

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **142**
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KUALA LUMPUR

KAMENORI -JFKL J-RETRA 2025

Regional Training for Japanese-language
Secondary School Teachers 2025



JOHOR



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Comic Art Festival Kuala Lumpur 2025 – Special Guests

KURATA Yoshimi, NITOU Subaru & RYOSUKE Goto

Reported by Julien Chen Lip Syn (JFKL)

The 9th edition of CAFKL took place in Fahrenheit 88 from the 31st of May to 1st June. JFKL, in collaboration with NPO Asia MANGA Summit, brought in guest artists from Japan, KURATA Yoshimi and NITOU Subaru. Kurata-sensei is the artist of *Aji Ichimonme* (Original story by Zenta Abe), a popular Japanese culinary manga that began serialization since 1987 and is still ongoing today! While Nitou-sensei is the artist behind the *Obey Me! The Comic* and creator of *EVIL SCHEME*. They were also joined by RYOSUKE Goto, Deputy Editor-in-Chief for the Kansai Division of Mag Garden and Nitou-sensei's editor.

They held meet-and-greet sessions and portfolio reviews at the event where fans got to meet the artists and also get feedback on their works, both from an artist's and an editor's perspective.

Kurata-sensei held the *Storytelling in Comics* panel, where he shared his inspiration. He spoke about utilizing panel division and spatial awareness to craft his story. He also shared about using artificial intelligence in his process.

Meanwhile, Nitou-sensei and Mr. Ryosuke held a panel about the mutual relationship between a manga artist and an editor, from providing objective support to managing expectations, being consistent and reinterpreting established IPs. Nitou-sensei also had a live art demo during the session. Nitou-sensei even went around to exchange souvenirs with attendees at the event!

Another panel, titled *Comic Editors, a Japanese & Malaysian Perspective*, where editor Ryosuke and Fey, Chief Editor of the English Editorial at KADOKAWA GEMPAK STARZ discussed the differences in the working culture and process in their respective country. Both sides discussed the spread of webtoons, the strengthening of Malaysia's manga culture, local censorship, marketability of works and the need for professional support for creators. Both agreed on the importance of nurturing newcomers and cultivating local creative ecosystems. Each panel ended with a Q&A from the attendees.

Additionally, Kurata-sensei attended the entrance ceremony at Nippon Designers School Malaysia College, offering words of encouragement to new students, followed by a portfolio review session of works by over 20 students for one-on-one feedback. Specific advice was given for the students to further improve their craft.



AniManGaki 2025 – Special Guests from Orange and KOTOBUKIYA

Reported by Julien Chen Lip Syn (JFKL)

AniManGaki 2025 has come and gone. From the 22nd to 24th of August, JFKL brought several special guests from Orange, the animation studio known for creating popular CG animations such as *BEASTARS*, *TRIGUN STAMPEDE*, *LEVIATHAN* and many more. Representing the studio was producer WATANABE Yoshihiro, director MUTO Kenji, illustrator AMANO Yumihiko and mechanical designer KATAGAI Fumihiro. The team had a meet-and-greet session with fans of the *TRIGUN STAMPEDE* series, along with having the *Orange Presents: Designs of Trigon Stampede* and *Orange Presents: Masterworks of Kotobukiya, Featuring Trigon Stampede* panel at the AniManGaki Sidequest Stage. Fans got to see the inspirations and behind-the-scenes from the team that brought their favorite series to life. They were even treated to a live drawing of their favorite characters by Mr. Amano!

Sculptor HATTORI Tatsuya and sales team representative Zhansaya Baigazyeva, representing KOTOBUKIYA also shared about sculpting for characters from the series, the challenges and uniqueness of each character and how sculpting has evolved with 3D software. Ms. Zhansaya also took the opportunity to research the local market for character sculptures, hoping to expand to the region.

On the 25th, The team hosted a special sharing session for students at Nippon Designers School Malaysia College to talk about the industry, work roles and careers. The students had a chance to share their work via a portfolio review and get professional input from the team.

The team were also left impressed by the outspoken nature and advanced talents of the students, hoping that they will continue to contribute to the industry.

We hope that the team has drawn inspiration from Malaysian culture (and food!) for their next work and know that there are plenty of fans in this corner of the world!



