

TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **145**
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Bakat Muda Sezaman 29
Japan-ASEAN Youth Summit
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and more...



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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Cinema Pairing: Japan x Malaysia 2026

Reported by Jacky Yeap (Founder of Raintown Film Festival) & Julien CHEN Lip Syn (JFKL)



In late October 2025, Mr. Jacky YEAP Swee Leong was invited to participate in the “An Open Draft - Asia Film Programmers Lab” program in Tokyo. It consisted of lectures, site visits, workshops, and discussions. Participants had to propose a screening program and realize it back in their home countries. Jacky’s pairing screenings ran from 15-17 May 2026 at GSC Mid Valley, opening with MIKAYKE Sho’s ‘Small, Slow But Steady’, and then pairing OZU Yasujiro’s ‘Tokyo Story’ with CHONG Keat Aun’s ‘The Story of Southern Islet’ and MITANI Koki’s ‘Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald’ with Al Jafree Md Yusop’s ‘Mencari Rahmat’.

“I first encountered the ‘An Open Draft - Asia Film Programmers Lab’ program in early 2025 when The Japan Foundation (JF) team and mentor TSUCHIDA Tamaki visited Kuala Lumpur. I had a chance to meet them to share about my film festival, Raintown, as well as my experiences as a film programmer in Malaysia. I also got the chance to learn more about the Asia Film Programmers Lab.

Mid-2025, I was ordered to join the next edition of the program. I had never been to Japan before, so this was a rare opportunity to formally learn film programming in a structured environment. Without hesitation, I accepted. I was excited to experience both the workshop and a new country.

The workshop lasted 8 days, from 24 October - 1 November. Alongside lectures on the fundamentals of film programming, I gained practical insight into real-world execution, including copyright negotiation, scheduling, and the operational aspects of a programme. It also created space for networking with film programmers across ASEAN countries, as well as field visits to independent cinemas in Japan. The field visit was one of the most inspiring parts of the experience.

I would describe this workshop as deeply meaningful to my career; it allowed me to step away from my work in Malaysia and fully focus on developing a film programme that later became my “final year project”. I would like to sincerely thank my mentor TSUCHIDA Tamaki, WAKAI Makiko, and Lulu Ratna, as well as all the guest speakers who gave valuable feedback on my proposal.

Time flies. This workshop was 7 months ago. The programme I developed during the lab, titled Cinema Pairing: Japan x Malaysia, was successfully executed. I explored how Malaysian filmmakers were influenced by Japanese classical cinema, and how they reinterpret these influences while maintaining their own identity and personal style.

One highlight was the screening of *Tokyo Story*. I still remember standing at the back of the cinema, watching the audience immersed in the film. It was a moving moment. We also invited Malaysian filmmaker CHONG Keat Aun, whose academic research on OZU influenced his debut feature, *The Story of Southern Islet*. The pairing of these films created a clear dialogue between Japanese and Malaysian cinema. Similarly, *Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald* was paired with *Mencari Rahmat*, showing another thread of inspiration.

Lastly, I would like to thank The Japan Foundation, The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, the mentors, guest speakers, and my classmates! I hope our journey as film programmers continues beyond this, and that we will keep designing meaningful film programmes in the future.

By Jacky YEAP



The Japan Foundation's Travelling Cultural Exhibition, I LOVE SUSHI in Sabah

Reported by Hannah Hir (JFKL)



The final stop of the I LOVE SUSHI exhibition in Malaysia took place in Sabah, marking the successful conclusion of this edition of The Japan Foundation's travelling exhibition after a remarkable 175-day journey in Malaysia.

The opening reception was held on 10 April 2026 at the Sabah Islamic Civilization Museum. The ceremony was officiated by Yang Berhormat Datuk Jafry bin Hj. Ariffin, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment (KePKAS), and graced by H.E. Mr. SHIKATA Noriyuki, Ambassador of Japan to Malaysia alongside Datuk Josie Lai Mei Sing, Permanent Secretary of KePKAS, Mr. Arif Abdul Hamid, former Director of the Sabah State Museum Department, Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa, Director of The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL), with other distinguished guests and respected VIPs.

The reception commenced with a captivating *gamelan* performance and was officially launched with five ceremonial strikes of the gong by Datuk Jafry. Guests enjoyed locally accustomed sushi, which was graciously prepared by Sushi King, and the *hinava* (Kadazandusun cuisine), arranged by the museum.

