

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **141**
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Our Teman Baru is shifting to a quarterly newsletter from Issue 140 onwards mainly featuring project reports. Subscribe to our e-newsletter and follow our social media to find out more about our upcoming events!



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Cultural Diplomacy Talk: Malaysia-Japan-Exploring Cultural Diplomacy and Diversity

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) was graciously invited by the National Department for Cultural Centre and Arts (JKKN) to participate in their Cultural Diplomacy Talk which took place on the 20th of May. This talk was an academic program in which discussion and sharing of knowledge on culture took place in a holistic manner encompassing policy, constitution, education, and economy, from the perspectives of high-profile panelists.

Our director, Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa served as one of the three speakers and talked on the Overview of the Japan Foundation's Activities in Malaysia. His presentation included an introduction to the WA Project 2.0, a comprehensive people-to-people exchange initiative that aims to promote exchange among the next generation and develop human resources in Japan and ASEAN. He also highlighted the ongoing and upcoming programmes that are managed by the Kuala Lumpur office, including the numerous grant programmes for researchers and organizations, Japanese Film Festival, and much more. The Q&A session was vibrant with a series of questions from students and lecturers alike, including one from Associate Professor "Kumar-sensei" who pondered on the equal measure to promote both Japanese and Malaysian culture alike.

In addition, JFKL also participated in the booth display alongside other exhibitors, promoting Japanese culture. Our booth showcased the famous 'Kendama' which was a hit even amongst the VIPs who gave it a go during their booth visit. Other items displayed included a Mount Fuji backdrop prepared by JNTO, cosplay apparel, and flyers of upcoming events.

The event concluded successfully around 5:30pm. We would like to thank JKKN for their kind invitation and look forward to future collaborations.



OJEIC Opening: Commemorative Seminar on Study in Japan

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

In conjunction with the opening ceremony of the Okayama University Japan Educational Information Center (OJEIC), a commemorative seminar was held at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). Following the successful collaboration with JFKL last year, OJEIC invited JFKL to be one of the speakers for the morning session.

JFKL was represented by the Cultural Affairs Department (CAD); Ms. FURUBAYASHI Rina, Head of Cultural Affairs Department and Ms. Farah Ammar, Programme Officer, who took the stage alongside a list of speakers comprising of lecturers from six member universities as well as other industry players to present their organisations and activities.

Ms. Furubayashi started by introducing JFKL and the upcoming programmes that would benefit the academicians and university students in the audience. Next, Ms. Farah introduced the 2nd Japanese Studies Essay Contest & Mentorship Programme 2025 and its call for abstract submissions. The audience was invited to visit the JFKL booth for further details of the programmes.

The opening ceremony in the afternoon was attended by JFKL Director Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa who witnessed the momentous occasion. Congratulations to OJEIC on their opening and we wish them well in their future endeavors.



MJIIT Open Day

Reported by Anelise (JFKL)

JFKL was delighted to take part in the recent Malaysia Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIIT) Open Day at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), where a cultural booth was set up in collaboration with Origami Academy Malaysia.

The star of the day was Kenneth-san, who led hands-on origami workshops that quickly drew a crowd. Students and teachers from various backgrounds, both within and outside MJIIT, gathered to try different origami patterns and learn the art as well as the science behind origami. Around 200 students visited our booth during the event, making it one of our most interactive outreach moments of 2025. Despite the sweltering heat, the lively energy and curiosity of the students kept the atmosphere warm and cheerful.

For many, it wasn't just about learning origami, it was a doorway into Japanese culture. We had meaningful conversations with curious students about the JFKL Library, Japanese language, and future cultural events.

We're grateful to MJIIT for the opportunity, and to every student who stopped by with a smile! JFKL looks forward to more moments like these that spark connection and creativity through culture.



JFKL Small Grant Programme (Category A) Recipient- Two Mountains Photo Project 4.0 Exhibition

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

The first recipient of the JFKL Small Grant Programme (Category A) this year was 'Exposure Plus Photography' with its exciting project titled, 'Two Mountains Photo Project 4.0', a one-month long exhibition showcasing specially selected photographs captured by a line-up of talented photographers from Japan and Malaysia highlighting two famous mountains of the world: Mount Fuji in Japan and Malaysia's own Mount Kinabalu.