Ipoh International Art Festival 2025 (IIAF 2025)

Reported by Kyoko Kugai (JFKL)

IPOH INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL 2025 (IIAF 2025) was held from 19 July to 3 August at PINCER, Ipoh. This annual festival organized by PORT (People of Remarkable Talents) is a celebration of mainly visual arts and music which PORT has been promoting strongly through various programs over the years. Among the invited guests from other parts of Malaysia and overseas, a Japanese contemporary artist Ms. YASUDA Yoh was also invited to showcase her works at the festival.

Before heading to Ipoh for the setting up of the exhibit, Ms. Yasuda visited some art-related institutions in Klang Valley such as Ilham Gallery, Rimbun Dahan, Cult Gallery, The Zhongshan Building and so on to gain knowledge on the art scenes here.

She also had a little bit of time to explore Ipoh and conduct a kite-making workshop before heading to PINCER, the venue of IIAF 2025. The workshop was held at Kapallorok Artspace located in Seri Iskandar. About 15 participants of this workshop of artistic kite were mostly art students from UiTM Seri Iskandar, and everyone seemed to have great time learning the technic of kite making as well as creating their own kite as artwork.

While it was unfortunate for Ms. Yasuda since she was unable to exhibit her huge kites in various shapes as she has done in Yogyakarta and Bali before, but we believe that it turned out to be the opportunity to get to know about Malaysia as well as to introduce her works to Malaysian institutions and individuals for future possibilities.



Traditional Japanese Baren-Making Workshop

Reported by Hannah Hir (JFKL)

In conjunction with the 3rd edition of the Asian Master Series, master printmaker FUNASAKA Yoshisuke had his solo exhibition in Malaysia, titled *Intipati*, organised by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL), Museum of Asian Art, Universiti Malaya (UM) in cooperation with Akaldiulu. In addition to the exhibition, a three-day traditional Japanese baren-making workshop was held for printmaking practitioners led by the artist himself.

"The combination of woodblock and silkscreen techniques with the elements of empty spaces in FUNASAKA's works perhaps show the philosophy where imperfection holds beauty and meaning," - noted Juhari Said, a former student of the prolific printmaker whose work is featured at many major museums, including the Smithsonian Institution.

This time at UM's Museum of Asian Art, over 90 of FUNASAKA's artworks were exhibited and has been cycled twice during the period of the exhibition. The exhibition continues cycling the 241 works FUNASAKA has generously donated to the museum.

Attended by Deputy Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs (UM), Professor Dr Zamri Radzi and Mr. KITAOKA Tatsuya, a representative of the Ambassador of Japan in Malaysia, the opening ceremony of the exhibition had successfully marked an important chapter in elevating contemporary Asian art.

The workshop offered participants the opportunity to learn the intricate craftsmanship of traditional Japanese baren making, focusing on patience and precision, where participants meticulously braided strips of bamboo skin into a rope of 14 meters as the first step in their baren making. The braided cords were then coiled onto a disc and veiled with a bamboo sheath. Only then were the barens used in hand over a paper-covered block to transfer inked images.

JFKL hopes to bring in many more opportunities such as these as means of strengthening international visual art collaborations and advancing the education of Asian printmaking in Malaysia.



Workshop on Cyberbullying in ASEAN-Japan for Global Day of Parents

Reported by Anelise (JFKL)

On 25 June 2025, Taylor's University Lakeside Campus, School of Law & Governance, together with The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL), co-hosted the second part of a three-part workshop series on cyberbullying. Held in conjunction with the Global Day of Parents, the session highlighted the shared responsibility of families and communities in creating a safer digital environment for children.

The workshop opened with remarks from JFKL Director, Mr. Tsukamoto, who stressed the urgency of digital safety for children in today's world. Dr. Aditya Yuli Sulistyawan of Diponegoro University, Indonesia, presented thought-provoking case studies and a comparative review of cyberbullying laws in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan. His talk was complemented by Dr. Mogana from Taylor's University, who shared valuable perspectives from Japan's academic and legal context.

The most heartwarming part of the event came during group discussions. Participants from MCMC officials to NGO workers, educators, and parents, shared their stories, concerns, and creative solutions drawn from their own experiences. Listening to diverse voices gave the discussions a personal and inspiring touch. Three groups were recognized for their insightful ideas on how parents can respond effectively to cyberbullying.

With the success of this session, the final part of the series is eagerly anticipated in November 2025! Stay tuned.



