

# TEMAN BARU

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## Project Reports

Suzuki Konomi Live Performance In Malaysia

Yakishime: Earth Metamorphosis

NIHON MATSURI ~ Japan Festival @ UUM

The 5th JFKL Saturday Half-day Workshop for  
Japanese Language Teachers, 2022

Online Japanese Salon for Secondary School  
Students 2022

Japanese Language Teaching Methods Training  
Programme: Teaching the Elementary Levels, 2022



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# Suzuki Konomi Live Performance In Malaysia

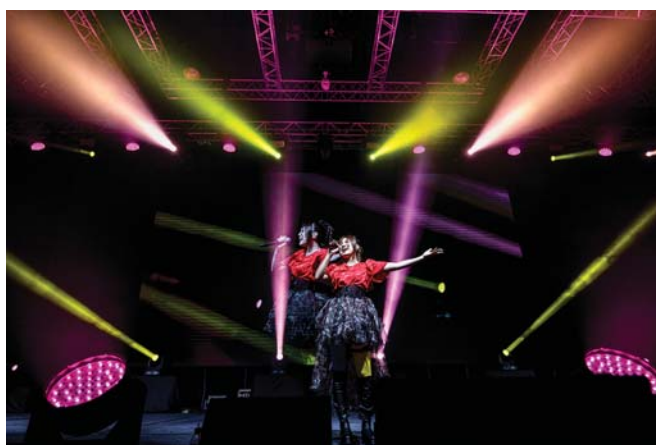
Reported by TOMOKAWA Kodai (JFKL)



Popular anime song artist Suzuki Konomi performed in Malaysia on 8pm, 17th December. This performance was co-organized with COMIC FIESTA and with the Embassy of Japan and held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration of Malaysia's Look East Policy (LEP).

A lot of visitors were in a line before the tickets went on sale at 09:30am and they sold out quickly. 2,000 visitors enjoyed her performance which was her first since her last visit in 2018, they waved their penlights along with her song during her performance. She also sung Rasa Sayang and the whole audience sang along with her.

Also, 2 sessions for of Meet and Greet were held on 18th February which was attended by a lot of anime lovers who asked her many questions like her Malaysian favorite food, and her most favorite song, etc. and enjoyed their precious opportunity.





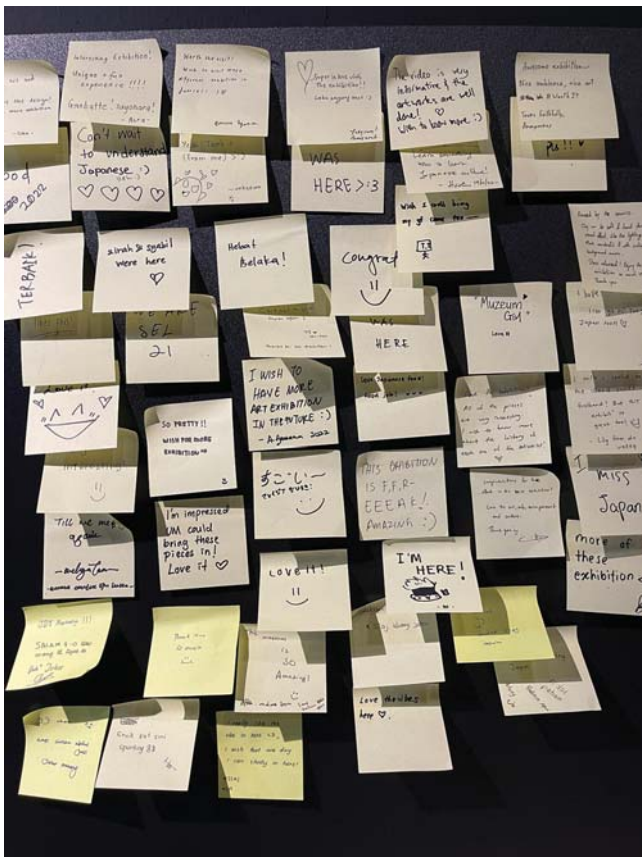
# Yakishime: Earth Metamorphosis

Reported by Connie Khong (JFKL)

Yakishime, the firing of unglazed wares at high temperatures, is said to be one of the most basic methods to produce ceramics. This tradition embodied in these primordial wares continues unbroken to this day. The Japan Foundation's Traveling Exhibition, Yakishime – Earth Metamorphosis made its way to Malaysia, and was on display at the Museum of Asian Art, University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur (17th October – 25th October 2022) and Al-Biruni Gallery at UiTM Cawangan Perak, Seri Iskandar (9th December 2022 – 13th January 2023).

