular Hankyu Jaya department store in '*Revisiting Hankyu Jaya*'.

Beyond 'Looking East', the exhibited works merged as a kaleidoscopic mirror for us to reflect on ourselves and our country. In the end, we can conclude that be it being 'Malaysian' or 'Japanese', our similarities prevail and differences dissolve. We hoped the exhibition provided plenty of imaginative and reflective space for visitors to have their own interpretation of Malaysia-Japan. The exhibition website is still available for viewing at <https://www.jfklevents.my/kaleidoscopejp>.

A review from exhibition visitor, Ameelia Rokhaza'ain:

Thank you for your hard work, everyone who is involved in making this happen. It's something that is long due since COVID started. Art, expressions, sharing sessions.

I personally connected a lot to Ridwan Saidi's short essay film, brings me back home to Kuala Lumpur in the most beautiful way.





# Transnational production *The Tale of Dreams*: Artists from Japan, Taiwan, and Malaysia co-create dreams

Reported by Pentas Project Theatre Production



This new theatre piece, *The Tale of Dreams*, is an international co-production by Malaysia's Pentas Project Theatre Production and Japan's asian rib. Bringing together performing arts practitioners from Japan, Taiwan, and Malaysia, with "dreams" at its core, it combines multiple performing art forms to liberate the untamed self-buried deep in the subconscious. It explores the image of the human soul at the ambiguous intersection of fiction and reality, history and contemporary.

Pentas Project has always employed multicultural exchange for self-reflection and a global outlook. It hopes to enable inter-contextual dialogue and understanding through the translation and production of scripts from various cultural origins to promote cross-border communication and exchange toward a multicultural coexistence. After attending the 2018 Japan Contemporary Staged Reading Festival in Taiwan, Artistic Director Loh Kok Man found that the experience significantly deepened artistic interaction and collaboration between the three countries, which led to this collaboration with asian rib. Japan's "asian rib", led by Yamazaki Rieko, is composed of Japanese and Taiwanese artists and aims to promote international exchange through performing arts, enhance mutual understanding between cultures, and present the unique charm of Asian culture to the world. asian rib has presented many works in Japan, Taiwan, and Malaysia.

Taiwan, Japan, and Malaysia are all located to the west of the Pacific Ocean. In the last century, their fates were briefly tied together in the unfortunate event of the world war. With the end of the war, the three embarked on its own path of development and became familiar yet foreign "Asian neighbours". Today, thanks to the development of science and technology and the convenience of transportation, artists from these three places can reconnect through theatre, bridging internationally through cross-cultural values. Since 2020, the world has been embroiled in a new war against the virus. Countries closed their borders to prevent its spread, blocking our contact and communication with each other. Coupled with the turmoil of differing ideologies in society, a "barrier of the heart" has formed. Looking forward into the future, besides learning how to coexist with disasters and rebuilding the economy, exchanges of the soul and of cultures will also need mending. It was against this backdrop that the transnational co-production *The Tale of Dreams* was birthed.

This play was conceived by young Taiwanese playwright, Lin Meng-huan. His creations span across theatre, film and television. In order to create the most bizarre dream world, the team included artists from different fields: Artistic Director of Pentas Project Loh Kok Man as director and lighting designer, and head of asian rib Yamazaki Rieko as dramaturg and translator. Other participants are Japanese Kagura dancer Kishimoto Masaya, physical theater performer Matsushima Makoto, and costume designer Takeuchi Yoko; Malaysian contemporary musician Kent Lee, multimedia video artist Fairuz Sulaiman, contemporary dance artist Lee Choy Wan, and Taiwanese contemporary puppet theatre artist Chou Chun Peng.

Post-pandemic, *The Tale of Dreams* hopes to rebuild the bonds of friendship between artists from Japan, Taiwan, and Malaysia, ignite new creative sparks, and deepen the emotional exchange between different peoples, to co-create a peaceful future. At the same time, we wish to lead the audience to explore dreams, and reflect upon one's own subtle emotional needs, while allowing the power of art to heal the soul, and stir up the courage to realise dreams in this imperfect reality.

## Malaysian-Japan Festival

Reported by Connie Khong (JFKL)

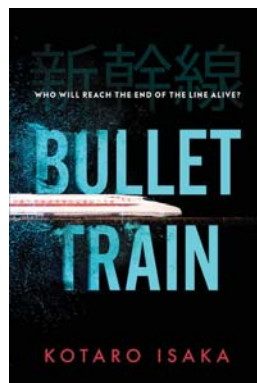
This 2022 marks the 40th year of the Look East Policy anniversary. And with that, there are many events and commemorations to observe this special occasion. One of them is the **Malaysian-Japan Festival** organised by Alumni of the Friendship Program for the Twenty-First Century ASEAN-Japan, Malaysia (PAMAJA) together with Homestay Malaysia Association and other key organisations and partners such as the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Tourism Malaysia, Japan National Tourism Organisation and the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur.