Over the course of its Sabah run, the exhibition welcomed more than 3,000 visitors. Through fascinating insights into sushi, visitors were introduced to the many dimensions of Japan's iconic cuisine, resulting in countless mouthwatering moments, delectable drawings, and scrumptious sushi knowledge.



JFKL extends its sincere appreciation to everyone who visited the exhibition throughout its entire journey across Malaysia. See you at the next one!

The 29th Bakat Muda Sezaman (BMS29)

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)

Bakat Meda Sezaman (BMS, The Young Contemporaries) is a prestigious visual art competition for emerging Malaysian artists, organized by the National Art Gallery (NAG) since 1974. BMS has been serving as a benchmark for young artists as they will get recognition by being awarded at this competition.

For the 29th edition of BMS, NAG had changed its style with the theme "Site-Specific in Langkawi", emphasizing the relationship between artworks and physical context, environment, and local narratives. The short-listed artists were gathered in Langkawi for a workshop session during which they decided on the respective locations and finalized their proposals.

For the Jury evaluation which was held from 5 until 8 May, Mr. KITAGAWA Fram, who is widely known as the General Director of the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale and Setouchi Triennale, served as the Chief Jury, alongside with the co-juries Dr. Agung Hujatnikajennong from Indonesia and Dr. Mohamad Faizuan Mat from UNIMAS. The Jurying session started at the National Gallery Langkawi branch to go through the proposed plans exhibited, followed by the visits to the sites such as Pasar Awam and remains of the old hospital in Kuah, Taman Lagenda, and Pulau Tuba over 2 days. The 80 year-old artistic director of various projects in Japan, accompanied by his assistant Ms. TANJI Natsuki, seemed to be enjoying their first visit to the islands despite the hot weather.



Association for Asian Studies Conference (AAS 2026) Vancouver, Canada

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL)

Three Malaysian scholars were recently awarded **The Japan Foundation Travel Support for Scholars Attending the AAS Annual Conference** in Vancouver, Canada:

1. Dr. Nur Hafeeza Ahmad Pazil, Senior Lecturer, School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
2. Mr. Tian Jing Teh, PhD Candidate, University of Southern California
3. Dr. Ikhran Rizuan, Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS)

The 4-day conference which span from March 12-15 saw over 3,000 international delegates across the world. Our grantees participated as speakers at their respective panels with other respected academicians on topics to advance Japanese Studies.

Dr. Hafeeza's panel began on the first day following the opening ceremony. Her paper *Real, Relatable, Reliable: Malaysian Muslim DIY Travel to Japan Through User-Generated Content* touched on how travellers now rely on social media to discover Muslim-friendly spots in Japan. In Mr. Tian Jing's session, he expressed '*Reversing the Gaze*', redefining Japanese Studies on a regional lens, together with his co-panellists.

The scholars also attended The Japan Foundation Reception where they engaged with Dr. SATO Yuri, former Advisor of JF and other scholars who received the travel grant. The final segment was a wrap up session with all grantees as they reflect on their participation and steps on continuing the journey on Japanese Studies in each country.

All details pertaining the AAS, and its events may be found on their official website: www.asianstudies.org/conference/aas2026-vancouver/



JAPAN-ASEAN YOUTH SUMMIT (JAYS) 2026

Reported by Anelise (JFKL)

The Japan-ASEAN Youth Summit (JAYS) 2026 was held in Kuala Lumpur from 29 March -2 April 2026, bringing together high school students aged 15–18 from Japan and ASEAN member states for a regional youth exchange programme focused on leadership, sustainability, and cross-cultural collaboration.

Co-organized by Multilateral Interaction with Students (MIS) Japan, University of Tokyo, and the ASEAN Youth Organization (AYO), the summit featured lectures, workshops, discussions, and site visits designed to encourage young participants to develop solutions for contemporary regional challenges.

As part of its support for the programme, JF provided official logo support for the summit. In conjunction with this support, representatives from JFKL were also invited to serve as judges for the programme's final presentation session.

The summit concluded on 2 April 2026 with a final pitching session, where 12 delegate groups presented their proposals and regional solutions developed throughout the programme. JFKL representatives joined fellow evaluators in assessing the presentations based on innovation, feasibility, teamwork, and regional relevance before determining the award recipients.

