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The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

Temam Baru

YOSHIDA BROTHERS



YOSHIDA BROTHERS

Sensational Duo YOSHIDA BROTHERS Coming to KL!

The sensational Yoshida Brothers have been making waves all over the world and are finally coming to Kuala Lumpur. Presented by The Actors Studio and The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan and with the support of JT International Berhad, Yoshida Brothers will be performing at The Actors Studio@Lot 10 from 21 to 23 January 2011.

Traditional art forms around the world have come to a crossroads. Faced with stiff competition from mainstream popular culture, as well as a decline in audience and general interest in traditional art forms, many are struggling to preserve their cultural heritage. There are some who have taken traditional art forms to a whole new level where today's audience, particularly the younger generation, can relate to it and appreciate it. After all, it is all about accessibility.

One such group is the Yoshida Brothers, comprising 33-year-old Ryoichiro Yoshida and 31-year-old Kenichi Yoshida. At the age of five, both started learning the shamisen, which is a three-stringed traditional Japanese instrument. After sweeping prizes at national Tsugaru shamisen conventions, the brothers made their major debut in 1999. Their debut album sold over 100,000 copies, which is an extraordinary figure for a traditional folk music release.

The Yoshida Brothers went on to develop their own unique blend of the Tsugaru-jamisen style fused with Western and other regional music influences. Crowned the 'new masters of the Shamisen' by J-Pop World, the duo recently released a "Best of Yoshida Brothers" album, and they continue to tour extensively in Japan and internationally in the USA, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Taiwan, gaining legions of fans along the way. Their music was even featured in Nintendo's Wii TV Commercial.

In 2011, Malaysian audiences will have the chance to experience first-hand the captivating sounds of the Shamisen, and the sensational duo live, only at The Actors Studio@Lot 10!

"The duo also provides an example of how music, though it can bend, does not break with tradition. The history and tradition that echoes through their sound proves that even the most global music is rooted in local soil" – **The Globalist**

"The brothers embrace tradition, playing standards from the shamisen repertoire. But they also expand on it. In their own compositions, they riff on themes from the old songs, incorporating other instruments and elements from jazz, classical, flamenco, rock, the blues even techno" – **The Boston Globe**

Show Details

**Date & Time : 21 – 22 January 2011 @ 8.30pm
23 January 2011 @ 3pm**

Venue : The Actors Studio@Lot 10

**Ticket Price : RM35 / RM25
RM20 (students, disabled, elderly & JFKL members)**

**Box Office : Call / Walk In
03 2142 2009 / 2143 2009 – The Actors Studio@Lot 10
03 4047 9000 – klpac**

**Online purchase & map
www.theactorsstudio.com.my**

presented by:



JAPAN FOUNDATION



in cooperation
with



Embassy of Japan in Malaysia



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www.isetanski.com.my



www.vistana.com.my



About Yoshida Brothers



Kenichi Yoshida: born 1979

Ryoichiro Yoshida: born 1977

The Yoshida Brothers were born and bred in Noboribetsu, Hokkaido. Each picked up the shamisen at the tender age of five, and began studying Tsugaru shamisen under Takashi Sasaki I in 1990. After sweeping prizes at national Tsugaru shamisen conventions, the brothers made their major debut in 1999. Their debut album sold over 100,000 copies, which is an extraordinary figure for a traditional folk music release.

They won the "Traditional Japanese Music Album Of The Year" category of the 15th annual Japan Gold Disc Award, as well as the "30th Anniversary Of Normalization Of Japan-China Diplomatic Relations Commemorative Special Prize" of the 17th Annual Japan Gold Disc Award.

In 2002, the brothers went on their first national tour entitled "Live Soul", performing in 30 cities. The following year, they made their US debut with their album "YOSHIDA BROTHERS" from Domo Records, and performed in New York and Los Angeles.

