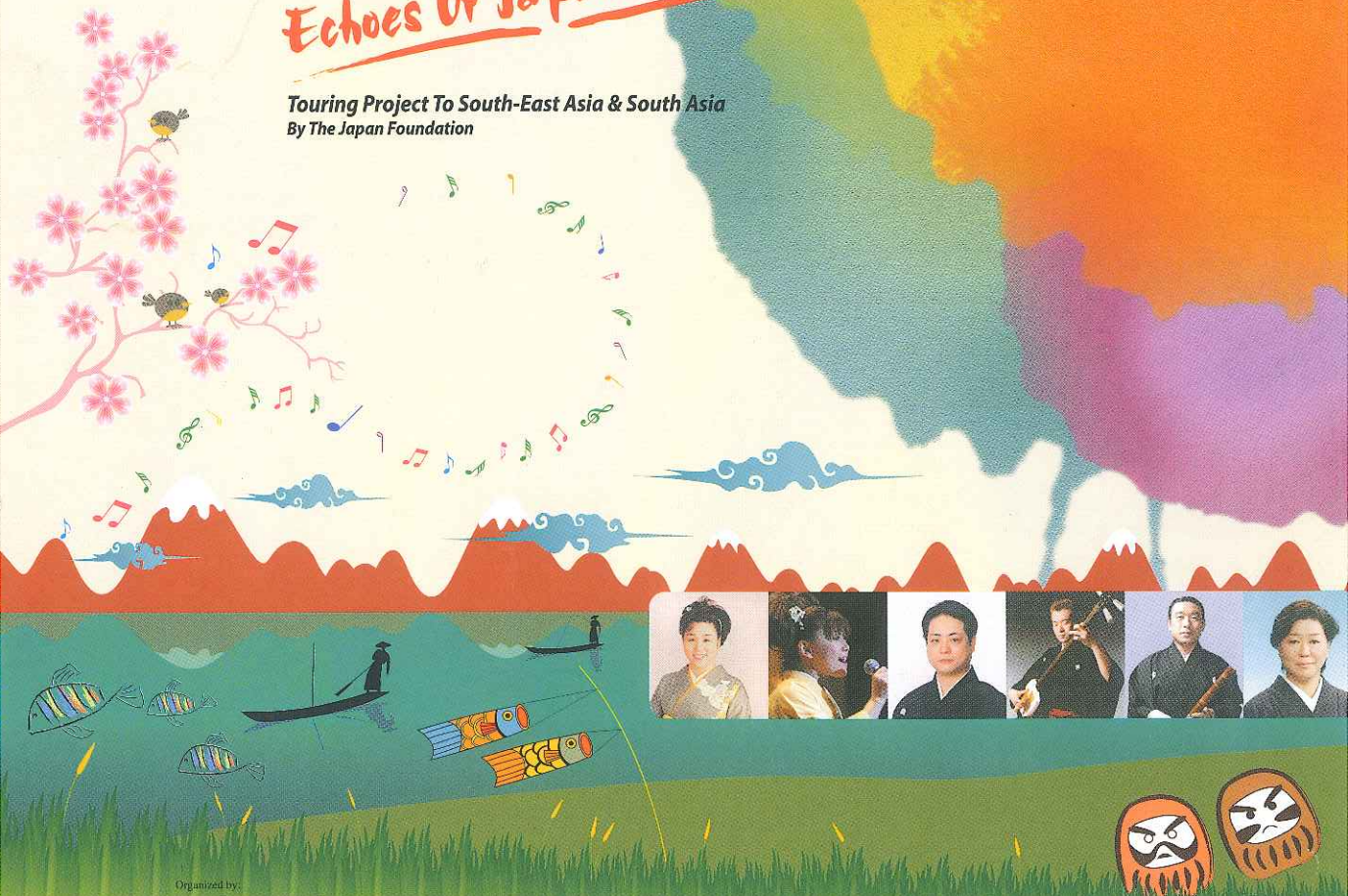


Temán Baru

Min'yo

Echoes Of Japanese Folk Songs

*Touring Project To South-East Asia & South Asia
By The Japan Foundation*



Organized by:

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and Embassy of Japan in Malaysia are proud to present "Min'yo - Echoes of Japanese Folk Songs" on 16th & 17th December 2009.

