

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **143**
Oct-Dec 2025

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JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2025



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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JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2025

Reported by Hannah Hir (JFKL)



The JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL (JFF) returns for the year of 2025, continuing a legacy uplifting Japanese cinema. What humbly started as a festival screening at only two cinemas in 2004 now has reached a significant milestone of touring five regions and more than five screening venues across Malaysia.

The 21st edition of JFF in 2025 launched on 9 September to 19 October with “Sunset Sunrise” by KISHI Yoshiyuki as the opening film reflecting the ‘culinary’ theme of the festival serving stories that unfold around culinary delights and food.

This year, we were delighted to welcome more than 10,000 moviegoers throughout the festival period. Equally meaningful was the presence of ambitious film directors, many film production friends, honourable sponsors and partners, and not to forget, the distinguished guests of JFF 2025.

JFF 2025 held several special screenings and collaborative programs, expanding the festival beyond cinema screens. Among the highlights of JFF 2025 was the Malaysian premiere of two films, ‘Northern Food Story’ (dir. UESUGI Tetsuya) and ‘Diamonds in the Sand’ (dir. Janus VICTORIA), a meaningful co-production between Japan, the Philippines, and Malaysia. The special screenings were held at GSC MyTOWN on 10 September, accompanied with an insightful Q&A session, illustrating the growing regional collaborations within the Asian film landscape.

Another was a collaborative effort from JFKL with Canon, where the ‘Filmmaking Workshop with Film Students’ as well as ‘Filmmaking in Commercials Forum’ was brought to life. These programs were led by Director of Photography (DOP), Director UESUGI Tetsuya, joined by Malaysia’s own M. Shaffuan (Creative Director), and Lily Samsuddin (Producer, Director), who provided valuable hands-on filmmaking experiences for aspiring film creatives.

This year also featured the 4K restored classic masterpiece, SEVEN SAMURAI from the legendary director, KUROSAWA Akira. The screening of the film attracted many with each venue being filled almost completely, showcasing one of Japan’s most influential works.

To celebrate the growth of the festival, JFF 2025 continues the highly anticipated tradition of its beloved Stamp Rally, which once again drew enthusiastic participation from festival-goers. Many participants express their excitement in collecting stamps and goodies showing how the Stamp Rally is one interactive way for them to commemorate their visit to JFF.

As JFKL reflects on more than two decades of bringing Japanese cinema to Malaysian audiences, we want to enliven our commitment to cultivating appreciation for film, culture, and the art of storytelling.

Once again, we extend our sincere gratitude to all collaborators, sponsors and partners, as well as each film lover who filled the seats of our screens. We hope JFF has brought you memorable moments and joy. Until next year, see you at the movies!



JFF 2025 Student Filmmaking Workshop with Director Uesugi Tetsuya & Filmmaking in Commercials Forum

Reported by Julien Chen Lip Syn (JFKL)

As part of the Japanese Film Festival 2025, 20 students from 4 film schools- Multimedia University (MMU), Sunway University, Akademi Seni Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA) and New Era University College (NEUC) were invited to participate in a 3-day filmmaking workshop (4th to 6th Sep), mentored by Japanese filmmaker Uesugi Tetsuya, director of Northern Food Story. A continuation of 2024's filmmaking workshop for teens, this workshop hopes to inspire the next generation of filmmakers.

The workshop was held at MMU's Faculty of Cinematic Arts. The students also had a chance to use Canon's latest film camera (EOS R5 C) and lenses. With the mentorship of director Uesugi, each school was required to write, shoot and edit a 3-minute short film based on the theme of 'Malaysian Food Story'.

The 4 short films were screened during the JFF2025 Opening and are currently available to watch on JFKL's Youtube channel. Director Uesugi shared about how he was amazed by the unique and creative approaches of the students from each school along with how outspoken and driven the Malaysian students are.