JAYS 2026 highlighted the importance of youth-led dialogue and regional cooperation in strengthening future connections between Japan and ASEAN.



PLACEMAKING EXCHANGE: THAILAND + MALAYSIA + JAPAN 2026

Reported by Anelise (JFKL)

From 15–19 May 2026, delegates from Malaysia, Japan, and Thailand gathered in Bangkok for the third year of Placemaking Exchange: Thailand + Malaysia + Japan 2026, a regional programme exploring community-led urbanism, cultural sustainability, and inclusive public spaces.

Co-organized by JFKL, Pollin8, the Malaysian Institute of Planners (MIP), Placemaking Malaysia, Placemaking Thailand, and Urban Studies Lab (USL), the exchange brought together familiar and new participants from Seberang Perai City Council (MBSP), Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ), academics, and independent Placemakers for site visits, workshops, and discussions across Bangkok.

The programme began at the Ford Community Center (FCC) and Bangkok 1899, where Dr. Pongpisit Huyakorn, Founder of Placemaking Thailand, introduced participants to Bangkok's urban development history and the growing role of placemaking initiatives within the city. Delegates were encouraged to examine how local communities and cultural identities shape urban environments beyond conventional planning frameworks.

On the second day, participants explored adaptive reuse and creative economies through visits to the Thailand Creative Design Center (TCDC), Talat Noi, Hua Lamphong, and Nana Alley. Representatives from Cityconnexth Hatyai, Ms. Sutthahathai Niyomwas and Mr. Sorawich Aungsuthar, shared examples of community-driven revitalization projects in Southern Thailand. This was followed by a technical walkthrough led by Ms. Yanin Thunkijjanukij of RTUS Bangkok, highlighting how heritage neighbourhoods can be reactivated through participatory design and local engagement.

Delegates also engaged with Neighbour Mart; an initiative focused on digitally archiving and preserving legacy neighbourhood brands while strengthening local economies through storytelling and cultural preservation.

Day three shifted focus toward grassroots narratives and participatory mapping. At the Banglamphu Museum, Ms. Pantip Likkachai, President of Saneh Banglamphu, presented youth-led cultural tourism initiatives that empower local communities through storytelling and heritage-based activities. Later, in the MRT Bang O area, Ms. Yada Ponchamni from Mutual ground.lab facilitated a participatory mapping and neighbourhood signage workshop, encouraging delegates to identify overlooked public spaces and explore how community voices can shape urban interventions.

The fourth day was hosted by the Faculty of Architecture at Chulalongkorn University, bringing together academics, policymakers, and practitioners for a series of lectures and roundtable discussions. Assoc. Prof. Prin Jhearmaneechotechai and Assoc. Prof. Komgri Thanapet presented research on green infrastructure, food ecosystems, and “living laboratories” as tools for sustainable urban development.

The roundtable session featured discussions by Ms. Jia Ping Lee (Placemaking Malaysia), Ms. Thipawan Saenchan (Bangkok Metropolitan Administration), and Dr. Pheereeya Boonchaiyapruerk (Silpakorn University / Urban Ally), focusing on balancing institutional planning with community realities through tactical urbanism and collaborative design approaches. Mr. Nur Mushawwir Hrsikesa from MBSP also participated in the roundtable session talking about MBSP's efforts in landscape design as placemaking initiatives.

The programme concluded back at FCC with workshops focused on future regional collaborations and preparations for the Global Placemaking Summit 2027. Participants also presented Seeing Placemaking in Bangkok, a collaborative photo exhibition documenting reflections and observations gathered throughout the exchange.

The Placemaking Exchange reaffirmed the importance of regional cooperation, community participation, and cultural rootedness in shaping more inclusive and sustainable cities across Southeast Asia.



JFKL Small Grant Category A: UKM Matsuri

Reported by Farah Ammar (JFKL) & Julien CHEN Lip Syn

We are proud to award **“UKM Matsuri 2026: Together We Minoru”** with our JFKL Small Grant (Category A) which supports projects that promote Japan under the field of Arts and Culture.

The 3-day event was held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Bangi from the 24th to 26th of April 2026, attracting students of every field of study and members of the public with an interest in Japan's multifaceted charm and diversity.

