

TEMAN BARU

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JFKL Tadoku Salon
and more...



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



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ASCA x spira spica from SACRA MUSIC Live Stage in Malaysia!

Reported by TOMOKAWA Kodai (JFKL)



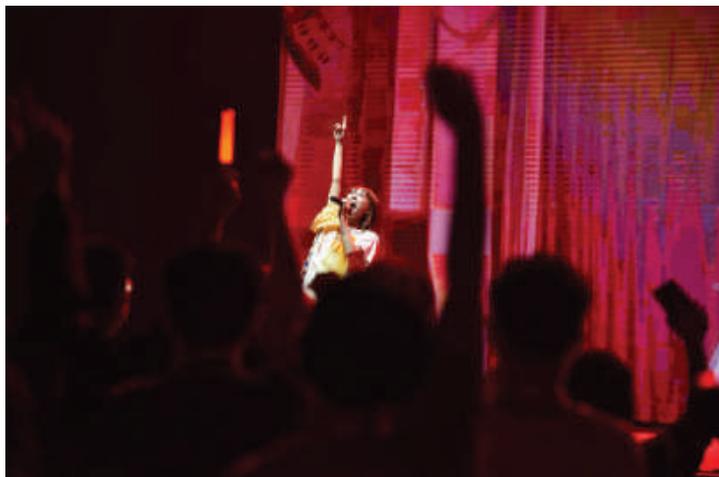
Two of Japan's most popular Anisong singers, ASCA and spira spica, performed last December at the "ASCA x spira spica from SACRA MUSIC Live Stage in Malaysia" event during Comic Fiesta 2023 at the Plenary Hall, KLCC. The event was organized by the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL), Comic Fiesta, and the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation.

The event was attended by the distinguished guests, His Excellency Mr. TAKAHASHI Katsuhiko, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia, and Mr. Surya Kumar A/L Subramaniam, Senior Principal Assistant Secretary of the International Relations Division (Culture), Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC).

ASCA and spira spica appeared at the Plenary Hall on 23rd December for the special Stage Talk session where they interacted and built a close rapport with their fans. It included a Q&A segment with the singers, a game of Janken (Rock, Paper, Scissors), and the distribution of exclusive SACRA MUSIC merchandise to the lucky audience members.

During the media interview with the press, Mikiha, the leader of spira spica, expressed her excitement to the Malaysian audience, saying, "I am so happy!!" as it marked their debut performance in the country. ASCA also mentioned, "I had received a lot of messages from fans asking me to come to Malaysia. So, I am very happy to finally be able to realize this dream of seeing ASCA in Malaysia. As it is also on the eve of our 6th anniversary of performing, I would like to turn tomorrow's performance [24th Dec] into an unforgettable one."

On December 24th, ASCA and spira spica performed live for Malaysian Anime fans at the Plenary Hall, which was fully packed with 2,900 enthusiastic fans. The event was a huge success, bringing Japanese culture closer to Malaysian fans and strengthening the bond between Japan and Malaysia.



The Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition “Yokai Parade: Supernatural Monsters from Japan” Opening Ceremony @Sabah Art Gallery, Kota Kinabalu

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)

After touring Penang and Kuala Lumpur, the final destination of the “Yokai Parade – Supernatural Monsters from Japan” exhibition in Malaysia was the Sabah Art Gallery, Kota Kinabalu. The opening ceremony was held on 15 December 2023 with Mr. YAMASHITA Yoshito, Head of Consular Office of Japan in Kota Kinabalu, as the Guest of Honour.

Both the inside and outside of the gallery were filled with people as “Picnic & Wayang Pacak”, the gallery’s popular event, was also happening in conjunction with the exhibition.

Yokai Parade exhibition successfully ended on 4th February and the exhibits were packed to be sent to the next destination, Hong Kong. JFKL would like to thank all parties and individuals who helped to organize this exhibition as well as to everyone who visited and enjoyed viewing the exhibits with us.