Additionally, the 'JFF2025 Forum: Filmmaking in Commercials' was held between director Uesugi Tetsuya and local filmmakers Muhammad Shaffuan and Lily Samsuddin at JFKL on the 7th of September. They shared about the difference in practices in Japan and Malaysia, along with how we can learn from one another.



Check out the students' short films on JFKL's YouTube!



The Japan Foundation Travelling Cultural Exhibition "I Love Sushi" Opening Ceremony in KL @ UR-MU, The Toffee, Jalan Raja Chulan

Reported by Hannah Hir (JFKL)



The Japan Foundation's Travelling Cultural Exhibition "I Love Sushi" has officially arrived in Malaysia, with Kuala Lumpur as its first stop in the country. The exhibition opened on 14 November 2025 at Urban Museum (UR-MU), Jalan Raja Chulan @ The Toffee, The Project Room, Level 4, marking the start of its Malaysian tour.

The opening reception welcomed invited guests, partners, and members of the media. The evening commenced with remarks by His Excellency Mr. SHIKATA Noriyuki (Embassy of Japan in Malaysia), Ar. Dr. Tan Loke Mun (UR-MU), and a representative from our sponsor, Chef MAKOTO Saito Sam of Sushi Hibiki.

A key highlight of the evening was a brief sharing session by Chef Saito Sam, who is also the Japanese Cuisine Goodwill Ambassador (appointed by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries), where he detailed his journey with sushi as well as the Japanese culinary scene, particularly of sushi, in Malaysia.

To complement his brief sharing session, Sushi Hibiki generously prepared assorted sushi and refreshments, offering guests a firsthand taste of the refinement behind Japanese cuisine.

With the completion of the KL leg, the exhibition will continue travelling to Terengganu and Sabah at each of the respective state museums in the coming year of 2026.

Be sure to stay tuned and catch the glimpses of history and culture of Japan that have contributed to the evolution of sushi through the 'I Love Sushi' exhibition!



The Next Generation Symposium on Japanese Studies

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)



25 October, UKM- Over a hundred guests attended the final event of the 2nd Japanese Studies Essay Contest and Mentorship Programme titled 'The Next Generation Symposium on Japanese Studies (2025)'.

Prof. Dr. Sity Daud presented the opening speech as co-organizers and venue host. Mr. Tsukamoto Norihisa, Director of JFKL was next to express his appreciation towards MAJAS and FSSK UKM on the 2nd edition of this contest. Our guest of honour, Mr. NARUKAMA Hiromitsu, Managing Director, Mitsui & Co. Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. and honourable sponsor graced the event to express his support for Japanese Studies initiatives.



Following the opening ceremony, the evaluation for the Mitsui Malaysia Best Presenter Award begins! A separate category from the essays, this award was evaluated on the day by Mitsui Malaysia's judging panel to assess the presentation skills of all 13 finalists where only deserving student will win the coveted title. Our finalists took the stage confidently and presented on their essays ranging from natural disasters to rural depopulation, Japan-Malaysia food influence and subculture fashion.

During the much-anticipated Winners Announcement Ceremony, the crowd erupted into cheers as the emcee revealed the names of each winner. Congratulations to all mentees of the Japanese Studies Essay Contest and Mentorship Programme!

Essay: Postgraduate Category

Placing	Name	Essay Topic	Mentor
1st Place	Muhammad Syahrizal Theng Bin Abdullah (Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris)	How has Japanese popular culture been globalized, and what impact has this cultural flow had on international audiences, particularly in Malaysia?	Dr. Mohamad Ikhran bin Mohamad Ridzuan (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)
2nd Place	Muhammad Fahmie Eizani bin Rosle (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	How has Japanese cuisine been adapted to suit local tastes and preferences in Malaysia, and what does this reveal about cultural exchange processes?	Dr. Geetha a/p Govindasamy (Universiti Malaya)
3rd Place	Siti Sarah binti Abdul Rahman (UniKL MIIT City Campus)	In what ways do Japan's fashion subcultures express individual identity and cultural meaning within contemporary Japanese society?	Dr. Hafeeza binti Ahmad Pазil (Universiti Sains Malaysia)