JFKL collaborated with Minoru, UKM's Japanese Language and Culture Club for a screening of *The Lines That Define Me* (2022, d. KOZUMI Nori) directly from the free online streaming platform for Japanese films – **JFF Theater**.

Over 56 students attended the screening. Many were moved by the film's emotional story about overcoming grief alongside learning about the Japanese art of Sumi-e painting. We also promoted the online streaming platform to the audience, encouraging them to sign up to be able to watch more Japanese films for free at their leisure.

The event itself also had various Japanese themed activities including food stalls, performances and even a Japanese horror house.

With different line-ups every month and multilingual subtitles, learn more about Japanese culture and sign up at en.jff.jp/go.jp for free to catch Japanese films anytime, anywhere!





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FREE
Free Streaming

Multilingual Subtitles

Up to 19 subtitle languages are available on JFF Theater.

*The country/region of distribution and subtitles languages may vary depending on the title.

Create your account here!



JFF Theater streams Japanese films and videos worldwide, free of charge.

JAPANESE FILM SCREENINGS OVERSEAS

The Japan Foundation hosts the Japanese Film Festival (JFF) annually in ASEAN countries, India, and Australia, showcasing a wide range of Japanese films. In addition to JFF, it also organizes global screenings, allowing viewers to enjoy Japanese cinema both online via JFF Theater and at onsite events worldwide*



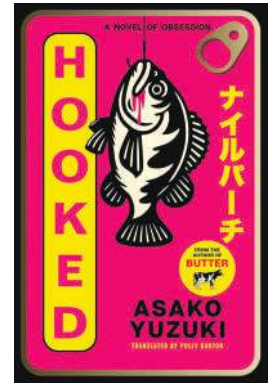
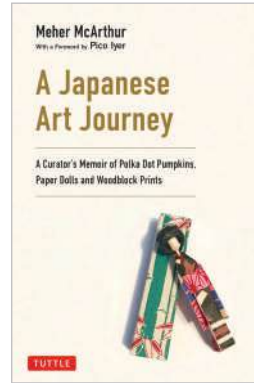
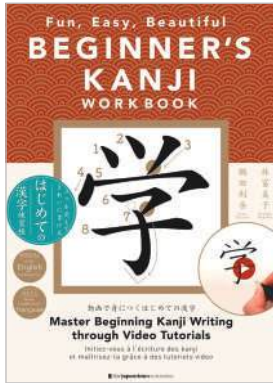
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LIBRARY



[Japanese Language for Learners]

BEGINNER'S KANJI WORKBOOK: Fun, Easy, Beautiful: Master Beginning Kanji writing through Video Tutorials

By Fumiko HAYASHI / Publisher: The Japan Times 2026 / Library Call No.811.2T

中級日本語 とびら 1

By Mayumi OKA / Kuroshio Publishers 2025 / Library Call No.810.783

みんなの日本語 初級 1 (第3版) 翻訳・文法解説 英語版

By 3 A Corporation / Publisher: 3 A Corporation 2025 / Library Call No.810.78

[JLPT]

増補改訂版 日本語総まとめ N1 聴解【英語・中国語・韓国語版】

By Hitoko SASAKI, Noriko MATSUMOTO / Publisher: ASK 2024 / Library Call No.810.7295

改訂版 合格できる日本語能力試験 各N1/N2/N3/N4-5

By Akiko ISHIZAKI and others / Publisher: ALC 2025 / Library Call No.810.7925

[Art & Culture]

A Japanese Art Journey: A Curator's Memoir of Paper Dolls, Woodblock Prints and Polka Dot Pumpkins

By Meher McArthur / Publisher: Tuttle Publishing 2025 / Library Call No.709.52 MCA

Ma: The Japanese Secret to Contemplation and Calm

By Ken Rogers / Publisher: Tuttle Publishing 2025 / Library Call No.155.8 ROG

ファンたちの市民社会 あなたの「欲望」を深める10章

By Kohiki WATABE / Publisher: Kawade shobo2025 / Library Call No.361.5 WAT

[Japanese Literature]

Hooked

By Asako YUZUKI, Translated by Polly Barton/ Publisher: Harper Collins 2026 / Library Call No.895.635 YUZ

Run with the wind

By Shion MIURA, Translated by Yuri KAJITA / Publisher: Happervia 2024 / Library Call No.895.635 MIU

