

# TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **133**

January-February 2024

## Project Reports

MIKAGE PROJECT ASEAN TOUR IN  
MALAYSIA WITH ASMIDAR

The Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition  
“Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters from Japan”  
Opening Ceremony @MIACC Gallery,  
Malaysian Institute of Art

Japan Foundation X Tokyo International  
Film Festival

The Japanese Skit Contest 2023

9th Batch NIHONGO Partners Programme 2023:  
Final Report

JFKL Saturday Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers  
HQ Staff Training  
and more...



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



jf\_kualalumpur



TheJapanFoundationKL



JAPAN FOUNDATION  
國際交流基金

WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY

# MIKAGE PROJECT ASEAN TOUR IN MALAYSIA WITH ASMIDAR

## Celebrating 50th Anniversary of ASEAN – Japan Friendship and Cooperation

Reported by TOMOKAWA Kodai (JFKL)



To commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN – Japan Friendship and Cooperation, the Japan Foundation hosted MIKAGE PROJECT, a group dedicated to modernizing Japanese folk songs. It was held at UiTM Shah Alam, Malaysia on 24th October, and at Petaling Jaya Performing Arts Centre (PJ PAC) on 25th October. This tour was the first overseas performance for MIKAGE PROJECT, but they performed confidently, and the audience was fascinated by the performance over the 2 days.

With over 400 attendees, the live performance sparked a lot of post-show interaction, allowing the audience to engage with MIKAGE PROJECT and the talented Malay singer, Asmidar. Asmidar not only delivered two Malay songs with her band but also showcased her fluency in Japanese singing Kokiriko-bushi (こきりこ節) after months of dedicated practice.

A workshop at UiTM Shah Alam on 24th October deepened the cultural exchange. MIKAGE PROJECT explained the

significance of traditional instruments and shared insights into Minyo, offering local music students a hands-on experience with instruments like Shamisen, Shakuhachi, and Koto.

After the final performance at PJ PAC, Asmidar expressed her hope to possibly collaborate with MIKAGE PROJECT in Japan one day, so that they could share this cross-cultural fusion with Japanese audiences. Also, ASANO Sho, a member of MIKAGE PROJECT, expressed his admiration for Asmidar, stating, "Asmidar is a wonderful artist and is someone who truly loves and treasures the Malaysian traditional music and culture. It was a wonderful experience being able to create music together with her. She also greatly respects Japanese culture and its traditional art form, 'minyo' or folk song. She performed one of the Japanese 'minyo' songs with impeccable pronunciation. And I was truly touched by her passion for this project."

This collaboration deepened the performers' understanding of the charm and diversity within folk songs, making it a historic celebration of ASEAN – Japan Friendship and Cooperation. The tour underscored the unifying power of music and cultural exchange.



# The Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition “Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters from Japan”

## Opening Ceremony @MIACC Gallery, Malaysian Institute of Art

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)

The Japan Foundation’s touring exhibition, “Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters of Japan,” had its opening at the Gallery of the Malaysian Institute of Arts’ City Campus (MIACC Gallery) on Jalan Ampang, KL on 10 November.

MIACC was the second venue for the exhibition after Muzium Tuanku Fauziah, USM in Penang. A total of approx. 100 persons including the invited guests, representative of our sponsor, and MIA students attended the opening ceremony. The attendees of the ceremony enjoyed viewing the works as well as the specially mixed mocktails with yokai themes by our beverage sponsor Monin.

The exhibition in KL was filled with special activities such as film screening, paper puppet workshop and tote bag printing workshop every weekend. Following the successful run in both Penang and KL, the show is now ongoing at Sabah Art Gallery in Kota Kinabalu until 4 February 2024 before departing to its next destination, Hong Kong.



# The Japan Foundation X Tokyo International Film Festival

Trip Report by Anabell Lynn and Wong Tuck Hon (Faculty of Cinematic Arts, Multimedia University)

Representing Multimedia University Malaysia, we embarked on a meaningful journey from October 25th to 28th, courtesy of the Japan Foundation, immersing ourselves in Japan's Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF). Meeting counterparts from Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand, we delved into enriching experiences over four days. Our perspectives as filmmakers were expanded by engaging in masterclasses with luminaries like Zhang Yimou and Koreeda, touring Toho Studio, and participating in the 120th Anniversary Ozu Yasujiro Commemorative Conversation with Kurosawa Kiyoshi, Kelly Reichardt, and Jia Zhangke. By actively participating in the Exchange Meeting among Students and TIFFCOM, we envisioned promising opportunities for collaboration. The exchange of diverse perspectives not only deepened our understanding that everyone holds captivating stories but also fostered connections that transcend borders. We are immensely grateful for this invaluable program, as it significantly broadened our perspective on empathy and the universal essence of storytelling.