JFKL Small Grant Programme - Nengajyo 2024

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

Our latest JFKL Small Grant Programme recipient, MJB Creative Services, successfully conducted Nengajyo 2024, a New Year’s postcard exhibition where visitors had the opportunity to create their very own Nengajyo and posting it to their loved ones with well wishes for the year. The event took place at ILHAM Tower from the 7th-24th of December 2023. The vibrant Dragon themed postcards, stamps and stickers symbolized the Zodiac calendar’s Year of the Dragon.

Visitors had plenty of decorative items to choose from at their workstation, from Japanese New Year rubber stamps to colourful pens and markers. They were also taught to incorporate the art of kakizome, or Japanese calligraphy to beautify their works.

Overall, the project saw more than 1,500 visitors and the creation of 1,427 Nengajyo pieces which were either posted to family and friends or exchanged with others on the spot.

The 2024/2025 JFKL Small Grant Programme is now accepting applications! Please visit our website or email kl_grant@jpf.go.jp for enquiries.

List of Past Recipients for FY 2023/2024

Category A:

1. The Human Expression (T.H.E) Dance Company- Cross Cultural Collaborative Residency & Performance as part of cont-act Contemporary Dance Festival 2023
2. A.P Art Galley- Barehands Residency
3. National Band Directors Association of Malaysia- Japanese Influence on Malaysia Bands (featuring Daisuke Shimizu)
4. Singapore Art Museum-Singapore Art Museum Residencies- Takuya Watanabe
5. Dignity for Children Foundation-Cultural Day: Promote inclusivity among marginalized students



The Tokyoiter Exhibition

Opening and Sharing Session at temu house

Reported by Connie Khong (JFKL)

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) team reached out to The Tokyoiter to collaborate and organise The Tokyoiter Exhibition. This exhibition of imaginary magazine cover art collection, currently only available online, was held to share the interest and love for Tokyo (and overall, Japan) by allowing visitors to enjoy these submitted works in person and physical print.

The golden rule for The Tokyoiter is that it's somehow connected to Tokyo or inspired by Tokyo. They wanted it to be fun for the artists as an opportunity to try a new direction and experiment. And they want to avoid the clichés of Japan, so the submitting artists must have been or lived in Tokyo.

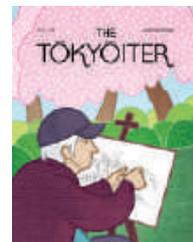
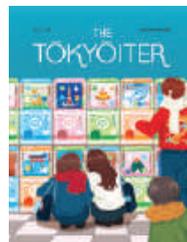
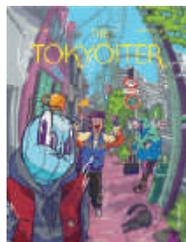
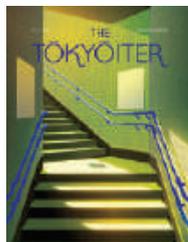
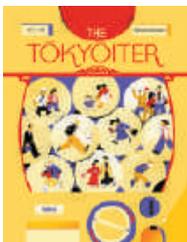
Together with The Tokyoiter, Valen Lim (our exhibition coordinator and graphic designer for the exhibition) and temu house, 25 covers have been selected from their ongoing collection to be displayed here to celebrate Tokyo – the city, its people, and the experience of being in Tokyo. As an extension to The Tokyoiter Exhibition, JFKL ran an open call for Malaysian artists and illustrators to submit their tribute to Tokyo, and 5 covers were selected to be exhibited together.

The exhibition had its simple opening at temu house on Friday, 19 January. An estimated 50-60 people came for the opening, including the guests, media, the selected artists, and their friends and family. David Robert, the co-founder of The Tokyoiter, was also in town to attend the opening and sharing session that same weekend. It also allowed the artists to catch up and get to know one another and David.

