

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **144**
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MJLES
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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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Japanese Cultural Day 2026 @ Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK)

Reported by Hannah Hir (JFKL)



On 28 and 29 January 2026, JFKL with *Fakulti Teknologi Kreatif dan Warisan* of Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) successfully coordinated the JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL 2026 at the UMK's Bachok campus.

The festival was graced and officiated by the UMK's Deputy Dean of Academics, Dr. Muhamad Ezran bin Zainal Abdullah, together with distinguished academics of UMK, dedicated staff, respected guests, and many enthusiastic students.

A mini exhibition with cultural items such as *kokeshi* dolls, Japanese traditional toys, such as the *kendama* and *hanetsuki*, and various delectable *washoku* food samples were displayed alongside several *ukiyo-e* artworks and decorative kites. The students had the chance to flaunt their *kendama* and *hanetsuki* skills.

We were happy to welcome students of the campus to also try on our yukata and fold delicate *origami*. Additionally, we would like to extend a big congratulations to all the students who won and participated in the Tenugui Design Competition @ UMK.

On the 29th, the festival had two film screening sessions for "BENTO HARASSMENT" which was one of the films featured on the previous lineup of JFF THEATER, the Japan Foundation's online streaming platform with new Japanese film lineups every month.

JFKL gladly welcomes collaborations such as these and look forward to bringing more knowledge of Japanese culture as part of our mission to foster the cultural exchange between Malaysia and Japan.

Special Panel Talks with DAISUKE Aizawa @ COMIC FIESTA 2025 & Nippon Designers School

Reported by Hannah Hir (JFKL) & Julien Chen Lip Syn (JFKL)



On 20th December 2025, JFKL with the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, and the Comic Fiesta Executive Committee, co-organised a talk session by author AIZAWA Daisuke at COMIC FIESTA 2025, the country's largest annual event dedicated to ACG (Anime, Comic and Game).

AIZAWA Daisuke is the creator of the popular franchise "The Eminence in Shadow", which has sold over 6.5 million copies worldwide. The series has expanded into multiple media platforms, including comics, anime, even as a video game, gaining a large fanbase.

The talk stage at COMIC FIESTA 2025 attracted a significant crowd of enthusiastic fans, all who were eager to find out more on the franchise, how the story unfolds, behind-the-scenes mechanics, and AIZAWA-sensei's creative process in shaping the franchise.

In addition, on 23rd December 2025, another talk session was held. This time, it was a session co-organised by JFKL, the Embassy of Japan, and the Nippon Designers School Malaysia College, aimed for the students at the college as well as the public. During the Q&A session, many questions were raised by students and attendees, including those aspiring to become future artists.

JFKL sincerely extends our appreciation to all participants for their enthusiastic engagement. It is hoped that this event will further enhance interest in Japanese pop culture in Malaysia and deepen cultural exchange between Japan and Malaysia.

The Japan Foundation Travelling Cultural Exhibition “I Love Sushi” in Terengganu and Sabah

Reported by Hannah Hir (JFKL)

JFKL is delighted to share that the Japan Foundation Travelling Cultural Exhibition, “I Love Sushi” has completed its second stop of Malaysia: Terengganu. The exhibition travelled to the Terengganu State Museum for around a month and a half and welcomed over 7,000 guests in total.

The Terengganu “I Love Sushi” opening was attended by guests including representatives of government agencies, education institutions, NGOs, and many more donned with beautiful Malaysian batik. What’s more, the exhibition was officiated by YBhg. Dato’ Haji Mohd Yusof bin Abdullah, Board Member of the Terengganu State Museum alongside the Consul-General of Japan in Penang, Mr. MACHIDA Shinya.

As part of our mission to foster mutual understanding between Malaysia and Japan, this exhibition highlights how food can translate values, traditions, and culture of a nation while showcasing the role of museums as spaces which act as cultural bridges for exchange.

JFKL would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who stopped by and made the exhibition livelier. **Currently**, the exhibition is at the Sabah Islamic Civilisation Museum (*Muzium Tamadun Islam Sabah*) until 7 June 2026. Sabah also marks the last stop of the exhibition in Malaysia, so be sure to drop by and peek at the many intricacies of sushi.



