

# TEMAN BARU

## Project Reports

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JFKL Saturday Workshop for  
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HQ Staff Training  
and more...



Japanese Film Festival 2023



J-Retra 2023



20th ICJLEM 2023



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



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# Japanese Film Festival 2023

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)



The 19th Japanese Film Festival in Malaysia (JFF) was held from 5 September till 15 October.

First started in 2003 with just 2 venues, namely GSC Mid Valley and GSC Gurney Plaza, this annual event had grown year by year and was supposed to celebrate its 20th anniversary this year. Unfortunately, JFF2020 was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic and then JFF was in recovery mode for 2 subsequent years but JFF 2023 came back in full scale with special guests and related programmes.

The opening ceremony held at GSC Mid Valley on 5 September was graced with the speeches by Ms Koh Mei Lee, CEO of GSC, H.E. Mr TAKAHASHI Katsuhiko, Japanese ambassador to Malaysia and officiated by YB Teo Nie Ching, Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital as well as a special appearance and speech by MIYAKE Sho, director of the opening film, "Small, Slow but Steady."





Another opening ceremony was held in Kuching as well and it marked the 10th anniversary of JFF running at GSC CityONE Megamall. The opening ceremony in Kuching has been made possible by the continued support of Mitsubishi Corporation and Mr. SHIRAISHI Masashi, the Chief Executive in Malaysia and General Manager of Kuala Lumpur Office, delivered an entertaining speech followed by the opening speech by Dato Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, Minister of Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Sarawak.

JFF2023 also had special programmes such as film screening and talk by director Miyake at the Multimedia University, Masterclass by Malaysian filmmaker Mr. Lim Kah Wai at Sunway University and Detective Conan Marathon at GSC NU Sentral and GSC Gurney Plaza.



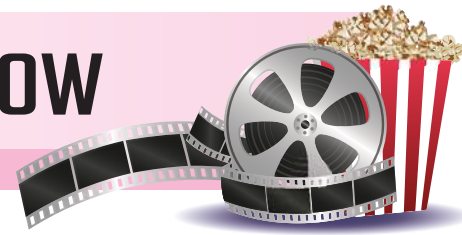
Image courtesy of The Borneo Post



We would like to express our gratitude to all our partners for the support and of course to all the people who ran the movie marathon with us. We hope you all had a good time at JFF this year and hope to see you again at the cinemas next year!

# THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

\*Screening will be in Japanese with English subtitles



**October 2023**

## THE WEEKEND JAPANESE FILM SHOW

Screening will be in Japanese with English subtitles

### The House of the Lost on the Cape

岬のマヨイガ

(KAWATSURA Shinya / 2021 / 105min / P12)

**21st October 2023 (Saturday), 10:30am & 1:00pm (2 shows)**

**GSC NU Sentral**

**FREE ADMISSION**

Prior booking required (see the Method of Booking at the back)

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (@www.jf.or.jp, @www.jf.or.jp, 03-2294-8228, info@jfg.go.jp)

As one of the longest running JFKL events, the Weekend Japanese Film Show has been supported by many for over 2 decades, held at various venues and frequencies.

Starting June this year, the Film Show has an additional screening, presenting 2 shows on the 3rd Saturday of every other month, at GSC NU Sentral.

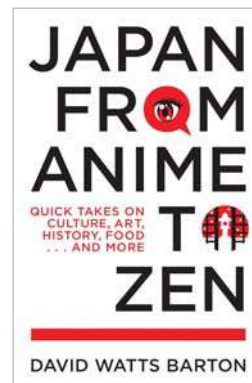
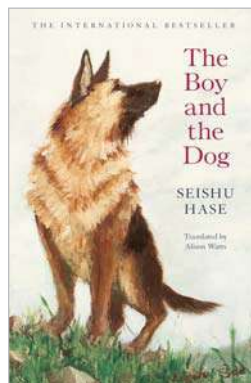
The title screened in October was an animation titled, “The House of the Lost on the Cape,” directed by KAWATSURA Shinya. While the audience seemed to enjoy the story at the screening on 21 October, it also acted as a prelude to our upcoming exhibition, “Yokai Parade: Super Natural Monsters from Japan,” which will be held at MIACC (Malaysian Institute of Art City Campus) from 10 November.



Coming up next on 16 December is “First Gentleman,” story about a man whose wife becomes the first prime minister of Japan. The details will be announced on the JFKL website, Facebook and Instagram soon, so stay tuned!



