ISSUE NO. 57 April - May 2011 The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur



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The Japan Foundation would like to extend our sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy to the victims and families of the Great East Japan Earthquake. We deeply respect all the rescue workers and greatly appreciate the support from overseas, including Malaysia. We hope that we can find the path to recovery immediately.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur would like to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has sent out words of encouragement to the people living in Japan.

We will overcome this tragedy, and cooperate closely with the people of Japan and people from all over the world in order to reconstruct the affected areas, as well as maintain and enhance international cultural exchange and international relationships.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur will continue to conduct a wide range of projects – however, should there be any unavoidable changes, we truly appreciate your kind understanding.

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

The JFKL Small Grant Program 2011 / 2012

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) offers grants to cover partial expenses for the implementation of *intellectual activities* and *cultural events* that fall into the categories of The Japan Foundation's programs. The grants are awarded to projects which can promote further understanding of Japan in terms of social sciences and humanities, or any cultural fields.

Eligibility:

- Recognized academic institutions (at university level or above) and non-profit research institutes.
- Libraries, archives, museums, registered NGOs and NPOs.
- Arts / Culture-related registered organizations.
- Applicants must be based in Malaysia, Singapore or Brunei only.

Amount of Grant:

The amount is not more than RM14,000 (fourteen thousand ringgit) to cover specific items only. **Projects must be based on cost sharing.**

Grant Coverage:

• Honorarium, travel expenses, transportation, accommodation and per diem allowances, purchase of research materials, production of proceedings and reports, rental fees for venue and equipment.

Application Procedure:

- Interested applicants are required to send a simple proposal (1-2 pages) about their project. The proposal should include details such as title, objectives, outline and expected outcomes of the project. It can be submitted by mail, e-mail, or by visiting the JFKL office (by appointment).
- Proposals will be screened and applicants will be contacted for further consultation.
 Proposals that fulfill the requirements as stated in this guideline are eligible for the JFKL Grant
 Program application and applicants will be provided with an *Application Form*.
- JFKL, upon receiving completed Application Forms with supporting documents, will conduct another screening process. The final results will be announced approximately one month after receiving the completed Application Forms.
- Applicants should obtain the appropriate permits for events that require special permission from the local authorities.

Deadline

Application for the JFKL Grant Program is open throughout the year. However, proposals have to be submitted to JFKL at least **two months** before the commencement date of the project.

For further details, please contact us at: Tel: 03-2284 6228 or E-mail: jpcc@jfkl.org.my



The Weekend Japanese Film Show

"The Place Promised in Our Early Days" (2004, 91 min, Colour) Saturday, 7 May 2011 starting 3pm

Director: SHINKAI Makoto

Voice Cast: Yoshioka Hidetaka, Hagiwara Masato, Nanri Yuka

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

In an alternate timeline, post-World War II Japan has been divided and occupied by two rival powers. Hokkaido has been annexed by the "UNION" while Honshu and the other southern islands have come under U.S. occupation. Hiroki, Takuya and Sayuri are two young boys and a girl living in Aomori, the closest province in Honshu to Hokkaido. These three young classmates become fascinated by the gigantic yet mysterious tower that they see across the Tsugaru Strait, promising that one day they will build and fly an aircraft to the tower to unravel its mystery. However, their project is abandoned after Sayuri's sudden disappearance. Three years later, Hiroki finds out that Sayuri has been in a coma for the past three years, a state that is somehow linked to the secrets of the UNION tower.



JFKL Integrated Course in Japanese for Pre-Intermediate Level

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Do you feel.....

- Not confident enough to speak to a Japanese?
- Frustrated when you are not sure how to use the language even though you have mastered
 - the basic grammar and vocabularies?

If you feel that way, perhaps you might wish to consider our JFKL Pre-intermediate Course which was designed for post-beginner learners who are facing similar problems like yours.

This course is intended to be the bridge that would lead post-beginner learners into the intermediate level. The course will focus on the forms and grammar which most beginner learners have problems with, such as the passive voice, honourific expressions, etc. While reinforcing their command of the basic grammar and vocabularies, the participants will be given ample opportunities to practise and improve their listening, reading and speaking skills.

In our previous intake, we had a total of 12 students in this course. The small class not only provided a conducive learning environment as the participants were able to get more personal attention from our experienced native speaking teachers - but it also promoted closer interactions among the participants. The participants' background, ranging from secondary school students to working adults, made learning more interesting and fun.