For both venues, different activities such as talks, ceramic demonstration, open day and workshops were held to complement the exhibition. The works exhibited consisted of both modern-day representations as well as yakishime in the context of tea ceremony and washoku (Japanese cuisine), to communicate a distinctively Japanese sensibility and aesthetic to the visitors.

A total of almost 2,000 people came to the exhibition for both venues and many left heart-warming and positive feedback in response to the exhibition. For some, it was probably their first time visiting or hearing about the public universities' museum and gallery. In a way, the exhibition became a good reason for the public, visitors from other schools or institutions to organise a trip to check out this international showcase. Overall, many showed great interest in exhibitions like these, and hopefully JFKL would be able to host more at these wonderful public institutions.





# NIHON MATSURI ~ Japan Festival @ UUM

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)

NIHON MATSURI~Japan Festival @ UUM was held from 14th till 16th January at Universiti Utara Malaysia(UUM), Sintok, Kedah. Co-organized by JFKL and UUM, the 3-day festival showcased a variety of Japanese culture through various activities such as yukata/origami/calligraphy trial sessions, Japanese traditional toy corner with kendama and daruma otoshi, film screenings, etc.

The opening ceremony was held on 15 January at the foyer of Sultanah Bahiyah Library, where most of the cultural activities were conducted, with the presence of Yang Berusaha Professor Dr. Haim Hilman Abdullah, Vice-Chancellor of UUM and Mr. KAWAGUCHI Yoshiyasu, Consul-General, Consulate General of Japan in Penang. The most popular activities were the kendama and yukata trials, and everyone seemed to be having a lot of fun.

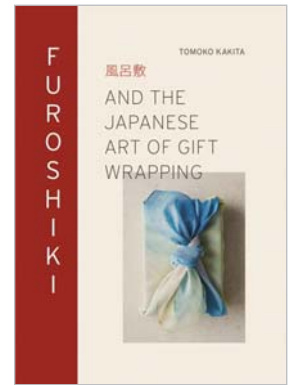
While the cultural activities were happening at the library foyer, the Management Museum also hosted an exhibition comprised of Japanese food samples, kokeshi dolls and matsuri costumes. The exhibition continues until 15 March.

JFKL would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to the dedicated lecturers, staff and students involved in this festival as well as all the visitors who attended.





# LIBRARY



## 新版 聞いて覚える話し方 日本語生中継 中～上級

By Beuckmann Fusako / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishers 2022 / Library Call No.817.8T

This is a newly revised edition of the very popular intermediate-to-advanced level 日本語生中継-Speaking Skills Learned through Listening Japanese “Live,” first published in 2004. The 8 chapters in the book present natural-sounding conversations in real-life situations such as between friends, at the office, or school. By listening to these “live” conversations, learners will be able to improve their listening comprehension skills and develop their communication skills by learning some key expressions for casual and formal scenes. It is highly recommended for upper-intermediate and advance level students who wish to make their conversation sound more natural. Audio files and script translations in English, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese are downloadable on at the Kuroshio official website.

## めしあがれ：食文化で学ぶ上級日本語

By HATASA Kazumi, FUKUTOME Nami / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishers 2021 / Library Call No.596.21T HAT

Sushi, okonomiyaki, curry rice ...What is your favorite Japanese cuisine?

This book takes a unique approach to learning Japanese by pairing it with its cuisine. Japanese food culture is used as the central theme to enhance the learner's reading skills and help them learn some new vocabulary while having fun. There are 15 chapters in the book, each consisting of a text about Japanese cuisine, comprehension questions to check the learner's understanding and development questions for classroom discussions or self-study to think more about the topic. In addition, there are cooking trivia and easy-to-make recipes for some famous dishes. It is suitable for all intermediate to advanced learners. However, non-language students who are interested in Japanese food culture can also enjoy this book thanks to the English translations. Furthermore, lots of multimedia resources are available at the “MESHIAGARE Web” which is provided by the Kuroshio Publishers.