Held at the Sabah Art Gallery from 12th of April, the exhibition's main mission was to share, exchange and enlighten visitors on the cultures of Malaysia and Japan via its mountains and stories inspired by Mount Fuji and Mount Kinabalu. The chosen photographers were OKUYAMA Atsushi, MORITA Yuki and KUMON Kentaro from Japan, and the multitalented Nadirah Zakaria, Stacy Liu and Flanegan Bainon from Malaysia, the latter being based in Kota Kinabalu.

JFKL Director, Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa was delighted to pay a visit to the art gallery and was greeted by Mr. Flanegan Bainon with a tour of the exhibition from the story-telling perspectives of each photographer. Mr. Tsukamoto mentioned that he was impressed at the captivating sights of the mountains and its diverse surroundings, from the river which flows at the foot of the mountain to the view of the sky above.

Congratulations on the successful exhibition, and we look forward to supporting more projects that promote the exchange of arts and culture between Malaysia and Japan.



Festival of Languages & Cultures 2025 @ UTM

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)

Both the Japanese Language Department and the Cultural Affairs Department of JFKL joined the Festival of Languages & Cultures 2025 at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Johor Bahru on 14 & 15 May.

The festival was held in conjunction with the 15th anniversary of the Language Academy, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UTM. The Opening Ceremony was graced by YAM Che' Puan Mahkota Khaleeda binti Bustamam, Pro-Chancellor of the university. During the 2-day festival, various events such as language lessons, dance performances or other workshops were conducted in many different languages.

Japanese language education at UTM has been led by the very enthusiastic Kumar-sensei, or Associate Professor Kumaraguru Ramayah, who was awarded the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Golden Rays with Rosette, by the Japanese government for his efforts in promoting Japanese language education in Malaysia last year. UTM is also the venue for the Japanese Proficiency Test (JLPT) in Johor.

JFKL was given 2 different workshop slots in the afternoon of 15 May. Separated into 3 sessions, the Nihongo workshop was conducted by Ms. Lew, our Japanese Language lecturer. The participants learned how to introduce themselves in Japanese, to use adjectives such as “kirei” “oishii” and “atsui,” and gained some knowledge through the Nihongo Quiz. Mr. Nobli, Mr. Shankar and Ms. Kugai from the Cultural Affairs Dept. conducted an Origami Workshop to make a jumping frog followed by a jumping competition and a Kendama Workshop. Minato (JF's free online course) registration desk was manned by our chief lecturer Ms. Mitsuya during the 2 slots and had many visitors too.

All of the students seemed to have a lot of fun, so much so that one of them totally forgot about his backpack and got on the bus to go back to school...



JFKL Engages Visitors at UKM Matsuri 2025

Reported by Zahidi bin Mohd Bakeri and Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

JFKL had the pleasure of participating in UKM Matsuri 2025 held at the Centre for Research in Language and Linguistics (PKBL), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) organised by the UKM Japanese Language & Culture Association (MINORU) on 17 – 18 May 2025.

Our director Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa was given the honour of presenting the opening speech this year. On 17 May JFKL set up a booth where visitors could register for our free e-learning platform (e-MINATO). They were also able to enjoy traditional games such as Kendama and Karuta, as well as taking part in a Japanese language quiz. We had the opportunity to interact with many enthusiastic students and visitors interested in Japanese language and culture.

We were also honoured to be invited as a panelist for the Malaysia-Japan Education Forum, together with Mr. Hakimi from Cakap Jepun. In addition, JFKL proudly supported the event by loaning cultural items such as Japanese high school uniforms, traditional toys like Kendama and Koma, replicas of traditional Japanese foods, and more. We're excited to bring authentic Japanese cultural items that helped make the experience truly come alive!

We truly appreciated the warm welcome and active participation from everyone. It was a joy to be part of such a vibrant cultural event, especially with the younger generations. We look forward to supporting and joining future programmes like UKM Matsuri.



The 2nd Japanese Studies Essay Contest and Mentorship Programme 2025-Past Winners

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

Following the success of the first Japanese Studies Essay Contest and Mentorship Programme in 2024, the second edition of this contest has already begun with a call for abstracts from eligible students in the undergraduate and postgraduate categories (Submission closed as of 8 June).

To reminisce on the first batch of mentees who worked tirelessly with their mentors to complete their essays, JFKL spent some time checking in with last year's winners to find out what they've been up to this year.