JFKL Artist-in-Residence Program

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL) & Hannah Hir (JFKL)



The JFKL Artist-in-Residence Program invited 3 Japanese artists, tsu-tsu, Yamaguchi Mina, and Kinoshita Maki of Gokken, an artist-run space in Yamanashi. The program was coordinated and hosted by Malaysian artists, Nadirah Zakariya, chi too, and Muizz Aziz of Inkaa as a collaboration with the Zhongshan Building. The Gokken artists visited Malaysia from 4 – 21 December 2025, and they made stops at 2 towns in Terengganu, Georgetown in Penang, and Kuala Lumpur. The artists had the chance to stop by many artistic and creative spots and did many activities. Notably, they participated in a session of creating batik fabrics led by Inkaa while they were in the coastal town of Terengganu.

At the sharing session titled “Between Mountain & Sea: Redreaming The Artist Residency”, which was held on 19 December at Rumah Atapp, Nadirah shared memories with the Gokken artists at their residency near Mt. Fuji, Japan. In turn, the Gokken artists as well as their hosts, chi too and Muizz, shared their thoughts and memories from this residency program, and the potential of an artist residency beyond production and outcomes.

In conjunction with the sharing session, an exhibition was held from 19 – 28 December to showcase their thoughts, ideas and creations from their days in Malaysia, as a display of a sustained exchange.

JFKL would like to thank all the groups and individuals who supported this program, especially chi too for his hospitality with hearty meals and care in Terengganu.



*In loving memory of chi too (7 March, 2026).
We extend our deepest condolences and may your passion live on.*

Placemaking Exchange: Indonesia + Malaysia + Japan

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL) & Anelise (JFKL)

Building up on the success of the first Placemaking Exchange programme in 2024, the second Placemaking Exchange delegation travelled to Indonesia to discover activated spaces and buildings initiated by the community heroes using the placemaking methodology.



Seminar Session 1: Placemaking Exchange Research Trip to Indonesia



Masking Tape Workshop utilising spaces near the PJPAC entrance



Group Photo with the audience at the Placemaking Exchange Indonesia+Malaysia+Japan Seminar.

A day before the much-awaited 'Placemaking Exchange: Indonesia+Malaysia+Japan', Mr. TAMURA Koichiro of Sotonoba, introduced his placemaking works. Urban Planning students of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) also participated in the session. The session continued with a Masking Tape Workshop conducted by Ms. CHIYODA Ayaka and Ms. WATANABE Rina of Ondesign, Japan. Using blue, pink, and white tape, which were the theme colours of the programme, the PJPAC entrance at 1 Utama Shopping Centre transformed into a colourful welcoming space.

The seminar took place on 11 December 2025 with over 150 guests. JFKL Director, Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa delivered an opening speech, followed by addresses by Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP) President, TPr. Hjh. Mazrina Dato' Abdul Khalid, and Pollin8 Director, Ms. Lee Jia Ping. Dr. Widiyani from Institut Teknologi Bandung began the first panel session by sharing placemaking in Indonesia as a tool to improve community livelihoods. Mr. Andi and Ms. Arum from Karasa Bandung delivered their joint dedication to transform back alleys involving women and children. Mr. Faisal from Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) represented the participants by sharing their views and suggestions on their case study, Teras Cihampelas. Originally built to reduce congestion at a busy street located in Bandung, Teras Cihampelas now struggles with low foot traffic and underused spaces.

Session 2 showcased Mr. TAMURA and Ms. CHIYODA's presentations on the latest placemaking developments in Japan. Next, Ms. Elisa from Think City provided an update on the Placemaking project of PA Sri Sarawak's Public Park, Taman Kejiranan since last year's visit. Ms. Jia Ping shared Placemaker Week ASEAN's future initiatives. Mr. Mushawwir from Majlis Bandaraya Seberang Perai (MBSP) delivered Butterworth's wow elements, especially its fringe festivals. Mr. Sujab from Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) celebrated on Kuala Lumpur's status as UNESCO's Creative City of Design. Ms. Nazura from Jalan Negara Kita shared her heartfelt journey to establish her own cultural hub. The event concluded with a celebratory group photo with the audience.



On 12 March, participants visited Kebun-Kebun Bangsar, a reserved green space nestled in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. Fully managed by volunteers, it serves as a community farm that offers a breath of fresh air amid the city's dense urban environment. The delegation was warmly welcomed by the farm's resident turkeys and goats, as well as co-founder Seksan, who guided participants around the grounds and shared the story behind the community-driven placemaking effort.