## There's No Such Thing as an Easy Job

By TSUMURA Kikuko, Translated by Polly Barton / Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing 2021 / Library Call No.895.635TSU

Kikuko TSUMURA is a Japanese writer who has won numerous Japanese literary awards including the Akutagawa Prize. There's No Such Thing as an Easy Job (この世にたやすい仕事はない) was received the Education Minister's Art Encouragement New Face Award in Literature (芸術選奨文部科学大臣新人賞) in 2016 and this is her first book to be translated into English.

A young woman has had a complete burnout at her previous job and just wants something that doesn't feel like work at all. Something she can go to and leave without putting much effort into. One day, she walks into an employment agency and requests a job that has the following traits: close to her home that requires no reading, no writing – and ideally, very little thinking. Readers get to explore the author's unique world, which is bizarre but funny, smart and delightful as they follow her through five odd temporary jobs.

## FUROSHIKI: The Japanese Art of Gift Wrapping

By KAKITA Tomoko/ Publisher: Laurence King Publishing 2021 / Library Call No.745.54 TAK

Furoshiki was originally known as “tsutsumi” (包み) which means “wrap” in Japanese. This beautiful culture of wrapping treasured items, gifts, and belongings in a piece of cloth in Japan has existed since the Nara period (710-94). Furoshiki culture had faded since the 1970s from people's everyday life, however lately it has been re-recognized as being environmentally friendly.

This book introduces 30 different wrapping styles from cards to bouquets, bottles and cakes involving knots and folds. In addition, step-by-step videos are available on the publisher's official website. You can learn the details as you watch the author demonstrate each one. Let's enjoy practicing sustainability with furoshiki in your life!

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

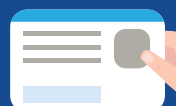
**Get a JFKL Membership!**

**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.**



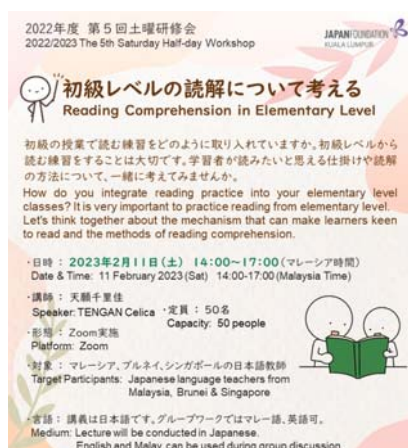


# The 5th JFKL Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers, 2022

Reported by TENGAN Celica (JFKL)

The 5th JFKL Saturday Half-day Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers 2022 was conducted on 11 February on the theme of "Reading Comprehension in Elementary Level".

37 Japanese language teachers from Malaysia and Singapore participated in this final edition of the series for 2022. The participants were first encouraged to think about reading in daily life, and then to relate it to reading comprehension in Japanese language. During the workshop the participants thought about the purpose of reading through reading activities, considered questions and exercises, and the class flow.



Workshop flyer



Group photo

Here are some of the feedbacks we received:

- I gained a lot of suggestions on how to teach beginner reading comprehension activities.
- I learned from the opinions and teaching methods of other teachers.
- I learned how other teachers usually conducted these activities and I would like to incorporate them in my future classes.
- I gained knowledge of "bottom-up" and "top-down" through reading comprehension, and the effective ways to teach.
- I understood not only text comprehension exercises but also the flow from the beginning to the end of these activities.

Overall, the participants were able to exchange their opinions and were satisfied with the inputs of this workshop.

We hope to offer more interesting and relatable themes in 2023.

## Online Japanese Salon for Secondary School Students 2022

Reported by Shahrul Fatehah Nor Basha (JFKL)

The Online Japanese Salon (OJS) is a platform where Japanese language learners are encouraged to practice speaking in Japanese as much as possible to build confidence in using the language. In each session, a theme is selected and the participants are given the opportunity to discuss on the topic with fellow learners while being facilitated by native Japanese speakers.