With this concert, we would like to introduce Japanese culture through *Min'yo* as a window to Japanese ordinary people's life. Performers are two prominent *Min'yo* singers, TANAKA Shoko and NAKAMURA Hitomi, both specializing in Japanese folk songs. The concert includes *Min'yo* songs from all over Japan. *Min'yo* songs are written according to some topics like seasons and depiction of laborers' working life.

Singers are accompanied by four musicians - playing the *Shamisen*, *Tsugaru-Jamisen*, *Syaku-hachi* cum *Shinobue* and *Taiko* cum *Uta-bayashi*. These are basic musical accompaniment for *Min'yo* and are performed in traditional style without any modern arrangement.



TANAKA Shoko
(Vocal)



NAKAMURA Hitomi
(Vocal)



FUJIMOTO Atsuhide
(*Shamisen*)



SAWADA Katsuharu
(*Tsugaru-Jamisen*)



YONEYA Satoshi
(*Shakuhachi, Shinobue*)



NISHIDA Miwa
(*Uta-Bayashi, Taiko*)



HIRANUMA Jin'ichi
(Director)

Date : 16th and 17th December
Time : 8.30 pm
Venue : Auditorium Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL)
 Menara DBKL 1, Jalan Raja Laut, 50350 Kuala Lumpur.
Admission : Free (Passes available at JFKL)



Photo by Munesuke Yamamoto



For Inquiry:
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur
 18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B, Mid-Valley City,
 No. 1, Medan Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur.
 Tel: (60)3-2284 6228 Fax: (60)3-2287 5859
 Website: www.jfkl.org.my



With English subtitles
 at Pavagam Mini P. Ramlee
 FINAS
 Admission is FREE!!!
 *Titles are subject to
 change without prior notice



"Poppoya - Railroad Man" (1999, 112 min)
Saturday, 5 December
starting 3pm

Director: FURUHATA Yasuo
 Starring: TAKAKURA Ken, KOBAYASHI Nenji

Otomatsu's father told him the railways would help rebuild Japan after World War II and he urged his son to take a job in the national railways. Being a conscientious son, Otomatsu did so and he became a poppoya or railroad man, working first as an engineer, then as a stationmaster in the small town of Horomai.

Japan was rebuilt and the days of rail travel have declined to the point where Otomatsu finds himself obsolete, since the train line he has run for so many years with unwavering dedication, will soon be closed down. Otomatsu's longtime friend and co-worker is planning to work at a new resort hotel in the mountains; his adoptive brother-in-law plans to open an Italian restaurant, but Otomatsu has never contemplated doing anything else but working on the railroad. Now, as the station's last days roll around, Otomatsu reflects on the past where he has been dedicated to public duty above all else.

Otomatsu attended neither the deathbed of his wife nor his infant daughter because he would not leave the station during his shift. One day a little girl shows up at the station and she reminds him of his dead daughter Yukiko.



"Young Girls in Love" (1986, 98 min)
Saturday, 19 December
starting 10am

Director: OMORI Kazuki
 Starring: SAITO Yuki, TAKAI Mamiko, SAGARA Haruko

TAKAKO is a senior high school girl. She lives in KANAZAWA with her older sister, HIROKO, a college student. She has three companions at school, MIDORIKO, TEIKO, and KINUKO, who are rather strange. TEIKO is the smartest student in the class, but no one can keep up with her. KINUKO, who spends most of her time painting, has been held back a year in school.

MIDORIKO holds a funeral each time she has a shocking experience. TAKAKO has attended these ceremonies twice before. The present funeral is for MIDORIKO's broken heart. After the funeral is over, TEIKO tells TAKAKO about her love for an older man. TAKAKO experiences a strange stirring in her heart after MIDORIKO and TEIKO tell her about their feelings for the opposite sex. She has been in love without knowing it, and these two friends have made her begin to realize what her feelings mean. The boy whom she has these feelings for, MASARU, is a classmate of hers and a member of the school's baseball team. However, MASARU likes someone else. To him, TAKAKO is just like one of his male friends.