We also have a library with a comprehensive collection of reading and audio-visual materials related to Japan, its culture and language. You could also enjoy the Japanese comics as well as view carefully selected Japanese movies and dramas. You will get the latest news, stories, trends and topics on Japan via our collection of Japanese magazines and newspapers, as well as free access to our Internet-ready computer stations.

Drop us a visit today!





New Intake:				
Course duration:	6 July to 23 September (Total 20 Classes)			
Lesson Period:	Tuesday and Friday (6.30pm – 8.00pm)			
Course fees:	RM360.00			
Teaching materials:	Hand-outs			
Entrance Exam (Written/Oral):	15 June, 6.30pm @JKFL			
Enrolment Period:	11 April 2011(Monday) to 13 June 2011(Monday)			
	Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm (Lunch time: 12.30pm-2.00pm)			
	Persons in charge: Mr. Nobli, Ms. Yamakawa			
	Tel: 03-2284-7228 Email: nihongo@jfkl.org.my			



Library News

English Books









Culture

[Encyclopedia of contemporary Japanese culture] / edited by Sandra Buckley. London: Routledge, 2002. Library Call No. 952.0403 ENC

[Tea culture of Japan] / by Sadako Ohki; with a contribution by Takeshi Watanabe. New Haven: Yale University Art Gallery: Distributed by Yale University Press, 2009. Library Call No. 394.1074746 OHK

Cooking

[Simply Japanese: modern cooking for the healthy home] / by Yoko Arimoto; photographs by Fumihiko Watanabe. Tokyo: Kodansha International, 2010. Library Call No. 641.5952 ARI

[Japanese hot pots: comforting one-pot meals] / Tadashi Ono and Harris Salat. Berkeley, Calif.: Ten Speed Press, 2009. Library Call No. 641.820952 ONO

[Dashi and umami: the heart of Japanese cuisine] / Foreword by Heston Blumenthal, Pascal Barbot, Nobu Matsuhisa and Kiyomi Mikuni. London: Cross Media, 2009. Library Call No. 641.5952 DAS

Art and Design

[Fundamentals of Japanese dance: Nihon buyo no kiso: kabuki dance] / by Hanayagi Chiyo; translated by Leonard Pronko, Tomono Takao. Tokyo: Kodansha Shuppan Service Center, 2008. Library Call No. 793.31952 HAN

[Japan home: inspirational design ideas] / Lisa Parramore; Chadine Flood Gong; Noboru Murata. Tokyo; Rutland, VT: Tuttle Pub., 2009. Library Call No. 720.952 PAR

[Dragons, tigers and bamboo: Japanese porcelain and its impact in Europe] / by Oliver Impey, Christiaan J.A. Jörg, Charles Mason. Toronto: Gardiner Museum, 2009. Library Call No. 738.20952 GEO

[Japanese photobooks of the 1960s and 70s] / by Ryuichi Kaneko, Ivan Vartanian; featuring an interview with Daido Moriyama; contributing editors, Lesley A. Martin, Kyoko Wada. New York: Aperture: [Distributed by] D.A.P. / Distributed Art Publishers, 2009 Library Call No. 770.952 KAN

[The films of Akira Kurosawa] / by Donald Richie; with additional material by Joan Mellen. 3rd ed., expanded and updated, with a new epilogue. Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1998. Library Call No. 791.430 RIC

[Japanese style: designing with beauty and nature] / by Sunamita Lim. Salt Lake City, Utah: Gibbs Smith, 2007. Library Call No. 745.40952 LIM

[Project Japan: architecture and art media Edo to now] / Graham Cooper; guests, Fumihiko Maki ... [et al.]. Mulgrave, Vic.: Images, 2009. Library Call No. 720.952 COO

[Graphic design in Japan 2009] / by Japan Graphic Designers Association. Tokyo: Kodansha International, Library Call No. 2009741.60952 GRA

Library News

Japanese Books









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Japanese art & craft

『ちりめんで作る和小物100』内藤朗 ブティック社 2010年 Library Call No. 594.9 『つまみ細工の花々』 ホン プレゼンツ パッチワーク通信社 2009年 Library Call No. 594.6 『ふろしき便利帖』菊田圭子 講談社 2010年 Library Call No. 385.97