The biggest takeaway from our TIFF trip is the people we met and befriended during the programs. During the Exchange Meeting, we were pleased to meet up close and talk with Kore-eda in person, along with the students from different countries and backgrounds, providing us with many new film field perspectives. Thanks to the kind assistance from the staff from the Japan Foundation, we have formed several invaluable connections with industry experts, as well as getting more familiar with the beautiful landscape and cultures in Tokyo, as our first time traveling to Japan. We are thrilled to bring back all these experiences we have gained from this trip and share them with our peers and our university students, with the good hopes that it can inspire them to embark on their journey further as future filmmakers.

Writers short bio

### 1) Anabell Lynn

Anabell, a dedicated filmmaker from Sabah, brings 3 years of experience as an MMU Cinematic Arts student. She is passionate about working on various projects in a collaborative environment and enjoys crafting worlds in a creative manner. Currently, she is in her final year at MMU, as a co-producer for a project in the Faculty of Cinematic Arts.

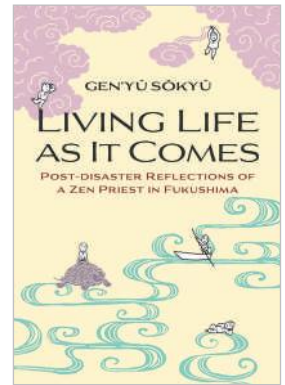
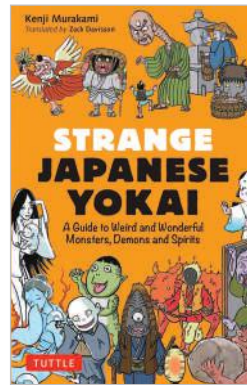
### 2) Wong Tuck Hon

Wong Tuck Hon, based in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, has just graduated from Multimedia University (MMU) Bachelor of Cinematic Arts. His films tend to explore societal issues and struggles by capturing and documenting intimate stories in daily life. Though practicing his framework, his short film "To You, From My Memory" was nominated for the Mini Film Festival.





# LIBRARY



## 読んで考える日本語 10のトピック 中上級

By Yoshiko MORI / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishers 2022 / Library Call No.817.5T

This interesting book is a compilation of 10 different articles about the Japanese language that were originally written for a Japanese audience in their original format, and paired with comprehension questions, vocabulary and expressions focused activities, discussion opportunities, and more.

The topics range from susceptibility to language, expressions that have a particular Japanese feel, honorific language, interesting onomatopoeia language, the future of the Japanese language and so on.

If you are studying for JLPT N1 or N2, this book is a great reading practice resource for you to improve your skills.

## キャラで学ぶ友だち日本語

By Aya SAKAI / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishers 2022 / Library Call No.817.8T

In this book, you will learn "Japanese for Friends" for when you are talking with friends or classmates in a more casual style. The characters that appear in this book are like the students around you in your daily life.

You can choose your favourite character from the six people who appear in the book and practice as they are. You will be able to learn not only the typical friend vocabulary and phrases but also casual words that match the character's personality. This book also contains roleplays so that you can act out scenes with your friends. Audio files, which are downloadable from Kuroshio publisher official site or by scanning the QR code in the book will help you enjoy learning "Japanese for Friend" even more.

## Strange Japanese Yokai: A Guide to Weird and Wonderful Monsters, Demons and Spirits

By Kenji MURAKAMI, Translated by Zack Davisson / Publisher: Tuttle Publishing 2023 / Library Call No.398.2 MUR

Yokai is a supernatural creature in Japanese folklore, and it is often translated as monster, demon, ghost, or spirits in English.

This book is translated from **がっかり妖怪大図鑑** which introduces over one hundred scary yokai with their unique back stories and their wired characters by Kenji MURAKAMI who is a well-known as a Yokai expert in Japan. He identifies each Yokai, explains the history, where they commonly appear, and their strange powers. The book is illustrated with hundreds of full-color drawings showcasing the fascinating features of these strange creatures. Every Yokai here, no matter how disgusting, is part of the rich cultural legacy of Japan.