Essay: Undergraduate Category

Placing	Name	Essay Topic	Mentor
1st Place	Siti Safya Omar binti Mohd Azam (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	How has Japanese cuisine been adapted to suit local tastes and preferences in Malaysia, and what does this reveal about cultural exchange processes?	Dr. Normalis binti Amzah (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)
2nd Place	Elysa Batrisyia binti Mohd Faizul (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	In what ways do Japan's fashion subcultures express individual identity and cultural meaning within contemporary Japanese society?	Assoc. Prof. Roslina binti Mamat (Universiti Putra Malaysia)
3rd Place	Wan Zafirzan bin Wan Tarmizan (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)	What are the main factors contributing to rural depopulation in Japan, and what innovative solutions have been effective in addressing its consequences?	Dr. Geetha a/p Govindasamy (Universiti Malaya)
Mitsui Malaysia Best Presenter Award	Wan Zafirzan bin Wan Tarmizan (Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)	What are the main factors contributing to rural depopulation in Japan, and what innovative solutions have been effective in addressing its consequences?	Dr. Geetha a/p Govindasamy (Universiti Malaya)

2025 ASEAN–Japan Exchange Program for Secondary School Educators : Group B

Reported by Anelise (JFKL)

Following the success of the previous year's initiative, The Japan Foundation once again hosted the ASEAN–Japan Exchange Program for Secondary School Educators from 26 October to 1 November 2025, welcoming participants from Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and the Philippines.

In Malaysia, an open call was launched earlier this year by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL), with the support of the Ministry of Education Malaysia. The call focused on secondary school teachers in the arts and social sciences field, and from the nationwide applications received, ten outstanding Malaysian teachers were selected to participate, representing diverse states across the country, which are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pn.Dayang Nor Ashikin binti Harun
(Ministry of Education, Curriculum Development Division) | 6. Ms.Nur Amalina binti Khalid
(SMJK Tinggi Cina, Malacca) |
| 2. Ms.Amanda Christine Wong
(SMK Putatan, Sabah) | 7. Dr.Oh Zi Jian
(Kolej Vokasional Batu Lanchang, Penang) |
| 3. Ms.Lubna binti Yusof
(SMK Krian, Perak) | 8. Ms.Sharmila Arunassalam
(SMK Cochrane, Kuala Lumpur) |
| 4. Mr.Manibalan Velu Marimuthu
(SMK Petra Jaya, Sarawak) | 9. Ms.Siti Noorhafidza Shikh Ab Halim
(SMK Tanjung Gemok) |
| 5. Mr.Mohammad Asyraff Abd.Wahab
(SMK Raja Chulan, Perak) | 10. Ms.Siti Noor Mawarine binti Zulkifeli
(SMK Putrajaya Presint 16 (1), Putrajaya) |

Group B delegation also included four representatives from Singapore, which are: Ms. Vanessa Tan, Ms. Noriff Elyn Mohamed Ariffin, Mr. Nicholas Low Woon Kiat, and Ms. Michelle Lin Airong, as well as two teachers and MOE officers from Brunei: Ms. Radiah binti Haji Abdul Ladi and Ms. Naafi'ah Nawi.

JFKL's Cultural Affairs Department staff, Anelise-san, accompanied the group throughout the programme, serving as liaison and coordinator between the teachers and HQ.

The week-long programme began with an orientation session jointly conducted by The Japan Foundation and JTB, followed by a site visit to the Imperial Palace and a guided tour around Tokyo's administrative district to contextualise Japan's governance and historical landscape. Participants then visited the Kumon Institute of Education, gaining insight into Japan's globally recognised learning methodology.

The formal Welcome Reception, hosted by The Japan Foundation, provided an opportunity for all participants to meet HQ staff and also personnel from the embassy and friendship societies. Although the teachers come from various backgrounds, they managed to bond with each other in a short while through food and friendly chats.

