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ERINO YUMIKI x NADIR



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



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“Erino Yumiki x Nadir Special Concert” commemorating 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Reported by TOMOKAWA Kodai & Connie Khong (JFKL)



On March 10 and 11, "Erino Yumiki x Nadir Special Concert," a collaborative live performance by Japanese singer-songwriter Eriko Yumiki and the Malaysian band Nadir was held at The Bee @ Publika in Mont Kiara to celebrate the 50th Year of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

Ms. Erino Yumiki, previously known for being a member of Japanese band KIRINJI, played the guitar and sang on both nights. Aside from her own solo project, Yumiki Toy, she also plays guitar with some of Japan's leading artists. She came to Malaysia in 2021 to study music at a local university and learn more about the music culture here as well as the neighbouring region.

The other half of this concert was Nadir, a 7-piece diverse Malaysian fusion music band which has performed at many festivals. One of their most notable performances was at the Borneo International Jazz Festival 2018. Nadir comprises of Ashwin Gobinath on drums, Zaim Zaidee on bass, Farique Nadzir on guitar and vocals, Santosh Logandran on percussion and vocals, Adil Johan on saxophone and vocals, and Stephanie Tham and Lor Phaik Sim on keyboards.

On each day, about 150 visitors came to the venue and they were fascinated by Erino Yumiki's guitar technique and singing, and also Nadir's powerful performance. In addition to both artists' original songs, they covered a Malaysian song, Hijau (originally sung by Zainal Abidin in 1990) and also a Japanese tune, Ameagari no Yozora ni (originally sung by RC Succession in 1980). Both songs are famous in their respective countries and judging from the response on both nights, they were definitely a crowd pleaser.

Even from their first meeting, one could see that their love and passion for music transcended all language barriers. They really appreciated each other's work and musicianship and placed much thought and emphasis to highlight each other in their respective songs for this exciting debut collaboration. Both artists shared that they had a wonderful time together during rehearsals and were happy to perform together on both days. Overall, the event was a wonderful opportunity and platform for both Nadir and Erino Yumiki to get to know each other's countries and deepen the friendship between them.

JFKL Talk Series

Reported by Connie Khong (JFKL)

JFKL Talk Series Episode 4: Yap Yuet Ngor (Reading and Translating Haruki MURAKAMI)

The JFKL Talk Series is back, and for the 4th episode, we're delighted to have with us Ms Yap Yuet Ngor or also affectionately known as Yap-sensei, to take a closer look at the literature of Haruki Murakami, who has gained world-wide popularity.

Yap-sensei was born in Kuala Lumpur and is currently working as a freelance translator and column writer. Approximately 300 of her translations have been released through publishers in Hong Kong. Her engagement with Murakami began in Hong Kong when back in the early 1990s, one of the Hong Kong publishers invited her to translate *Norwegian Wood*, *A Wild Sheep Chase*, and *Dance, Dance, Dance*. Besides being a translator of Murakami for Chinese readers, she is also a researcher on the topic, and she had a one-year fellowship to do research on Murakami's literature at Tokyo University in 2007.

She has also been invited to several symposiums, talks, and other sessions on Murakami's literature, including the international symposium "A Wild Haruki Chase: How the world is reading and translating Haruki Murakami" in Tokyo, which was organized by The Japan Foundation and Mainichi Shinbun. She went on to write a book, *Taking A Walk with Peter Cat: A Map of Haruki Murakami's Literary World* which was published in 2020 in Malaysia.

It was a delight listening to her share about her personal experience of reading and translating Haruki Murakami. During the 1-hour session, she talked about how she encountered Murakami's works and gave everyone a brief introduction to his novels. She then dived in to talk about the Murakami phenomenon. As a translator, she also kindly shared with us the different types of methods used in translation. Wrapping up her talk, she illustrated how Murakami literature has been received in Malaysia.



With other Chinese language translators (L-R: Zhang, Lim, Lai, Yap)
Photos by Yap Yuet Ngor



With other translators during the 2006 international symposium, "A Wild Haruki Chase: How the world is reading and translating Haruki Murakami" organised by the Japan Foundation and Mainichi Shinbun in Tokyo



JFKL Talk Series Episode 5 : Dr Wong Oi Min (Transformation of Japanese Theatrescape: Form and Bodies – A Malaysian Perspective

For the 5th episode, we're thrilled to have with us, Dr Wong Oi Min share her perspective as a Malaysian on the Transformation of Japanese Theatrescape, zooming in specifically on Form and Bodies.