Our first-place winner, Ms. Aina Darwisyah has now graduated from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and is currently seeking employment that best suits her field as a translation major. Recalling her challenges during her mentorship programme, Aina shared that she was in Japan for the Japanese-Language Program for Counterpart Japanese Learners (University Students) Fall Program during the last stage of completing her essay. Despite the limited time, she was grateful that her mentor, Dr. Rokiah Pae trusted her to work independently and then reviewed her essay once it was done to ensure she was on the right track. She advises anyone who is interested to "Just do it!"

Our second-place winner, Mr. Ahmad Mahmood from Universiti Malaya (UM) was busy wrapping up his final year dissertation for submission titled, "Malaysian Tokusatsu Fans' Continued Consumption of Japanese Tokusatsu Without Official Distribution", which was also his topic for the essay contest. He recommended those who are interested in participating this year to choose a topic that truly resonated with them. In addition, he stated that the knowledge they had learned throughout their studies or personal interests would be of great use in terms of idea generation, motivation, and even in mapping out the essay they wish to write.

Last but not least, our third-place winner, Siti Alia Munirah from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) was happy to correspond with us despite being hands on as an assurance intern at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Referencing her LinkedIn post, she had joined the contest without any expectations, so being shortlisted was a pleasant surprise. She recalled that her mentor, Dr. Mohd Iqbal Mohd Huda from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) guided her throughout the process for a meaningful experience overall. She encouraged others to participate to gain valuable experience but also to expand networks as a young student. In addition, she shared "Beyond all the theory, just submit your abstract! If you're interested or even slightly curious, go for it. What are you waiting for? Opportunities like this don't come twice, so don't overthink it. You never know how far it could take you until you try."

JFKL wishes all of our past mentees well in their future endeavors and have high hopes that they will help cultivate the next generation of scholars in the field of Japanese Studies.

For this year, JFKL is co-organizing this event with the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS) as well as the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).



FIRST PLACE
Winner 2024

AINA DARWISYAH BINTI KHAIRULANUWAR
Bachelor of Arts(Hons.) Translation with Interpretation,
Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

Mentor
DR. ROKIAH PAEE
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas)

What have you been up to since winning the contest in 2024?
AINA I'm currently job hunting! I just completed my degree earlier this year. I'll be attending the Seminar Kebangsaan Jurubahasa Isyarat NASLI 2.0 as a Malay-English interpreter this May.

What has been your experience entering this contest?
AINA The program requires a lot of time and focus. To be frank, it's an eye-opening program. I was taught how things are typically done at higher levels, and more importantly, how to

Do you have any advice to the interested students?
AINA Just do it! Submit your abstract and let the process unfold. Don't dwell on "what ifs." You'll never know what the future holds, and every journey begins with a first step.

Do them myself. It's not easy, but the mentors are always there to support you.



SECOND PLACE
Winner 2024

AHMAD MAHMOOD BIN AZMAN
Bachelor of East Asian Studies,
Universiti Malaya (UM)

Mentor
ASSOC. PROF. DR. ROSLINA MAMAT
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

What have you been up to since winning the contest in 2024?
AHMAD I am presently finishing up my Third Year of my Degree, making the finishing touches on my final year dissertation.

What has been your experience entering this contest?
AHMAD The contest and the mentorship programme as a whole really introduced me to the world of Japan Studies academia, allowing me to get acquainted with many interesting academics on this field of study. My mentor, Prof. Dr. Roslina, gave me very good

Do you have any advice to the interested students?
AHMAD I would recommend those interested to participate by writing your abstract on a particular topic that truly resonates with you. Implementing the knowledge that you have learned throughout your studies or personal interest may greatly assist you in terms of idea generation, motivation and even in planning out the essay you wish to write.

advice on making my writing more objective and less emotional, and I still benefit from such advice in my academic writing.



THIRD PLACE
Winner 2024

SITI ALIA MUNIRAH BINTI MOHD ISMAIL
Bachelor of Economics with Honours,
Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

Mentor
DR. MOHD IKBAL BIN MOHD HUDA
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)

What have you been up to since winning the contest in 2024?
siti I am currently undergoing my internship as an assurance intern at PwC.

What has been your experience entering this contest?
siti I feel very happy and grateful for this amazing opportunity. The mentorship programme provided us with mentors who guided us throughout the process. Not only can you gain valuable experience, but you can also expand your network.