"Tora-san's Island Encounter" (1986, 105 min)
Saturday, 16 January
starting 3pm

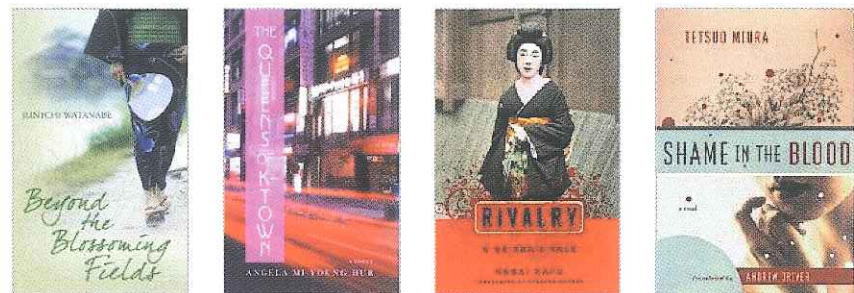
Director: YAMADA Yoji
 Starring: ATSUMI Kiyoshi, KURIHARA Komaki

Tora returns to TORAYA, a confectionary shop in Tokyo owned by his uncle and aunt, and he finds out that Akemi, daughter of the president of the small printing company next door, has run away because she is dissatisfied with her husband. Akemi's father appears on a TV program to look for her, but he only makes fool of himself. Watching the program on TV, Akemi calls her father and tell not to do such silly thing, and she also tells him that she misses Tora. Tora heroically volunteers to go out on a trip to bring her home.

Due to the discontinuation of production of 16mm film projectors in Japan, replacements of such damaged prints are difficult. Your kind understanding would be very much appreciated.



English Books



[Outrages Japanese: slang, curses & epithets]. Boston: Tuttle Publishing, 1991. Library call no. 495.683421 SEW

[The spectacle of Japanese American trauma: racial performativity and World War II] / by Emily Roxworthy. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2008. Library call no. 940.53 ROX

[The temple of the wild geese; and Bamboo dolls of Echizen: two novellas] / by Tsutomu Mizukami; translation with a postscript by Dennis Washburn. Champaign, Ill.: Dalkey Archive Press, 2008. Library call no. 895.635 MIN

[The glass slipper and other stories] / by Shotaro Yasuoka; translation by Royall Tyler. Champaign, Ill.: Dalkey Archive Press, 2008. Library call no. 895.635 YAS

[Shame in the blood: a novel] / by Tetsuo Miura; translated by Andrew Driver. Emeryville, CA: Shoemaker & Hoard, 2007. Library call no. 895.635 MIU

[Strong in the rain: selected poems] / by Kenji Miyazawa; translated by Roger Pulvers. Tarsset, Northumberland: Blood axe Books, 2007. Library call no. 895.635 MIY

[Rivalry: a geisha's tale] / by Nagai Kafu ; translated by Stephen Snyder. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007. Library call no. 895.6 KAF

[Okei: a girl from the provinces] / by Mitsugu Saotome ; translated by Kenneth J. Bryson. Richmond, U.K.: Alma, 2008. Library call no. 895.635 SAO

[Beyond the blossoming fields] / by Jun'ichi Watanabe ; translated by Deborah Iwabuchi and Anna Isozaki. Richmond, U.K.: Alma, 2008. Library call no. 895.635 WAT

[The queens of K-Town: a novel] / by Angela Mi Young Hur. San Francisco, CA: MacAdam/Cage Pub., 2007. Library call no. 813.6 HUR

[The first samurai: the life and legend of the warrior rebel Taira Masakado] / by Karl F. Friday. N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, 2008. Library call no 952 FRI

Library New DVDs



TITLE: FAREWELL KURO

Based on a true story, Farewell, Kuro depicts the life and adventures of Kuro, a dog who befriended the students and faculty of a high school in Nagano prefecture in 1960.



TITLE: SHINING BOY AND LITTLE RANDY

The OGAWA family runs a facility for performing animals in the country side and their son, Tetsumu has a gift for working with the animals in the center. One day, his mother Saori buys two elephants from Thailand and Tetsumu soon wins the trust of the older elephant, Micky. But Randy, the younger of the two elephants, has not been trained and will not obey him.



TITLE: KABEI OUR MOTHER

Set in Tokyo in 1940, the peaceful life of the Nogami Family suddenly changes when the father, Shigeru, is arrested and accused of being a Communist. His wife Kayo works frantically from morning to night to maintain the household and bring up her two daughters with the support of Shigeru's sister Hisako and Shigeru's ex-student Yamazaki, but her husband does not return.



TITLE: NORIKO'S DINNER TABLE

His provocative Japanese film by young director Sion Sono stunned audiences. Teenager Noriko Shimabara escapes her tiny provincial town and moves to the big city to find an Internet cult group called Haikyo.com. There she meets the site's ... Full Description web-master, a young woman named Kumiko, and loses herself in the cult practices of this strange group, which include a unique approach to prostitution and mass suicide.