Cooking

『英語でつくる和食』田村正隆 ナツメ社 2009年 Library Call No. 596.21
 『はじめての飾り巻きずしとデコちらし』後藤幸子 日本文芸社 2008年 Library Call No. 596.21
 『築地あるき』おざわゆき;渡邊博光 飛鳥新社 2009年 Library Call No. 673.97

Comics

『とろける鉄工所1-3』野村宗弘 講談社 2009年 Library Call No. 726.1 『もやしもん8』石川雅之 講談社 2010年 Library Call No. 726.1 『ナナー7』矢沢あい 集英社 2007年 Library Call No. 726.1 『ワンピース 56-58』尾田英一郎 集英社 2010年 Library Call No. 726.1 『鋼の錬金術師24-25』荒川弘 株式会社スクウェア・エニックス 2010年 Library Call No. 726.1 『のだめカンタービレ23-24』二ノ宮知子 講談社 2010年 Library Call No. 726.1 『名探偵コナン66-68』青山剛昌 小学館 2009年 Library Call No. 726.1

Fiction

『1Q84:Book 2 (7-9月) & Book 3 (10-12月)』村上春樹 新潮社 2010年 Library Call No. 913.6 『オー!ファーザー』伊坂 幸太郎 新潮社 2010年 Library Call No. 913.6 『学問』山田 詠美 新潮社 2009年 Library Call No. 913.6 『廃墟に乞う』佐々木譲 文藝春秋 2009年 Library Call No. 913.6

Photo album

『なごみの風日本の名景ベスト50:保存版』渋川育由 河出書房新社 2009年 Library Call No. 291.087 『ザ歌舞伎座:完全保存版』篠山紀信(撮影)/坂東玉三郎(著) 講談社 2009年 Library Call No. 774.2

UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS: JOURNAL OF MY TRIP TO JAPAN By Mohd Sarif Hassan

DAY 1 (20 January): YOKOSO! JAPAN "WELCOME TO JAPAN"

"My journey to Japan is the most exciting thing to ever happen to me." This was my first impression besides thanking and praising Allah for such a wonderful opportunity to be able to visit Japan under the JENESYS Program from 20-31 January 2011.



I came here not only as an invited participant, but I also saw myself having two roles. First, I was a student who learned amazing and fruitful Japanese social and cultural elements; secondly, I was a small ambassador who represented Malavsia to the local communities.

after the Reception Dinner (myself: Front left)

DAY 2-3 (21-22 January): TOKYO "KATSUSHIKA - SEA LEVEL COMMUNITY"

The program officially started on the second day with a courtesy call to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), and then a visit to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. In the late evening, participants had an enjoyable Japanese Style Dinner in Ryogoku.

On the next day, participants from 14 countries presented their individual country reports and later visited Katsushika, also known as "Sea Level Community". We learned so much about flood control measures for urban environments in that area.



Left: Briefing session at Katsushika Ward Community; and

Right: Emergency food (special rice) that becomes cooked with hot water within 20 minutes

DAY 4-7 (23-26 January): VISIT KOBE & "FREE DAY-KYOTO"

After 3 days in Tokyo, we headed to Kobe by "Shinkansen" or bullet train. Visiting Kobe was one of my dreams because it is home to a number of specialized institutions active in raising awareness for disaster reduction, such as the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) and Disaster Reduction & Human Renovation Institution (DRI). We were there mainly to learn about pioneering measures, and we had the chance to meet and talk directly with survivors of the 1995 Kobe Earthquake.

Then, we visited Maiko High School, which is one of numerous schools in Japan that introduced the environment & disaster mitigation course to the students.

> Kobe has also been long famous for sake production,

had

opportunity to learn about it

too. After that, I spent my time on 26 January (free day) by visiting some historical places

and we

in Kyoto.

a great



"With friendly Maiko High School students



Kinkaku-ii @ Golden Pavilion Temple, Kvoto



"Sake" - rice wine

The next day, we took a flight from Kansai Airport (Osaka) to Niigata, which took about an hour. For the first time in my life, it was very exciting and enjoyable to play with heavy snow around Niigata. In 2 days at this prefecture, we visited a governmental office, a Non Profit Organization (NPO), and village people at a mountainous area around Uragara District.