Do you have any advice to the interested students?
siti My biggest advice is to choose your topic wisely. Pick something you're genuinely interested in, but also make sure it's relevant and researchable. Doing a bit of research will help you submit a stronger abstract. Then, if you're shortlisted and need to write the final essay, I highly recommend including data, tables, or figures — especially from Japan statistics or other credible sources.



LIBRARY



JLPT ポイント＆プラクティス N5 文法

By Sendagaya Japanese Institute / Publisher: 3 A Corporation 2025/ Library Call No.810.7925

How is your JLPT preparation going for the July paper?

This is a perfect preparatory book for studying N5-level grammar from the popular JLPT Points & Practice series. It is a collection of questions to help you quickly acquire the minimum skills required to pass the JLPT exam.

There are 20 units of grammatical questions, each starting with a sample conversation that shows how to use the grammar to help with your understanding. After the question section there is a mock test in the same format as the real one to test yourself. Explanatory notes are also provided in the form of comments on incorrect answers in Japanese, English, and Chinese.

Free audio files are alsodownloadable from the official website.

JFKL library has a great collection for JLPT preparatory books, so please come and check them out for your preparation!

漢字たまご 新装版: 初中級

By Kazuko SHIMADA / Publisher: Bonjinsha 2024 / Library Call No.811.2T

Are you looking for something to help with your Kanji?

Here is a highly recommended KANJI practice book for you!

The new edition of the very popular Kanji Tamago series has been published for the pre-intermediate level. "Tamago" means egg in Japanese as you probably know. The premise of these books is that the egg signifies the growth of the learners.

This book helps kanji learners acquire the ability to use kanji in real situations, introducing important and usable kanji corresponding to 15 topics and contexts. There is also lots of advice for learners to guide them with selecting the method which suits them best.

This Kanji Tamago series is based on DEKIRU NIHONGO textbook, and it covers the kanji required for passing JLPT N5 and N4.

In addition, audio files are downloadable for free from Bonjinsha's official website and useful tips for teaching Kanji are provided as well for teachers. The latest editions for elementary and intermediate levels are also available in the library.

The City and Its Uncertain Walls

By Haruki MURAKAMI, Translated by Philip Gabriel / Publisher: Penguin Random House UK 2024 / Library Call No.895.635 MUR

The brand-new novel for Haruki-ist (Haruki Murakami's huge fans) is available in our library!

Murakami's long-awaited new novel, 「街とその不確かな壁」 has finally been released in Japan, 6 years after "Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage", and its English translation version was published.

The story starts with a nameless young couple: a boy and a girl, teenagers in love. One day, she disappears, and her absence haunts him for the rest of his life. In the afterword of the novel, Murakami mentions "Truth is not found in fixed stillness, but in ceaseless change/movement. Isn't this the quintessential core of what stories are all about?"

His iconic tropes, lost love, loneliness, missing women, and other realities along with his comforting leitmotifs, namely cats, jazz and classical music, and beloved books can still be found. You will enjoy exploring Murakami's astonishing parallel world.

The Magic of JAPAN: Secret Places and Life –Changing Experiences

By Héctor García / Publisher: Tuttle Publishing 2021 / Library Call No.915.2135 GAR

The bestselling author of GEEK IN JAPAN features his keen observations on a wide variety of cultural topics in Japan; behavioral traits, geography and history, the Japanese spirit, idiosyncrasies, and Japan's dark side. This collection of essays and beautiful photographs will appeal to Japanophiles, travelers and anyone who is interested in Japanese culture and its way of life.

Garcia has a unique ability to delve beneath the surface of Japanese culture to describe its quirky and deep spiritual underpinnings. The great stories with beautiful photos will give you a lot of enjoyment while reading.

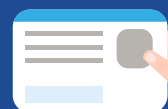
Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!

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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

For the latest information, please visit our website, Facebook and Instagram page.



Library - KODOMONO HI STAMP RALLY

Reported by Sakamoto Tomoko (JFKL)

Kodomo no Hi - Children's Day in Japan is celebrated annually on 5th May throughout Japan to honour children's growth, happiness, and well-being.

With the slogan "Let's Celebrate Kodomo no Hi Together!", JFKL Library organised a Kodomo no Hi Stamp Rally on 10 May for the first time as part of the cultural exchange between Malaysia and Japan.