International release followed in Korea in 2004 – where they had performed their first concert in Seoul – in addition to a domestic tour that included 28 cities. In the meantime, they released their second US album, "YOSHIDA BROTHERS II", and went on a US promotional tour, visiting seven cities. It was a year of significant breakthrough, with participations in other various projects such as an international exchange event in Sweden and a TV commercial in Japan.

In 2005, the brothers recorded an album in Los Angeles, followed by a West Coast tour and a concert in Hawaii. In 2006, they toured the US, Spain, and Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, they released their very first greatest hits album in their career, and marked favorable sales. Domestically, they launched a shamisen-only national tour. And in 2007, their music created buzz in the US as their music was used in the TV commercial of Nintendo's Wii. At the end of that year, the brothers released their much-anticipated third album in the US, titled "YOSHIDA BROTHERS III".

In 2008, they released another album called "BEST OF YOSHIDA BROTHERS", and toured 10 cities in the US and Canada, and launched their first Oceania tour in New Zealand and Fiji. Their new album "PRISM" was released in 2009, and they toured the US and Canada in May 2009. They have expanded their activities in Asia this year with successful concerts in Taiwan. The brothers were also invited to perform at the centennial celebrations of the legendary Akira Kurosawa's birthday with a live concert in Hiroshima.

As one of the artistic groups whose scope of activities go way beyond that of traditional Japanese music, **the Yoshida Brothers** continue to take not only Japan, but also US, Europe, and Asia by storm.

Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) will present an exhibition titled "Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan" from 8 – 24 December 2010 at Galeri Shah Alam, Shah Alam, and from 7 – 23 January 2011 at Bangunan No. 57, Macalister Road, Penang.

"Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan" focuses on art produced in Japan at the beginning of the 21st century. It showcases 42 works – paintings, sculptures, installations, photographs, and videos – of eleven young Japanese artists who are presently attracting a great deal of attention, namely Atsushi Fukui, Satoshi Hirose, Maywa Denki, Tomoyasu Murata, Tetsuya Nakamura, Masafumi Sanai, Katsuhiro Saiki, Yoshihiro Suda, Tabaimo, Nobuyuki Takahashi, and Miyuki Yokomizo.

The 1990s saw major shifts in the economic and political order of the world, and many people have responded by turning away from larger issues and concentrating on smaller and more intimate areas of life, in essence, reexamining the ground under their own feet. In contemporary art as well, there has been a worldwide tendency for artists to take a greater interest in everyday life and focus on the expression of very personal perceptions and feelings. The eleven artists featured in this exhibition are responding in a similar way to the current state of the world. They take their subject matter from their immediate surroundings and make art that strongly reflects their own personal reality. Their work has a rich visual impact and reveals a strong interest in the process of making things.

"Passage to the Future: Art from a New Generation in Japan" will allow viewers to experience the freshness and vitality of current Japanese art and at the same time provides an opportunity for renewed thinking and debate about the fundamental appeal and meaning of art.

This exhibition is organized by The Japan Foundation, The Embassy of Japan, The Consulate-General of Japan in Penang, Galeri Shah Alam, Penang State Museum Board, and Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah at Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Shah Alam

Date : 8 – 24 December 2010
Venue : Galeri Shah Alam, Laman Budaya, Persiaran Tasik Barat, 40000 Shah Alam
Contact : 03-5510 5344
Admission : Free

Penang

Date : 7 – 23 January 2011
Venue : Bangunan No. 57, Macalister Road, 10400 Penang
Contact : 04-2613144
Admission : Free



"Japanese Little Kitchen" by Tabaimo



"Please Wash Away" by Miyuki Yokomizo



"from the photographic book
Ikitairu (Living)" by Masafumi Sanai



"Twin World" by Atsushi Fukui

Japanese-Style Handicraft Workshop

Our instructor, Mrs. Ama, who has conducted "Chirimen Handicraft Workshop" & "Japanese-Style Handicraft Workshop" with us previously, will conduct another workshop and teach how to make a mobile phone holder using Japanese-style patterned cloth.

