

# TEMAN BARU

ISSUE **138**

November-December 2024

Project Reports

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2024  
The Barehands Residency 2024  
What About Kuching 2024  
J-CAMP 2024 & ICJLEM 2024  
The Japanese Speakers' Forum 2024  
and more...



THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, KUALA LUMPUR



jf\_kualalumpur



TheJapanFoundationKL



JAPAN FOUNDATION  
國際交流基金

WWW.JFKL.ORG.MY

## JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2024

Reported by KUGAI Kyoko (JFKL)

The JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL (JFF) kicked off for the first time back in June 2004 with the opening film “Tokyo Story” by OZU Yasujiro. 8 films were screened at GSC Mid Valley and GSC Gurney Plaza over 2 weekends.

Fast forward to 2024 and we have just celebrated the 20th Anniversary of JFF from 12 September until 20 October. The festival this year toured 7 cinemas in 5 cities, including the grand opening ceremony with over 400 guests, a showcase of 2 short films produced during the filmmaking workshop led by the director Lim Kah Wai, a GODZILLA Marathon with the very first *GODZILLA* (1954) and the much awaited *GODZILLA MINUS ONE* to celebrate Godzilla's 70th anniversary. The legendary animation *AKIRA* also became the talk of town and it was full house at most of its screenings.

The opening ceremony was held on 10 September at AURUM, The Exchange @ TRX. The 426 guests who attended included JFF's friends, sponsors and partners as well as the filmmaking workshop participants. The 20th edition of JFF opening ceremony kicked off with a welcome speech by Ms. Koh Mei Lee, the CEO of Golden Screen Cinemas, followed by a speech of H.E. Mr. TAKAHASHI Katsuhiko, the Japanese ambassador to Malaysia. All the teenagers who participated in the filmmaking workshop also went up on stage before the festival was officiated by our Guest of Honour, YB Fahmi Fadzil, the communication minister, who mentioned on the contributions by JFKL not only with JFF but also with many performing arts programs in the past.

Both venues in Klang Valley, namely GSC Mid Valley and GSC 1 Utama, were filled with enthusiastic *GODZILLA* and *AKIRA* fans who had been eagerly waiting to watch the iconic titles on a big screen. Other popular titles such as *Let's Go Karaoke! Or All the Long Nights* also filled the halls. We were very happy to meet and chat with many JFF fans who have been following the festival over the years. Seeing them in JFF T-shirts from previous years or decorating their bags with JFF badges were special moments for us, and they are one of our main sources of motivation that keep us running JFF.

We would like to once again thank all the fans, sponsors and partners who have helped JFF grow to what it is today and look forward to seeing you all again next year!



## The Barehands Residency 2024

Reported by Nazura Rahime (A.P Art Gallery) & SHIOI Kazutaka

The Barehands Residency 2024, led by Akaldiu, Uku Gallery, AP Art Gallery, and the Japan Foundation, offers a one-month immersive experience with four weekends of experiential programming designed to deepen engagement for both artists and the community. These programs include art workshops, exhibitions, and collaborative activities. Mentored by Malaysian master printmaker Juhari Said, the residency provides participants with a unique learning opportunity. Japanese artist Kazutaka Shioi stayed and worked at Juhari's studio in Ulu Langat, Selangor, promoting cultural exchange by engaging with local artistic practices and offering his Japanese perspective. Shioi also held a one-week exhibition at the National Art Gallery Langkawi, featuring an art talk and workshop.

The residency's highlight is the Barehands Residency Exhibition, where Shioi's work is showcased as a cultural bridge, illustrating his interpretation of the Malaysian environment. Collaboration between Shioi and local artists is encouraged, fostering an exchange of artistic ideas and practices.

A long-term partnership with Uku Gallery in Fukuoka underscores a commitment to ongoing Japanese-Malaysian cultural exchange. Supported by the National Art Gallery, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture, and MyCreative Ventures, the Barehands Residency 2024 continues to promote cross-cultural engagement and artistic dialogue.

Nazura (A.P Art Gallery)





# What About Kuching 2024 - What About Music: Home & Away: MuchaMuchaM featuring Zee Avi

By Julien Chen (JFKL)

In collaboration with The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur, the 2024 What About Kuching Festival featured Japanese instrumental exotica band MuchaMuchaM alongside local singer Zee Avi on October 6th at Tribes, Grand Margherita Hotel Kuching. This "What About Music: Home & Away" program also highlighted Sarawakian talents based outside of Sarawak, such as Drasska, Mascot, Clockwise, Faye Faire, and The Filters.

The 6th edition of this month-long festival, organized by About Kuching and supported by the Sarawak Ministry of Tourism, Creative Industry & Performing Arts Sarawak showcased MuchaMuchaM's unique blend of exotica instrumental music inspired by Asian traditions, including pieces like "Pulau" and "Tuan Puan." Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth, and Sports for Sarawak, YB Dato Sri Haji Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah, attended the event, which closed with MuchaMuchaM and Zee Avi performing their collaborative songs "Oyasumi na Sayang," "Kanashikute Yarikirenai," and "Day by Day." These tracks are available on major streaming platforms.