TITLE: THE BOOK OF THE DEAD

The Book of the Dead takes place as Buddhism is being introduced to Japan from China. Iratsume, a woman of noble descent, becomes obsessed with this mysterious new religion. One night, in a rapturous trance, she sees a luminous vision that she believes to be the Buddha, compelling her to leave home and journey to a sacred temple. Once there, she sees Otsu, a young prince who was executed 50 years earlier. While Iratsume mistakes the prince's spirit for the incarnation of the great Buddha, the ghost mistakes Iratsume for the last woman he saw at the moment of his death.



from previous page >>

In fact, according to The Tokyo Gedai officials, western music performances and performing arts are more popular than the traditional ones. Ms. Michiyo Hata, the founder and Artistic Director of Kikunokai Japanese Dance Company has been experiencing difficulty in attracting young people to traditional dances as they are very much influenced by modern western forms of entertainments. The younger generation prefers the fusion of traditional and western music and therefore there is a need to redirect the attitudes and interests of the younger generation into traditional arts by incorporating traditional music and creating appreciation classes for Noh and the music of Shamisen and Koto, as part of the school curriculum.

Notwithstanding, Japan has developed a secure preservation and conservation programme through education system from schools to universities for its traditional heritage, dedicated to individual organisations such as Kabuki family systems and the Noh and Bunraku Associations, and individual companies such as Madam Michiyo Hata's Kikunokai Nihon Buyo Dance Company. Above all, the government agencies like The Agency for Culture, The Japan Foundation and The Japan Arts Council have played a major role in the efforts of preservation and conservation of traditional arts.



With the members of Kikunokai

THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ARTS IN JAPAN

The Agency of Cultural Affairs in The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology is the apex body in the administration and management of arts. It implements its policies through the following agencies:

1. The Cultural Properties Department
2. The Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage
3. National Research Institute for Cultural Properties
4. The Japan Arts Council which operates the National Theatre Complex

Japan has a well organised management for its traditional and modern performing arts. The Government has promoted its traditional and modern arts locally and internationally. Locally through the various agencies under The Agency for Cultural Affairs and internationally through The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The Japan Foundation in collaboration with The Japanese Multinational Corporations such as Sumitomo and Toyota. The Toyota Corporation has sponsored a symphony orchestra to tour Asia and America and The Sumitomo Corporation has supported exhibition of Japanese Arts at The British Museum in London.

Additionally, Japan also provides financial support and performance spaces managed by The Japan Arts Council. The main objectives of The Japan Arts Council, an Independent Administrative Institution under the Japan government, are to preserve and promote traditional performing arts, and also to promote and popularise modern performing arts in Japan. When The Japan Arts Council was inaugurated in 1990, it received a onetime allocation of 60 billion yen, made up of 50 billion from the government and 10 billion from the private sector. The council used the money for investment and only used the interests accrued from the government. It gets an annual budget of 17 billion yen for the following purposes:

1. Expenses of The National Theatre is 9.3 billion yen
2. Expenses for The New National Theatre is 5.4 billion yen
3. Subsidies for the private sector is 2.0 billion yen

A separate additional allocation of 5 billion yen is allocated to The Agency for Cultural Affairs to fund projects on films.

Production costs for traditional theatre productions are recouped from ticket sales and other sources such as rentals of the auditorium to the private sector. It would be safe to assume that in the event the returns are insufficient to break even, the National Theatre would cover it with its own funds. The New National Theatre run by a private foundation and receives donations from the private sectors to stage performances. There are three types of sponsorships by the private sectors.

1. Corporate membership fees from companies
2. Sponsorship for specific performances
3. A year-long sponsorships

The total amount of monies collected from these three sources amount to 400-500 million yen yearly. to be continued in the next issue ...



Lecture at Nihon University

A Visit to Japan Has Changed My Life

by Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. Mohamed Ghouse Nasuruiddin

Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. Mohamed Ghouse Nasuruiddin was invited to Japan for two weeks from 29th June to 12th July 2009 under The Japan Foundation Invitation Program for Cultural Leaders. The Foundation arranged a schedule of meetings with university personnel's, scholars, government officers, Japan Arts Council and The National Theatre administrators, private arts centres and traditional artists. It also provided the opportunity to visit heritage centres in Kyoto and Hiroshima as well as attending performances of traditional dances, Nihon Buyo and traditional theatre, Noh, Kyogen and Kabuki. The report is divided into four sections, namely, Arts Education in Japan, Conservation and Preservation of Traditional Performing Arts, The Administration and Management of The Arts in Japan and Performances.



