

TEMAN BARU

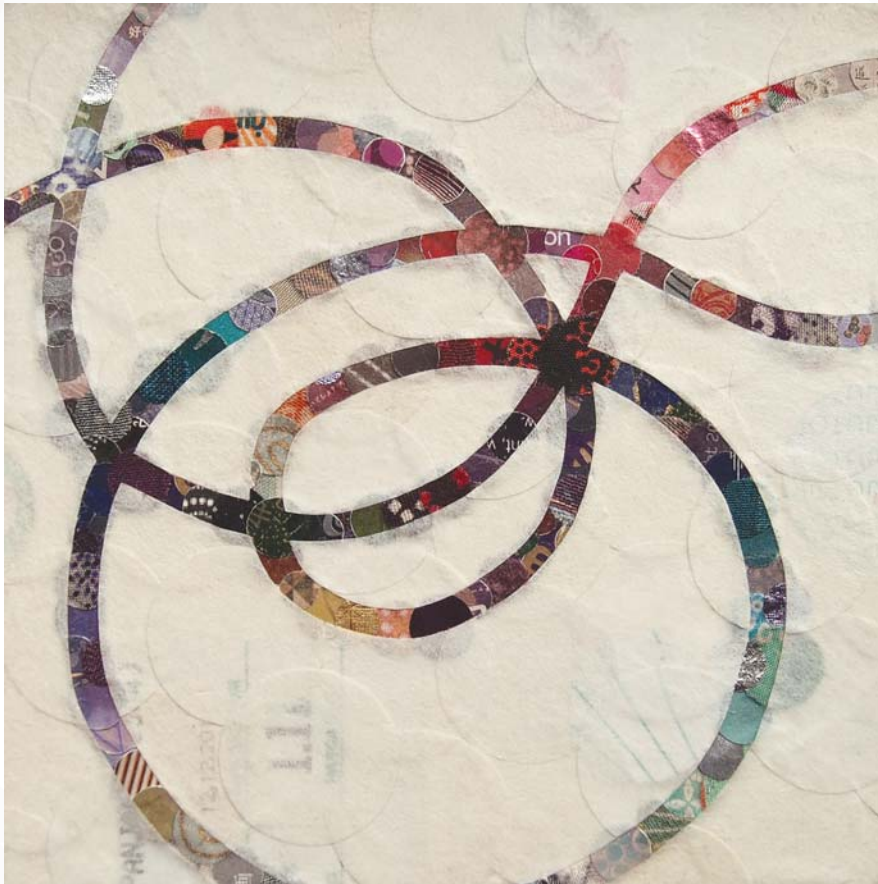


JAPAN FOUNDATION
国際交流基金

ISSUE NO.

63

April - May 2012



いのちのささやき
whispers of Life

JFKL's Upcoming Programme

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CHIKA ASAMOTO: WORLD DUB

EXHIBITION

The Spirit of *Budō*: The History of Japan's Martial Arts

CULTURAL

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JFKL's Upcoming Programme

MUSIC

CHIKA ASAMOTO: WORLD DUB



Date & Time : 27 & 28 APRIL 2012, 10.30PM
Venue : No Black Tie
17, Jalan Mesui, Off Jalan Nagasari,
50200 Kuala Lumpur.
Admission : RM50, (RM30 for students)

Calling All Jazz Lovers!

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur and No Black Tie proudly presents Jazz Live Session featuring Chika Asamoto, the first female professional sax player in Japan with sideman Shigeo Fukuda (Piano), DubMaster X (Dub Engineer/DJ), and Tony Makarome (bass) this April! This is a special live Jazz performance should not be missed!

If you are a JFKL members, bring along your JFKL membership card and entitled one complimentary drink (beer, housewine or soft drink)

For reservations and more details, please call (No Black Tie) 03- 2142 3737 or visit www.noblacktie.com.my

(FREE Admission for Jazz workshop at ASWARA)-visit the website <http://www.aswara.edu.my> for more details.

EXHIBITION



The Spirit of *Budō*: The History of Japan's Martial Arts

"The Spirit of *Budō*: The History of Japan's Martial Arts" was planned and produced against a background of strong overseas interest in Japan's martial-arts culture. Through this exhibition, viewers will gain an understanding of history of Japanese martial arts—from battlefield combat techniques (*bujutsu*) to popular sports or physical exercise tempering body and spirit (*Budō*).