Date & Time : 18 December 2010 (Saturday)
Session 1 - 10:00am
Session 2 - 2:00pm

Participation Fee : RM 15

Booking period : 8 – 10 December 2010
8:30am - 4:30pm
03-2284 6228 (Kugai / Eu)

- * Limited to 20 participants per session only.
- ** No Walk-in participants are allowed.
- *** Booking can be made by telephone or at JFKL counter only.



The Weekend Japanese Film Show

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

"The Cat Leaves Home" (2004, 94 min, Colour)

Saturday, 4 December 2010

starting 3pm

Director: IGUCHI Nami

Starring: ENOMOTO Kanako, FUJITA Yoko, NISHIJIMA Hidetoshi

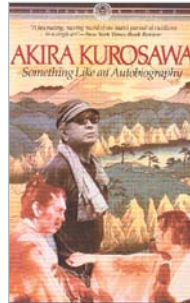
Yoko is taking care of her friend Abe's apartment while she is studying in China. One day, Suzu leaves her fiance Furuta, who also happens to be Yoko's ex-boyfriend, and moves in with her. The two women have known each other from a very young age, but don't get on well for one particular reason: they always end up falling in love with the same man, and Suzu is the one who gets the guy. Just as they begin to warm to each other, Suzu becomes close with Mitaka, who happens to be the current object of Yoko's affections. Fed up with being pipped at the post yet again, Yoko falsely claims that she and Furuta have been seeing each other. Suzu moves out after things inevitably come to a head, but she eventually returns and the two settle their differences. Director Iguchi Nami remakes her own award-winning independent film to create this subtly perceptive portrait of jealousy and friendship.



There will be **no** Weekend Japanese Film Shows in **January & February 2011**, due to the renovation of Pawagam Mini P. Ramlee FINAS



English Books



Education

[Read Japanese today: the easy way to learn 400 practical kanji] /by Len Walsh. North Clarendon: Tuttle Pub., 2009. Library Call No. 495.682421 WAL

Fiction

[Something like an autobiography] /by Akira Kurosawa; translated by Audie E. Bock. New York: VINTAGE BOOKS, 1983. Library Call No. 791.4302 KUR

Architecture

[21st century Tokyo: a guide to contemporary architecture] /by Julian Worrall and Erez Golani Solomon; photography by Joshua Lieberman. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2010. Library Call No. 720.952 WOR

Cooking

[Home cooking with Japan's first lady: family dishes from the Hatoyama kitchen] /by Miyuki Hatoyama; photographs by Hironori Handa. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2010. Library Call No. 641.5852 HAT

[Mayumi's kitchen: macrobiotic cooking for body and soul] /by Mayumi Nishimura; photographs by Akira Saito. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2010. Library Call No. 641.563 NIS

[The decorative art of Japanese food carving: elegant garnishes for all occasions] /by Hiroshi Nagashima; photography by Kenji Miura. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2009. Library Call No. 641.5952 NAG

Arts and Craft

[Linen, wool, cotton: 25 simple projects to sew with natural fabrics] /by Akiko Mano. Boston: Distributed in the United States by Random House, 2009. Library Call No. 646.212 MAN

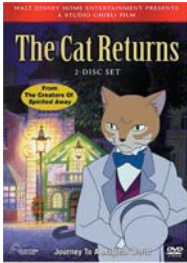
[Knitted socks east & west: 30 designs inspired by Japanese stitch patterns] /by Judy Sumner; photography by Yoko Inoue. New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2009. Library Call No. 746.43 SUM

[Amigurumi animals: 15 patterns and dozens of techniques for creating cute crochet creatures] /by Annie Obaachan. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2008. Library Call No. 746.43041 OBA

[Patchwork style: 35 simple projects for a cozy & colorful life] /by Suzuko Koseki. Boston: Trumpeter, 2009. Library Call No. 746.46041 KOS

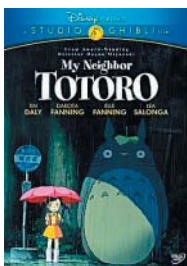


New DVD List In The Library



TITLE: The Cat Returns
(Directed by Hiroyuki Morita, 2002)

This movie is somehow related to Whisper of the heart, it follows Muta (the cat from Whisper of the heart) and Baron (the cat statue in Whisper of the heart, also used in Shizuku's story). The story is based on Neko no Danshaku (Baron of Cat) by Hiiragi Aoi.