AAS in Asia Conference 2025- Kathmandu, Nepal

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

In conjunction with the AAS in Asia 2025 Conference held from the 1st-4th of June, five Malaysians comprised of three senior lectures and two PhD candidates were awarded The Japan Foundation Travel Support for Scholars:

1. Dr. Rohayati Paidi- Senior Lecturer, Department of East Asian Studies, Universiti Malaya and President of the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS)
2. Dr. Mohamad Ikhrum Mohamad Ridzuan, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sabah
3. Dr. Nur Hafeeza Ahmad Pazil, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia
4. Mr. Muhammad Muhsein Kamarudin, PhD candidate, East Asian Studies Universiti Malaya
5. Ms. Nur Farhana Abd Khalid, PhD candidate, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Research Fellow @ Ritsumeikan University

The Japan Foundation came onboard as one of the sponsors with a special event titled 'Win-Win-Win Collaborations to Grow – How the Joint Fellowship Programs Create New Opportunities to Researchers, Host Institutions, and the Funder'.

Over the course of four days, our representatives diligently attended numerous sessions that were related to their field and research, covering Japanese Studies, mobilization, gender narratives and more. Apart from the sessions itself, the delegates attended the JF Networking session at Raddison Hotel, forging connections with scholars from all over the world.

The next AAS Conference (2026) will take place on March 12 –March 15, 2026 at Vancouver, Canada.



Placemaking Study Trip to Indonesia

25 – 30 May 2025

Reported by Farah Ammar, Anelise (JFKL)

Building up on the well-received first run of the Placemaking Exchange programme in 2024, the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL), in collaboration with Placemaking Malaysia (PMM), the Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP), and Pollin8 joined hands once again with a shared mission to continue spreading awareness on the concept of ‘placemaking’ and its best practices to transform spaces into community driven places, uniting local communities from different regions.

As part of our second-year initiative, an elite delegation comprised of returning placemakers and local councils joined the co-organizer’s team to embark on a Placemaking Study Exchange Trip to Indonesia from the 25th to 30th of May 2025. The delegation included the co-founder of Taman Negara Kita as well and representatives from Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL), Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ), and Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai (MBSP) who have been active supporters of the Placemaking Exchange programme.

The five-day exchange began in Jakarta and travelled to Bandung with a series of essential placemaking activities such as site visits, workshops, symposium and networking with local students, community leaders and honourable local city councils, in courtesy of the kind arrangements made by Placemaking Indonesia led by Dr.Widiyani and her dedicated team; Mr. Angga, Ms. Aishah and a Master’s student from Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB).

The first leg of the journey took place in Jakarta, where participants were introduced to the residents of Kampung Susun Kunir, followed by an intimate visit to Met Glodok, and a walkathon around Kota Tua Jakarta. The residents organized an engaging ‘rujak’ making session to honour their community’s collective efforts since being evicted from Kampung Kunir to their now low-rise housing complex. Met Glodok’s founder, Ms. Metta Setiandi gave a powerful and emotional presentation on her mission to revive the Met in memory of her Chinese Indonesian heritage through cuisine, culture and community.

In Bandung, the site visit began with a walk at Karasa, Gempol Kulon where Mr. Andi reimagines forgotten back alleys into interactive vibrant places which significantly reduces crime rates. Then, the delegation visited The Hallway Space, an innovative creative market hub for local brands built inside a humble local market. Cicendo Microlibrary and Taman Film were also wonderful placemaking spaces that benefited the surrounding community.

The trip’s main case study was Teras Chihampelas, once a bustling elevated walkway where visitors shopped and admired panoramic views of Bandung. Designed to ease traffic and boost vibrancy, it has struggled since the pandemic, leaving only a few stalls in operation. To better understand the challenges, participants conducted site inspections guided by local authorities before splitting into groups to brainstorm revitalisation ideas using the “Place Game” method to develop creative, locally tailored solutions.

Following group discussions, the delegation presented their findings at a Mini Placemaking Symposium ITB with the attendance of Bandung’s Deputy Mayor who had a chance to engage with Malaysia’s local councils on revitalizing Teras Chihampelas by incorporating Placemaking practices.