The second stop was the PJKita Community Library, a unique container-based library acting as a recreational space for residents, followed by the PJ Eco Recycling Plaza where participants learnt the integral reasons to aim for zero waste by touring around the plaza. In KL, a sharing session at Rumah Tangsi was arranged.

The programme concluded with a visit to Jalan Negara Kita in Taman Melawati, a community-driven space dedicated to arts, culture, and neighbourhood engagement. Through its placemaking efforts, the alley brings people together by transforming everyday environments into platforms for dialogue, creativity, and connection. The session was hosted by Ms. Nazura, co-founder of Jalan Negara Kita and one of the programme participants, who kindly organised a series of heartwarming performances, conversation sessions, as well as food and drinks, creating a warm and meaningful closing to the programme.

The programme concluded with meaningful exchanges, leaving participants inspired by community-led initiatives that demonstrate the transformative power of placemaking.



Take Actions for Social Change (TASC) 2025: Follow-Up Programme

Reported by Anelise (JFKL)

On 12 February 2026, The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) hosted the *Take Action for Social Change (TASC) 2025 Follow-Up Programme*, bringing together three Malaysian TASC alumni: Ms. Then Min Han (Universiti Sains Malaysia), Mr. Shivabala Ganeish (Universiti Sains Malaysia), and Mr. Muhammad Amir bin Shaari (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia). The session provided an opportunity for the participants to reconnect after their experiences in the Philippines and Japan, where they joined study visits and field engagements focused on sustainability.

During the session, the alumni shared highlights from their journey, including community visits, environmental discussions, and cross-cultural exchanges with fellow ASEAN participants. They also presented their Action Plans, exploring ways to translate their learning into initiatives that could be implemented within their respective communities.

The programme continued with a roundtable discussion, creating a discussion space for participants on their proposed projects. JFKL was pleased to welcome Ms. Joanne Munn from Kebun-Kebun Bangsar and Ms. Lee Hui Ling from The One Academy as invited commentators. Drawing from their experience, they shared valuable perspectives on sustainability and encouraged the students to consider how grassroots actions can lead to meaningful change.

On 13 February, the participants also joined a Nature Education Programme at Taman Tugu, where they learned about Malaysia's urban forest ecosystem, local biodiversity, and the importance of green spaces in sustainable cities. Through guided nature walks and discussions, the participants explored how environmental awareness can begin with everyday engagement with nature.



JFKL Talk Series Episode 8 - Localization of Japanese Companies in Malaysia: The Role of Local HR Managers

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

The 8th episode of the JFKL Talk Series successfully concluded on 8 February. With the topic focusing on Japanese companies based in Malaysia and their process to adjust management style, workplace culture, and human resources to suit Malaysia's laws, workplace, and multicultural society, the invited speaker, Mr. Muhsein Kamarudin shared comparison between different Japanese companies in Malaysia and its current progress.

In attendance was Dr. Rohayati Paidi and Dr. Asmadi Hassan, both senior lecturers of the Department of East Asian Studies, Universiti Malaya and committee members of the Malaysian Association of Japanese Studies (MAJAS), Associate Prof. Dr. Nurhaizal Azam Arif, an expert on international business and diversity management as well as Dr. Nur Hafeeza Ahmad Pazil, Senior Lecturer, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Over 50 guests ranging from students, lecturers, and members of the public who were curious about the localization of Japanese companies in Malaysia came to the talk.

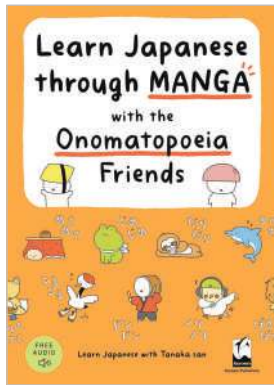
The engagement session was lively as Mr. Muhsein posed questions to the audience. The guests competed to answer the questions in order to win souvenirs. The Q&A followed suit with questions asking for the speaker's view on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address localization and many more. The event ended with a group photo.

The video recording of this talk will be available soon. Until then, please keep a look out on our social media for the announcement of the recording!