TITLE: My Neighbor Totoro (Tonari no Totoro)
(Directed by Hayao Miyazaki, 1993)

Two young girls, Satsuke and her younger sister Mei, move into a house in the country with their father to be closer to their hospitalized mother. Satsuke and Mei discover that the nearby forest is inhabited by magical creatures called Totoros (pronounced toe-toe-ro). They soon befriend these Totoros, and have several magical adventures.



TITLE: Tampopo
(Directed by Juzo Itami, 1985)

In this humorous paean to the joys of food, the main story is about trucker Goro who rides into town like a modern Shane to help Tampopo set up the perfect fast-food noodle restaurant.



TITLE: Hardest Night (Nezu no ban)
(Directed by Masahiko Tsugawa, 2005)

Makino Masahiko's new film, Nezu no Ban (a.k.a. A Hardest Night), is a touching and often hilarious celebration of the ancient art of Japanese rakugo, roughly translated as "comic storytelling". The film is interspersed with numerous funerals and wakes, songs, dances, and often disgustingly crude jokes.

Library Notice

The JFKL Library will be closed on the following dates: -

- 1) 6 to 28 December 2010 for Library Stocktaking.
 - 2) 29 December 2010 - 3 January 2011 for Year End Holiday.
- Due to our upcoming Library Stocktaking, circulations (**borrowing and renewals**) will be allowed until **4th DECEMBER 2010**.
 - During our closure during Stocktaking, members who wish to return their borrowed materials may do so through the **"Book Drop Box"** in front of the JFKL main entrance.
 - The Library will re-open on **4 January 2011 (Tuesday)**.

For further inquiries or any assistance please call the JFKL Library at 03-22846228 ext. 401/ 402 / 403.

We are very sorry for this short notice and for any inconvenience caused.

RAKUGO

Japanese traditional comic storytelling
by Katsura Utazo

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur organized "Rakugo—Japanese Traditional Comic Storytelling by Katsura Utazo" in October 2010. Mr. Katsura Utazo, a Japanese comic storyteller, toured Penang and Kuala Lumpur, and introduced "Traditional Rakugo in Japanese" and "Rakugo in English" in both cities.

In Penang, Mr. Katsura held his "Rakugo Workshop in English" at the School of Languages, Literacies and Translation in Universiti Sains Malaysia on 15 October 2010. He introduced 2 stories: "Tokisoba (Time Noodle)" and "Gonsuke Zakana (Gonsuke's Fish)", and subsequently held Q&A sessions. More than 70 students attended the workshop, and asked him a lot of questions. On the same day, Mr. Katsura also had a performance at the Japanese School of Penang. He introduced two Traditional Rakugo stories in Japanese, and received a warm welcome from the students, parents and Japanese community who attended.

In Kuala Lumpur, Mr. Katsura first had a performance at JFKL on 16 October 2010. JFKL's tatami-room became a special stage for him, and over there he performed two Traditional Rakugo stories in Japanese. He also had a Rakugo performance in English at the Mini Auditorium in Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTiC), on 17 October 2010. In addition to traditional stories such as "Tokisoba", he also introduced his new challenge for Rakugo: a collaboration with rock music, and this really got the audience interested.



Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

The very first Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia was held at FINAS (National Film Development Cooperation) on 2 & 3 October 2010. Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia is an international short film festival held in Tokyo every June, and it has also traveled to Los Angeles, Mexico, Myanmar, Singapore previously. During the festival in Malaysia, 26 short films including Malaysian and Japanese films were screened, and a lecture and symposium were held as well.