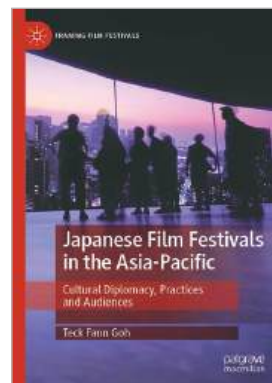
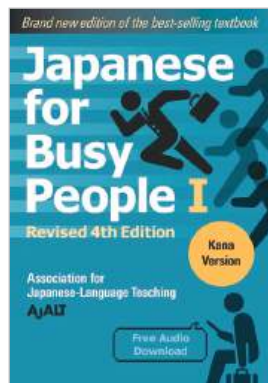
The study trip was not only informative but also light-hearted and engaging. It offered a rare opportunity for Malaysia, Indonesia, and Japan to learn from one another, exchange ideas, and strengthen bonds through shared experiences. Beyond the case studies, what stood out most were the human connections, stories told, friendships formed, and the shared vision of building inclusive, people-centred places.

And the journey does not stop here. This December, we will be holding our Placemaking Symposium at PJPAC. Do look forward to it!





LIBRARY



イメージでわかる!日本語の副詞 初級・中級: Understanding Japanese adverbs through Images!
By Baku Su Yong / Publisher: ASK 2024 / Library Call No.815.7T

Let's learn the usage of adverbs through images!

だんだん、ますます、いつも、あまり... You might find it difficult to memorize various adverbs, but you can make your Japanese more expressive and natural by just adding adverbs to your sentences. This is the perfect book to learn how to use adverbs which frequently appear in general textbooks for beginner and intermediate levels. By comparing similar adverbs with illustrations which help you grasp subtle nuances more clearly, you will be able to more easily understand their differences. Beside illustrations, you can also watch the video of each adverb by scanning the QR code for more effective learning. In addition, review questions are included at the end of each section to reinforce your understanding of adverbs.

Japanese for Busy People Volume I: Kana Version: Revised 4th Edition
By AJALT / Publisher: Kodansha International 2022 / Library Call No.810.783

The brand-new edition of the world best-selling textbook for Japanese language learners has launched! Since it was first published in 1984, the focus of the Japanese for Busy People series has always been to teach Japanese for effective communication. The revised 4th edition volume 1 includes 24 lessons, which are broken into 10 units. Each unit features a specific theme including business scenes. You can acquire basic grammar, useful daily expressions and practical conversation skills with step-by-step on target dialogues. Also, each unit is presented with culture notes to deepen your understanding of Japanese culture. For more effective learning, using the workbook is highly recommended. Free audio files are downloadable from the Kodansha USA website. All textbooks of the new series from volume I to III and each workbook are also available in the library.

Japanese Film Festivals in the Asia-Pacific: Cultural Diplomacy, Practices and Audiences
By Teck Fann Goh / Publisher: Palgrave Macmillan 2024 / Library Call No.791.430952 TEC

One of our most popular annual events, Japanese Film Festival (JFF) throughout Malaysia, which celebrated its 20th anniversary with Malaysian audience last year, features acclaimed films every year. Dr. Teck Fann Goh who is a lecturer in Arts and Cultural Management at the University of Melbourne provides a new perspective for understanding film festivals as sites of cultural diplomacy with the first full-length study of long-running Japanese film festivals in the Asia-Pacific region from the late 1970s until 2020. Through case examples in Australia, Malaysia and Thailand, the book explores how the formation and recent developments of JFFs in the region reflect wider changes in the function of Japanese cultural diplomacy through films, particularly with the intensification of economic, cultural and diplomatic opportunities presented in this geopolitical space.

Vanishing World
By Sayaka MURATA, Translated by Ginny Tapley Takemoto / Publisher: Granta Publications 2025 / Library Call No.895.636 MUR

Who else loves Sayaka Murata's novels?

The new English translation of her novel "Vanishing World" (消滅世界) is available in our library!

From her breakout hit Convenience Store Woman to Earthlings and Life Ceremony, Sayaka captivates readers worldwide with bold, thought-provoking stories. Her writing explores the different consequences of nonconformity in society for men and women, particularly regarding gender roles, parenthood. The story is about a world where children are solely conceived by artificial insemination. Amane's family is irregular. Her parents copulated to create her and hope that she too will find love and have a child with the person she marries. But Amane falls in line with society's way of thinking and wants a regular 'clean' marriage. Then she hears of a place that is the subject of a social experiment. Everyone in Paradise-Eden will act as one big family.