LIBRARY



[Japanese Language for Learners]

Learn Japanese through MANGA with the Onomatopoeia Friends

By Tanaka / Publisher: Kuroshio Publishers 2025 / Library Call No.814.35T

JLPT 文字・語彙 N2 ポイント & プラクティス

By Yukari HONDA / Publisher: 3 A Corporation 2025 / Library Call No.810.7925

EJU 2025年度 日本留学試験問題

By JASSO/ Publisher: Bonjinsha 2025 / Library Call No.377.6T

[TADOKU Books]

秒速5センチメートル(角川つばさ文庫): Level 5

By Makoto SHINKAI / Publisher: KADOKAWA 2025 / Library Call No.817.7T

どこいったん: Level 2

By John Klassen, Translated by Yoshifumi HASEGAWA / Publisher: Crayon house 2021/ Library Call No.726.6 KLA

[Art & Culture]

Fashioning Japanese Subculture: Second Edition

By Yuniya KAWAMURA / Publisher: Bloomy Visual Arts 2025 / Library Call No.391.0952 KAW

The System of Japanese Society: A Historical Sociology of Work and Employment

By Eiji OGUMA / Publisher: Trans Pacific Press 2024/ Library Call No.330.952 OGU

[Japanese Literature]

Strange Pictures

By Uketsu, Translated by Jim Rion / Publisher: Pushkin Vertigo 2025 / Library Call No.895.635 UKE

The Passengers on the Hankyu Line

By Hiro ARIKAWA, Translated by Allison Markin Powell / Publisher: Doubleday 2025 / Library Call No.895.635 ARI

世界99 上・下

By Sayaka MURATA / Publisher: Shueisha 2025 / Library Call No.913.6 MUR

愛蔵版 国宝 上・下

By Shuichi YOSHIDA / Publisher: Asahi shinbun shuppan 2025 / Library Call No.913.6 YOS

[Comics]

Jujutsu Kaisen Vol.25-27

By Gege Akutami, Translated by VIZ / Publisher: VIZ Media Shogakukan 2025 / Library Call No.726.1

Recommended Reading

Learn Japanese through MANGA with the Onomatopoeia Friends

スペース、ダラダラ、ドンドン...Onomatopoeia is the unique symbolic words in Japanese language, which you often see in Japanese comics. This is a perfect book that you will be able to learn useful Onomatopoeia from 4 panel manga while having fun.

Strange Pictures - Shortlisted for Waterstones Book of The Year 2025 (UK)

Uketsu, an anonymous horror writer made the new mystery sensation all over the world. This book invites you to solve the riddle together just like becoming a detective. Enjoy exploring an immersive mystery that you've never experienced before!

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 Workshop for Japanese Language Teachers 2025/2026

Reported by Lew Boon Lay (JFKL)

In fiscal year 2025, we conducted 5 workshops with a total of 165 participants across all sessions. Below are the summaries of the 2nd to 5th workshops.

The 2nd Workshop

The fun way of learning Hiragana through context (short stories)

Speaker: Ms. MITSUYA Mayumi

Date and time: 12 June 2025, 19:00~21:00

Platform: Online via ZOOM

This workshop introduced the “Hiragana Mini Book” developed by the Japan Foundation, Sydney as an alternative to the traditional character-by-character method. The speaker demonstrated how learners can study hiragana more naturally and enjoyably through short stories and meaningful context.

The 3rd Workshop

Let's explore how to teach Japanese with Marugoto!

Speaker: Ms. MITSUYA Mayumi

Date and time: 4 Oct 2025, 9:30~12:30

Venue: The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

This workshop introduced the contents and features of *Marugoto: Japanese Language and Culture*, the coursebook developed by the Japan Foundation and explained how it can be used effectively in teaching practice. The speaker also conducted a model lesson so that participants could gain a clear idea of how to apply the coursebook in their own classes.

The 4th Workshop

From visible to invisible culture: Fostering intercultural understanding in the classroom through "See, Think, Wonder"

Speaker: Ms. MAKI Ayaka (Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ), University of Malaya)

Date and time: 8 Nov 2025, 9:00~11:00

Platform: Online via ZOOM

This workshop focused on how to teach not only “visible culture,” such as kimono and the tea ceremony, but also “invisible culture,” including Japanese values and ways of thinking. The speaker introduced “See, Think, Wonder”, the thinking routine developed by Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education as a method to deepen intercultural understanding. Participants experienced the method through hands-on activities and explored a new way to develop cultural awareness in their classes.