# LIBRARY



## 改訂版 文法が弱いあなたへ

By ADACHI Shoko / Publisher: Bonjinsha 2022 / Library Call No.815T

The revised edition of the staple grammar book, (文法が弱いあなたへ), used widely in classrooms and for self-study for more than ten years has finally been launched. Five extra units have been added to this latest version and the 44 units cover various grammatical structures. Each unit introduces a grammatical point with a variety of different examples, model conversations, exercises, drills, and practices to help you master Japanese grammar. There are also reading comprehension sections which have all been fully updated for this edition. These reading comprehension passages and exercises are a perfect way for learners to deepen their understanding of grammatical structures. It is suitable for learners who are advancing from beginner to the intermediate level. Furigana is provided for kanji that intermediate-level learners may not know or remember.

## マンガでマスター ステップアップ!日本語会話

By Coto Japanese Academy / Publisher: Natsume publishing 2021 / Library Call No.817.8T

If you are looking for something a little different from regular Japanese textbooks, this book will help you a lot!

This book presents a selection of 20 scenes that international students are likely to experience upon arriving in Japan. There are 20 units that cover real-life topics such as cooking with friends, apartment hunting, and even quarreling with friends. Each unit starts with a manga story, followed by a dialogue with keywords and more realistic and natural expressions that are not usually introduced in Japanese textbooks. Through each scene, you will be able to enhance your Japanese proficiency while deepening your knowledge of Japanese cultural etiquette at the same time. An audio CD is provided for listening and pronunciation practice.

## The Boy and The Dog

By HASE Seishu, translated by Alison Watts / Publisher: Simon & Schuster Ltd 2022 / Library Call No.895.635 HAS

Seishu Hase is a bestselling novelist in Japan and some of his crime novels were adapted into Asian films, such as Sleepless Town (不夜城) and The City of Lost Souls (漂流街). He has been nominated six times for the prestigious Naoki Prize and finally won the prize in 2020 for this heartwarming story, The Boy and The Dog (犬と少年). Following a devastating earthquake and tsunami, a young man in Japan finds a stray dog outside a convenience store. The dog's tag says "Tamon," a name evocative of the guardian deity of the north. The man decides to keep Tamon, becoming the first in a series of owners on the dog's five-year journey to find his beloved first owner, Hikaru, a boy who has not spoken since the tsunami. An agent of fate, Tamon is a gift to everyone who welcomes him into their life. If you like the "Before the Coffee Gets Cold" series, this story is highly recommended.

## Japan from Anime to Zen

By David Watts Barton / Publisher: Stone Bridge Press 2021 / Library Call No.925.04 BAR

David Watts Barton is an award-winning freelance journalist who has covered popular music, culture, travel, and outdoor recreation with extensive experience in newspapers, magazines, online publications, and radio. He has created and run the newsroom of the online newspaper SacramentoPress.com. in California and currently spends a portion of each year in Japan. This friendly guide offers concise but detailed demystifications of more than 80 aspects of ancient and modern Japan. It can be read in sequence, or just dipped into, depending on the moment's need. Explanations go much deeper than a typical travel guide and cover 1,500 years of history and culture, everything from geisha to gangsters, haiku to karaoke, the sun goddess to the shogunate . . . and anime to Zen. This book will captivate you and prepare you for your next trip to Japan, where you will explore culture, art, history, food...and more!

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

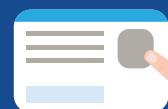
**Get a JFKL Membership!**

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.**





# J-RETRA 2023: KAMENORI-JFKL Regional Training for Japanese-language Secondary School Teachers 2023

Reported by Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

Co-organised with the Kamenori Foundation, this regional training was once again conducted for the second year in three regions. Last year we had the sessions in Ipoh, Melaka and Kuala Lumpur, but in 2023 we shifted the venues to Johor Bahru for the southern region and Pulau Pinang for the northern region, while Kuala Lumpur was maintained for the central region.

A total of 85 local Japanese language teachers participated in this three-day and two-night training programme. These teachers are currently teaching at public day and residential secondary schools.

In general, the training concept was the same as last year where participating teachers were encouraged to revisit their teaching methodologies, classroom activities and reorganise their teaching materials while exchanging ideas and nurturing their communication skills in Japanese language. However, the theme for 2023 revolved mainly around listening, reading comprehension and assessment methods.

Participants were led by JFKL Japanese language lecturers throughout the sessions through various group and individual activities, ranging from discussions, games, presentations, sharing sessions and also recitation by all teachers, also known as 朗読 (*roudoku*), as part of mock-teaching activities.