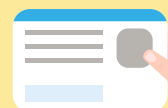
Is this a world that could be our near future? Please enjoy diving into her bizarre world of creepiness and madness!

BOOK WEEK PROMOTIONS!! 25 October - 8 November 2025

**** Join a JFKL Membership and check out your favorite books from the library! ****

FREE annual fee for NEW MEMBERSHIP registrations at the library counter. (Save RM10)

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Tadoku Salon on 12 July 2025

Reported by Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

On 12 July 2025 (Sat), from 10:00a.m. to 12:30p.m., 44 participants, including native Japanese speakers and Japanese language learners, gathered at the JFKL Library for the Tadoku Salon. A big thank you to everyone who joined! We hope you enjoyed exploring the books, sharing your thoughts, and connecting with fellow Japanese learners/speakers who share the same passion for the language and culture.

Curious about what participants thought? Check out their testimonials! The positive energy and encouraging feedback always inspire us to keep making the Tadoku Salon a welcoming space for learning and interaction.

Our Tadoku collection is always available at the library, so feel free to drop by for some everyday reading whenever you have time. For more information about our library: <https://www.jfkl.org.my/library/>

For more information about Tadoku: <https://www.jfkl.org.my/language/resources-collaboration/tadoku/>



The participants



Voices of the participants

Hakuhodo Foundation: The 15th Japanese Language Exchange Program (2024-2025)

Reported by: Nur Najiah Azhani (JFKL) & Janikah Sensei (SM Sung Siew (CF))

What happens when 30 teenagers from 10 countries are brought to Tokyo, often without a shared language? Magic.

In May 2025, four students from SM Sung Siew (CF) Chok Mit Ker, Gwee Jia Hong, Javier Jackson, Nayli Maisarah and their sensei, Janikah joined the 15th Hakuhodo Japanese Language Exchange for a 14-day cultural immersion. Mornings involved practical language lessons—ordering ramen, asking for directions. Afternoons were a cultural bootcamp: traditional dance, karuta card games, and Sports Day races filled with laughter and new friendships.

The deepest bonds formed during homestays in Kawasaki and Shizuoka with host families. Students shared sushi and wagyu dinners alongside their host families, sang karaoke, and built connections beyond words. A visit to a local school revealed mutual curiosity—Malaysian students performed the Sumazau dance, while Japanese students joined in with Soranbushi.

The program closed with emotional speeches in Japanese, “この日本語交流は私をととても幸せな気持ちにさせてくれました。みなさんは優しく、紳士な友達です。活動も楽しくて、面白かったです。” which expresses joy and gratitude for the kind friends and unforgettable experiences.

The real lesson? Language isn't just spoken—it's lived.



Report: Regional Training for Japanese-language Secondary School Teachers (J-RETRA 2025)

Reported by Chan Yee Han, Lew Boon Lay & Sakinah binti Noor Badaruddin (JFKL)

This year, the Regional Training for Japanese-language Secondary School Teachers (J-RETRA2025) was held in Penang, Johor, and Kuala Lumpur, bringing together a total of 76 secondary school Japanese language teachers from across Malaysia (Penang: 25, Johor: 18, Kuala Lumpur: 33).

The objectives of the training were to explore effective teaching strategies and classroom activities, exchange ideas and strengthen professional networks, and focus on methodologies for communication skills, intercultural understanding, and student-centred learning.

Revolving around themes such as fostering cross-cultural understanding, task-based language teaching, kanji and essay instruction, and a hands-on furoshiki workshop, the program offered teachers both practical strategies for Japanese language education and valuable opportunities to deepen their cultural knowledge.

Feedback collected from all three venues revealed that participants particularly appreciated the chance to exchange ideas with colleagues and gain fresh inspiration to apply in their own classrooms. This allowed them to see diverse teaching practices and adapt new approaches for their students. Many felt encouraged to try task-based activities, new techniques for kanji instruction, and creative ways to guide essay writing. Beyond pedagogy, the program also fostered a sense of community and shared purpose, strengthening professional connections across different regions.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Kamenori Foundation for sponsoring J-RETRA2025. Their generous support made this program possible and continues to play a vital role in the growth of secondary school Japanese language education in Malaysia.