In Hiroshima, the programme centred on peace education. Participants visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, participated in a guided tour of the historical grounds, and joined a peace workshop hosted by the NGO 8th River Project, deepening their understanding of community-driven peacebuilding initiatives. The delegation also visited the Hiroshima Institute of Technology, where they exchanged ideas with educators on practical-based curriculum development and student engagement.

Additional cultural and educational exposures included observing after-school club activities such as *chadō* (tea ceremony) and *kendō*, as well as site visits to *Saijō* Agricultural High School and Kodaira Juyon Elementary School. A highlight for many was the school lunch experience, where participants dined with elementary school children and observed Japan's unique food education practices.

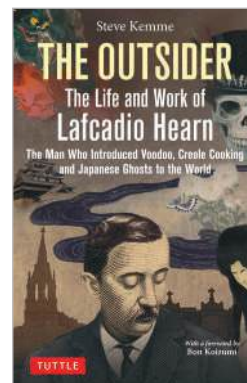
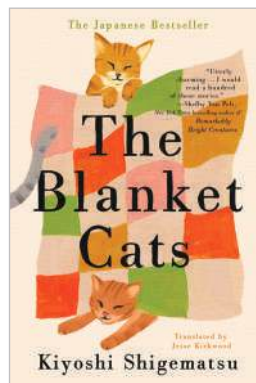
The programme concluded with a wrap-up session, where educators from all participating countries reflected on their learning outcomes and shared ideas for future collaboration.

This year's programme once again demonstrated the value of sustained educational exchange in strengthening ASEAN–Japan cooperation and nurturing globally minded educators.





LIBRARY



1文字から始める 集中! にほんご読みトレ 初中級 : Step-by-step Training Reading Japanese: Pre-intermediate
By Shunya NISHIKUMA / Publisher: The Japan Times Publishing 2024 / Library Call No.817.5T

Are you looking for something new to boost your Japanese reading skills?

This book is an ideal choice for you to build your confidence with your reading skills step by step through effective and enjoyable reading practice. It consists of three parts, basic training for building the ability to read carefully, incentive training in understanding sentences, and applied training for reading passages and information. You can learn tips through a wide variety of tasks to help you interested in finding the mistake, grouping equivalent items, deciphering figures and tables, and more to offer you training to develop comprehensive core reading skills. In addition, the explanations of each exercise with English translation are downloadable. This book is suitable for JLPT N3 level and helps to prepare for exams like EJU.

日本語能力試験対策 これ一冊 N4

Edited by ASK Publisher / Publisher: ASK 2025 / Library Call No.810.7925

Are you planning to take the JLPT this year? Study smarter with this new preparatory exercise series, **これ一冊** (Kore issatsu)!

This is the new launch for preparation for the JLPT N4 from **これ一冊** series, which means “an all-in one, everything you need” in Japanese. It covers essential vocabulary, grammar, reading comprehensions, and listening skills with about 270 practice questions and one mock test as a real exam in one book. You can learn tips on how to answer the questions in an efficient way, and it helps you stay confidently on track toward passing the N4 exam. This series for N5 is also available in the library. We have a great collection for JLPT preparatory books, so please visit our library for your JLPT preparation!

The Blanket Cats

By Kiyoshi Shigematsu, Translated by Jesse Kirkwood / Publisher: G.P Putman's Sons New York 2025 / Library Call No.895.635 SHI

22nd February is celebrated as Cat Day in Japan, and there are many cat-themed books in Japan as represented by Natsume Soseki's book “I Am a Cat”. Here is the new arrival for cat lovers, “The blanket Cats”, which its original copy was published in 2008 by one of the bestselling authors, Kiyoshi Shigematsu. The major theme of his notable novels is family, and this novel is about a family's journey to rebuild. It consists of seven diverse stories and each narrative centers around the renting of a Blanket Cat with its own special blanket for a period of three days. The foster families experience moments of hearing, reflection, and unexpected connection. The character-driven stories will give you an enjoyable experience with warm and happy feelings.