On 21 January Sunday, we also collaborated with temu house to co-organise a sharing session with The Tokyoiter Exhibition judges; “A Conversation with Andrew Joyce and David Robert of The Tokyoiter, CC Kua and Kenta Chai”. They shared their experience and thoughts during the judging process and what they found interesting or stood out to them. Addressing the matter of the cliché of Japan, CC reminded us that it's not so much that one cannot include iconic elements or symbols such as the Tokyo Tower in their work. But it's about encouraging people to approach things from different perspectives or angles.

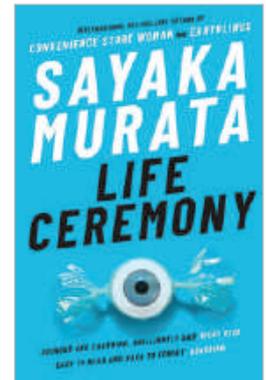
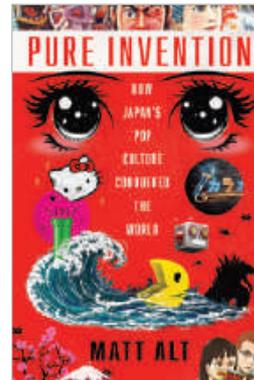
David also talked about how he found himself in Tokyo, eventually met Andrew Joyce (his other co-founder), and how The Tokyoiter came to be. From initially just wanting to reach out and connect with other illustrators in the bustling city, it grew into this ongoing initiative. With over 100 covers and counting, The Tokyoiter continues to draw interest and shared love for illustration and Tokyo worldwide today.

At the close of the session, Kenta and the moderator from temu house, Sharmin, briefly discussed the possibility of initiating a localised version, The Kuala Lumpurian. We hope all the diverse covers, both from Malaysia and the international community, showcase the wonderful talents of these artists and bring you the warmth of their passion for Tokyo.





LIBRARY



EJU 日本留学試験 読解 ポイント & プラクティス

By ARC Academy / Publisher: 3A Corporation 2023 / Library Call No.377.60791T

We would like to introduce the new EJU (The Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students) preparatory series, Points & Practice, to improve your skills for the EJU. This book focuses on reading comprehension practice and is composed of 12 sections, starting with content that is slightly easier than the actual exam to more difficult ones to help you build up your skills. In addition, the difficult kanji are accompanied with furigana to help your self-study. The JFKL Library has various collections related to EJU such as past examinations and preparatory books, so please come and check them out!

シャドーイング もっと話せる日本語:Let's Master Conversational Japanese!

By Kumiko Sakoda, Yumi Furumoto / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishers 2023 / Library Call No.811.1T

Here is the latest book from the popular shadowing series for Japanese language learners! Shadowing is one of the training methods primarily designed to enhance simultaneous interpretation skills. This book is suitable for beginner to intermediate level and helps you improve your spoken Japanese. You can learn natural conversational Japanese step by step from a short conversation to a long one while exploring interesting topics like "Greetings," "Hot Springs for Monkeys," and "Anime Characters". Try the 10-minute practice every day and you can look forward to the following Shadowing effect;

- 1.You can use what you understand by learning an actual conversation.
- 2.You can begin to understand Japanese spoken at a natural speed.
- 3.You can learn correct pronunciation, prosody, etc.

Pure Invention: How Japan's Pop Culture Conquered the World

By Matt Alt / Publisher: Penguin Random House 2020 / Library Call No.306.0952 ALT

Are you obsessed with Japanese anime or do you like collecting kawaii Japanese character goods? This book is worthwhile reading for anyone who is curious to know more about Japanese pop culture.... Artfully packaged, dangerously cute, dizzyingly fun, karaoke, Walkman, Nintendo Entertainment System, Pokémon, Hello Kitty and emojis are more than marketing hits and Japan has forged the world's fantasies by giving us new tools. The author's brilliant investigation reveals how these iconic Japanese inventions have globalized over the last half-century.