KAMENORI-JFKL J-RETRA 2025 Regional Training for Japanese-language Secondary School Teachers 2025		
NORTHERN REGION	SOUTHERN REGION	CENTRAL REGION
5 - 7 AUG @PULAU PINANG Teachers of Perlis, Kedah, Pulau Pinang, Perak, Sabah, Sarawak & Labuan	19 - 21 AUG @JOHOR BAHRU Teachers of Negeri Sembilan, Melaka & Johor	9 - 11 SEP @KUALA LUMPUR Teachers of Selangor, Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya, Pahang, Terengganu & Kelantan
DAY 1: 2:00 PM - 5:45 PM	DAY 2: 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM	DAY 3: 9:00 AM - 12:45 PM

The Programme Schedule



Kuala Lumpur Session



Johor Session



Penang Session



Group Activities



Hands-on Furoshiki Workshop

Japanese-Language Programs for Counterpart Japanese Learners of the Nihongo Partners Program FY2024-2025 by Kansai Centre

Reported by Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute in Kansai (also known as Kansai Centre, KC) launched a new program in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 dedicated for Japanese language learners of high schools and universities – targeting the institutions that were involved with Nihongo Partners Program locally. This new initiative is intended to develop Japanese-language proficiency and communication skills, to deepen the understanding of Japanese culture and society, as well as to strengthen their competencies in order to sustain a wholesome global society in the future.

Involving not only Malaysians, the 44-day program for university students is also targeting Taiwan, People's Republic of China, Indonesia, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Myanmar, Laos and India. The program for high school students between the age of 15 – 18 on the other hand is targeted for students from Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Vietnam and Laos for 16 days.

In general, the program focuses on themes related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through its activities including lectures on Japanese language, culture and society, study trips to education institutions, historical and cultural sites, exchange program with local institutions, as well as cultural experience activities. As a post-program assignment, participants are required to share their experiences in joining the program with their local community and their future goals.

List of students representing Malaysia:

Programs for University Students	
Name	Institution
Summer Program FY2025: 8 July – 20 August 2025	
Muhammad Eizman Shah bin Mohd Amin	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Wan Muhammad Noor Haeikal bin W Mamat	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Siti Farah Ain Nabihah binti Norisham	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
Arif Sufian bin Irfan	Universiti Malaysia Terengganu
Spring Program FY2025: 13 May – 25 June 2025	
Nurin Dayana binti Alias	Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris
Yusrizan bin Yusri	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Winter Program FY2024: 11 February – 26 March 2025	
Syarifah Natasya binti Said Zaidi	Universiti Tun Hussein Onn
Autumn Program FY2024: 1 October – 13 November 2024	
Aina Darwisyah binti Khairulanuwar	Universiti Sains Malaysia
Ong Yu Xuan	Universiti Sains Malaysia
Summer Program FY2024: 9 July – 21 August 2024	
Chng Zi Long	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
Samuel Low Yu Hang	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
Programs for High School Students	
Name	Institution
FY2025: 1 – 16 July 2025	
Lee Pei Qi	SMK Dato Sri Amar Diraja
Muhammad Haris Ahnaf bin Muhammad Zahari	Sekolah Dato' Abdul Razak
FY2024: 15 – 30 October 2024	
Thang Xin Ying	Sri Sempurna International School
Nik Nubhan bin Nik Mifzal	Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah
Nurafifah Najwa binti Muhamad Solahuddin	SMK Putrajaya Presint 11 (1)

**Note: The Japan Foundation's official fiscal year is from 1 April to 31 March*

There are a few more editions coming up for university students in Autumn & Winter of FY2025 and Spring & Summer of FY2026.

JFKL and KC are looking forward to the participation of Malaysian students!



11th Batch NIHONGO Partners Mid-Term Activities Recap

Reported by the JFKL NP Team

NIHONGO Partners Program 11th Batch Activities Recap.

Since 11th batch NIHONGO Partner(NP) was dispatched to their respective school from March 6th, various activities have been conducted on several occasions. Together, let us revisit some of the highlights of the Activities conducted.

Highlight 1 : SMS Miri Japanese Language Camp.

The Japanese camp (J-camp) was successfully organized at SMS Miri from 27 until 29 June 2025, thanks to the initiative of the school's Counterpart Teacher (CP) and NP. A total of 10 NP and 117 passionate students from 8 schools around Malaysia participated in the 3-days camp.