On the day of the event, we had approximately 65 participants joyfully celebrating while exploring Japanese cultural activities. It was a lovely atmosphere filled with happy smiles of children in the library, everyone seemed to have enjoyed exploring cultural activities with their family and friends.

Stamp Rally is a popular activity in Japan where participants visit different stations to collect stamps on a card and win a reward. On the day, we prepared five stations where participants explored Japanese cultural activities - Origami, Kirie (paper cutting art), Furoshiki (wrapping clothes experience), traditional toys corner, and Washitsu (Japanese style room) session. The participants merrily went around each station to collect five Hiragana scripts spelling out おめでとう (Omedetou), which means "Congratulations" in English.

Thanks to our volunteer instructors at each station, many children looked very excited at discovering new experiences, folding Kabuto (Samurai armour helmet) with origami, making playable origami, such as jumping frog and Koma (Spinning Tops), playing with traditional toys like Kendama and Koma, learning some simple Japanese manners, and so on.

With cheerful voices the children interacted with the instructors, "I did it! I want to fold more Origami!" "How can I play Kendama?" "I want to challenge myself until I can spin well", and their positive attitude was impressive and inspiring.

Additionally, we provided a dress-up corner for a familiar Japanese festival costume, the Happi. The participants enjoyed trying it on for Instagrammable photos with our colorful displays of KOINOBORI (carp-shaped streamers) and the KABUTO (samurai helmet and armour) as well.

We would like to say thank you all so much for joining the Kodomo no Hi Stamp Rally and look forward to seeing you all again!

The JFKL library is your gateway to Japan, so please feel free to visit our library anytime if you would like to experience the spirit of Japan!



THE 22ND JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MALAYSIA (2025)

Reported by Fatim Azzahra Hamsa (JFKL)

Date : 19 April 2025 (Saturday)
 Time : 1:00 – 5:00 PM
 Venue : Wildrice Hall, St. Giles Boulevard Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
 Co-organisers : The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) & The Embassy of Japan in Malaysia

Officially launched mid-February, the Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary Schools in Malaysia, or JSC, targeted at Malaysian secondary school students between the ages of 15 and 18. The participation is open to:

- (a) those who are learning Japanese as a subject in their public secondary school; and
- (b) those who are learning Japanese in an institution other than secondary school.

By closing of submissions on 16 March 2025, JFKL had received a total of 127 speeches from 48 different schools, which was the highest ever in 22 years of implementation. This year, we featured 14 finalists competing on stage reflecting the theme, “山”, or mountain.

Some of our sponsors had the chance to offer their products at booths set up in the venue, where the guests, audience, and contestants could enjoy them. Thank you very much to all our sponsors, judges, and the Ministry of Education Malaysia.

As the grand prize, the top two winners will be flying to Osaka this July to represent Malaysia in an exchange programme with six other countries. Congratulations to all contestants!

TOP 6 OF JSC 2025			
NO	NAME	SCHOOL	SPEECH TITLE
1	LEE PEI QI	SEKOLAH MENENGAH KEBANGSAAN DATO SRI AMAR DIRAJA	山のぼり MOUNTAIN CLIMBING
2	MUHAMAD HARIS AHNAF BIN MUHAMAD ZAHARI	SEKOLAH DATO' ABDUL RAZAK	漢字の山をのぼる CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN OF KANJI
3	SERAPHINE MAXMILLAN SIM	KOLEJ TUN DATU TUANKU HAJI BUJANG	「山」は私の人生の道のり MOUNTAIN IS MY LIFE LESSON
4	AHMAD RAEIYD YUSUF BIN ROSDAN	SEKOLAH SULTAN ALAM SHAH	塵も積もれば山となる EVEN DUST, WHEN PILED UP, CAN BECOME A MOUNTAIN
5	HANA HUMAIRA BINTI MOHD NAIMUDDIN	SEKOLAH MENENGAH KEBANGSAAN TUNKU PUTRA	山はとおく見える FAREWAY MOUNTAIN
6	YAW JIA XIN	SEKOLAH MENENGAH JENIS KEBANGSAAN KATHOLIK PETALING JAYA	自然が教えてくれたこと WHAT NATURE HAS TAUGHT ME



JUDGES & INTERVIEWER

JUDGES

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 Second Secretary
 Embassy of Japan in Malaysia

室長 室 務 様
 Mr. YASUMITSU Shinosaku
 Vice President / Country Manager
 Kuala Lumpur, Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. (JAL)