The opening ceremony was held on 1 October 2010 and Mr. Seigo TONO, the Festival Director of the Festival in Tokyo, was present to deliver a speech on the event.



The VIPs of the event



En. Mohd Mahyidin Mustakim, Director General of FINAS, presenting a gift to Mr. Seigo Tono

ORIGAMI WORKSHOPS

by Mr YAMAGUCHI Makoto, Ms KAWAMURA Miyuki, Ms MATSUURA Eiko



The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur invited 3 Origami masters—Mr. Makoto Yamaguchi, Ms. Miyuki Kawamura, and Ms. Eiko Matsuura—from Japan, and organized Origami workshops in Kuala Lumpur and Ipoh.

Workshop on Origami & Japanese Language (Kuala Lumpur)

More often than not, Origami is used as an amusement or an attractive tool to promote Japanese culture in schools. However, not much thought has been given to the idea that it can be used as an effective education tool in the classroom to enhance students' mastery in the Japanese language.

A special half-day Workshop on Origami and Japanese Language for Japanese language teachers was held on 8 October 2010 at JFKL. The teachers were not only shown how to make basic and creative folds by the visiting origami masters, but they were also exposed to several fun but effective and effortless ways to incorporate Origami and its art of folding into their Japanese classes by JFKL's experienced Japanese language experts.

A total of 20 Japanese language teachers, mainly from secondary schools, attended the workshop. Laughter and giggling in embarrassment could be heard throughout the workshops, as the teachers diligently tried to keep up with the pace in learning the basic origami folds in the midst of being so caught up with the language activities. JFKL hopes that these teachers would increase the fun in learning the language among their Japanese language students.



Origami Workshop (Ipoh)



The three origami masters made a day trip to Ipoh and held an Origami Workshop at the Perak State Library on 9 October 2010. Initially, the expected number of participants was estimated at around 50; however, on the very day itself, so many people (both children and adults) visited the Library and wished to participate without prior registration. In the end, more than 80 participants got a chance to learn Origami. The venue was, literally, full-house!

Mr. Yamaguchi introduced basic techniques to enjoy Origami, and gave the participants a chance to make "Shirts", "Heart", "Bird", and other shapes. Ms. Kawamura introduced her original "Unit Origami", which are actually works created by putting some pieces (units) of Origami together.

It was the first time for almost all of the participants to try their hand at Origami, so everyone stayed focused during each process. Mr. Yamaguchi, Ms. Kawamura and Ms. Matsuura walked around the venue, carefully paying attention to each participant, and helped them one by one.

Time (about 90 minutes) passed by so quickly, and many participants strongly requested for more Origami workshops in Ipoh.



WONDERFUL JOURNEY IN JAPAN

by Noor Adeeb Kamaluddin and Nurliyana Rusli

It was like a dream come true when we received the invitation from Japan Foundation to join the JENESYS Community Design program in Japan from 8 - 20 July 2010. In Japan, we visited selected places that show good practices of community design which could be applied and be shared in Malaysia. We started our journey from Tokyo, then moved to Kyoto, followed by Takayama, Shirakawa, Gokayama, Yatsuo, and Kanazawa. Our feelings were mixed during the flight to Tokyo on 7 July 2010, as this was the first time we would be setting foot in Japan. As we touched down at Narita Airport, Tokyo, only God knew how excited and thrilled we were.

14 DAY JOURNAL

Day 1-3:

The program's orientation started on 9 July 2010 with the participants' presentation and welcome reception. The next day, we visited a few places in Tokyo such as Setagaya and Sumireba Nature Garden to experience some community design practiced within the very urbanized Tokyo. At night, we explored Tokyo by ourselves via the complicated subway, stopping by at famous places such as Shinjuku, Shibuya and Roppongi.