On day 1, the students started their camp with a placement test to determine their Japanese language level. Then, they were greeted by a special *Yosakoi* performance by the NP, before proceeding to the ice-breaking session for the rest of the day. The students were placed into mixed groups with their peers from different schools and played team-building games such as plastic-bottle "*Kendama*", "*Daruma-san ga Koronda*" and "*Fukuwara*" with the assistance of NP in each group.

Their second day started early with "*Radio Taiso*" Exercise session led by NP to keep students refreshed, before starting their grind on reading comprehension and grammar lesson. Later in the day, the students were tasked to prepare Japanese cuisine dinner guided by the NP such as Curry Rice, "*Ohagi*" (glutinous rice dessert) and "*Tempura*" (battered, deep-fried vegetables). After having their hearty dinner with the NP and teachers, the students continued their writing lesson (*Sakubun*) for the rest of the night.

On the final day, the students dived into early morning lesson on Japanese particles and made it to the end of the 3-day intense study session. The camp was concluded with a splendid Closing Ceremony; in which the groups competed in the *Yosakoi* dance and Storytelling (*Kobanashi*) competition. The students took this chance to don their beautiful traditional attire and celebrated each other's achievements with mutual respect. We would like to express our thank you to the NP for dedicating their time and energy in making the camp successful and we hope that aside from improving their Japanese language, the students were also able to make many new friends hence deepen their interest towards Japanese language and culture.



Ms Fiona, from SMS Miri (second row, third from the right) together with 10 members of 11th Batch NIHONGO Partners who participated in the SMS Miri Japanese Language Camp



One of the NP teaching the students on the process of making an Onigiri (Rice Ball) during the program

Highlight 2 : NIHONGO Partners 11th Batch Mid Term Session

The month of June marks the halfway point for the 11th Batch NIHONGO Partners' Tenure. As part of reviewing their progress, a separate session for the counterpart teacher (CP) and NIHONGO partner (NP) was conducted. The first session was CP online feedback session led by JFKL lecturers team, in which 17 CP had participated. This session served the opportunity for CP to revisit the activities that have been conducted together so far with their NP while at the same time sharing their feedback and experiences during the programme.

Following this, the latter half of the Mid-term report session involving 20 NP was conducted from 16-19 June 2025. This session, which was held at JFKL, provided the NP with a platform for them to share, present and discuss the various activities they had implemented during the first half of their tenure. During this session, they openly addressed challenges they encountered, identified potential areas for improvement, and engaged in collaborative idea exchanges with fellow NPs as well as the JFKL Lecturer Team. The NP also discussed and set up their goals that they would like to achieve for the remaining of their tenure.

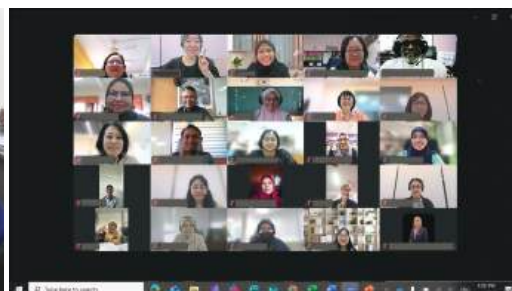
Hopefully, through the discussion and exchanges of ideas conducted during the sessions were able to inspire both NP and CP with a renewed sense of motivation and aspiration to navigate the remaining tenure of the programme.



NP during the briefing for the Mid-term Report Session



NP Exchanging information with one another regarding the activities they have conducted



Picture taken with the JFKL Representative and the NP11 Counterpart Teacher (CP) during the Online CP Feedback Session

Greetings



Police Museum at Tokyo when I visit with my family

Hi, my name is MATSUNAGA Kazunori.

I succeeded UMEEDA Masako-san and am in charge of the Japanese language programme. I arrived in Malaysia around August but let me share what I experienced when I first arrived.

Soon after I came to Malaysia, I had a chance to participate in J-RETRA, which is the Regional Training for Japanese-language Secondary School Teachers. I was impressed to see how eager everyone was in learning how to teach the Japanese language to their students. And, I was glad to find that this training serves to maintain their network. I heard from them that many of their schools have received NIHONGO Partners. I really look forward to visiting schools and seeing how NPs work together with teachers and students.

In addition, I luckily had an opportunity to attend the opening ceremony of JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2025 (JFF). Screening Japanese films at JFF would be one of JFKL's biggest projects but what I would like to mention is the four short films which were screened before the opening film. They were

created by Malaysian university students through a five day workshop led by film director, UESUGI Tetsuya, who was invited by JFKL, and whose film was screened at JFF2025. With projects such as JFF, we aspire to create meaningful connections with more possibilities to connect further across future projects.