The Festival started with an opening ceremony on 2 June, along with His Excellency, Ambassador TAKAHASHI Katsuhiko representing Japan and Dr Tan Awang Besar, the Undersecretary for Culture Policy Division, Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture for Malaysia. Officiated by His Excellency, Ambassador TAKAHASHI, the Festival continued over the next four days (2 June to 5 June) at the Malaysia Tourism Centre, Jalan Ampang (MaTiC).

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, complemented the exhibition section with a small selection of replica Ukiyo-e works by the famed KATSUSHIKA Hokusai, including *The Great Wave off Kanagawa*. All the Malaysian and Japanese organisations and partners that participated brought various activities and performances to provide exciting cultural experiences to the visitors. It was the first of many, bridging together different agencies and local organisations to strengthen the relationship between Malaysia and Japan.



# What's New: LIBRARY



## はじめての日本語能力試験 合格模試3回分 各N1～N5

By ASK Editorial Department/ Publisher: ASK Publishing 2020/ Library Call No.810.7925

Is it your first time taking the JLPT? If so, this book is highly recommended for your preparations with three mock exams similar to the actual ones. First, check your current score by taking the mock exams and discover what you got wrong or did not understand. After that, carefully read the explanation notes for vocabulary and phrases to improve your Japanese skills. It is full of helpful tips and strategies for each type of questions to improve your weaknesses. Each level, from N1 to N5, are available in the library. Wishing you all the best! Ganbatte! (がんばって!)

## 関係づくりの日本語会話 雑談を学ぼう

By Emi IMADA hoka / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishers 2021 / Library Call No.817.8T

"I would like my conversations to sound more natural and become closer to my friends in Japanese..."

Have you ever felt that your conversation with Japanese friends is not going smoothly even though you have completed elementary or intermediate level? This book will help you sound more natural in conversations and improve your speaking skills. You can learn how to make small talk in Japanese and build relationships with confidence. In addition, free audio files and materials for learners and teachers are provided on the publisher's official website.

## Bullet Train

By ISAKA Kotaro, Translated by Sam Malissa / Publisher: Harvill Secker 2021 / Library Call No.895.635ISA

ISAKA Kotaro is a bestselling and award-winning writer whose books have sold millions of copies around the world. A massive bestseller, "Bullet Train" was first published in Japan under the title 『マリアビートル( )』 in 2010. The film version will be released this August directed by David Leitch with Brad Pitt and Sandra Bullock. Bullet train, called shinkansen in Japan, which was launched in 1964 when the Tokyo Olympics was held and the fastest shinkansen today runs at a maximum speed of 320km/h. The story takes place onboard a bullet train from Tokyo to Morioka, in northern Japan when five assassins discover they are all on the same train, and that their missions are not as unrelated as they first appear. A propulsive thriller that sizzles with an incredible energy and surprising humor, it will take readers on a tension packed journey as the train hurtles toward its final destination.

## Shibori : The Art of Indigo Dyeing with Step-by-Step Techniques and 25 Projects to Make

By Nicola Gouldsmith / Publisher: CICO Books 2018 / Library Call No.746.6GOU

Shibori is the name for a range of dyeing techniques that have been practiced in Japan for centuries. If you would like to try shibori, this book is perfect as a starter. You can learn everything you need to know about simple shibori styles including tie-dyeing, folded, rolled, and sewn techniques using indigo dye. It is full of great projects with clear instructions and beautiful photos to help you enjoy crafting beautiful textiles for your home.

**Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!**

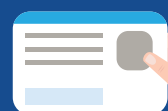
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- watching DVDs & listening to CDs at the AV corner
- having discount tickets for selected JFKL events

**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.**



# Online Japanese Salon

Reported by Sakinah Noor Badaruddin and Shahrul Fatehah Nor Basha (JFKL)

Learning Japanese as a second or third language might be exciting, but the chance to use it outside the classroom may be limited which makes improving one's proficiency more challenging.

The Online Japanese Salon (OJS) is a platform designed as one of the outlets for Japanese language learners to practice their Japanese language conversation skills. OJS takes a friendlier approach so that learners would be more at ease when practising the language outside the classroom.

Through this platform, we hope that the participants will gain greater confidence in their Japanese speaking skills and continue with their studies.

On 23 April, we had the 15th session of Online Japanese Salon, the first one for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The theme for this session was “\_\_\_that I like”, and a total of 44 participants with various learning backgrounds joined in. Aside from putting their Japanese language proficiency to use, the participants also shared their personal experiences on the topic with each other which made the session more interesting.