The Director of JFKL, Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa, also attended some of the sessions in all three regions and delivered his opening remarks to welcome all participants. We had the pleasure of also hosting two officers with Japanese language background from the Ministry of Education Malaysia at the Kuala Lumpur as observers:

1. Pn. Dayang Nor Ashikin binti Harun (Curriculum Development Division – BPK)
2. En. Badrul Hisyam bin Abd Rahman (Fully Residential School Management Division – BPSBP)

Although the face-to-face portion concluded at Kuala Lumpur in September, we hope that J-RETRA 2023 will continue to constructively impact teachers and students through the newly-introduced special project called 「ようこそKelas Kamiへ」. This project encourages teachers to share their actual school lessons which have been inspired by the regional training sessions with JFKL and other teachers. JFKL is also hoping to visit some of the schools in this project to get a first-hand experience of the lessons and provide continuous support to the teachers involved. This will also aid us in providing feedback to the Kamenori Foundation on the values that J-RETRA is bringing to Japanese language education in Malaysian secondary schools.

Following this, JFKL will also continue to offer J-RETRA Online Follow-up Training Series which is scheduled to conclude with its 6th series on 16 January 2024.

The infographic features the Kamenori and JFKL logos at the top. Below them, the title 'J-RETRA 2023' is prominently displayed, followed by 'KAMENORI-JFKL Regional Training for Japanese-language Secondary School Teachers 2023'. The content is organized into three columns representing different regions:

Region	Dates	Teachers
<b>SOUTHERN REGION</b>	<b>14 – 16 AUG</b>	<b>24 TEACHERS</b>
Teachers of Johor, Melaka, Negeri Sembilan, Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan		
<b>NORTHERN REGION</b>	<b>21 – 23 AUG</b>	<b>22 TEACHERS</b>
Teachers of Pulau Pinang, Kedah, Perlis, Terengganu, Kelantan and Pahang		
<b>CENTRAL REGION</b>	<b>11 – 13 SEP</b>	<b>39 TEACHERS</b>
Teachers of Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Putrajaya and Perak		





# The 20th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia (ICJLEM2023)

Reported by Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

The 20th International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia (ICJLEM2023) was held successfully at Ambang Asuhan Jepun, University of Malaya on 7th of October, 2023 from 9:00am to 5:30pm.

In the morning session, the keynote lecture was held in a hybrid manner with the speakers, Prof. Dr. Maruyama Chika and Prof. Dr. Ikeda Nobuko from the College of Intercultural Communication, Rikkyo University, Japan connected to the audience in the hall via Zoom. The title was “Classroom based Language Assessment: How should classroom teachers respond to changes in the learning environment?”.

**KEYNOTE LECTURE**

**CLASSROOM-BASED LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS**  
- HOW SHOULD CLASSROOM TEACHERS RESPOND TO CHANGES IN THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT? -

**Prof. Dr. MARUYAMA Chika**      **Prof. Dr. IKEDA Nobuko**

College of Intercultural Communication  
Rikkyo University, Japan

The keynote lecture speakers.

In the first half of the lecture, Prof. Dr. Maruyama shed light on how the AI-powered language model, ChatGPT has changed the students' learning environment and what we should be aware of as educators. Then, in the second half of the lecture, Dr. Ikeda delved into considerations related to classroom activities and language assessment by highlighting various types of assessments from different perspectives. The discussions surrounding the use of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, have intensified recently. Many participants found that this keynote lecture helped them understand more about ChatGPT and the impact it has brought to our current teaching and learning environment, as well as rethinking the assessment methods that we have been using all this while.



The audience listening to the keynote lecture in the hall.

Later in the afternoon, the “Teaching Innovations” exhibition took place where all the participants had a great time browsing through the 13 exhibits of good ideas for teaching Japanese language. This was followed by the “Oral Presentation” segment in the latter half of the afternoon. This year, a total of 6 oral presentations were selected out of which 3 were presented in Japanese, 2 in English language and 1 in Malay.



The lively atmosphere at the Teaching Innovations corner.



The audience listening to the oral presentations in the hall.

After being held online for 3 years due to the pandemic, this year, we had an attend of more than 70 participants who not only enjoyed the Keynote Lecture, Teaching Innovations and Oral Presentation, but also broadened their networks through face-to-face interactions with peers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants for making the event possible and hope to see you again.

For more information about this conference, please visit: <https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/for-teachers/conferences/>

Apart from this annual conference, JFKL also provides many other training programs for Japanese language teachers. Do check out our website or social-networking-sites for more information.



# JFKL Saturday Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers

Reported by OSADA Kanako, HIRATA Yuna, Lew Boon Lay (JFKL)

午前の部

【9:30~12:00】 Malaysia time

「と、たら、ば」の教え方について考える  
Let's Think About How to Teach "To, Tara, Ba"

Speaker: OSADA Kanako (Chief lecturer)  
Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

Zoom  
にて開催

2023/2024 Saturday Workshop  
**第3回 土曜研修会**  
**2023年9月23日(土)** FREE

【14:00~16:30】 Malaysia time

初級レベルの聴解について考える  
Let's Think About How to Teach Listening in Elementary Level

Speaker: HIRATA Yuna (Lecturer)  
Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

午後の部

しめきり  
9月21日(木)



The 3rd Saturday Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers was held on 23 September 2023. Below is the summary of the workshop.