Due to the high demand among secondary school students, JFKL has organized two OJS for Secondary School Students which were held on 8 September 2022 and 15 December 2022. The theme for both sessions was "I like \_\_\_\_ / ○○が好きです".



A total of 122 secondary school students from all over Malaysia joined in these special OJS. Since the atmosphere of the OJS is meant to be "fun" and "friendly", participants feel more relaxed and less nervous talking in Japanese. The following were some of their comments after the sessions:

- I got to talk with other learners as well as improve my Japanese and learn many new vocabularies.
- It boosted my confidence in speaking Japanese.
- I learnt new words and was able to apply it in my sentences when speaking Japanese.

For more information about OJS, please follow our Facebook and Instagram page, or visit our website.

# Japanese Language Teaching Methods Training Programme: Teaching the Elementary Levels, 2022

Reported by OSADA Kanako & Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

Continuing its cooperation with the Malaysia Japanese Language Instructors Society (MAJLIS), the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) once again organised a training programme specifically aimed not only at Japanese language teachers wanting to improve their teaching methods and skills, but also those interested in becoming a Japanese language teacher. It was open to non-native Japanese speakers living in Malaysia.

The goals of the programme was to provide participants with basic knowledge of teaching Japanese language at the elementary levels and to encourage them to think about methods that are compatible with their lesson objectives.

This 12-theme training programme was conducted by experienced Malaysian and Japanese instructors with 47 registered participants. The 12 lessons were conducted mainly through live lectures held on Saturdays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM during the programme period starting from 15 October 2022 until 25 February 2023.

Compared to the previous edition which only offered 10 sessions, the one held in 2022 had 12 which covered the themes below:

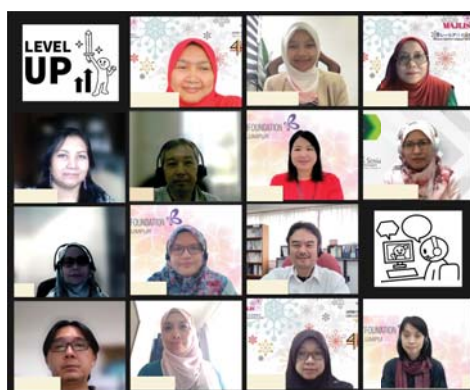
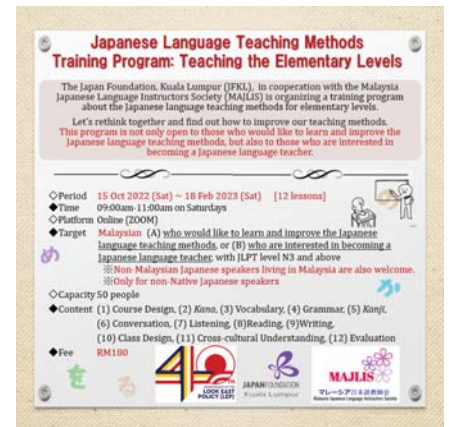
- |                   |                  |                                   |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) Course Design | (5) <i>Kanji</i> | (9) Writing                       |
| (2) <i>Kana</i>   | (6) Conversation | (10) Class Design                 |
| (3) Vocabulary    | (7) Listening    | (11) Cross-cultural Understanding |
| (4) Grammar       | (8) Reading      | (12) Evaluation                   |

Listed as one of the projects commemorating of the 40th anniversary of the Look East Policy, some of the features of this programme were:

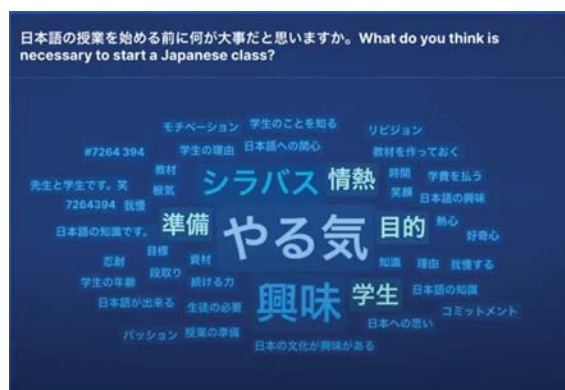
- Content and lectures were done by Malaysian and Japanese lecturers (team-teaching).
- Hybrid format combining live online lectures via Zoom with real-time discussions held at designated times together with asynchronous learning. Pre-recorded videos and lectures for each theme were uploaded on YouTube for participants to watch beforehand and to review, and assignments, journal writing and noticeboard were done via Padlet.
- Lecturers read the participants' journal to reflect on their classes.