The Outsider: The Life and Work of Lafcadio Hearn

By Steve Kemme / Publisher: Tuttle publishing 2023 / Library Call No.895.60 KEM

KWAIDAN means ghost stories in Japanese, which is one of summer traditions in Japan. Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) is well-known as the author of KWAIDAN such as “Yuki-onna” and “Hoichi the Earless”.

Hearn is also known by his Japanese name as Koizumi Yakumo (小泉八雲) and the most significant early interpreter of Japan and Japanese culture for the West, especially introduced ghosts, demons, monsters and the supernatural world of Japanese folklore to the world.

Hearn was born in Greece and spent a troubled childhood in Ireland. He became a famous writer in Cincinnati and New Orleans but always felt like an outsider. After travelling over halfway around the world, he finally reached Japan where he became a Buddhist and married Koizumi Setsu, the daughter of samurai in Matsue. A president of the Lafcadio Hearn Society in USA, Steve Kemme reveals Hearn's life and tell us how to grow his worldwide fame as a writer for his works on Japanese ghost stories. This enthralling biography will get you interested in Lafcadio Hearn, one of the Japan's most famous foreign observers.

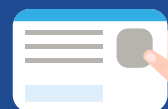
Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!

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

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



JFKL Tadoku Salon

Reported by Lew Boon Lay

The JFKL Tadoku Salon was held on 11 October 2025 (Sat) at the JFKL Library. A big thank-you to all 71 participants who joined us. The event brought together book lovers, Japanese learners, and those who simply wanted to enjoy a relaxing morning filled with stories and shared ideas.

The Tadoku Salon was not just about reading — it was also about connecting with people. Participants had the opportunity to talk, exchange thoughts, and appreciate the charm of Japanese books and stories together.

Our next Tadoku Salon will be held in January 2026. Please stay tuned for further announcements on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

The Tadoku collection is also available for daily reading at our library. Feel free to visit anytime during our opening hours.

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/>



Library – OHANASHI-KAI

Reported by SAKAMOTO Tomoko (JFKL)

JFKL Library organized a special programme, OHANASHI-KAI on 8 November for the first time as a fun activity to enjoy exploring Japanese language and culture during the library's Book Week Promotion.

The slogan "Let's enjoy wonderful stories by native Japanese speakers and do origami together!" was chosen to set the tone of the day. On the day of the event, we had approximately 35 participants including children and Japanese language learners. Thanks to the volunteers, it looked like everyone enjoyed discovering new experiences through storytelling and origami sessions with warm and friendly atmospheres.

Here is some positive feedback from the participants.

- It was a very fun experience, and I loved it so much!
- Thank you so much for organizing this event! I am a beginner in studying Japanese and I love to hear Japanese accents face to face.
- Some stories are too hard to understand for beginners, but my children loved the big book story the most.
- I really appreciated this opportunity for my children to enjoy learning origami.
- I would like to join it again!

We would like to say thank you so much for joining us for OHANASHI-KAI and look forward to seeing you all again!

JFKL library is your gateway to Japan, so please feel free to visit our library anytime!



JFKL SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME CATEGORY C: Connecting Japanese Language Learners & Educators Through JLfest 2025 and ICJLEM 2025

Reported by Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

Programme : The 18th Annual International Japanese Language Festival (JLfest 2025 International)

Date : 1 May – 27 July 2025

Organiser : The Japanese Language Society of Malaysia (JLSM)

Organised annually since 2006 and held online since 2021, the festival hosted a total of 50 events this year. It was organised with the support of the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and JFKL through our small grant programme, as well as the cooperation from the Ministry of Education Malaysia, Sadowara International Exchange Association, and the Japan Foundation Manila.