通訳 長 務 様
 Mr. ASAI Hiroaki
 Volunteer Coordinator
 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malaysia Office

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 Ms. NITSUNA Mayumi
 (First Secretary)
 The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

INTERVIEWER

中野 祐典 様
 Ms. HIRATA Yuna
 Lecturer
 The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

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Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES)

Reported by Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

The Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES) took place online via Zoom on 8 March 2025 (Sat), from 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m., bringing together 89 participants from across Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

This year's theme was "When to use that certain expression?: Capturing the grammatical points that lead to learners' practical language usage" (Japanese: その表現はいつ使う?- 運用力につながる文法の捉え方 -). The speaker was Dr. OTA Yoko (太田陽子先生), a professor at Hitotsubashi University in Japan and a leading expert in Japanese language education. She holds a PhD in Japanese Language Education from Waseda University and has a rich experience teaching Japanese language at various universities. Her expertise in grammar instruction and teacher training brought a wealth of insight to the session.

The seminar focused on how grammar can help learners use Japanese in real-life situations. Dr. Ota explained that while modern language instruction often centres on "Can-do" goals, grammar still plays an important role. She encouraged teachers to look beyond traditional grammar instruction and connect it more closely with practical communication. One example highlighted in the seminar was the grammar of receiving expressions: -te kureru and -te morau (both of which mean "to receive" in Japanese but are used for different perspectives). Using examples from authentic language data, Dr. Ota demonstrated why teaching these expressions in isolation is insufficient, and how a deeper understanding of grammar contextually can help learners use Japanese more naturally. Participants found the seminar clear, practical, and inspirational.

In summary, the seminar provided a valuable platform for Japanese language educators across the region to engage with new ideas, connect theory with practice, and rethink how grammar can be taught in the classroom. This annual seminar will return with a new theme in March 2026. See you again!



The seminar and the speaker



The participants

Online Study Group for Japanese Language Teachers in Secondary School

Reported by HIRATA Yuna & Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

This programme was designed for secondary school Japanese language teachers in Malaysia and aims to explore teaching methods, materials, and classroom activities that enhance students' communication skills in Japanese and their intercultural understanding. It also aims to create a space for teachers to share their practices and exchange ideas on specific themes.

The 1st Session on 24 April 2025 (Thu) @ 15:00-16:30

Theme: Let's take a look at the workbook for Form 4 & 5

We looked at the workbook created by JFKL and thought together about usage situations for sentence patterns, ways to adapt practice activities, how to check answers, and key points to keep in mind.

The 2nd Session on 20 May 2025 (Tue) @ 15:00-16:30

Theme: <Lesson 3, 8 & 13> Important teaching points and class activities

We looked at Lessons 3, 8, and 13 of the Japanese language textbook, "Bahasa Jepun Menengah Rendah (Tingkatan 1-3)", and considered key teaching points and classroom activities.



Through this programme, teachers who usually teach Japanese at different schools are able to come together regularly online to exchange information and ideas. The next online study meeting is scheduled for 24 June 2025 (Tue).



JFKL Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers 2025/2026

Reported by HIRATA Yuna and Lew Boon Lay (JFKL)

The first workshop took place on Saturday, 24 May 2025, with the theme:

“Teaching methods and classroom activities to support learners in developing self-directed Kanji learning strategies from the beginner level.”

We were also happy to host this session physically at JFKL!

The speaker, Ms. HIRATA Yuna, guided participants through ways teachers can help learners develop self-directed kanji learning strategies from the beginner level. The workshop began with a review of basic kanji knowledge. Participants then experienced classroom activities focused on four key aspects of kanji learning: shape, reading, meaning, and usage. Through the workshop, everyone reflected on the purpose of each activity and how they could apply them in their own classrooms.

The workshop was attended by 20 participants. Below are some of the feedback we received:

“I learned some fun games for studying kanji. It was fun to try them, and I saw that learning kanji can be enjoyable.”

“I didn’t know there were different ways to look at kanji. I’m glad I learned about this. The teacher explained the method clearly and step by step in a fun way, which helped me understand better.”

“I learned about the ‘ごいマップ’ (vocabulary map). It was very fun and helped me connect many related kanji easily.”

“I got many good ideas. I’m happy to know there are activities that even beginners can do when learning kanji.”

For those who are interested in participating in our future workshops, please stay tuned for announcements through our social media, website, and e-newsletter.