This programme presents a good opportunity for the lecturers to introduce the basic knowledge of the language and the skills needed in delivering it to learners. At the same time, it also serves as a great platform for everyone to deliberate the current standing of teacher's training in Malaysia, how to improve it, and to fulfil the goal of providing high-quality training in this nation for Japanese language teachers.

Congratulations to all of the active participants who successfully completed this training programme and we wish you all the best in your journey to teach Japanese language. As for JFKL and MAJLIS, we will continue to work together and provide other training opportunities in the future.



Lecturers



Sharing opinions during live lecture



Team-teaching (JFKL-MAJLIS)



Participants



## Greetings & Farewell



In April 2019, exactly 10 years after my first assignment in Malaysia, I was posted to Malaysia for the second time. Although everyone whom I had worked with during my last assignment had changed in their own ways, such as new family members and the addition of 10 years, I was grateful to be welcomed by the same smiling faces as before.

The thing in particular I will never forget from this tenure of three years and ten months, is the COVID-19 pandemic. In March 2020, I sent off the 25 NIHONGO partners (Japanese language education volunteers) at KLIA for a "temporary return," but it turned out I had told them a lie. In the two years since then, while much of our projects shifted online, we implemented programs which took the lead in supporting the arts & culture community, as well as a concert in March 2022 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Look East Policy by inviting people from Japan for the first time in two years.

As for Japanese language education, which I was not in charge of during my last posting, the more I learned about it, the more I was surprised at the broad base and the number of people involved, and it gave me an opportunity to deepen my idea about our role.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has been involved with us and participated in our projects.

Terima Kasih, dan sampai jumpa lagi!  
SHIMADA Seiya (Former Director, JFKL)

Dear friends in Malaysia,

I am sincerely glad to have been assigned as the new director of JFKL. I arrived in Malaysia on 17 of February, and started my new life here in Malaysia!

Before coming here I worked as the director of the General Affairs division at JF Headquarters for 3 years. And before that, I had the chance to be the director of JF Jakarta for about 4 years. *Saya berasa gembira telah diberi kesempatan untuk bertugas di Malaysia dan sangat teruja kerana berpeluang bertutur dalam bahasa Melayu!*

I have visited Malaysia four times before, but this is my first long-term stay. I am very excited about every day discoveries I'll make in Malaysia, and I would like to travel to as many interesting places as possible during my stay to deepen my understanding about the diversity of this country. I am looking forward to meeting you soon!

We will be celebrating "The 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation" this year, and JFKL will be organizing several events for this anniversary. I will do my best to deepen the relationships between Malaysia and Japan through the activities organized by JFKL.

Mohon tunjuk ajar dari rakan semua!

Best regards,  
TSUKAMOTO Norihisa (New Director, JFKL)



# EVENT LISTING

MARCH 10 (Fri)	<b>Erino Yumiki x Nadir Special Concert (10 &amp; 11 March)</b> In conjunction with the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation Anniversary Event.
MARCH 11 (Sat)	<b>2022年度マレーシア日本語教育セミナー 2022/2023 MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION SEMINAR (MJLES)</b>
MARCH 18 (Sat)	<b>Japanese Skit Contest</b> Final Screening
End of MARCH	<b>Japanese Language Course Intake (2023) Elementary Level</b>

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

### JFKL Holiday Notice:

**JFKL Office Holiday**  
24 April – Hari Raya Puasa

**JFKL Library Holiday**  
11 March – Library temporary closure  
18 March – Library temporary closure  
8 April – Nuzul Al-Quran  
21-25 April – Hari Raya Puasa



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

**The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)**

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

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

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