Let's enjoy exploring the creepy and adorable Yokai world!

## Living Life as It Comes: Post-Disaster Reflections of a Zen Priest in Fukushima

By Gen'yū Sōkyū / Publisher: Japan Publishing Industry Foundation for Culture 2022 / Library Call No.158.0952 GEN

This book consists of a selection of short essays penned by Gen'yū Sōkyū, chief priest at a Zen temple in Fukushima Prefecture. Having been profoundly impacted by the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in 2011, he began writing a newspaper column in April 2012 that ran for seven and a half years. The original Japanese edition of this book, **(なりゆきを生きる:「うみの奥山」つづら折れ)**, was published in 2020.

He writes about a wide range of topics inspired by his daily activities and experiences, including events in post-disaster Fukushima, temple renovation and soil improvement, Japanese customs, observations about nature, and encounters with people from all walks of life. He encourages us to follow our mind as it changes according to the circumstances of the moment.

Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!

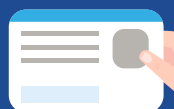
Get a JFKL Membership!

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 Japanese Skit Contest 2023

Reported by Shahrul Fatehah Nor Basha (JFKL)

For the first time ever, the Japanese Skit Contest was aired via live streaming on the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) Facebook page and Youtube channel on 18 November 2023. The contest, which had been accepting entry submissions since July until October 2023, was on the theme of “50,” to commemorate the 50th Year of ASEAN-JAPAN Friendship and Cooperation.

Organised by the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and JFKL, the contest was a success through the collaboration with the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur as well as support from our valuable sponsors.

The contest received 12 entries from a number of institutions and 5 were selected for the final round. We were honoured to have 4 judges this year for the final screening:

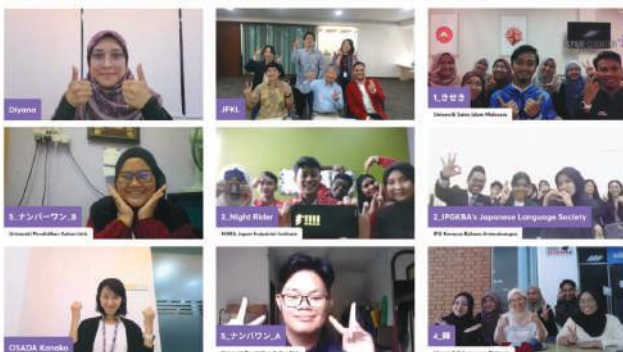
- Mr. SAITO Yukiyoishi  
First Secretary, Education and Science Attaché  
(Embassy of Japan in Malaysia)
- Mr. YANAI Norio  
Executive Secretary  
(The Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur)
- Mr. Mohd Anuar Abu Bakar  
CEO, Cakap Jepun  
(Michi Global Sdn. Bhd.)
- Ms. HIRATA Yuna  
Japanese Language Lecturer  
(The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur)

The finalist from Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Team ナンバーワン, was crowned the 1st prize winner of Japanese Skit Contest 2023. The team, who had placed 4th in last year's contest, redeemed themselves with their skit, “君を愛して 50 年/50 Years of Loving You”.

A big thank you to everyone who made this event a success, especially the judges, co-organisers, collaborator, sponsors, and all participants. Congratulations to the winners and see you again next year!

1st Place – 5th Place Winners of the Japanese Skit Contest 2023			
RANK	SKIT TITLE	TEAM NAME	INSTITUTION
1	君を愛して50年 50 Years of Loving You	ナンバーワン	UNIVERSITI PENDIDIKAN SULTAN IDRIS (UPSI)
2	ハレルのウィッシュリスト50 Haruto's 50 Wishlist	IPGKBA's JAPANESE LANGUAGE SOCIETY	INSTITUT PENDIDIKAN GURU KAMPUS BAHASA ANTARABANGSA (IPGKBA)
3	大学の生活、半端ないよ～ University Life Is Unbelievable	輝	UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM)
4	へんしん Transformation	きせき	UNIVERSITI SAINS ISLAM MALAYSIA (USIM)
5	私、あなた、and 50 I, You, and 50	NIGHT RIDER	MARA-JAPAN INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE (MJII)