Life Ceremony

By Sayaka MURATA, Translated by Ginny Tapley Takemori/ Publisher: Granta 2023 / Library Call No.895.635 MUR

Sayaka MURATA is one of the most celebrated of the new generation of Japanese writers who has won many prizes since her debut. The Akutagawa prize winner, Convenience Store Woman (コンビニ人間), was her first book to be translated into English and has received international acclaim. The Japan Foundation has supported the English publications of her works, Convenience Store Woman, Earthlings (地球星人) and Life Ceremony (生命式) through its Support Program for Translation and Publication on Japan. All of the books were translated by Ginny Tapley Takemori who is well known as a translator of fiction written by more than a dozen early modern and contemporary Japanese authors. Life Ceremony is a collection of short stories, a wild ride to the outer edges of one of the most original minds in contemporary fiction. An engaged couple falls out over the husband's dislike of clothes and objects made from human materials; a young girl finds herself deeply enamored with the curtain in her childhood bedroom...Please enjoy exploring this unforgettable entertainment!

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.



2023/2024 Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES)

Reported by Sakinah Noor Badaruddin (JFKL)

The Speaker and Theme

Specialising in pronunciation education, second language acquisition, and Japanese learning advisory support, Associate Professor KINOSHITA Naoko from the Center of Japanese Language, Waseda University, delivered a lecture titled, "Japanese Pronunciation Learning Support for Your Students: Let's Think About What You Should Do, What You Want to Do and What You Can Do."

Assoc. Prof. KINOSHITA is one of the creators of the "Tsutaeru Hatsuo" website, which provides online learning materials to support the study of Japanese pronunciation.

"Tsutaeru Hatsuo" 『つたえるはつおん』

<https://www.japanese-pronunciation.com/>

The Seminar and its Participants

Normally organized in March, this annual seminar was held on 27 January 2024 this year and 51 participants attended this online event via Zoom. They were not only from Malaysia but also from Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, and Japan.

The speaker presented the topic of inflections and how teachers can improve their students' pronunciation by emphasizing the importance of self-learning. The participants were asked to reflect on how they could use the website to teach pronunciation. They first took a quiz on pronunciation which covered topics such as rhythm, pitch accent, and intonation. They then identified areas for improvement and used the website's videos to learn those specific parts.

The second half of the seminar focused on brainstorming and discussion among participants who were split into smaller groups. Amongst others, they discussed approaches to support their students' pronunciation learning process. In the questionnaire filled out by them prior to this seminar, some responded that teaching pronunciation was a challenge, and the discussions generated many ideas on how this could be overcome using the website's videos.

Feedbacks from Participants

Non-native Teachers:

"I learnt a lot today because teaching pronunciation has been a challenge for me. Especially how to support the student. Thank you for introducing such a useful web resource."

"Many resources were introduced, and I was glad to exchange ideas and opinions with teachers from other institutions."

Native Teachers:

"I got to know in detail about the teaching materials and how to guide students. I want to implement this in my class."

"There was a lot of very interesting content that I had no knowledge about in the "Tsutaeru Hatsuo". I will watch all the videos later. During the group work, I also gained new insight by talking with the Malaysian teachers."

Our deepest appreciation goes to the distinguished speaker and all participants for making this seminar a success. We hope to see you again at the next Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar with another interesting theme to explore.

2023/2024 MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION SEMINAR (MJLES)

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2023/2024 MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION SEMINAR (MJLES)

Japanese pronunciation learning support for your students

Let's think about what you should do, what you want to do and what you can do.



27 January 2024 (Sat) 09:00-12:00

*Malaysia time



Speaker
Associate Professor KINOSHITA Naoko
Center of Japanese Language, Waseda University

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2023/2024 MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION SEMINAR (MJLES)

Japanese culture is considered to be a high-context culture, in which feelings are expressed through vocal inflections rather than words. If a Japanese language learner has not been taught about these inflections they will simply use the knowledge which underlies the use of their own language and, as a result, may face difficulties in conveying their intended meaning when communicating, such as showing courtesy or gratitude. So, what advice would you give to your Japanese language learners who are experiencing these kinds of limitations with their pronunciation?