*More details will be provided in the next issue of Teman Baru
Please visit our website for updates.
<http://www.jfkl.org.my>



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[Special cooperation]

1st Publika Wanko Soba Eating Challenge

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur is proudly supporting the 1st Wanko Soba eating challenge organized by the Publika and Ichiban Boshi restaurant.

Wanko Soba eating challenge is an cultural event organized by Publika and Japanese restaurant Ichiban Boshi, to bring positive message to disaster-hit areas of Japan. As well as Wanko Soba challenge which everyone can join, there will be many cultural activities. JFKL will conduct origami workshop and Japanese movie screening.

Venue: The Boulevard at Publika Shopping Gallery

Date: 20 May 2012

1. Wanko Challenge

Time: 2pm-6pm

Categories: Individual/Family/Corporate/Media (All team must consist of 3 members.)

Entry fees: RM10 per person, RM30 per team (Family & Media) and RM100 per team (Corporate). All entry donations will be in aid of survivors of Japan's Tohoku disaster.

2. Cultural Activities

Time: 11.00am to 9.30pm (Free Admission)

Yukata wearing workshop, Taketonbo (Bamboo Crafts), Japanese Hip Hop Dance, Japanese Traditional Dance, Japanese Traditional Music Performance by Koto & Shakushi (Flute) and more.

3. Movie screening by JFKL: WANKO~The Story of Me, My Family and My Dog

Directed by: Isamu Nakae

Featuring: Ryuta Sato, Kumiko Aso, Mieko Harada, Mitsuko Baisho

Summary: August 2000, a devastating volcanic eruption ravaged the island of Miyakejima. This is a story of friendship and the indelible bond between a dog, a boy and his family. A miraculous story based on true events of a family torn apart by an unimaginable natural disaster.

Date and time: please check website for information (JFKL) <http://www.jfkl.org.my/>

Website: www.publika.com.my or Facebook www.facebook.com/publikashoppinggallery

For more information please call: (Publika Management) 03-6207 9246/9428 or (Ichiban Boshi) 03-6203 2271, or email INFO.PUBLIKA@SUNRISE.UEMNET.COM

LANGUAGE



The 6th annual Japanese Language Festival (JLfest 2012)

Students of Japanese language may want to check this out!

A series of language activities and cultural workshops will be held at the festival to enhance the understanding and appreciation among Japanese language learners regarding Japanese culture and language. There will also be numerous contests whereby participants will not only get to show their skills and talents but also make new friends!

Date : 6 May 2012

Venue : Sek. Men. Keb. (P), Jln Ipoh, KL

For more details please visit this website: www.jlsm.org.my

Prior registration is required.

(In conjunction with the 30th Anniversary of the Look East Policy)

The festival is organized by the Japanese Language Society of Malaysia (JLSM), the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia, the Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL) and the Ministry of Education Malaysia

DANCE

[Small Grant Program]

Time Machine-Katsura Kan Solo Choreography

Public are welcome to participate in the butoh dance performance by KATSURA Kan. Katsura, a native of Kyoto, is a Master Butoh artist from among the ranks of Japan's senior generation of Butoh performers.

Two Presentations:

Time Machine-Katsura Kan Solo Choreography

Curious Fish-Group Choreography

Date & Time : Friday, April 13th @ 8:30 pm

Venue : Black Box, MAPKL

Price : RM30 for public & RM15 for students.

Katsuran Kan presents BUTOH

DANCE RELATION

Date & Time : Saturday, April 14th @ around 9.00pm

Venue : MAP Publika, Solaris Dutamas

Admission : Free and open to the public

For booking please call Sea Heike

(0192114070) or email at

sea.chel.hei@gmail.com

For more details, feel free to visit

our website (JFKL) at

<http://www.jfkl.org.my/>



JAPANESE BOOKS

Library: What's New!!