カフェの帰り道

By Teru SHIMAZU / Publisher: Tokyo Sougensha 2025 / Library Call No.913.6 SHI

[Comics]

チ。地球の運動について 第1-8集

By Uoto / Publisher: Shogakukan 2020-2022 / Library Call No.726.1

Spy×Family Vol.15

By Tatsuya ENDO / Publisher: Viz Media 2025 / Library Call No.726.1

Recommended Reading

BEGINNER'S KANJI WORKBOOK

This book is perfect for people who are just starting to learn Japanese and want to write Kanji beautifully. You can practice introductory level Kanji with a QR code linking to a tutorial video showing stroke orders and how Kanji characters are handwritten. In addition to the tutorial videos, the book also features free audio pronunciation aids and flashcard videos.

Hooked

"Hooked" is the latest novel by the award-winning author of the global bestselling sensation "Butter". The story is about two very different types of women in their 30s, Eriko and Shoko, featuring the twisted friendship between them - obsession, desire, and the hidden emotions people carry inside. Vivid storytelling and intense character relationships will pull you into a thrilling world.

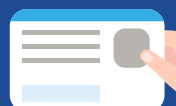
Lots more new arrivals are available in the library!

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You can enjoy:

- borrowing library materials (up to 5 items for 2 weeks)
- watching DVDs & listening to CDs at the AV corner
- having discount tickets for selected JFKL events

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



THE 23RD JAPANESE SPEECH CONTEST FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MALAYSIA (2026)

Reported by Fatim Azzahra binti Hamsa & Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

The 23rd Japanese Speech Contest for Secondary School Students in Malaysia (JSC 2026) was successfully held on 18 April 2026 at Wildrice Hall, St. Giles Boulevard Hotel, Kuala Lumpur. The contest was co-organised by the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia.

As one of JFKL's annual programmes for secondary school students, JSC continues to provide a platform for young Japanese learners in Malaysia to showcase their language proficiency, creativity, and public speaking skills. The contest is open to students aged between 15 and 18 who are learning Japanese either in their public secondary schools or at other educational institutions.

This year, JSC received a total of 127 submissions from 44 schools and institutions nationwide. Following the screening round, 14 contestants were selected to compete in the final contest under the theme [スター] (Star).

The contestants delivered speeches inspired by their personal experiences, ambitions, role models, and perspectives on what "star" represents in their lives. Through their speeches, contestants demonstrated not only their Japanese language ability, but also confidence, individuality, and passion.

The event was honoured by the attendance of the Deputy Director-General of Education Malaysia (School Operations Sector), Tuan Zainal bin Abas, who delivered the opening remarks. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of foreign language learning and international understanding among students.



Apart from with the Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE), JFKL was pleased to continue its collaboration with University of Tsukuba Malaysia (UTMy) for this year's contest. We were also grateful for the continued support from our sponsors who have consistently contributed to the success of JSC over the years. This year also marked the first collaboration with Koshidaka Malaysia Sdn. Bhd., widely known for its karaoke franchise, Karaoke Manekineko. After previously supporting the Japanese Skit Contest 2025, the company joined JSC 2026 as one of the sponsors, with its Managing Director serving as one of the judges. They had also setup a booth at the event hall alongside other sponsors, Kadokawa Gempak Starz and Telaga Biru Sdn. Bhd.



The judging panel and top seven winners for JSC 2026 are as follows:

Chief Judge:

Mr. KITAOKA Tatsuya

Director, Japan Information Service
Embassy of Japan in Malaysia

Judges:

Mr. ZAMA Akira

Managing Director
Koshidaka Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.

Ms. HIRAISHI Noriko

Professor
University of Tsukuba, Malaysia (UTMy)

Ms. Siti Fatimah binti Abdul Alim

Lecturer
Ambang Asuhan Jepun (AAJ),
Universiti Malaya

Ms. HIRATA Yuna

Lecturer
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

Interviewer:

Ms. MITSUYA Mayumi

Chief Lecturer
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

NO.	FULL NAME	SCHOOL	SPEECH TITLE
1 st	Lim Ern Yii	Tsun Jin High School, WP Kuala Lumpur*	The Star Who Gave Me Light 光をくれたスター
2 nd	Seraphine Maxmillan Sim	Kolej Tun Datu Tuanku Haji Bujang, Sarawak	Be Your Own Star 自分だけの星になろう
3 rd	Aleesya Safiyya binti Muhammad Juhairi Aziz	SM Sultan Abdul Halim, Kedah	A Radiance That Never Fades かすむことのない輝き
4 th	Muhammad Adam Wafi bin Nur-Izzuddin	SBPI Rawang, Selangor	The Star That Never Fades in My Heart 心に灯る、消えない星
5 th	Hana Humaira binti Mohd Naimuddin	SMK Tunku Putra, Kedah	Fishing in a Sea of Stars 星の海で見つけた夢
6 th	Tan Shin Horng	St. John's Institution, WP Kuala Lumpur	To Live by the Stars 星という生きがい
7 th	Chua Wei Ming	SMK Tropicana, Selangor	We Are All Made of Stars 私たちは みんな 星で できている

*Private Learner

As the top winners of JSC 2026, the first and second place contestants will participate in a 16-day exchange programme in Kansai, Japan, scheduled from late June 2026.



JFKL extends its congratulations to all contestants for their dedication and achievement, as well as appreciation to the teachers and parents whose encouragement and support contributed greatly to the students' journey in learning Japanese language.

NIHONGO Partners Programme 12th Batch: The NP's journey as of present

Reported by NP Team (JFKL)

The year 2026 marks the beginning of the 12th batch of NIHONGO Partner (NP) programme where 20 NIHONGO Partners (NP) made their way to Malaysia to begin their journey as NP where they will be dispatched to 20 Host Schools across Malaysia. Let's revisit their journey as of present.

Post-Arrival Orientation

10 February 2026 marks the beginning for the 20 Japanese volunteers as NP in Malaysia with a series of programmes and briefings conducted under the Post-Arrival Orientation Programme. As part of the Orientation Programme, JFKL collaborated with International, Mobility and Advanced Education Centre (IMAC), Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), to hold an Immersion Programme from 13-15 February 2026 which serves as a way for the NP to immerse themselves with the local Malaysian culture and to practice their Bahasa Malaysia with locals.



NP arriving in Malaysia

A series of courtesy calls to the Ministry of Education (MOE) as well as the Embassy of Japan (EoJ) were also held as part of the Orientation Programme. During their visit to MOE on 16 February, NP were welcomed by the Director for Daily School Management Division, who shared his aspirations regarding the programme. Following the visit to MOE, NP visited EoJ on 20 February where they met Ambassador Shikata Noriyuki and were given tips on how to navigate life in Malaysia safely and comfortably.

The Orientation Programme comes to crescendo with the CP-NP Joint session conducted from 23-26 February 2026 involving the participation of twenty (20) Counterpart Teachers (CP) from the host schools. Various activities were conducted to allow the NP to get to know their CP and their host schools while also providing the CP and NP with information to navigate the programme. The programme concluded on 26 February and marked the beginning of their journey as NP as they head towards their respective schools together with their CP where they will be dispatched until the 6th of September 2026.



Courtesy call to the Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia



Courtesy Call to the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia



CP-NP Joint Session and the conclusion of the post-arrival orientation programme

Courtesy Visits in Penang

From 20-22 April 2026, a total of nine (9) NIHONGO Partners (NP) successfully concluded their series of courtesy visits in Penang, as part of the 12th Batch NP Programme.

Their visit started on 21 April to the Consulate-General of Japan in Penang, where the Consul-General, Mr. Machida Shinya gracefully welcomed the NP. They were then briefed on various initiatives by the Consulate which they could join in the near future.

After, NP headed next to Penang Japanese School where the NP were exposed on how Japanese schools operate in Malaysia. The principal also took NP for a short tour around the school. Shortly after, the NP visited the Japan Graduate's Associate of Malaysia (JAGAM) Northern Branch and they were warmly welcomed by Mr. Lee Kean Huat, Vice Chairman of the JAGAM Northern Branch.

For the final leg of the courtesy visit on 22 April, NP made their way to the Japan Centre (TORAY-USM) at University Sains Malaysia (USM) where Mr. Soeda Masatoshi, Director of the Japan Centre had welcomed the NP. During their visit, the NP had the opportunity to exchange questions and ideas with five (5) buddies, which were the USM Japanese language students, to develop a better understanding toward each other's culture.