## CONTESTANTS WITH JUDGES & JFKL



Visit the contest webpage to find out more details on the contest as well as the full entries list at <https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/for-learners/contest-events/japanes-e-skit-contest/>

Scan QR or visit the link

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDN\\_FMtLaIk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDN_FMtLaIk)



# 9th Batch NIHONGO Partners Programme 2023: Final Report

Reported by Fatim Azzahra Hamsa (JFKL NP Team)

The 9th Batch NIHONGO Partners departed for Japan on 9th November after serving 7 months as teaching assistants to local Japanese language teachers in Malaysia. NP Programme has dispatched selected Japanese citizens called NIHONGO Partners or NPs to secondary schools in Asia since 2015. The recent 9th Batch consisted of 9 NPs who had been dispatched on 21 March 2023 to secondary schools in 9 states (Perak, Terengganu, Selangor, Putrajaya, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Johor, Sabah, and Sarawak). Apart from assisting the Japanese language teachers as their counterparts, these NPs were tasked to spread the charm of Japanese language and culture to school communities and their local area.



NPs with JFKL



NPs in KLIA before departing to Japan

## Year-End Report Session (7-9 November)

From 7 November until the day they left Malaysia, these NPs were involved in year-end report session with the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and paid courtesy visits to the Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia and the Embassy of Japan (EoJ) on 7 and 8 November respectively.



Courtesy visit to MOE (7 November)



Courtesy visit to EoJ (8 November)

During the courtesy visit to the Secretary General (SG) of MOE, the NP representative, Mr. MORITA Oga, gave a speech in Malay and stated that they were privileged to participate in local festivals and events to experience Malaysian culture, history, and customs. One of their most cherished moments was the excitement of Teachers' Day, which is rarely experienced in Japan. On behalf of the 9th Batch NPs, he thanked the MOE, the host schools, and their Counterpart Teachers (CPs) for the support throughout their stay in Malaysia. The SG expressed his hope for the upcoming NP Programme 2024 to continually support Japanese education in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Japanese Ambassador TAKAHASHI Katsuhiko tweeted on X about NP's courtesy visit where he thanked all the NPs on their hard work. He also wished the NPs' safe return and for them to play a role of "bridging Malaysia and Japan" by promoting the beauty of Malaysia to their friends and larger communities in Japan. During both visits, the NPs were seen donning the traditional attires, demonstrating their appreciation towards the Malaysian culture.

During their sharing session with JFKL, some of the NPs presented their activities fully in Malaysian attire, which was practised throughout their tenure in schools. One of the NPs commented that the sharing session was a good opportunity to reflect on their activities before returning home. Another NP said that it was also a useful time to know the positive outcome of their activities and learnings of other members. Furthermore, most of them emphasized that they were grateful to have been given this great opportunity to work with local teachers and learned a lot from them. Wonderful memories with their students also were seen from their smiles during the session.

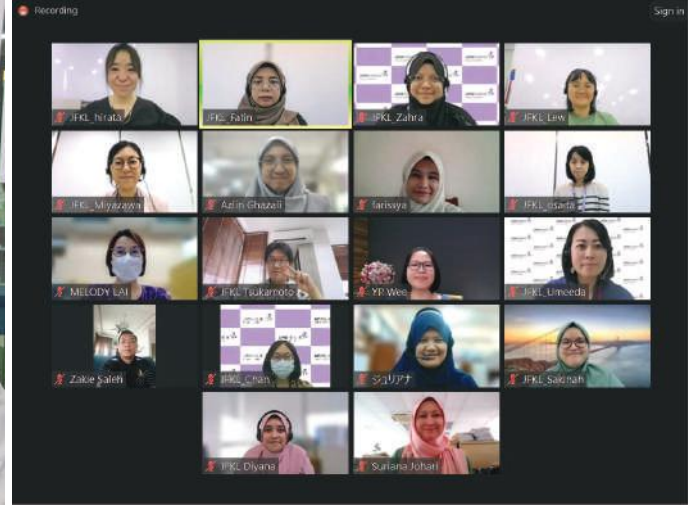
### CP Final Session (16 November)

JFKL also conducted an online feedback session with the CPs so that they could share about their students' progress after the departure of the NPs, the teaching materials made by NP and its utilization, as well as overall feedback on the 2023 NP Programme. The CPs acknowledged that their students became more motivated to study Japanese and used it enthusiastically, as observed from their daily greetings and higher number of participation in competitions. The NPs assisted in creating teaching materials that the CPs can continue to use in the future such as flash cards, printouts, slides, and cultural activity ideas. CPs also gave JFKL constructive feedback on how to improve the programme in upcoming years, which was greatly appreciated and heeded.