Japanese Language

	『新完全マスター文法日本語能力試験 N 1』	スリーエーネットワーク	2011年	Library call No.815
A	『新完全マスター聴解日本語能力試験 N 1』	スリーエーネットワーク	2011年	Library call No.810.7
	『新完全マスター語彙日本語能力試験 N 1』	スリーエーネットワーク	2011年	Library call No.814

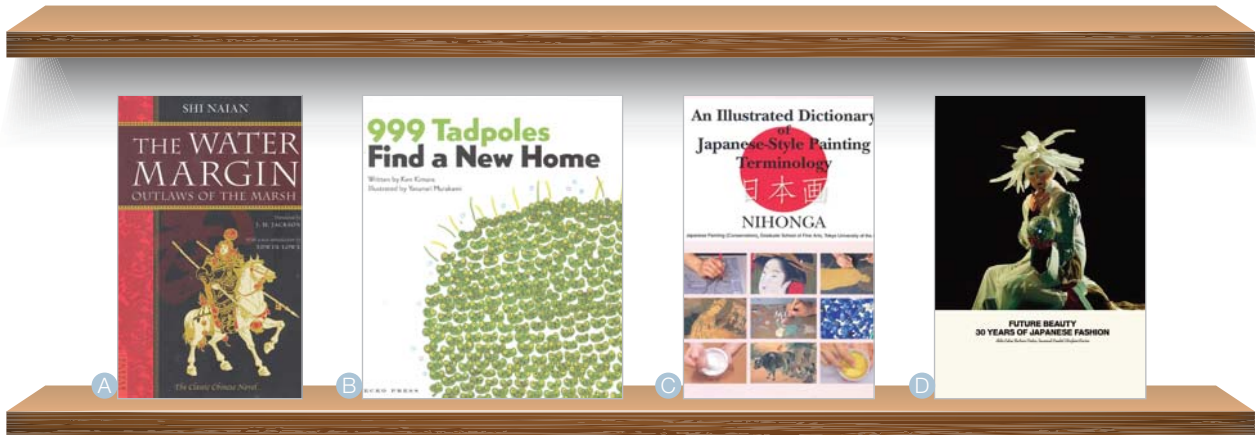
Arts and Culture

D	『富士山<異邦人のまなざし>』	国際日本文化研究センター	2007年	Library call No.769.92
	『海辺<異邦人のまなざし>』	国際日本文化研究センター	2009年	Library call No.748
	『遊び<異邦人のまなざし>』	国際日本文化研究センター	2007年	Library call No.790.4
	『しばわんこの今日は佳き日』	白泉社	2005年	Library call No.382.1
	『しばわんこの和のおけいこ』	白泉社	2008年	Library call No.382.1
B	『しばわんこの和のころ』	白泉社	2002年	Library call No.382.1

Comics

	『3月のライオン』1巻	白泉社	2010年	Library call No.726.1
C	『もやしもん』9巻	イブニングKC 講談社	2010年	Library call No.726.1
	『もやしもん』10巻	イブニングKC 講談社	2011年	Library call No.726.1
	『鋼の錬金術』26巻	スクウェア・エニックス	2010年	Library call No.726.1
	『鋼の錬金術』27巻	スクウェア・エニックス	2010年	Library call No.726.1

ENGLISH BOOKS



Arts and Photography

[Traditional Japanese architecture: an exploration of elements and forms] by Mira Locher. Tokyo: Tuttle publishing, 2010.
Library Call No. 720.952 LOC

- D [Future beauty: 30 years of Japanese fashion]** Merrell Publishers limited, 2010.
Library Call No. 746.952 FUT
- C [An illustrated dictionary of Japanese –style painting terminology]** Tokyo University of the Arts, 2010.
Library Call No. 769.952 ILL

Non Fiction

[Writing the love boy] by Jeffrey Angles. London: University of Minnesota Press, 2011.
Library Call No. 895.609 ANG

[Transforming Japan: how feminism and diversity are making a difference] edited by Kumiko Fujimura –Fanselow. New York: Feminist Press, 2011.
Library Call No. 305.48 TRA

[Kukai on the philosophy of language] Translates and Annotated by Shingen Takagi and Thomas Eijo Dreitlein. Tokyo: Keio University Press Inc.
Library Call No. 800.01 KUK

[Forest of eyes: selected poems of Tada Chimako] by Jeffrey Angles. London: University Of California Press, 2010.
Library Call No. 895.615 TAD

- A [The water margin: outlaws of the March]** written by Shi Naian, Translated by J.H Jackson. Tokyo: Tuttle publishing, 2010.
Library Call No. 895.1 SHU

Children's Book

- B [999 Tadpoles: find a new home]** by Ken Kimura. New Zealand: Gecko Press, 2010.
Library Call No. 726.1

Library Information

The Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur Library is open to members of the public who are interested in exploring about Japan and Japanese culture, both in Japanese and English. It has a collection of more than 19,000 Japan-related books and audio-visual materials, ranging from a large collection of Learning Nihon-go, Japanese art, Japanese culture, Japanese economics, history, and literature.