The 5th Workshop

Fostering clear and natural pronunciation through encouraging and engaging techniques

Speaker: Ms. TAMURA Ayano (Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ), University of Malaya)

Date and time: 20 Nov 2025, 19:00~21:00

Platform: Online via ZOOM

This workshop highlighted the importance of pronunciation in communication. The speaker introduced practical techniques focusing on meaning, context, and emotions. Through group work, participants practiced intonation and rhythm in textbook dialogues and explored effective ways to motivate learners.

Please stay tuned for announcements about our upcoming workshops on our Facebook and Instagram pages.



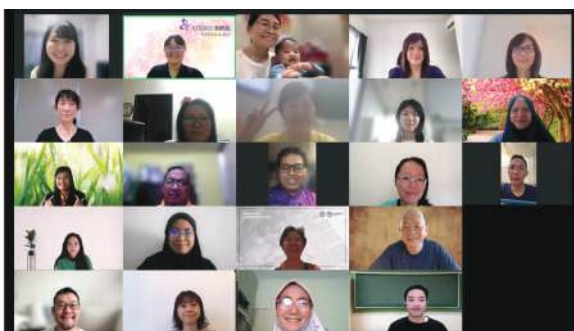
The 2nd workshop group photo



The 3rd workshop group photo



The 3rd workshop Experiencing model lesson



The 4th workshop group photo



The 5th workshop group photo

JFKL Tadoku Salon

Reported by Lew Boon Lay (JFKL)

The JFKL Tadoku Salon was held on Saturday, 17 January 2026, at the JFKL Library. We would like to thank all 45 participants who joined the event. The salon brought together people who love books, people who study Japanese, and those who wanted to enjoy a calm and relaxing morning.

During the event, participants choose books that match their reading levels. They also joined book-sharing sessions and talked with each other about the books. The relaxed atmosphere helped everyone communicate easily and enjoy learning Japanese without feeling pressure.

Below are some comments from participants:

- The provided books are categorised to different level and easy to read. The book sharing session has two groups, if you want to practice Japanese, here is the good chance and it is free.
- I love the books at Tadoku Salon and how they help me immerse myself in the Japanese language naturally. The relaxed, pressure-free environment makes learning enjoyable, motivating, and encourages consistent exposure to Japanese through reading.
- It's really fun and it's also a good opportunity to speak Japanese with other participants here!
There are variety of book options available from level 0 to 5 therefore it's beginner friendly as well!!!

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: www.jfkl.org.my/library/

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



JASSO Study in Japan Fair 2026

Reported by Zahidi Bakeri (JFKL)

JFKL was delighted to be given the chance to take part in the annual Study in Japan Fair held in Amari Hotel Kuala Lumpur on 24 and 25 January 2026, which was organized by the Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO).

On both days, JFKL introduced MINATO, a free Japanese language learning platform provided by the Japan Foundation, where visitors could register and proceed to start learning online at their own pace. Visitors also enjoyed traditional games and exhibition items at our booth such as Kendama and Daruma Otoshi, Japanese New Year decorations, and picture books. We had the opportunity to interact with many enthusiastic students and visitors interested in Japanese language and culture. Around more than 1000 visitors came to the fair, showing great interest among the Malaysian community, especially students, towards Japanese language and culture.

JFKL truly appreciates all the interest and active participation from all the visitors. It was such a joy to be included in this impactful fair, and JFKL would truly love to participate again next year.



Irodori Workshop

Reported by Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) expresses its heartfelt appreciation to our co-organisers for their invaluable collaboration in hosting two workshops focused on the Japan Foundation's Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan coursebook:

- **Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM Johor Bahru):**
Language Academy, Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities (FSSH)
- **Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT):**
Centre for Fundamental and Continuing Education (PPAL)

Theme:

Teaching Japanese with Irodori 『いろどり』*で教える日本語

Objectives:

Hands-on of teaching and learning experience using the Japanese language coursebook 'Irodori'.

Dates & Locations:

24 January 2026 (Saturday): UTM, Johor Bahru

31 January 2026 (Saturday): UMT, Kuala Terengganu

A total of 37 participants attended the sessions, held from 8:30 AM to 2:15 PM. Attendees included Japanese language educators from secondary schools and universities, as well as Japanese language learners and members of the public who are interested in teaching Japanese language.