JLSM reported 1,626 Japanese language learners and teachers from schools, universities & language centres in 20 countries registered and participated over the 3 months of the festival. Officiated by His Excellency SHIKATA Noriyuki, the Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia, JLfest 2025 also presented Language and Culture Educators' Exchange (JLfest LEX) along with 20 workshops and 16 competitions, on top of sessions like Online Gallery, Online Café, Reading Club, and Cultural Talk. Find out more about JLSM and JLfest through their website:



Programme : The 22nd International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia (ICJLEM 2025)

Date : 27 September 2025 (Saturday)

Organiser : Malaysia Japanese Language Instructors Society (MAJLIS)

Hosted by Faculty of Major Language Studies, Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM), this annual conference has taken another step ahead by MAJLIS as the new organiser while JFKL supported ICJLEM 2025 through our grant. Featuring the theme “Sustainability of Japanese Language Education: Teachers Development & The Future of Educators in Malaysia”, the conference attracted over 100 participants from Malaysia and Southeast Asia.

The keynote address by Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dato' Dzulkifli Abd Razak on “Global Peace Building through Language Diversity” provided another insight for audience in Japanese language field. A new approach was also implemented where MAJLIS brought together experts from five ASEAN nations (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Vietnam) in an international panel discussion to provide a comparative perspective on challenges to sustain Japanese language education. ICJLEM this year also achieved its academic aims where 25 oral presentations and 10 poster presentation were successfully delivered across parallel sessions in the afternoon. The proceedings are now available online on their official website:



Poster Presentation



Participants & Guests of ICJLEM



Panel Discussion During ICJLEM

NIHONGO Partners Programme 11th Batch Year-End Report

Reported by JFKL NP Team

The 6th of October marks the conclusion of the 11th Batch of the NIHONGO Partners Programme and drew the curtain to a chapter in the 20 NIHONGO Partners (NP) and 20 Counterpart Teachers (CP) to a close. The 20 NPs were dispatched to all over Malaysia over the duration of 7 Months, sharing with the local communities the Japanese Language and culture while at the same time immersing themselves in the diverse Malaysian culture.

Before their return to Japan, The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) organized a Year-End Report session which was held at CITITEL Hotel, Mid Valley. The Year-End Report session serves not only as a formal wrap-up to the programme but also as a final gathering where NPs and CPs reminisce about the experiences they have shared. During this session, the NPs shared the challenges they have faced throughout the program such as adapting to new classrooms, as well as sharing the joy they have experienced throughout the programme while exchanging best practices with one another. For the CPs, it was a chance to reflect on how much their schools had gained while sharing their own experiences with one another.



Group Picture Taken with the CPs-NPs and JFKL members on the final day of the Year-End Report Session

The programme also included official visits to the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, where Ambassador SHIKATA Noriyuki warmly welcomed the 20 NPs. They also visited the Ministry of Education Malaysia, where Dr. Mohd Azam bin Ahmad, Director-General of Education Malaysia, expressed his appreciation for their contributions to Malaysian schools. These visits reminded everyone that the programme is a part of a larger story of friendship between the two nations.

As the NPs boarded their flights to Japan on 9 October, they carried with them the stories of warmth, resilience, and belonging. Although the 11th Batch has come to an end, we hope that the friendships and memories they have made will continue to live in classrooms and hearts across Malaysia.



NPs during their visit to the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia together with Ambassador SHIKATA Noriyuki (5th from the left, sitting down) and Mr TSUKAMOTO Norihisa (4th from the right, sitting down)



NPs during their visit to the Ministry of Education Malaysia



Final group picture before their departure to Japan

PLACING	TEAM NAME	SKIT TITLE	INSTITUTION
1	JLCC Productions	優しさの方程式 The Kindness Equation	MALAYSIA JAPAN INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MJIIT)
2	ナンバーワン	苦くて甘いコーヒー Bittersweet Coffee	UNIVERSITI PENDIDIKAN SULTAN IDRIS (UPSI)
3	NotNotts	何だっけ? What Is It?	UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM MALAYSIA (UNM)
4	あめたち	あまいね It's Sweet, Isn't It?	UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU (UMT)
5	あまいフレンズ	甘いのを食べようか。。。 Let's Eat Sweet	UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA (UKM)