Day 4-5:

We travelled to Kyoto by Shinkansen (the bullet train). To mark our journey, we first visited the famous Kiyomizu Temple, and we were mesmerized by the uplifting scenery. Unfortunately, heavy rain hindered us from visiting other historical walks such as Yasaka Shrine, Ninen-zaka, Sannen-zaka and Gion Shinbashi. There goes our hope of visiting as many temples as possible in Kyoto, which they are famous for.

The next day, we attended lectures by Prof. Yoshifumi Muneta at the Kyoto Center for Community Collaboration. In the afternoon, we visited an area called Shijo, where many machiya (town shophouses in Kyoto) are located, with restoration work taking place in this historical district of Japan. We were very lucky to witness and participate in the Gion Festival as it is very rare for visitors to have this opportunity. It was very exciting and enjoyable!

Day 10:

After having a discussion with the Ainokura Village leader, we visited Yatsuo town and received a warm welcome from the Yatsuo people with some traditional performances. It was interesting and memorable to note that we had been broadcasted in the local news for our visit in Yatsuo town. Later, we arrived at Kanazawa City at night by bus.

Day 11-12:

At Kanazawa, we visited Kenrokuen Garden, Kanazawa Castle Park, 21st Century of Contemporary Art and Nagamachi Warrior Area. The next day, we took part in a self-discovery walk at the Higashi Chaya area where the tea ceremony takes place. In the Kanazawa residential area, the streets are irregular, narrow and sloppy, with a temple and shrine at the highest spot. The sounds of birds and insects gave us a different feeling of summer even though it's summer in Malaysia all year long.



Group photo in front of the famous Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto.

Day 6-7:

From Kyoto Station, we departed to Takayama by train. At Takayama, we visited the Takayama Local History Museum, Sanmachi Traditional Building Districts, Shimo-nimomachi and Ojinmachi Building Districts and Yoshijima Heritage House. Walking around this district felt like walking through the past; with the wooden houses still intact thanks to the restoration work. Other than that, the natural beauty was truly mesmerizing. Not to forget the handful of local products only available in these districts.

Day 8-9:

We visited Shirakawa Village and Ainokura Village in Gokayama. This place was really impressive with a beautiful natural backdrop and traditional gassho-style houses. We stayed one night at the Ainokura Village and experienced Japanese-style Inn. The scenery of the misty panorama at dawn was truly unforgettable.

Day 13:

The final day at Kanazawa ended with a wrap-up session where we talked and shared experiences with the participants. Then, we departed to Tokyo by plane and arrived at Haneda Airport in the afternoon. Finally, we saw Mount Fuji from the airplane!

Day 14:

Home sweet home. Sayonara Japan!

Noor Adeeb Binti Kamaluddin & Nurliyana Binti Rusli from the Urban and Regional Planning Department of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia were invited to Japan for 13 days from 8 - 20 July 2010, under the JENESYS Program 2009/2010; with the theme of "Community Design through Culture: Creative Practices for the Passing Down of Cultural Properties"

FISH, PLANES, AND A SPEECH ~ IN TOKYO

BY EU SZE KERNG

As a first-timer, I joined the 26th Japanese Speech Contest in Malaysia without knowing what to expect; I just tried my best and hoped for the best. Just being there to put into practice what I've studied in all those countless language classes was reward enough – unexpectedly winning the 2nd place prize, which was a fully-sponsored study tour in Japan, was icing on the cake – and what a sweet and truly unforgettable icing it turned out to be.

Even though this was the third time I've been to Japan – Tokyo, specifically – the experience was different from the rest. This time around, my traveling posse expanded tenfold – eleven of us speech contest winners from various South-East Asian countries were brought together for this study tour. Also, other than the famous obligatory tourist spots, part of the one-week tour included a visit to the Tsukiji fish market, and a tour of the All Nippon Airways (ANA) hangar.

I have always read and heard about the famous Tsukiji fish market, which is a focal point for the wholesale of raw fish in Tokyo, but never did I imagine that I would be able to set foot onto the fabled (wet) grounds itself! Granted, we arrived after the early morning hustle and bustle slowed down considerably, but there were still many wondrous sights to behold, such as gigantic tuna lying on the ground, and various transport vehicles deftly maneuvering the maze-like alleyways, among others.