Greetings



Hi everyone!

My name is Mayumi Mitsuya. I joined JFKL as the Chief Lecturer in April 2025 and am currently involved in professional development for Japanese language teachers in Malaysia.

As this is my first time in Malaysia, everything is fresh and stimulating to me.

I love museums, nature, music, and flamenco (watching, listening and dancing). And I'm a cat lover!

I'm so excited to work with the JFKL team and passionate teachers in Malaysia.

よろしくお願いします。

Hello everyone! My name is Zahidi but you can call me GD (no, not the Bigbang one). I recently joined JFKL as the new Program Coordinator in the Japanese Language Department team. It's been a fantastic experience so far, and I'm genuinely excited to be part of such a passionate and innovative group of people.

I have always liked learning new languages and I love watching other countries' tv series and movies on streaming services, and that's how I came to learn Japanese! And what drew me to Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur is of course the Japanese language, as well as what JFKL brings to Malaysia's community—a lot of Japanese cultural events and collaboration!

Truly looking forward to learn and contribute more with JFKL towards Malaysia's community. If you see me around, don't hesitate to say hi. I am always open for a cup of tea!



Hi everyone! I'm Hannah Hir, and I am excited to introduce myself as the new Public Relations Officer at The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL).

Having recently graduated from Universiti Malaya, stepping into this role at JFKL as my first full-time position is nothing short of an honour.

My journey with Japanese culture was sparked in 2024 during a formative experience in Sendai, where I had the opportunity to immerse myself in the beautiful culture and people, although way before that, I had already been interested in Anime, Manga, J-Drama, J-pop, all the way to the Japanese language.

I am someone who finds joy in life's little adventures, trying out new food, watching movies, discovering new music, or just plain people watching. And to be real: the one thing that motivates me to get up each morning is my cat, Chainsaw (yes, you read that right).

I look forward to growing and contributing meaningfully to the JFKL team as I seize each day to do my best! I'm especially excited about collaborating with different communities to strengthen the bond between Japan and Malaysia.

If you see me around, don't be shy to say hello! Yoroshiku onegaishimasu~!



Farewell



The time has come for me to bid farewell after having stayed in Malaysia for four years. I have mixed feelings about leaving Malaysia. I'm relieved to be able to complete my work in Malaysia, but I'm sad to leave you all. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for your invaluable support, kind cooperation and warm friendship extended to me during my stay in Malaysia.

It was a very meaningful and valuable opportunity for me to meet with Japanese language teachers in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, and to discuss how to teach Japanese and Japanese culture, how to make learners enjoy and how to evaluate our teaching etc. I'm very proud of what we've built together with the teachers I've met, and it was really fun working with every one of you. I hope that JFKL will continue to be of some assistance in helping teachers develop, select or adapt teaching methods which are appropriate in terms of goals.

And I was happy to meet many Japanese language learners who are interested in Japan and Japanese culture. I think it is wonderful that they are not only learning Japanese but are also enjoying using it to enrich their own lives.

Thank you once again for everything. I look forward to the opportunity of meeting all of you again. Jumpa lagi !

OSADA Kanako

EVENT LISTING

Ongoing	JFF THEATER Streaming Japanese Films for FREE at: https://www.jff.jp.go.jp/movie/
Until Jul 31	Yoshisuke Funasaka Solo Exhibition: Intipati Venue: Museum of Asian Art Universiti Malaya Date: 3 June – 31 July
Jul 12	Tadoku Salon Venue: JFKL Library
Jul 19 - Aug 3	Ipoh International Art Festival (IIAF) Venue: Perak Innovation and Creative Resource Centre (PINCER)
Starting in August	Training Camp for Secondary School Teachers Stay tuned for more updates on our SNS and JFKL website!
August 16	The Weekend Japanese Film Show Stay tuned for more updates on our SNS and JFKL website!
Aug 22 - Aug 24	ANIMANGAKI Venue: MINES International Exhibition and Convention Centre (MIECC)
Starting From Sept 9	JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL (JFF) 2025 Stay tuned for more updates on our SNS and JFKL website!
Sept 27	International Conference Japanese Language Education Malaysia Venue: Faculty of Major Language Studies Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM)

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 September – Merdeka Day Holiday
5 September – Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
16 September – Malaysia Day
20 October – Deepavali

JFKL Library Holiday

5 September – Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
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20 October – Deepavali



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

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