In this workshop, we will explore the content of the web-based teaching material "Tsutaeru Hatsuo" (www.japanese-pronunciation.com) and reconsider what we can do to help our students in terms of supporting their Japanese pronunciation learning.

Support for Secondary School Teachers: Textbook Study Group & Japanese Language Brush-up Class

Reported by HIRATA Yuna and Sakinah Noor Badaruddin (JFKL)

As another initiative to support local teachers who are currently teaching Japanese language in public secondary schools, JFKL has conducted two series of online sessions:

【Textbook Study Group】

Aiming to deepen the understanding of the Japanese language textbooks published by the Ministry of Education Malaysia as well as to discuss suitable teaching methods and class activities for respective chapters of the textbook, eight sessions were conducted between 8 June 2023 until 24 January 2024 with a total participation of 28 teachers. We focused on sorting the sentence patterns, then exchanged opinions on common activities, students' behaviour and other related aspects.

【 Japanese Language Brush-Up Class 】

Two courses comprising of five classes each were offered between 19 June until 9 December 2023 which were joined by 12 teachers in total. Aiming at maintaining and improving their Japanese language proficiency, these classes covered revision on vocabulary, suitable language expressions based on different context and encouraging conversation to polish their language mastery and help them in their teaching practices.

Participants shared the following feedback:

- I am delighted I could participate. I am excited to implement the tips when teaching in the upcoming school term. (Textbook Study Group)
- The explanations are easy to understand. It is easy to study in small groups. (Japanese Language Brush-Up Class)

Although they are teaching at different schools, such online sessions may serve as a platform for them to exchange ideas and share related information regularly. Additionally, we hope that the opportunity for them to practice the language during the sessions will contribute to the enrichment of their Japanese language proficiency.



JAPANESE LANGUAGE BRUSH-UP CLASS PART 1

Objectives for Japanese language teachers of secondary schools under MDE:

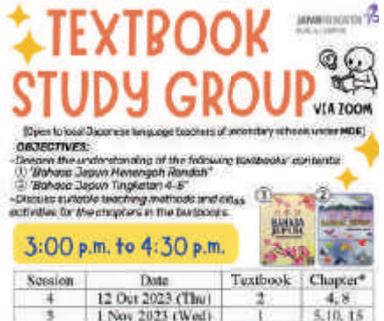
- 1) Write notes, not walls.
- 2) Talk about similar topics in Japanese.
- 3) Brainstorm questions and answers by using "What-again, Japanese Language and Culture Elementary 2 (J2)" of related topics.

8:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. Monday via ZOOM

Session	Date	Topic
1	25 June 2023	はじめの挨拶
2	2 July 2023	日本の文化
3	9 July 2023	日本の歴史
4	16 July 2023	日本の地理
5	23 July 2023	日本の経済

※ Please join the session with a camera on.

Hosts: HIRATA Yuna, Sakinah Noor Badaruddin



TEXTBOOK STUDY GROUP VIA ZOOM

Open to local Japanese language teachers of secondary schools under MDE

OBJECTIVES:

- Deepen the understanding of the following textbooks' contents:
 - 1) "Japanese Language Elementary 4-5"
 - 2) "Japanese Language Elementary 4-5"
- Discuss suitable teaching methods and class activities for the chapters in the textbooks.