*Everyone could speak well in Japanese, even participants in category A (beginner level). Though my Japanese isn't really good, I did get a chance to learn more words and learn what it's like to communicate (in Japanese).*

*I got the chance to meet new friends and practice my Japanese.*

*It was more relaxing than I thought.*

About OJS:

The Online Japanese Salon is an event where Japanese language learners of all levels in Malaysia – and now open to those in Singapore and Brunei as well – gather online and “have fun while talking in Japanese”. During the online session, the participants are assigned to breakout rooms with peers of similar proficiency where they can communicate amongst themselves under facilitation by a Japanese native.

This platform is suitable for those who want to exercise their Japanese speaking proficiency in a more casual environment without the stress of being graded. OJS is also a good platform where could can meet and engage with one another using their interest in Japanese language and culture as a common ground.

For those who are interested to join, please follow our Facebook and Instagram page, or visit our website by scanning the QR code.





# JFKL Saturday Half-Day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers

Reported by OSADA Kanako and TENGAN Celica (JFKL)

JFKL has conducted the Saturday Half-day Teacher's Workshop twice so far this year, in March and May. Here are the summaries of each Workshop. For Year 2022/2023, we are planning to organise them in the odd months. To those who want to brush up their teaching skills, stay tuned for announcements of upcoming events through our SNS, website and e-newsletter!

## The 5th JFKL Saturday Half-day Teacher's Workshop for 2021/2022 (26 March, 2022)

「高い」「低い」の聞き取り

3拍語      4拍語

い      い  
ろ      ろ  
は      は  
に      に

高い低いの聞き分け、  
難しいなあ……。

そうだね。でも、練習したら  
できるようになるかも！  
がんばろう！

やってみました！

A きて (来て)  
B きて (着て)

A わたしは まいにち しんぶんを よみます。  
B わたしは まいにち しんぶんを よみます。

The 5th JFKL Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers, 2021, took place on 26 March via Zoom under the theme, "Teaching 'accent' in Elementary levels: Let's think about the teaching methods of 'accent'". With 32 participants in attendance, we re-examined accent teaching methods and discovered which encouraged the students to self-learn, as well as provided opportunities for the teachers to check their own pronunciation, so that they in turn would be able to evaluate their students' pronunciation. It was a good opportunity for the participants and the lecturer to exchange information about pronunciation education.

## The 1st JFKL Saturday Half-day Teacher's Workshop for 2022/2023 (28 May 2022)

かたち  
形のルール

動詞のて形+ください

つか かた  
使い方

い み  
意味

し じ  
指示を出す

英Please do    マSila~

どんなとき使ってもいい？  
どんなとき使ったらだめ？

The 1st JFKL Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers, 2022 took place on 28 May via Zoom under the theme, "Let's rethink about the teaching of 'te-form' in Japanese verbs".

In the workshop, the 28 participants were asked to think about what they needed to do during the initial stage of teaching vocabulary related to verbs before teaching the "te-form". During the group discussion, the participants exchanged their ideas and experiences on the topic. We hope all the participants were able to gain some new insights from the group members. They also had the chance to rethink about the functions of several associated sentence patterns. This helped the participants to gain a better understanding of when to use these sentence patterns and how to explain their functions to their students.

For those who are interested in the detailed contents of the workshop, PowerPoint slides are provided here:  
<https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/teachers/course-for-teachers/>

# NIHONGO Partners 8th Batch: Courtesy Visits in Penang and Mid-Term Interim Session

Reported by the NP Team



All 18 NPs during mid-term interim session

Since their dispatch to local secondary schools in 9 states in April, the Japanese volunteers known as NIHONGO Partners (NP) have been actively introducing Japanese language and culture to students at their respective host schools and local communities. Two notable events they have been involved in so far were courtesy visits in May and the mid-term interim session in June.

## Courtesy Visits in Penang (18 May - 20 May)

A month after being dispatched to their respective schools, one group of 5 NPs made courtesy visits to the Consulate-General in Penang, the Japanese Cultural Centre in USM (JCC KUFS-USM) and the JAGAM Northern Branch. These 5 were those dispatched to the northern part of Malaysia (SMS Kepala Batas and SMK Kepala Batas, Penang; SBPI Batu Rakit and SMS Dungun, Terengganu; and SMS Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra, Kelantan). They were accompanied by the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) officers; Ms. UMEEDA Masako (Head, JLD Department), Ms. MATSUZAKI Miku (Coordinator, NP Programme) and Ms. Fatin Athirah (Assistant Coordinator, NP Programme) and took place from 18 May until 20 May 2022.

Their courtesy visit to the Consulate-General was greeted with a warm welcome by the Consul General, Mr. ORIKASA Hiroyuki. The main objectives of this visit were to introduce these 5 NPs and to exchange information about any upcoming Japan-related events in Penang during their tenure which the NPs could collaborate with, or promote to their students. The NPs were happy with their visit, as they felt encouraged to broaden their scope of activities by using this new network.