Last but not least, we are proud to recognise our long-standing sponsors who continue to support this contest year after year. We also welcomed a new partner this year, Koshidaka International KL, well-known for its growing Karaoke Manekineko entertainment centres, which has joined us in fostering Japanese language education in Malaysia. We extend our sincere appreciation to all our sponsors for their generous contributions and ongoing partnership, without which this contest would not have been possible.

Panasonic

KOKUYO

BOOKS Kinokuniya

SUSHI KING
Let the good times roll!

KADOKAWA GEMPAK STARZ



CAKAP JEPUN

Telaga Biru

Telaga Biru education

Hojicha Ya
和食の茶屋
Japanese Tea



Greetings



Hello everyone! I am Ayako from JFHQ in Tokyo. Last September, I worked at JFKL as a trainee for three weeks. I spent a wonderful and fruitful time, and it's still fresh in my memory. I miss the days a lot!

One of the best experiences here was joining JFF as a staff member. At JFHQ, I belong to film department and managing Japanese film screenings overseas but rarely have the chance to go and see them happening. That is why I was very happy to be able to know how we organize the festival and feel/hear the audience reaction.

During my stay, I was very intrigued by Malaysia's diversity — in race, religion, language, and of course food! That is what I didn't realize when I had visited KL as a tourist. Speaking of food, I enjoyed a variety of things like laksa, nasi lemak, banana leaf curry, bak kut teh, and more! Among all, my favorite was char kuey teow. Next time, I really would like to visit Penang and try the authentic one.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone (not only JFKL members but old and new friends I met here) for accepting and supporting me for the three weeks. Thanks to all of you, I became a big fan of Malaysia! I'm hoping to come back soon!

本当にありがとうございました!



EVENT LISTING

Ongoing	JFF THEATER Streaming Japanese Films for FREE at: https://www.jff.jp.go.jp/movie/
From JAN 6	NEW YEAR OTOSHIDAMA by JFKL Library
JAN 15 - FEB 22	'I Love Sushi' Exhibition in Terengganu Venue: Terengganu State Museum
JAN 17	Tadoku Salon Venue: JFKL Library
JAN 24	IRODORI Workshop 1 Venue: Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Johor Bahru Speaker: MITSUYA Mayumi (Chief Lecturer of JFKL)
JAN 31	IRODORI Workshop 2 Venue: Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Kuala Terengganu Speaker: MITSUYA Mayumi (Chief Lecturer of JFKL)
FEB 7	Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES) Title: Four Essential Elements for Language Learning: Lesson Design Based on Second Language Acquisition (SLA) Research
FEB 8	JFKL Talk Series Venue: JFKL Library Topic: Localization of Japanese Companies in Malaysia: The Role of Local HR Managers
FEB 28	The Weekend Japanese Film Show Venue: GSC Mid Valley Megamall
From MAR 7	'I Love Sushi' Exhibition in Kota Kinabalu Venue: Sabah State Museum

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



The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur would like to sincerely extend a Happy New Year of 2026 to all of our readers and collaborators. May it be a peaceful, fulfilling, and prosperous year. JFKL looks forward to another year of meaningful cultural exchange and connection.
明けましておめでとうございます!



JFKL Holiday Notice:

JFKL Office Holiday

1 to 3 January – New Year's Holiday
2 February – Thai Pusam
17 to 18 February – Chinese New Year
23 March – Hari Raya Aidilfitri

JFKL Library Holiday

1 to 3 January – New Year's Holiday
17 to 18 February – Chinese New Year
7 March – Nuzul Al-Quran
19 - 24 March – Hari Raya Aidilfitri



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)

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