With a PhD in Arts from Nihon University in Japan, Dr Wong Oi Min is a drama/theatre educator, director and actor. Currently, she is the Head of Doctorate Programme at the Centre for Postgraduate Studies at the National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage (ASWARA) in Malaysia. Her research interests are physical theatre, applied theatre and inter/cross-cultural work. She upholds her beliefs in crossing boundaries towards multicultural co-existence in her work.

During her talk, she gave us an overview of the theatre landscape in Japan, kickstarting it with traditional theatre forms such as kabuki and how that evolved and inspired other new forms. She shared the various theatre forms that emerged namely during 1960s – 1980s. For the second part of the talk, she focused on the narrative of body through physical theatre. She admitted that there were many examples and companies to list, but she decided to focus on Gekidan Kaitaisha and Storehouse Company.

Throughout the 1-hour long session, Dr Wong kindly complemented her talk with videos, photos and shared various links and resources for the audiences to explore further after the session. We also went through different companies' visions and philosophy which inspire their thinking and movement, and it gave us some food for thought by the end of the Talk.

The JFKL Talk Series is initiated to reach out to everyone and introduce more about Japan through the lenses of professionals in various fields. You can now watch all the Talk episodes on our YouTube Channel. Scan the QR code to enjoy.



Dr. Wong Oi Min



Photo by Store House Company



Photo by Store House Company



JFF+ INDEPENDENT CINEMA

The second term of the JFF+ INDEPENDENT CINEMA is now available for free streaming for your pleasure! JFF+ INDEPENDENT CINEMA, a special streaming program by the Japan Foundation, is featuring six films selected by six independent cinemas, fondly called “mini-theatres” in Japan. Mini-theatres have played an important role of nurturing diversity in Japanese cinema over the years.

Enjoy the variety of films at <https://jff.jp.f.go.jp/watch/independent-cinema/> at your convenience now until 15 June, 2023!

“On the Edge of Their Seats” (JOJO Hideo / 2020 / Youth, Drama)

A coming-of-age drama about young students who cheer for their high school baseball team playing at a stadium.

“What Can You Do About It” (TSUBOTA Yoshifumi / 2019 / Documentary)

A heartfelt documentary about the interactions between a film director and his uncle who has mild autism.

“Shiver” (TOYODA Toshiaki / 2021 / Music)

A musical film that shows off the astonishing performance of a world-famous taiko troupe.

“In the Distance” (KATO Saki / 2022 / Drama)

A warm and unique story of two women who live under one roof and the strange happenings around them.

“Drive into Night” (SAKO Dai / 2022 / Drama, Crime)

A surprising and humanistic drama that questions the meaning of happiness through the strange fate of one man who caused an accident.

“A Little Girl’s Dream” (TOKITA Yoshiaki / 2014 / Documentary)

A miraculous documentary that follows a girl in elementary school who dreams of becoming a vet and the 26 years that follow to make her dream come true.



JFKL MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION

2023

いらっしゃ〜い! **Do not miss this great opportunity!**

Join JFKL Membership and get freebies with JF logo!!

Duration: 2 May (Tue) - 31 May (Wed) 2023

The JFKL MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION is back!

We are giving away a **Free JF logo Canvas Tote Bag** which can easily fit A4 sized books (32x34cm) to both NEW and RENEWAL JFKL Members during the promotion period. In addition, the first 20 NEW members can get a **JF complimentary Pen & Kabuki Mini-Notebook Set OR a JF Clear File with QR code on JF Nihongo e-learning information.**

*First come, first served basis while stocks last.

*The promotion is available for registrations at the library counter ONLY.

[JFKL MEMBERSHIP PERKS]

You can enjoy borrowing books from our library, watching DVDs, and listening to CDs at the AV booth, and discounted tickets for selected JFKL events.

For more information, please visit our Facebook, Instagram, and Web pages at <https://www.jfkl.org.my/library/>



JF Freebies!