5 NPs and 3 JFKL officers during the visit to Consulate General of Japan in Penang

At their next visit to the JCC KUFS-USM they were greeted by the Director, Mr. SOEDA Masatoshi and briefed on JCC's roles and activities, followed by self-introductions by the NPs and members of JCC. The NPs and JCC members, who are USM students, were able to interact during the free talk session. The NPs based in Penang expressed their hope to participate in activities with USM in the future.



Courtesy call to JCC-KUFS-USM



Free talk session with USM students

The last visit was to the JAGAM Northern Branch, where they were welcomed by the Chairman, Mr. Shaun Chiam Khai Seong and some of their members. The aim was to introduce these NPs, exchange information about Japan-related events in Penang, as well as strengthen the bond between JAGAM and JFKL. One NP said, "JAGAM's activities can be used as a good reference after we return to Japan".



With Mr. Shaun and JAGAM members



NPs in group discussion during mid-term interim session

## Mid-term Interim Session (6 June - 9 June)

From 6 to 9 June 2022, all 18 NPs attended a mid-term interim session at the JFKL office in Kuala Lumpur to report on their mission as cultural ambassadors and to share good practices thus far so that each could incorporate those ideas into their future activities. The sessions were mainly NP-led sharing sessions aided by one of JFKL's Japanese language lecturers, Ms. TENGAN Celica. The NPs had the opportunity to talk with each other about their daily activities at their respective schools as well as to share information and ideas for activities planned for the second half of their tenure. Throughout the sessions, the NPs managed to learn from each other's experiences, and one NP commented that it enabled them to find a direction for future planning. "Seeing other teammates working hard made me want to do my best", said another NP. Albeit short, the NPs used this session to encourage and motivate each other.

The NPs were also given the opportunity to have one-to-one conversation with officers regarding their current activities as well as discuss challenges faced in adapting to their local community. This will help JFKL in their review of the support system for the NPs for the remainder of their stay.

JFKL hopes that the NPs will continue being active at their respective schools and provide valuable experiences for secondary school students who are learning Japanese language in Malaysia during the second half of their term.



# EVENT LISTING

JULY 16 (Sat)	<b>The Weekend Japanese Film Show @ GSC NU Sentral</b> Girls Don't Cry (ヌメ子の聖戦) SHINDO Takehiro / 2018 / 99 min / P13
JULY 23 (Sat)	<b>Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teacher</b> "Let's Think About How to Use Japanese Particles -は・が・に・で-"
JULY 29 (Fri)	<b>The 19th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia</b> Deadline for application as a presenter for Oral/ Poster Presentation
AUGUST 1 (Mon)	<b>The 19th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia</b> Open for application for Teachers' Corner and viewer Participation
AUGUST 13 (Sat)	<b>The 19th Japanese Speech Contest For Secondary Schools 2022</b> Final Contest
AUGUST 20 (Sat)	<b>The Weekend Japanese Film Show @ GSC NU Sentral</b> PARKS – SETA Natsuki / 2017 / 119 min / P13
AUGUST 27 (Sat)	<b>17th Online Japanese Salon (OJS)</b> Theme to be announced closer to the event date!

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

## Cakap-Cakap Corner



Masako Umeeda  
Head, Japanese Language Department,  
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

As reported on page 7 of this issue, we resumed the Nihongo Partners (NP) Programme this year for the full 8 months, the first time since early 2020. When the 18 NPs started their activities at their respective schools in mid-April, it was already in the midst of Ramadan. And of course, the month long Ramadan was followed by Hari Raya celebrations, and many NPs were invited to open houses which they enjoyed by wearing traditional clothes and eating local delicacies.

As such, they were exposed to Malaysian culture through their daily lives thanks to their host schools and all the relevant people which is the beauty of this programme; they not only assist teaching Japanese and its culture at the schools, but also deepen their understanding of Malaysia, which they will share later with their Japanese friends and communities.

I guess one enjoyable and eye-opening experience for the NPs so far was Hari Guru, or Teachers' Day, because Japan doesn't have such a custom. While most of the events at schools are for students, teachers are the focus of the day. As one of the assistant "teachers," NPs also dressed-up and enjoyed the students-led performances and programs with other teachers. Some NPs even received lovely thank-you cards and gifts from their students. I am sure that it will become one of the most memorable days in Malaysia, and I hope they will accumulate more and more experiences of this kind during their tenure here in Malaysia!

### JFKL Holiday Notice:

#### JFKL Office Holiday

11 July – Hari Raya Aidiladha  
31 August – National Day

#### JFKL Library Holiday

9 July – Hari Raya Aidiladha  
30 July – Awal Muharram  
31 August – National Day



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

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