3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Session	Date	Textbook	Chapter*
4	12 Oct 2023 (Thu)	2	4, 5
5	1 Nov 2023 (Wed)	1	5, 10, 15

Textbook Study Group 2 (2023.7.6)



JFKL Tadoku Salon on 9 December 2023

Reported by Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

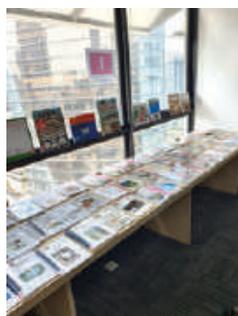
The JFKL Tadoku Salon was held on 9 December 2023 (Sat) at the JFKL Library. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the 45 participants who joined us. Also, a big "arigato" goes to those who helped us spread the news about this event to their students and friends. The JFKL Tadoku Salon consists of a book reading session and a book-talk sharing session whereby the participants not only get the chance to read a vast variety of Japanese books during the former, but also make new friends in the latter session. We hope that through this event more and more Malaysian Japanese learners from different backgrounds such as secondary school and university students and working adults could get to know each other and gain mutual encouragement in their common journey to improve their Japanese language proficiency.

Since the more the merrier, we hope more Japanese language learners will come to know about this fun and fruitful event. Last but not least, Tadoku Salon will be back in 2024 so please stay tuned for further announcements on our Facebook and Instagram!

** Tadoku (meaning "extensive reading" in Japanese) is a reading activity whereby one chooses a book from the vast selection of graded reading materials to discover the joy of reading in Japanese. "Tadoku Salon" is a regular JFKL event for Japanese language learners. The Tadoku book collections are also available at JFKL library. Feel free to drop by and read them if you have the time! To know more about Tadoku, please visit: <https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/resources-collaboration/tadoku/>



The participants



The books



The book-talk session



Nur Diyana Abdul Rahman
Program Officer,
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

It is truly enthralling to witness the development of Japanese language education in Malaysia over these past few years, especially in passing through the global crisis when the 'Big C' struck us in 2019.

Did you know that by 2021, there were about 215 institutions/organisations offering Japanese language education in Malaysia with 484 educators and 38,129 learners*? That is only about 135 learners for every 100,000 Malaysians but the largest segment is secondary school students! Currently, there are about 140 public secondary schools offering Japanese language.

*(Survey Report on Japanese-language Education Abroad 2021 by the Japan Foundation)

At the KL office, the Japan Foundation has been providing support to not only teachers and their institutions, but also learners through numerous initiatives. On top of our Japanese language courses for those above 16 years old, we have organised our annual speech contest for secondary school students which will be in its 21st edition this year and the Nihongo Partners Programme will welcome its 10th batch. We have also provided a platform for Japanese language speakers of diverse levels, ages, and backgrounds to enjoy casually converse in Japanese through our Online Japanese Salon series. All these initiatives are carefully planned and executed with the assistance and support of many associates including you!

Is there still a future for Japanese language education in Malaysia going forward?

As a Malaysian who believes in the importance of education, and treasure different cultures and languages, I look forward to contributing in the journey to discover the answer!

EVENT LISTING

MAR 2	The 21st Online Japanese Salon Theme: My Boom
MAR 12-27	Post arrival orientation for 10th batch of Nihongo Partners
MAR 13-14	Special Workshop for New Teachers (Secondary School) Venue: Kuala Lumpur
MAR 17	Japanese Language Education Workshop for Teachers of East Coast Region Venue: Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT)
MAR 24	JFKL Talk Series Episode 6: Mr. Yosuke Uchiyama (Japanese Ridesharing Solves Social Problems? Lessons for Malaysia) Venue: JFKL Office @ 3:00pm. Register via the link on our social media soon!
APR 30 - JULY 31	The Japan Foundation Travelling Exhibition "NINGYŌ : Art and Beauty of Japanese Dolls" Venue: Muzium Negara. Stay tuned on our social media to learn more!

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

28 March - Nuzul Al-Quran
10 - 11 April - Hari Raya Puasa
1 May - Labour Day

JFKL Library Holiday

28 March - Nuzul Al-Quran
9 - 13 April - Hari Raya Puasa
1 May - Labour Day



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

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