The workshops began with an overview of Irodori course where our main speaker, Ms. MITSUYA Mayumi (Chief Lecturer of JFKL) introduced the Irodori textbook and its structures. A model lesson was then demonstrated by another JFKL's lecturer, Ms. Chan Yee Han to provide an idea of how the curriculum can be used to conduct a lesson. Participants were also engaged in mock teaching sessions, where they had the opportunity to practice using the materials including some audio of conversations which is a part of the Irodori textbook. Each participant was provided with a copy of the textbook (A1 level).

A few officers representing the Ministry of Education, Malaysia (MOE) also attended both workshops as observers, taking the opportunity to engage not only with the co-organisers but also connecting with the participants.

Through these collaborative efforts, the workshops successfully equipped a diverse group of educators and learners with practical tools for Japanese language instructions. By fostering direct engagement between JFKL, the MOE, and local educational institutions, the event strengthened the network of Japanese language education in Malaysia. We look forward to seeing how these participants implement the Irodori curriculum to help learners build the essential communication skills needed. We are deeply grateful to UTM and UMT for their partnership in creating such a valuable platform for hands-on learning. It is our hope that the resources provided, particularly the A1 level textbook, will serve as a foundation for continued growth and inspired teaching within the community.



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA (UTM)
24 January 2026

UMT Group Photo



UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA TERENGGANU (UMT)
31 January 2026

UMT Group Photo



Instructor Mitsuya Mayumi



Instructor Chan Yee Han



UTM Discussion



UMT Mock Teaching

*"Irodori" is a Japanese-language coursebook developed by the Japan Foundation. It is specifically designed to help foreign learners acquire the basic Japanese communication skills necessary for daily life and work in Japan. For more information, visit www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/en/ or scan the QR code.



Support for New Japanese Language Teachers of Secondary Schools

Reported by HIRATA Yuna (JFKL) and Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

Committed in supporting new Japanese language teachers (in service since end of 2021) who are currently teaching in public secondary schools under the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE), JFKL had once again organised a workshop on 3 and 4 February 2026 at our office. The workshop aimed to provide a platform for them to reflect on their teaching practices thus far and gain valuable insights from their peers. A total of 24 out of 35 new teachers participated in this one-and-a-half-day workshop.

Throughout the workshop, participants experienced various classroom activities designed to help students enjoy learning Japanese and explored how these activities could be effectively integrated into their own lessons. It also included a session on shodō (traditional Japanese calligraphy), where teachers engaged in hands-on activities such as *mizushūji* (water calligraphy) and bookmark-making. Furthermore, a productive sharing session was held, allowing participants to actively exchange concerns and innovative ideas related to their Japanese language classes.

Following the workshop, we also donated some calligraphy brushes and water calligraphy paper for each new teacher, hoping that they will be able to conduct similar activities introduced during the workshop at their schools. This donation initiative for new generation of local Japanese language teachers has been sustainably offered since few years ago as a part of our support for Japanese language education in secondary school level. We hope that the experience provided them with valuable insights and enriching their experiences to further enhance their teaching practices.

We were also honoured by the presence of officers from the MOE during this workshop, who have been continuously supporting our effort in developing Japanese language education in Malaysia. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all participants and attendees, and we look forward to working with them again in future opportunities.

Check out our social medias for more information about other programmes tailored for Japanese language educators!



Participants with the JFKL and MOE



Participants Experiencing Mizushūji



Participants Experiencing Classroom Activities

Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES)

Reported by HIRATA Yuna (JFKL)

The Malaysia Japanese Language Education Seminar (MJLES) was held online on 7 February 2026, welcoming a total of 111 participants from 11 countries and regions.

This year's seminar was conducted under the theme:
"Four Essential Elements for Language Learning: Lesson Design Based on Second Language Acquisition (SLA) Research."

Dr. YOKOYAMA Noriko was invited as the speaker and delivered a practical presentation on how SLA theory can be effectively applied in Japanese language classrooms. To support successful second language learning, the seminar introduced four major types of classroom activities: meaning-focused input, meaning-focused output, language-focused learning, and fluency development. Through concrete examples, participants were encouraged to reflect on their own teaching practices and consider how various activities can more effectively support learners' language development.