2022/2023 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar

Reported by Sakinah binti Noor Badaruddin (JFKL)

The annual Malaysia Language Education Seminar was successfully held on 11 March 2023 via Zoom. The seminar was conducted in two sessions; the morning session was from 9:00 to 12:00 and the afternoon was from 13:00 to 15:15 with 63 and 24 participants respectively.

The invited speaker, Senior Asst. Prof. SHUKURI Yukiko specialises in sociolinguistic and Japanese language education. She presented her lecture entitled, "Let's learn "Yakuwarigo" – language usage tied to its speaker!" which has been her main research interest.

The morning session started with an introduction to "Yakuwarigo" and examples of "Yakuwarigo" usage. "Yakuwarigo" refers to the role of language or style of speech. Through "Yakuwarigo", we can connect to the speaker by reading or hearing the style of speech or vice versa. It is used more often in anime, manga, novels, etc.

The seminar looked at how "Yakuwarigo" impacts the translation. Take the example of the widely used "I/me" when translating a non-Japanese Olympic athlete's speech. She introduced the three types of "I" in Japanese, which are "ore", "boku", and "watashi". Each "I" is associated with a specific image; thus, based on the athlete's character or appearance a different "I" will be used.

The speaker also talked about the wrong usage of "Yakuwarigo" among Japanese Language learners. Aside from the classroom, some Japanese Language learners learn the language from anime and manga. In such situations the learner tends to mimic and use the "Yakuwarigo" as it appears in the anime and manga without understanding the correct way to use it or its meaning. The teacher should play a role in correcting this and advising on the proper way to use "Yakuwarigo".

In the afternoon workshop, the participants were divided into small groups and asked to think about a classroom activity using "Yakuwarigo".

According to the questionnaire, more than 90% of the participants expressed satisfaction with this seminar. Below are some of the feedback received.

- Ms SHUKURI's explanation was straightforward and easy to understand
- Gained new insight throughout the seminar and the group discussion
- Was able to exchange ideas and understand the topic more through the group discussion

Once again, this year we received support from participants in Malaysia and other Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia and Thailand. We were very honoured to have Prof. SHUKURI share on this interesting topic. The support and cooperation of everyone was also greatly appreciated as it ensured that the program was a success. We hope to see more enthusiastic participants again at MJLES next year.

About the speaker

Senior Asst. Prof. SHUKURI Yukiko

Center for Culture and Japanese Education, Tohoku University

Involved in Japanese language education in Korea, Hong Kong, Russia, and at educational institutions in Japan



Group photo of morning session

JAPAN FOUNDATION
KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE
EDUCATION SEMINAR (MJLES)

**LET'S LEARN
"YAKUWARIGO"
LANGUAGE USAGE TIED TO
THE SPEAKER!**

11 March 2023 (Sat)
09:00-15:15 (Malaysia time)

MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION SEMINAR (MJLES)
LET'S LEARN "YAKUWARIGO" LANGUAGE USAGE
TIED TO THE SPEAKER!

What is "Yakuwarigo"?
Guess who say this dialog?

これは わたくしの 本ですわ
kore wa watakushi no hon desuwa

A B C D

Answer >>>

One of the flyers for "Yakuwarigo" quiz

The Speaker
Senior Asst. Prof. SHUKURI Yukiko
Center for Culture and Japanese Education
Tohoku University

Japanese Skit Contest 2022

Reported by Shahrul Fatehah Nor Basha (JFKL)

The Japanese Skit Contest 2022 concluded just before the end of the 2022 fiscal year with the Final Screening held on 18 March 2023.

This contest is part of the effort to enhance communication competency among post-secondary school Japanese language learners in Malaysia. The participants were required to be in a team of not more than 10 members and act out in a skit entirely in Japanese. The skit was recorded on video for submission online.

The theme “Onomatopoeia” was chosen for this year’s contest. Onomatopoeia are words taken from the sounds of certain objects and living things such as the sound of glass shattering or the cry of an animal. The main idea behind this theme was to showcase the variety of onomatopoeia used in daily life, which is one of the peculiar traits of the Japanese language.