Tuna as big as a 10-year-old child at the Tsukiji Fish Market.



An aircraft under maintenance in the hangar of All Nippon Airways (ANA).

Next, we also had privileged access to survey the hangar of All Nippon Airways, which was very eye-opening to say the least. After a brief lecture on the basics of the company, we were led to inner recesses of the hangar itself, and the close-up views of the colossal aircraft were simply breathtaking.

In the midst of all the visits and tours, there was the matter of the speech itself. The eleven of us delivered our speeches once again in a special ceremony – not as competitors, but as comrades of varying backgrounds – to share our views on issues near and dear to us, and to celebrate the diversity of cultures unique to our part of the world. After the speech presentation, we were given a chance to mingle with the audience members, both young and old alike, to exchange our different points-of-view, and just to make new friends.

The final day of our trip was really bittersweet as a sense of camaraderie and fellowship has been forged from our time spent together. Our mother tongues may be different, but we truly had a blast conversing with each other using the Japanese language as our lingua franca. Soon, we returned back to our daily routines back home, but I'm sure that the sights and sounds of Tokyo still linger in our hearts.

As for me, one sight which I'll never forget is the peak of Mount Fuji, in all its glory and majesty, as viewed from the halfway point. To top it off, the lush foliage of autumn further magnified the beauty of the surrounding area – just like icing on a cake.

Eu Sze Kerng was the second-place winner of the 26th Japanese Speech Contest held on the 8 August 2010 at the Japan Club of Kuala Lumpur. He was invited to a one-week educational tour in Tokyo during October 2010 where he delivered his speech again, along with 10 other speech contest winners from various South-East Asian countries.



A bunch of speech contest winners posing in front of Mount Fuji.

NIHON BUYO

TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DANCE, LECTURE AND DEMONSTRATION

BY MINOSUKE NISHIKAWA

The Nihon Buyo — Traditional Japanese Dance, Lecture and Demonstration, organized by The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, was held at Dewan Auditorium Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia Tourism Centre (MaTic) in Kuala Lumpur. The lecture and demonstration was led by Minosuke Nishikawa, who came with 2 other dancers, 8 musicians, and 4 technical staff members. The audience on the night of 2 November, 2010 was treated to an intimate showcase of mesmerizing dance performances as well as an invaluable lecture by Minosuke Nishikawa himself.

The audience was completely enthralled by the beautiful and distinct dance moves of Minosuke Nishikawa and his colleagues, as well as the atmospheric music from traditional Japanese musical instruments such as the shamisen. Three different sets were performed, namely "Matsu-no-midori (The Green Pine)", "Suisen-tanzen", and "Tomo-yakko (The Servant)".

In between the dance performances, Minosuke Nishikawa gave a lecture on his unique dance style, and the musicians also gave a short introduction of the instruments they played. There was also a mini-workshop, whereby Minosuke Nishikawa asked the audience to guess the characters which he mimed, and also invited several lucky audience members to come up on stage to learn his dance moves. Just as they were during the performances, the audience members were watching and listening intently to his every word and action, for they know that this is indeed a special opportunity to learn about Japanese traditional dance which does not come along often. All in all, the enjoyment and satisfaction of the audience members were reflected on their eager and happy faces as they left the auditorium after an unforgettable experience.



*"We wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!"*



JFKL Holiday Notices

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

2010

7 Dec (Tue) Awal Muharram
25 Dec (Sat) Christmas Day
29 Dec (Wed) – 31 Dec (Fri) Year End Holiday

2011

1 Jan (Sat) – 3 Jan (Mon) New Year's Holiday
20 Jan (Thu) Thaipusam

"Kadomatsu, a Japanese New Year decoration"



JAPAN FOUNDATION 國際交流基金

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

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)

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