Below are some of the feedback comments from the participants:

Non-native teachers:

- The topic was chosen wisely. Teachers can benefit from the knowledge shared and I will try to implement the new techniques that I learned during this seminar.
- The seminar was well organized and very easy to understand. It provided a valuable opportunity to reconsider my views on language learning. I was particularly impressed by the relationship among the four essential elements.

Native teachers:

- I had previously studied hypotheses related to second language acquisition, but I found it difficult to incorporate them into classroom activities within limited lesson time. In this seminar, however, I learned practical activity examples that even beginner-level students can handle. Thank you very much.
- Although I thought I understood SLA, I realized that my understanding was incomplete. The seminar was concrete and easy to follow, and I learned a lot. There were many aspects I had not yet incorporated into my classes, so I would like to put them into practice.

We sincerely thank Dr. YOKOYAMA Noriko and all participants for making this seminar a great success. We look forward to seeing you again at the next MJLES!

マレーシア日本語教育セミナー
MALAYSIA JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION SEMINAR

JAPAN FOUNDATION
KUALA LUMPUR

げんご がくしゅう ひつよう ようそ
言語学習に必要な4つの要素:
だい げんご しゅうとくけんきゅう もと じゅぎょうせつけい
第2言語習得研究(SLA)に基づく授業設計

Four Essential Elements for Language Learning:
Lesson Design Based on Second Language Acquisition (SLA) Research

講演者
横山紀子先生 Dr. YOKOYAMA Noriko
元・昭和女子大学教授 現・都立飛鳥高校特別時間講師
Former Professor at Showa Women's University; currently Part-time Lecturer at ASUKA Tokyo Metropolitan Senior High School

2026年2月7日 土
9:00-12:00* Malaysia Time
The seminar will be conducted in Japanese.





SHIMOTSUJI Misako
Program Coordinator
Cultural Affairs Department

During my one year and two months at JFKL, I was truly grateful for the opportunity to work with everyone—both inside and outside JFKL. Thank you very much for all your support and kindness.

In Malaysia, I had many opportunities both personally and professionally to experience the rich cultures of various ethnic communities, which allowed me to learn a great deal about diversity and multicultural coexistence. I was also deeply moved by how many people expressed interest in Japanese culture and research.

About 30 years ago, I lived in Kuala Lumpur for about two years. Compared with that time, the city's remarkable development initially took me by surprise. Yet the warmth and cheerfulness of the people remain unchanged, bringing back fond memories and a comforting sense of familiarity.

Within my work, despite my own shortcomings, being entrusted with the international dialogue projects was an invaluable experience. Meeting many researchers and experts offered me countless opportunities to reflect on Japan from an external perspective, prompting me to think deeply about how we as individuals—and as a nation—should move forward in the future. At the same time, it reaffirmed my pride in our traditions, history, and the delicate, distinctive culture we hold, strengthening my desire to continue contributing, even in small ways, to international cooperation.

To everyone with whom I had the pleasure of spending time, both professionally and personally, thank you very much. I look forward to the day we meet again!

EVENT LISTING

Ongoing	JFF THEATER Streaming Japanese Films for FREE at: https://www.jff.jp.go.jp/movie/
MAR 7 - JUN 7	'I Love Sushi' Exhibition in Sabah Venue: Sabah Islamic Civilisation Museum Opens daily (9AM – 5PM)
APR 18	The 23rd Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School Students Theme: スター Venue: Wildrice Hall (Level 9), St. Giles Boulevard Hotel Kuala Lumpur Time: 1PM – 5PM
FROM MAY 2	Online Course for Japanese Language Teachers Platform: Zoom Enquiries: kl_seminar@jpf.go.jp
APR 25	Weekend Japanese Film Show Film: DEMON POND (d. SHINODA Masahiro / 1979) Venue: GSC Mid Valley
MAY 16	Tadoku Salon Venue: JFKL Library Theme: Stay tuned to our SNS for updates!

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 May – Labour Day
27 May – Hari Raya Haji
1 June – Birthday of Y. P. Agong
17 June – Awal Muharram

20 July – Marine Day

JFKL Library Holiday

1 May – Labour Day
27 May – Hari Raya Haji
17 June – Awal Muharram



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

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