## 【Morning Session】Let's Think About How to Teach *To, Tara, Ba*

Through this workshop, the participants were able to rethink about the important points to take note while teaching the Japanese grammar "to," "tara," and "ba", which are often said to be hard to understand. By analyzing the textbook, they gained a better understanding. Below are some of the comments we received from the participants:

- \* Through the explanations, I gained knowledge about the nuances when using these expressions and points on how to conjugate these sentence patterns were well summarized. I finally realized the reason why I had not been able to explain it well in class.
- \* I gained knowledge about the differences between "to", "tara" and "ba". The hand-drawn illustrations were interesting and easy to understand. I learned a lot.
- \* The explanations were provided using words that the students could understand and matched their pace of thought. I was able to learn how to explain things in a simpler way so that my students could understand by observing the speaker's teaching style.

## 【Afternoon Session】Let's Think About How to Teach Listening in Elementary Level

The workshop's objectives were to consider the key points in teaching listening and methods for improving listening comprehension skills. In the workshop, the participants were given a hands-on demonstration of task-based listening practice in order to experience what the students undergoing while doing the same practice. After that, they were divided into small groups to discuss about types of classroom activities they could organize for listening practice. Below are some of the comments we got from the participants:

- \* This workshop taught me that listening practice was not merely limited to using audio recordings in class. It was an eye-opening experience for me.
- \* I am glad that I was able to learn a lot of ideas in teaching listening comprehension.
- \* I was able to learn more about listening comprehension through real experience.

Although not everything can be covered in such a short amount of time, we hope that everyone managed to gain some new knowledge. Let's gather again to think about what we can do to improve the teaching of Japanese grammar at elementary levels.

JFKL is dedicated to conducting more seminars and workshops to suit the needs of Japanese language teachers in Malaysia. Please stay tuned for announcements of our events through our SNS, website and e-newsletter!

参加者の問題意識

と

たら

ば

みんなで  
考えました!

初級レベルの聴解について考える

聴解ストラテジー

タスク・リスニング

情報の選別

よそく  
予測

リラックスして聞く

すいそく  
推測

しつもん  
質問

必要な情報だけ聞く

はんのう  
反応

モニター

わからない部分が  
あっても気にしない!

はいけいちしき  
背景知識の活性化

スピードに慣れる



The time I spent in Malaysia feels like a distant dream. This is probably because I had only 3 weeks to experience Malaysian culture, and only saw the very best part of the country. It might be a different story for a local resident who has to deal with everyday life and politics, but for me, as a short-term visitor, I'm glad to have had at least a little bit of time and space to embrace this multi-layered, complex, and fascinating Malaysian society with a rich history since I have always had a deep interest in language, culture, and identity as a half Taiwanese-half Japanese born in Hong Kong and raised in East Asia and North America.

Growing up, especially in Japan, it took a long time for me to be able to embrace my "in-betweenness." Often, I hid my identity within the relatively homogeneous group of people. It would be a beautiful lie if I said things like "despite the numerous obstacles, I always found myself enjoying the challenging experiences in the end," since being different in every space can be sometimes painful, which I think is natural, at least for me. However, at the same time, because of my "inside-outsider" life experience, I feel like I could have a really in-depth talk and rich conversation with people who are navigating the language and cultural differences in Malaysia. Everyone I met in Malaysia had their own story to tell. I hope the Japan Foundation is providing you with opportunities to enrich your minds and think about different languages, cultures, and have more dialogue between people.

Despite my limited cursory exposure to Malaysia, Malaysians have welcomed me warmly (with great food), for which I cannot fully express my gratitude. I feel like I have gained another key to cross-cultural understanding and diversity through my work and private time here. Terima kasih, everyone! I hope to see you again!



Japanese Film Festival 2023

## EVENT LISTING

NOV <b>8-21</b>	<b>Discover Japan</b> New Japanese Language Short-Term Course Registration
NOV <b>10</b> - DEC <b>3</b>	<b>Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition – "Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters from Japan"</b> Malaysia Institute of Art
NOV <b>18</b>	<b>Japanese Skit Contest 2023</b> Live Streaming on Facebook & Youtube from 2PM onwards
DEC <b>14</b> - JAN <b>14</b>	<b>Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition – "Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters from Japan"</b> Sabah Art Gallery
DEC <b>16</b>	<b>The Weekend Japanese Film Show</b> Title: "First Gentleman" (2021)

### JFKL Holiday Notice:

**JFKL Office Holiday**  
13 November – Deepavali  
25 December – Christmas

**JFKL Library Holiday**  
17-18 November – JFKL Event  
26-30 December – Year-End Holiday



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)

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