A total of 11 entries were received and 5 teams were chosen to advance to the next level. At the Final Screening that was held online via Zoom, the skit videos were played for the first time in front of the judges. The teams in the finals were also connected online and able to view the other contestants’ videos. The finalists were also given the opportunity to present the story behind their skits and to interact with the Japanese interviewer at the end of each video.

After a thorough deliberation by the judges, the result of the contest was announced at the end of the Final Screening. First place went to Team IPGKBA’s Japanese Language Society from Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Bahasa Antarabangsa with their skit titled: Takeru’s Lovey-Dovey Mission. Below is the full result of the Japanese Skit Contest 2022:

1st Place

Team IPGKBA’s Japanese Language Society from Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Bahasa Antarabangsa

Skit title: タケルノ「ラブラブ」な告白ミッション / Takeru’s Lovey-Dovey Mission

2nd Place

Team カリカリパン from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris

Skit title: 誰のせい / Whose Fault

3rd Place

Team G1 from Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

Skit title: クラブのともだち / Club’s Friend

4th Place

Team ナンバーワン from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris

Skit title: ウキウキしている友達 / Excited Friends

5th Place

Team JUPサイコウ from JUP – UniKL Malaysia France Institute

Skit title: ポジジャンのわくわくしている人生 / Pojan’s Exciting Life

The winners walked away with various interesting prizes from the sponsors, namely Panasonic Malaysia, Kokuyo Malaysia, Kinokuniya Malaysia, Hojichaya Teas, Cakap Jepun and Telaga Biru Sdn. Bhd. as well as cool Japan Foundation merchandizes.

Based on the questionnaire filled out by the finalists, 89.7% of them would love to participate in this contest again seeing how their Japanese conversational skills had improved. They also looked forward to communicating more with a Japanese person like the interviewer and the judges.

We hope the contests organized by JFKL like the Japanese Skit Contest, will continuously challenge Japanese language learners in Malaysia to start using Japanese as much as possible in daily life.



Organizers, judges, JFKL staff and finalists during the Final Screening



Scenes from 1st place winner's skit.



Scenes from 2nd - 5th place winners' skits.



Scan the QR code to watch the Final Screening and result announcement videos on our webpage

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KOKUYO

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40 LOOK EAST POINT EAST

In Commemoration of

Basic Training Program for Teachers of the Japanese-Language

Reported by Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

Last year, two Malaysian Japanese language teachers, Ms. Neo Chin Chea from the University of Technology Malaysia (UTM) and Ms. Chan Yee Han from the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL), were selected to participate in the 6-months on-site “Basic Training Program for Teachers of the Japanese-Language” at the Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute, Urawa, Japan from 29 Aug 2022 to 24 Feb 2023. This program is designed to provide Japanese language teachers from overseas organisations who are in the early stages of their career an opportunity to improve their Japanese-language skills, acquire basic teaching methodology, and deepen their knowledge of Japan.

In 2022, 44 Japanese language teachers from 30 countries were selected to participate in this program. The accommodations, meals, and expenses necessary for participation in the official curriculum in Japan, were covered by the Japan Foundation. The duo who participated were very grateful with the opportunity and gained a lot invaluable experiences. Not only were they able to brush up their Japanese language proficiency but they gained deeper understanding of teaching methodologies by learning the theories and practicing in mock classes. In addition, the cultural workshops such as sado (tea ceremony), furoshiki (art of wrapping art), shodo (Japanese calligraphy), wadaiko (Japanese drum), homestay, etc., also helped broaden their horizons in appreciating the subtleties of Japanese culture. The opportunity to connect and communicate with other Japanese language teachers from all over the world was fruitful and meaningful as well. You can read the comments of some of the participants here (available in Japanese only): https://www.jpf.go.jp/j/urawa/trnng_t/2022/n2022_basic.html

This on-site training program was halted in 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic but resumed in 2022 and is scheduled to continue in 2023. Apart from the Basic Training Program, the Japan Foundation also offers various other training programs for Japanese language teachers. For those who are interested in participating in the future, please visit: https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/urawa/e_trnng_t/trnng_t.html or you may like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to get the first-hand information once the application opens.