I have already seen many meaningful projects. I am honored to have an opportunity to work in JFKL to support schools, teachers, and students, to build deeper ties with Japan and Malaysia.

Farewell

I can hardly believe that my tenure at JFKL has come to an end after 6 years and 8 months of serving as Deputy Director and Head of the Japanese Language Department.

During this time, particularly throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we faced many unexpected challenges, such as shifting all events and training programs online, as well as the temporary suspension of the Nihongo Partners program, which was replaced by the new initiative, the "Online NP Program," in 2021.

What kept me motivated throughout was always the passion and dedication of Japanese language teachers and students to learn the language and culture. I will never forget the joy on teachers' faces when we could finally resume in-person teacher training through J-RETRA in 2022, after two years of online-only activities.

For secondary school teachers, who often manage Japanese language classes alone at their schools, I realized how important it is for them to occasionally meet with fellow teachers, exchange opinions, and share their challenges. I sincerely hope that our programs have been able to support them, even in a small way.

On a personal note, I had the opportunity to visit almost every state and Federal Territories in Malaysia and was always delighted by the unique local specialties of each place. As a durian lover, I regret that it is difficult to find good and reasonably priced durians in Japan, but the unforgettable fragrance and richness will remain with me as a treasured memory of Malaysia.

I am deeply grateful to all of you who have supported me in so many ways, and I wish you every success in the future. I look forward to seeing you again, whether in Japan or in Malaysia.

Terima kasih banyak-banyak!



EVENT LISTING

Ongoing	JFF THEATER Streaming Japanese Films for FREE at: https://www.jff.jpf.go.jp/movie/
Oct 9 - Oct 12	JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL (JFF) 2025 in Kuching Venue: GSC CityONE Megamall
Oct 16 - Oct 19	JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL (JFF) 2025 in Kota Kinabalu Venue: GSC Suria Sabah
Oct 16 - Oct 19	SeaShorts Film Festival 2025 Venue: GSC Lalaport BBCC; YWCA Kuala Lumpur
Oct 25	Japanese Studies Roundtable and Symposium Venue: Perdana Hall, Faculty of Social Science & Humanities, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)
Until Oct 31	Yoshisuke Funasaka Solo Exhibition Venue: Museum of Asian Art, Universiti Malaya
Nov 1	The Japanese Skit Contest Streaming live on JFKL's Facebook and YouTube channel!
Nov 1	The Weekend Japanese Film Show Title: Ainu Mosir Venue: GSC Mid Valley
Nov 8	JFKL Workshop for Japanese language teachers Title: From visible to invisible culture: Fostering intercultural understanding in the classroom through "See, Think, Wonder"
Nov 14 - Dec 31	'I Love Sushi' Exhibition Venue: UR-MU Museum
Nov 20	JFKL Workshop for Japanese language teachers Title: Fostering clear and natural pronunciation through encouraging and engaging techniques
Nov 20	Taylor's University Workshop on Cyberbullying Time: 11:00 AM - 5:00PM Venue: Taylor's Lakeside Campus
Dec 11	Placemaking Seminar Venue: PJPAC
Dec 20	The Weekend Japanese Film Show Stay tuned for more updates on our SNS and JFKL website!
Dec 20 - Dec 21	Comic Fiesta Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Center 2025.comicfiesta.org

Event listings will be updated from time to time. Stay tuned for updates on our website and official channels.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: THE JAPAN FOUNDATION GRANT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

(1 APRIL 2026 - 31 MARCH 2027)

For any enquiries, email to: kl_grant@jpf.go.jp

The Japan Foundation Grant Programme application for fiscal year 2026 (covering the period of 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027) is calling for applications!

Note: Applications for FY2026 will be submitted exclusively online via the Japan Foundation portal at www.apply.jpf.go.jp/en. Full application instructions, forms, and submission deadlines can be accessed at www.jpf.go.jp/e/program/list.html or scan the QR codes!



JFKL Holiday Notice:

JFKL Office Holiday

25 December – Christmas Day
30 December – Year End Holiday
31 December – Year End Holiday

JFKL Library Holiday

25 December – Christmas Day
23 December - 3 January – Year End Holiday



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

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