The Uragara villagers received us with a warm welcome via a traditional dance performed by women. In the evening, we arrived at Echigo-Yuzawa by bus, which is famous for its hot-springs and skiing activities. Indeed, it was very exciting and comfortable to wear "Yukata" after taking a bath in a Japanese hot-spring.



'Yukata" during Wearing dinner time



"2 in 1" vending machine - provides drinks & early warning for earthquakes

DAY 10-11 (29-30 January): EVALUATION & SHOPPING

Once again, we took the bullet train "Shinkansen" from Echigo-Yuzawa to Tokyo Station and prepared for our final group presentation and overall evaluation assessment. During the final session, each of the participants discussed and shared precious experiences, besides comments from the Program Advisor, Dr. Tamiya Kondo.

We spent our last moments in Japan by shopping for some goods and souvenirs around Shinjuku, and then we had a Farewell Dinner at one of the restaurants near this area. Finally, this program came to the finish line after 12 days, and my heart felt mixed...happy, sad, proud etc. I hope to join such an amazing program again in the future!



Farewell Dinner at Asian Kitchen Restaurant, Shinjuku (Tokyo)

DAY 12 (31 Januar y): SAYONARA JAPAN, SELAMAT KEMBALI KE MALAYSIA!

The key concept of this program is strongly focused on "people" as a social & cultural fabric, resource and its resilience for disaster reduction.

Mohd Sarif Bin Hassan from the National Security Council, Prime Minister's Department, Terengganu was invited to Japan for 12 days from 20-31 January 2011, under the JENESYS East Asia Future Leaders Program 2011: "Disaster Prevention and People: Working Toward the Creation of a Strong Society".

Invitation Program for Young Muslim Intellectuals in Southeast Asia

The *Invitation Program for Young Muslim Intellectuals in Southeast Asia* is a training course that invites young researchers from Southeast Asian nations – who are considered to represent the next generation of Muslim intellectuals – to visit Japan to foster their understanding of the country and strengthen ties between Japan and Southeast Asia. In addition, the Program also aims to build networks among these Muslim researchers from Southeast Asia.

The 2010 program was held from 10-19 November 2010 under the theme of "Aspects of Japan's Modernization: Confronting the Challenges of Urbanization", representing the second of three such programs scheduled to take place annually starting from 2009. Malaysia was represented by Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin, a senior lecturer of Islamic Studies, from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM). Below are some thoughts of Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd Asri about his experiences throughout the program.



Prof Kasogi and I; after his informative lecture on Islam

My First Trip To Japan

Despite having visited many countries before, that was my first trip to Japan. I felt very warmly welcomed by the great hospitality provided by The Japan Foundation. It made me realize the significant role of Japan in the future development of Asia, and thus, the world. I was really amazed at how Japan has flourished so well albeit preserving its beautiful cultural values such as politeness and togetherness. That denies the notion that modernization must always succumb to westernization.

On the other hand, Japan hasn't mobilized its full potential in leading inter-civilization dialogues. To me, Japan is a new hope in Asia to bring about international mutual understanding regarding the clash of civilizations. The program had introduced young intellectuals to the greatly promising potential of Japan in becoming the centre for intellects and intellectual activities.

-Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin



Sudoku – a number placing game based on logical reasoning. Everyone can play Sudoku because it is universally understood across all languages. Although the rules sound quite simple, the game itself can turn out cruel! However, the creator of Sudoku, Mr. Maki Kaji said, "If you can't solve it, please move forward to another puzzle! Don't stress yourself, make it fun!" during his last speech at the National Sudoku Seminar which was held at Auditorium Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Petaling Jaya on 19 March 2011.

The inaugural National Sudoku Seminar was jointly organized by Malaysia Sudoku Society, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Malaysia Mental Literacy Movement and the Institute of Engineers Malaysia, and was supported by the Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur. The seminar was open to the public, attracting over 100 Sudoku lovers – including the Guest of Honour, YABhg Toh Puan Ena Ling – to join and to meet the Godfather of Sudoku in person. Throughout the seminar, participants were delighted to take part in the *Sudoku Challenge*, as well as a special lecture by Mr. Maki Kaji and two mini talks presented by the organizing committee of Malaysia Sudoku Society.

Mr. Maki Kaji spent time with his fans by signing autographs and taking pictures after the seminar. He also decided to donate the sales of his book to help the victims of the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean earthquake that took place in Japan.