Demonstration of Malay instrument at Nihon University

Continues from last issue (Issue No. 48) >>>

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONAL PERFORMING ARTS

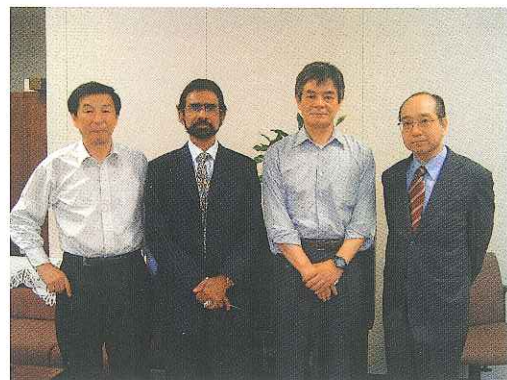
Efforts to preserve and conserve traditional arts are usually undertaken by the authorities while they are facing extinction as a result of competing with modern forms of entertainments which have become popular among the masses. As such the relevant authorities develop strategies to ensure the continuity of such traditional forms through education, subsidised performances, research and the rehabilitating of ailing forms. At the same time efforts are made to re-educate the public and make them aware of the need to get reacquainted and have pride in their traditional heritage. These efforts have been given prominence by the involvement of UNESCO in the preservation and conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

the involvement of UNESCO in the preservation and conservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

UNESCO has recognised various architectural and artistic forms which has conferred them the status of UNESCO sites in heritage, visual and performing arts forms, for example Itsukushima Shrine at Miyajima Island in Hiroshima and the Malaysian traditional performing arts, The Mak Yong. The authorities believe that it is important that the transmission of these cultural symbols would keep alive and even revitalise the hallowed tradition of the forefathers.

In the past, the courts and aristocracy, the samurai families as well as religious organisations such as shrines and temples were the custodian of tradition and cultural properties in Japan. The Meiji Restoration led Japan to fast modernization and westernization and at the same time has also caused these traditions to become more challenging. To protect the traditional heritage, the Meiji Government legislated The Ancient Temples and Shrines Preservation Law (1897) and the National Treasures Preservation Law (1929). Additionally, the Government had also enacted a law in 1950 in protecting the cultural properties. Intangible cultural properties were then given a legal definition and recognition. This Law was amended three times in 1954, 1975 and 2004 to expand the definition and scope of cultural properties and to tighten control and protection of the endangered properties.

In order to ensure the preservation of their tradition, the Japanese government has put in place an appropriate measure to protect the heritage by assigning responsibilities and cultural heritage policies to the Cultural Properties Department of The Agency of Cultural Affairs within The Ministry of Education, Culture, Science, Sports and Technology. Department of Intangible Cultural Heritage had been set up within The Independent Administrative Institution National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in Tokyo. In addition the government had also set up The Japan Arts Council as an Independent Administrative Institution to operate the National Theatre, The Engkei hall, the National Noh Theatre, the National Bunraku Theatre and the National Theatre Okinawa. Various types of performing arts which have been designated as intangible cultural properties include Gagaku, Nohgaku (Noh and Kyogen), Ningyo-Johruri Bunraku, Kabuki, Kumi Odori, Traditional Music, Buyo Dance (Nihon Buyo), and Engkei. Besides of performing arts, techniques of making various traditional crafts are also given protection.



Visiting the Agency of Cultural Affairs

Physical cultural properties such as architectural buildings, shrines, temples and others are easy to protect and preserve as they are inanimate things and will only be hampered by unpredictable weather or natural disasters. They can be replicated however the opportunity cost may not be tenable as the demand in the modern days may not favour such replication. Likewise, the intangible cultural properties are subject to the vagaries of human behaviour and needs. Traditional performing arts can be preserved by staging authentic performances and educating the youth in school or educational institution. However, development of scientific knowledge and technology may not be in harmony with the current entertainment needs and the style of living. Additionally, there are also serious problems associated with the lack of a systematic method of teaching.