Courtesy Call to The Consulate-General of Japan in Penang



Courtesy Call to Penang Japanese School



Courtesy Call to the Japan Graduate's Associate of Malaysia (JAGAM) Northern Branch



Courtesy Call to Japan Centre (TORAY-USM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)

MINI TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR JAPANESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS IN BRUNEI

Reported by HIRATA Yuna (JFKL)

A mini teacher training workshop for Japanese language teachers was successfully held on 17 March 2026 in Brunei. According to the Japan Foundation's 2024 Survey on Japanese-Language Education Abroad, currently, there are only 2 Japanese Language Teachers teaching at educational institutions in Brunei. Nonetheless, a total of 5 Japanese Language Teachers from cram schools and secondary schools turned up for the workshop, making it a lively session filled with active engagement. The workshop also provided a valuable opportunity for the participants to connect with one another.

The workshop consisted of two sessions. In the first session, *Let's Read with Hiragana and Katakana*, participants explored practical ideas and tips for teaching kana while keeping learners motivated and engaged. In the second session, *Learning Japanese Through Fun Games*, participants experienced a variety of activities that can be incorporated into Japanese language classes. Through group discussions, they reflected on how these activities can help students practice Japanese while enjoying the learning process.

We truly appreciate those who joined. We hope it has offered fresh ideas and inspiration which could be implemented in classrooms. Finally, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Sultan Muhammad Jamalul Alam Secondary School and the Embassy of Japan in Brunei Darussalam for their kind support and cooperation in making this workshop a success.



JFKL Tadoku Salon

Reported by SAKAMOTO Tomoko (JFKL)

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined our Tadoku Salon at JFKL Library!

The first Tadoku Salon of this fiscal year was held on 16 May, Saturday. Approximately 50 participants enjoyed exploring Tadoku books and had a wonderful time connecting through stories together.

Tadoku Salon is a fun event that helps you to learn Japanese through reading and inspires you to connect with "Nakama (仲間)" who share the same passion for learning Japanese language and culture.

Anyone who can read Hiragana is welcomed to join us! Stay tuned for the next Tadoku Salon in August!

Also, the Tadoku collection is available in our library for your everyday reading. Please feel free to visit us anytime!

Participant Voices

- Get to meet many wonderful like-minded people.
- Many choices of books to select from based on our level, and there's no rush or urgency to complete a book.
- I would like to join this again. For me, Japanese and those who make effort to learn Japanese, inspired me so much. Thank you so much.
- A very fun and relaxing environment, which helped me to focus on reading and have fun when chatting with fellow readers.



EVENT LISTING

Ongoing	JFF THEATER Streaming Japanese Films for FREE at: https://www.jff.jp/movie/
JUL 9 - 26	Project Sea View: The Great Seawall of Japan ~ A Photo Exhibition by Chai Ming Yang Venue: The Godown Arts Centre
JUL 30 - AUG 2	Shakespeare Meets Noh: DESDEMONA in Kuala Lumpur Venue: Damansara Performing Arts Centre (DPAC) Bookings via CloudJoi
AUG 2 - 4	J-RETRA 2026 - Regional Training for Secondary School Teachers 2026 (Eastern Region) Further information on the JFKL Website!
AUG 8 - 9	Shakespeare Meets Noh: DESDEMONA in Georgetown Festival Venue: Majestic Theatre, Penang Bookings via CloudJoi
AUG 15	Weekend Japanese Film Show Venue: GSC Mid Valley Megamall
AUG 15	Tadoku Salon Stay tuned for further updates on our SNS and the JFKL Website!
AUG 18 - 20	J-RETRA 2026 - Regional Training for Secondary School Teachers 2026 (Northern Region) Further information on the JFKL Website!
From SEPTEMBER 8	JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2026 Stay tuned for further updates on our SNS and the JFKL Website!
SEP 22 - 24	J-RETRA 2026 - Regional Training for Secondary School Teachers 2026 (Central Region) Further information on the JFKL Website!

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

20 July – Marine Day
25 August – Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
31 August – Merdeka Day

16 September – Malaysia Day
21 September – Respect for the Aged Day
12 October – Sports Day

JFKL Library Holiday

25 August – Prophet Muhammad's Birthday
16 September – Malaysia Day



JAPANFOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

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