Opening Hours

Tuesday – Friday :10.30am – 6.30pm
Saturday :10am – 6pm
Closed on Sundays & Mondays and Public Holidays.

Contact: 03-2284 6228

E-mail: library@jfk.org.my (English), toshokan@jfk.org.my (Japanese)

Japan, A Travelogue: 43 Days in the Land of the Rising Sun!

(Siti Nurazah Bte Mohamad, University of Malaya)



Ms. Siti Nurazah Binti Mohamad, a tutor and postgraduate student of Political Sociology at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaya, was invited by the Japan Foundation to Japan for 43 days from 20 July to 31 August 2011 under the JENESYS Special Invitation Programme for Graduate Students. She has completed her research entitled, "Survival of Political Party: Analysis on BN and the LDP" successfully, and this article is about her experience in Japan.

20 July 2011-21 July 2011

Japan is one of the nations I am studying in order to complete my Masters degree. Even though I had studied about Japan for three years, I was unfortunate to not have had the opportunity to go there. The opportunity finally presented itself when I was chosen to join the *Japan-East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youths* (JENESYS) programme for 43 days (20 July 2011-31 August 2011). It was an amazing experience for me, as it provided me with a clear understanding

of what I was about to research on. My research is on conservative political parties and I chose to do an analysis of BN (*Barisan Nasional*, National Front) and the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party). I departed at 11.30pm (Malaysia time) on 20 July 2011. I was quite nervous, for it was my first time outside the country by myself. I felt a certain amount of fear and worry for my Jenesys colleagues and I received an email from Miss Ayano Inami (our great Programme Coordinator) warning about the typhoon that had hit the Japanese coastline. However, everything was under control when we arrived. The assistance provided by the Japan Foundation staff during the drive to the hotel, was quite helpful. I stayed at the *Tokyu Stay Yotsuya Hotel* along with 19 friends from other ASEAN countries. The hotel was quite comfortable with the necessary facilities. The next day, we were shown around Tokyo.

22 July 2011-27 July 2011

During this period, we were taken to see Hiroshima, Miyajima Island and

Kyoto before we began classes at Sophia University. On the first day, we went to Hiroshima. Before, I had only heard of tales about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Now, my friends and I saw with our own eyes how Hiroshima, once a desert wasteland, had emerged as a city. We were taken to meet the Mayor of Hiroshima, Kazumi Matsui before listening to the experiences of a *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivor), Mdm. Tomiko Matsumoto.

After Hiroshima, we left for Miyajima Island on the same day. We stayed there for the night, and on the next day, we took the *Shinkansen* bullet train from Fukuyama to Kyoto Station. The visit to Kyoto was much appreciated. I had long desired to visit Kyoto. Hearing and reading about the 'old city' of Japan aroused my interest in seeing with my own eyes the city that had once been the capital of Japan. We visited the Heian Shrine, the Golden Temple and the Kyoto Museum. We stayed at Kamogawa Kan, Sanjo Ohashi Nishizume, Nakagyo-ku. The river that runs through the city was



calm. My friend and I did not miss our opportunity to witness the *Gion Matsuri* festival that happens every July. After the festival, we went to the Kyoto riverside restaurant, where couples hang out. Kyoto in the evening was breathtaking. On the last day in Kyoto, we had some free time and I did not miss my chance to explore all of Kyoto! When it was over, we returned to Tokyo to continue with the activities planned for us.

28 July 2011-17 August 2011

During these three weeks, I enrolled in a summer class session at Sophia University. We were allowed to take just two subjects and I chose Japanese Language 1A and Japanese Contemporary Politics. Even though it only lasted for three weeks, the knowledge I gained

from Nittono Sensei and Dabney Sensei was invaluable. I realised how dedicated the lecturers were in teaching us in a short period. Other than the Jenessys participants, our classes consisted of students from the exchange programme, mostly from the United States. There were also Japanese students in the programme.