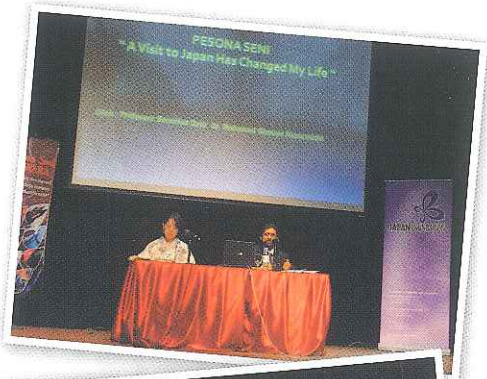
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A Visit to Japan Has Changed My Life

Public Talk & Demonstration

by Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr. Mohamed Ghouse Nasuruiddin



As a following-up event of Professor Ghouse's visit to Japan, the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur and Akademi Seni Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA) organized Professor Ghouse's public talk and demonstration at Orchestra Hall in ASWARA on 10th November. Professors, students, and staffs at ASWARA etc. attended his talk.

In his talk, Professor showed a lot of pictures, and introduced his various experiences and encounters during his stay in Japan. Professor also demonstrated how to play Shaku-hachi (one of Japanese traditional music instruments) which he brought from Japan.

He explained that he was impressed by many things during his visit — especially, Japanese way of perceiving and admiring nature, discipline of people in traditional arts, people's hospitality, cleanliness of public places, etc. He also emphasized that he found it so important for ASWARA to build a relationship with universities or institutes where he visited.

Workshop of Japanese Fan Designing based on application of Calligraphy Carving

by Kyukin SAIKI

The Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and The National Art Gallery Malaysia organized the workshop conducted by Ms. Kyukin Saiki, specializing in Calligraphy Carving on 25th November at The National Art Gallery. Students and teachers from Universiti Teknologi MARA and Malaysian Institute of Art attended this workshop.

In this workshop, using the motif of Ms. Saiki's calligraphy carving work "Tomoni", students and teachers joined the activity of Japanese Fan (Uchiwa) design. At the end of the workshop, "The Design Contest" was held, and the students who created excellent works were awarded by Ms. Saiki and judges consisting of representatives from each organizer and school.



The 2nd Japanese Short Drama Contest for University and College Students

In the recently concluded short drama contest for university and college students, the submission of several interesting dramas reflected not only on the creativity of university and college students but also on their mastery of the language. The winning entries are as follows: -

Gold Prize

(A trophy, a book voucher of RM300 and certificate for each team member)

Lim Hui Yee
Yeo Huey Ling
Tan Ming Kun
(UKM)

母が私で、私が母で
Switching Roles
Mother & Daughter

時間を操る双子
Twins Manipulate Time

Low Kok Wing
Ng Chia Sin
Teng Her Lee
(UKM)

Silver Prize

(A book voucher of RM200 and certificate for each team member)

Chu Ai Wei
Tan Sze Sze
Sai Mei Sen
(UKM)

アルバイトの面接
Walk-in Interview

花屋
Flower Shop

Atiqah Lana Aizan
Izzati Bt Ibrahim
Hu Xin Han
Norazita Anak Selanie
(UPSI)

Bronze Prize

Book Voucher of RM200 and certificate for each team member

Nurjamine Syahnax Ghazalee
Nadhilah Bt Suhaimi
Farhana Mohd Razali
Masyri Irmanazida Mat Isa
(UPSI)

村で一番の怠け者
The Laziest Bum
in the Village

Consolation Prize

Japanese Movies (DVD) for each team member

石
Stone

Heng Chee Lin
Fum Yin Ting
Yap Ee Ling
Chan Yeen Chia
(UUM)

At a separate prize-giving ceremony held @ UKM



The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur organized this contest jointly with the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur, the Japanese Chamber of Trade & Industry, Malaysia (JACTIM) and the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, to enhance the interest in the language and culture of Japan among tertiary students in Malaysia.

Organized by:



Embassy of Japan in Malaysia



The Japan Foundation Group Tour Program for Secondary School Educators



On the day of the departure to Japan (30 Sep 2009) (from right) Mr. Haris bin Yahaya, Mr. Abu Hasan bin Jantan, Ms. Ranimah binti Yahya and Ms. Oshima Sachi (The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur)

The Japan Foundation has invited an administrator and two secondary school teachers from Malaysia to visit Japan from 1 to 14 October 2009 (14 days), under The Japan Foundation Group Tour Program for Secondary School Educators 2009.