Last but not least, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the principals and CPs at the host schools and all those who have been involved in 9th Batch NP Programme 2023. Thank you very much for your support.



NP sharing session



CP Final Feedback Session

## JFKL Saturday Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers

Reported by Lew Boon Lay (JFKL)



The 4th Saturday Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers was held on 28 October 2023 with the theme, "Let's think about how to teach Hiragana." Below is the summary of the workshop.

In this session, we had Ms OTA Izumi from Ambang Asuhan Jepun(AAJ), University of Malaya, as the speaker. The objectives of this session were to share about the important points when teaching Hiragana, and tips on how to evaluate Hiragana written by the students. This session was attended by 30 people.

Here are some of the feedbacks we received:

- The content was very easy to understand and the instructor's teaching style was effective. It was good to have active communication among the participants, and it was easy to ask questions.
- In addition to being able to review, I also received some good ideas and was able to exchange opinions with other teachers.
- I learned some interesting activities and new teaching methods (letter guessing, listening and repeating, etc.).

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

We hope to offer more interesting and relatable themes in 2024.

**Last workshop for this year!**  
**今年最後の研修会!**




**FREE**

2023/2024 Saturday Workshop  
**第4回 土曜研修会**  
**2023年10月28日(土)**  
**9:00~12:00** (Malaysia time) **しめきり: 10月26日**

**ひらがなの教え方について考える**  
**Let's think about how to teach Hiragana**

Speaker: OTA Izumi (Lecturer)  
 Ambang Asuhan Jepun,  
 University of Malaya



Hello! I'm Minori Matsuoka from the JF Head Office. I spent three weeks in JFKL experiencing various jobs as a trainee. This was my first time to visit Malaysia, and everything was a new experience for me.

One of the most unforgettable events was a folk song concert organised by JF with a collaboration between Japanese and Malaysian performers. At first, I was a little nervous whether Malaysian people would enjoy Japanese folk songs or not because its unfamiliarity. However, I felt great joy when I saw so many audience members dancing happily to the melody of Japanese traditional instruments. At the same time, I learnt about the beauty and richness of Malaysian folk songs and felt that I wanted to share them with the Japanese people.

On the weekends, I visited museums, galleries, cinemas, and theaters to experience Malaysian art as much as possible. Through them, I got a glimpse of Malaysia's multi-layered society, history, and culture. Not only that, I also got to know the Malaysian people and about their lives as I walked around the city. What impressed me the most was how kind the people were. Sometimes I would lose my way, but every time local people helped me greatly to get to the right place.

Through my stay in Malaysia, I felt the cultural diversity that exists in this country and how each coexists in a complex but flexible way. And even though I was a foreigner, I felt that it was ok for me to be there. In Japan the number of foreigners visiting Japan is increasing year by year, and there are many problems arising from living together and understanding each other. I felt that there are many things we can learn from Malaysia to achieve a society where multicultural people can coexist.

Finally, I'll never forget my wonderful experiences in Malaysia and the nice people I met. I'll go back to Malaysia again someday. Terima kasih for everything!



## EVENT LISTING

DEC 16 - FEB 4	<b>Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition – “Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters from Japan”</b> Sabah Art Gallery
JAN 6 - MAR 16	<b>Japanese Language Teaching Methods: Teaching the Intermediate Level</b> Due for registration: 3 Jan 2024
JAN 10 & JAN 24	<b>Textbook Study Group for Secondary School Teachers</b>
JAN 20 - FEB 4	<b>The Tokyoiter Exhibition</b> Temu House
JAN 27	<b>2023/2024 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar [MJLES]</b> Due for registration: 25 Jan 2024
FEB 22	<b>Online Japanese Salon for Secondary School Student</b>
MAR 2	<b>21st Online Japanese Salon</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

1 – 2 January - New Year's Holiday  
25 January – Thaipusam  
1 February – Federal Territory Day  
12 February – Chinese New Year

#### JFKL Library Holiday

1 – 3 January - New Year's Holiday  
25 January – Thaipusam  
1 February – Federal Territory Day  
10 February – Chinese New Year



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