18 August 2011-29 August 2011

In these two weeks, we were given the freedom to collect data to complete our research. These weeks are designated as individual research weeks. During this period, I spent my time at the Sophia University Library, the National Diet Library, and interviewed a number of academicians such as Dr. Tsukasa Iga from Kobe University, Dr. Soda Naoki from Tokyo University of Foreign

Studies, and Dr. Miyagi Taizo from Sophia University.

30 August 2011-31 August 2011

On 30 August, we were asked to present our research findings in front of the Japan Foundation staffs and Dr Yoshimura from Nihon Fukushi University. We then attended a farewell dinner and on the next day, we boarded flights back to our respective home countries. This programme was very beneficial to me and my research. I hope this programme will continue to be offered in the future.

Kabuki: Demonstration and Performance *The Masseur and the Thief*

(Mio Yachita, Cultural Affairs Department)



Even now as an adult, the backstage of a theatre continues to fascinate me – sometimes even more than the front stage itself. As a child I always loved the backstage tour to see the big equipments and the managing office of the theatre. During college the highlight of working part-time at a concert hall was the privilege of getting to see the performers in the dressing rooms getting ready for the big stage. This fascination with the events behind-the-scene always taught me about the real side of life even outside of the theatre. So when I heard about this company that presents about the backstage of Kabuki was planning its first Malaysian tour, I literally jumped with delight.

Kabuki: *The Masseur and the Thief* was presented by the Japan Foundation KL, ASWARA, and performed by the

Association for Traditional Performing Arts of Japan (ATPA) on 9th and 10th March 2012. ATPA is one of the few non-profit companies to present educational and out-reach programs on Kabuki and other traditional performing arts of Japan, and this was their first performance in Malaysia. A number of lecturers and students from the faculty of theatre worked day and night with the 12 Japanese crew from ATPA to make this performance happen.

The show consisted of three parts: Demonstration of Kabuki makeup and costume, the Kabuki Dance “Sukeroku”, and the theatrical performance of *the Masseur and the Thief*. In this way the audience who attended the whole show could learn both the back and front of Kabuki theatre.

Each night more than 300

people enjoyed the beautiful picturesque traditional dance, and the ironical ending of *the Masseur and the Thief* but the eye-opener was getting to see the make up and costume demonstration. I mean, how often do you get to see real Kabuki actors? How often do you get to see the backstage rituals of a professional performer? The evening was made special by the fact that these two components were presented together at the same time. The informative explanations were also helpful in understanding what each line and colour on the face meant.

An exclusive workshop for ASWARA students and lecturers from the faculty of theatre was held on the 10th in which participants learned some of the forms (known as Kata) of Kabuki theatre. With these basic forms, students and the faculty performed



entrance and fight scenes of the famous piece Shiranami Gonin Otoko. It was an occasion for the participants to get to know what they have been working together during the preparation. Each detail has a reason to be, and the more details you know, the better understanding you have as a whole. That's why I love learning about the backstage – it is not just about satisfying my nosy curiosity, but gaining a deeper understanding about the unfamiliar.

During their stay in Malaysia, the two

actors, Kiraku Senkawa and Sumizo Hanayagi were busy sitting for interviews in between performances. They talked of how both of them had started dance lessons before elementary school with their parent who taught traditional dance. When one reporter asked how they kept themselves motivated despite the heavy responsibility being a successor of tradition, Hanayagi, who was performing abroad for the first time, answered with beaming eyes that he simply loved Kabuki and felt fortunate just being able to be a part of it.

Hearing that was the highlight of the backstage experience I had this time. ATPA showed Malaysia that Kabuki is not a tradition enclosed within a glass case, but is continues to be a living and dynamic art because of the passion of the people who are part of it. I hope this passion was felt by everyone who joined and supported this program.

PHOTO BY JFKL/ ASWARA

REPORT : Rie Mandala



whispers of Life ~paper + fabric collage art exhibition by Rie Mandala

Rie Mandala makes collages using old paper and fabric. Fancy paper wrappers of Japanese sweets, cigarette foil or antique kimono fabric, the materials she uses for her works are those that have been forgotten after they'd been used, to be thrown away. Spending a few months to create each work, she brings new life to the materials by cutting them into circles by her hands.