The two participants from Malaysia



The class atmosphere



The Shodo Workshop



The cultural exchange event

JFKL-IPGKBA Teaching Materials & Cultural Experience Workshop 2022

Reported by Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

The third batch (intake October 2021) of *Program Diploma Pascasiswazah Pendidikan (PDPP) Bahasa Jepun* under *Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampus Bahasa Antarabangsa (IPGKBA)* successfully concluded their programme at the end of fiscal 2022. Resuming our support to new local Japanese language teachers at Malaysian secondary schools under this PDPP initiative, a workshop similar to the one conducted in 2021 was organised from 22 until 24 February 2023.

The first two days of the workshop were held at our office by our Japanese language lecturers, featuring teaching methodologies to help teachers prepare and upskill before being posted to schools. With a total of 13 participants, the workshop continued on the final day at IPGKBA Kuala Lumpur to further expose them to Japanese culture under their lecturer, Dr. Ang Chooi Kean.

On top of the collaborative workshops, JFKL has also provided these new teachers with some book titles to help their journey as new teachers. This initiative is also a continuation of our Teaching Materials Donation Programme. We hope that they will continue to enrich their knowledge and skills in Japanese language education with our support.



HQ Staff Training

By NAKANO Kaho

On February 20th, I arrived in Malaysia to start a three-week long assignment to the young staff at JF. Since I had never been to any other Asian countries besides Japan, I had almost no idea what Malaysia was like.

Some people say that when they travel abroad, they smell the air of the country at the airport. Well, so I did as well. When I got off the airplane, I smelled something pleasant like tropical fruits, and I knew that I was going to become a big fan of this country. That was my first impression of Malaysia. I will never forget that exciting feeling, that I was going to get to know a new country, especially it being the first opportunity since Covid. It was one of the memorable moments of the trip.

The next day, I started commuting to the JFKL office. On the way, I found some shops selling breakfast at a station, which is not that common in Japan. Although I often skip breakfast, in Malaysia I enjoyed nasi lemak every morning. I even enjoyed the conversations with the people at the shop; they were all kind to me. Speaking of food, my favourite Malaysian foods were the cooked bean sprouts that I ate in Ipoh, and the roti tissue that I had at a mamak stall with my colleagues and the artists with whom we held a concert. I am aware that these might not be touristy choices, but that also means that I found these amazing dishes thanks to the local people that I met. In order to understand a culture, I believe it is necessary to know the locals, food and places. I really appreciate the fact that I got to meet great people in Malaysia.

On the job, I had the chances to visit Japanese lessons and seminars, and was impressed by how passionate the participants were. I am truly glad that many people are interested in Japan. Also, in the shopping malls, I saw much more Japanese food and shops than I had imagined. I did not know that Japan was this close to Malaysian daily life. I hope that more Japanese people could get to know this too, so they feel closer to Malaysia.

During my stay, I realised that people respected their surroundings. Since Malaysian society consists of various races, they have different lifestyles but they live and work together. They understand how other cultures are functioned, which I thought was amazing. Besides, I was surprised to see that a lot of new buildings had the former building as a part of its structure. Or, how so many cars ply the roads but mother nature remains right next to them. I would not dare to simplify Malaysian society, but I saw that they do not deny what already exists in front of them and build new things, which is fundamentally important when to living in a multi-cultural society nowadays.

All in all, Malaysia has been such a unique and attractive country for me. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to visit, and am eager to know more about it. Now that I am back at Tokyo headquarters, I am thinking about how we could establish a deeper mutual understanding between Malaysia and Japan. Of course, I definitely hope to come back to Malaysia. See you soon!



First day at JFKL



Lunch with a few of JFKL staff



With Cultural Affairs Department staff for the Erino Yumiki x Nadir Concert



At Batu Caves, Selangor

EVENT LISTING

MAY
2 (Tue)

Japanese Language Course Intake (2023) for Advanced Level is Open

Registration period: 2th -15th May, 2023

MAY
20 (Sat)

Saturday Workshop for Teachers

Morning session: Let's Think About How To Teach Vocabulary (Speaker : HIRATA Yuna)

Afternoon session: Let's Think About Passive Form in Japanese Language (Speaker : OSADA Kanako)

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

1 May – Labour Day
4 May – Wesak Day
29 June – Hari Raya Haji

JFKL Library Holiday

1 May – Labour Day
4 May – Wesak Day
29 June – Hari Raya Haji



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

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