The three were Mr. Haris bin Yahaya, an Administrator, from the School Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia, Mr. Abu Hasan bin Jantan, a teacher from SMK Durian Tunggal, Melaka and Ms. Ranimah binti Yahya, a teacher from SMK Ayer Keroh, Melaka.

The Japan Foundation has been conducting the "Group-Tour Program for Secondary Educators" since 1973, as one of the most important activities directed to our mission, in which secondary school educators (teachers and administrators) are invited from countries around the world to share their opinions with Japanese teachers and local administrators through their observation of Japanese education, culture and society. Over 7,800 educators had been invited to Japan through this program.

Invitees were also given opportunities to visit historical site and experienced staying with foster parents in other prefectures as well as to introduce their cultures to Japan. Upon returning home participants are expected to share their experience in Japan with their students, colleagues in the form of workshops, lectures, developing of teaching materials and curriculum and others.



Japan Festival 2009 @ UiTM Perak

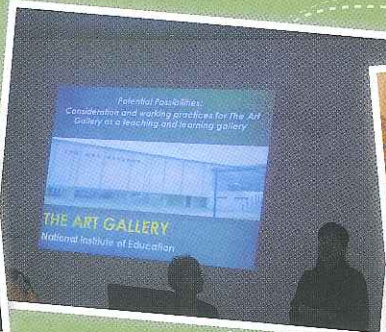
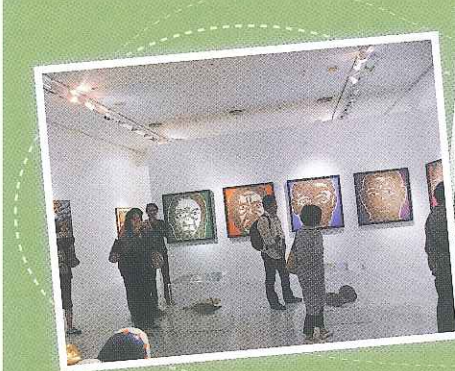
Universiti Teknologi MARA Perak, located in Seri Iskandar, Perak had organized their very first "Japan Festival" on 5th October. Co-organized by the Consulate-General of Japan in Penang, there were many events such as Ikebana, Origami, Japanese Karaoke and quiz on Japanese culture entertained a lot of UiTM students as well as some students from residential schools around that area. Along side with those activities held at Dewan Sri Iskandar, JFKL's Ukiyo-e and Kokeshi doll collections were exhibited at the gallery for the festival and it continued for two weeks.



The 5th Asian Museum Curators' Conference

The Asian Museum Curators' Conference first started in 2006 with the initiative of the Japan Foundation. The first conference was in Tokyo and the following conferences were held in Manila, Seoul and again in Japan.

This time the 5th conference was taken place in Singapore and Malaysia, co-organized by Singapore Art Museum and the National Art Gallery of Malaysia. With 27 Participants who are museum curators or independent curators from Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam as well as from Singapore and Malaysia, the conference was held in Singapore first from 4th - 6th November, moved up to Kuala Lumpur by bus on 7th November and was continued until 9th here. The conference consisted of site visits, presentations by each participants and discussions.



Ukiyo-E Exhibition at Taylor's College

An Ukiyo-e exhibition was held from 7 to 16 October 2009 at Taylor's College Petaling Jaya. The exhibition was organized by The Design School of the college in collaboration with JFKL. A total of 45 works of famous artists including Utagawa Hiroshige, Katsushika Hokusai and Tosyusai Saryaku were exhibited at the college's gallery to the public throughout the two-week event. The exhibition received a warm response from the visitors as the art of ukiyo-e has influenced the development of many artistic forms, both Asian and Western, and is one of the treasured cultural artifacts in Asia.



*Please contact Mr. Hafiz at 03-2284 6228 for further information regarding the JFKL cultural materials.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

wishing you a special

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2010



Notice for Closure

Please be informed that JFKL will be closed on the following days:

18 Dec (Fri) **Awal Muharram**
25 Dec (Fri) **Christmas Day**
29 Dec (Tue) – 3 Jan (Sun) **Year End Holiday**

Additionally, please note that our library would also be closed for stocktaking on **7 Dec (Mon) – 28 Dec (Mon)**.



JAPANFOUNDATION

"TEMAN BARU" is distributed to JFKL members.
JFKL membership is available upon application. Membership fee is RM10 per year.

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