Guests at the exhibition opening at 12 Art Space on 23rd March enjoyed viewing her very simple yet complicated collage works. The exhibition continued until 7th April with a workshop for secondary school students on the last day.

Japanese Traditional Room Experience



Cultural interactions with the Japanese native speakers is one of several opportunities that JFKL provides to our students to provide them an enjoyable and effective learning environment.

On Saturday Feb 25, 2012, six students from the 'Introduction Japanese Course' enjoyed a special JFKL Japanese Traditional Room experience with six Japanese volunteers from the 'Teaching Japanese as a Native Speaker Course'.

Firstly, we asked the students to imagine that they were visiting the homes of the Japanese volunteers, in this case the JFKL Japanese Traditional Room. The students rang the 'bell' and called out "Gomen kudasai!" (anyone home?) "Ojama shimasu..." (a typical expression used when entering someone's home or room) before entering. The Japanese volunteers welcomed them in by showing them how to remove their footwear at the entrance as well as how to take their place in a Japanese traditional room. For the students, it was a good chance to learn about the Japanese customs and manners as well as the language itself.

Then, tea and rice crackers were served. While enjoying them, the students began to relax and conversation began to flow between the students and the volunteers. Using what they had learnt in class, the students were able to introduce themselves as well as ask and answer questions in simple Japanese. The volunteers taught the students

how to play the kendama (a Japanese toy), use the furoshiki (Japanese wrapping cloth) and wear the yukata (summer kimono). In the very short one hour, the students were able to use Japanese to get to know about Japanese culture.

Favourable comments were received from both the students and the Japanese volunteers. "Would be great if the session was longer", "Hope that there would be more sessions like this in the future" were among the comments received from the students. The Japanese volunteers commented that it was a rare chance for them to interact with Malaysians in such a context. Very much encouraged by these comments, we would definitely organize more sessions like this in the future for our students.



Message From Head Of Cultural Affairs Department



Looking back on my 3 years and 1 month of JFKL life, a thousand experiences, a thousand emotions, and a thousand memories flood in on me. During those years, I lived life to the fullest here in Malaysia by gaining very rewarding experiences. Those experiences would not have been possible without the support from all of you.

We organized a lot of JFKL events and projects throughout the year —but sometimes; our projects would come up against a brick wall, and worry us about its feasibility. I remember a sleepless night when I was trying to work out some solutions and getting disheartened; however, what helped me at that time were the co-organizers, sponsors, staff members, and many JFKL supporters who always cheered me up and helped me have the confidence to do my best.

For me, it is no exaggeration to say that all of the JFKL events were realized through our

relationships with you all. My great memories in Malaysia are due to your friendship, kind support and encouragement.

As of 1st March, 2012, I have been transferred to my new assignment in Japan, and my successor, Ms. Yachita has taken over my responsibilities as Head of Cultural Affairs Department. I would be grateful if you would extend the same support to her.

Again, thank you very much for all you have done for me over the years.

I look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

Sachi Oshima
Former Head of Cultural Affairs Department



I was born and raised in Japan all my life, by a Japanese mother and a Japanese father, went to Japanese schools and hung out mostly with Japanese friends. After I came to Malaysia on February, I realized how unusual that is in here. Malaysia has such a dynamic mixture of culture for everything - arts, language, food, fashion etc. - and it is very challenging and exciting for me to work in this environment.

My interest in the arts and culture started through music. However, after moving to Tokyo to go to university, I encountered the field of arts management and contemporary art works, and fell in love with the people who worked in it. The artists' passion and obsession to create made me think about life, and the ambitious presenters gave me an insight to why we need the arts in society, why need the arts to live. Besides drugging me into inner thoughts, arts have always been a window for me to meet the

unknown, and a bridge to connect myself to the world. Through arts, anxiety turned into anticipation, and the unknown became a thrill.

It is a great privilege for me to have a chance to work at Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur, to introduce striving Japanese artists to Malaysia. Both in traditional and contemporary fields, I hope to create and connect the dots between Malaysians and Japanese who are just waking up to or are already in love with this creative field. Why arts? Because it connects people, and nothing bring us closer than sharing unforgettable moments together.

Mio Yachita
New Head of Cultural Affairs Department

JFKL Holiday Notice

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

1 May(Tue) 2012 Labour day

5 May(Sat) 2012 Wesak day



JAPANFOUNDATION 国際交流基金

"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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