During their time in Kuching, MuchaMuchaM got to try local dishes such as Sarawak Laksa, Kolo Mee, and experienced river taxis on the Kuching River. As the sape was an inspiration for their creativity, they met with arts researcher Catriona Maddocks and local boat lute experts Rining Peter Paris, and Hayree Hashim. This meeting allowed the band to learn about the sape and other traditional boat lutes like the Sabahan Sundatang, Iban Belikan, and Lun Bawang Tapi, discovering their cultural significance as a healing tool, the craft techniques used to make them and the efforts by the Borneo Boat Lute Revival to revive these near-extinct instruments.

Reflecting on their enriching time in Kuching, MuchaMuchaM expressed their hope to return to the Cat City and perhaps other Malaysian cities, inspired by the region's rich art, nature, and culture. With this experience, a new song could be on the horizon.



In the summer of 2024, I participated in The Barehands Residency 2024, directed by Malaysian artist Juhari Said, and held a solo exhibition titled "Light of Langsuir" at the Langkawi branch of the National Art Gallery of Malaysia as the culmination of this residency.

During the residency, I focused on the fern "Paku Langsuir," which grew in the studio garden. This plant symbolizes a female spirit in Malaysian mythology, and I was drawn to its mythological significance. Using its leaves, I created works that merge the light of Malaysia with Japan's sun-worship traditions, symbolically blending the myths of both countries.

At the exhibition, I presented an installation where the leaf-based artwork appeared to drift in the space. The pieces seemed to sway like spirits, allowing viewers to experience the presence of the jungle surrounding the studio. I felt it was especially meaningful to hold this exhibition against the rich natural backdrop of Langkawi Island.

Kazutaka Shioi

## Reference Materials

Website: Kazutaka Shioi, Works, Light of Langsuir  
<https://www.kazutaka-shioi.com/light-of-langsuir>

YouTube: Light of Langsuir, Kazutaka Shioi  
<https://youtu.be/KRVgbco1ONE?si=6nZNP6Q9akZdlOmN>



# What's New: LIBRARY



## 聞いて、話せる!おでかけ日本語会話

By Akane / Publisher: ASK 2024 / Library Call No.817.8T

“How can I improve my Japanese?” This is a typical question posed to Akane sensei who is becoming very popular with her YouTube channel, “Akane’s Japanese Class (あかね的日本語教室)”. She advises it is important not only to focus on how to speak Japanese but also to improve listening skills to make your Japanese more fluent. This book helps you enjoy practicing both speaking and listening through native speakers’ natural conversations. You will learn 37 real-life dialogues such as at the restaurant and shopping. Each lesson provides phrases with simple English explanations, vocabulary and useful expressions related to the scene, and one-point advice. Audio files are downloadable on Podcast and Spotify. Also, you can practice conversations with Akane sensei on videos if you scan the QR code in the book. Practice makes perfect; let’s give it a try!

## 初中級からからはじめる 日本語プロジェクト・ワーク

By Hanae YUKIMATSU, Yoko WATANABE / Kuroshio Publishers 2023 / Library Call No.810.724 YUK

Have you ever given a presentation on a social or cultural topic in Japanese?

This textbook aims to help students at the end of the beginner level give presentations while learning essential vocabulary, expressions, and sentence patterns related to each topic through activities like discussions with classmates. The topics covered are familiar and interesting: housing, culture, food, disaster prevention, and so on. Students can follow detailed steps for warm-up, comprehension, preparation, and presentation so that they will have the confidence to give a presentation.

Free audio files and teaching materials are provided on the publisher’s official site.

## Hari-Hariku di Kudai Buku Morisaki

By Satoshi YAGISAWA, Translated into Malay by Hazman Baharom / Publisher: BIBLIO Press 2024 / Library Call No.895.635 YAG

Let’s enjoy reading this heartwarming Japanese novel in Malay!

A brand-new Malay translation from BIBLIO PRESS in Malaysia of Satoshi YAGISAWA’s international best seller which has been translated into more than 25 foreign languages, Days at the Morisaki Bookshop (森崎書店の日々) is by the Malay translator, Hazman Baharom through The Japan Foundation Support Programs for Translation and Publication. Here is a message from Mr.Hazman!

Takako, the main character, regained her strength to face the upcoming challenges in her life after her unexpected discovery of books which healed her past agonies. Holed in a silent back alley of Jimbocho, Tokyo’s second-hand books district which is also the largest used books town in the world, Kedai Buku Morisaki is not only a place that sells books; it is a meeting place for lost souls, a meditation den, and, in the words of Pak Cik Satoru, “pusat kebudayaan kita!” (“center of our culture!”). In that space, Takako not only regains herself, but influences others with her warmth, humour, and graciousness too!

## GODZILLA: The Official guide to The King of The Monsters

By TOHO Co.Ltd, Graham Skipper / Publisher: Welbeck 2022 / Library Call No.791.437 SKI

Did Godzilla’s thunderous roar frighten you at JFF 2024?

The ultimate official guide for all Godzilla fans is here!

A world-famous monster, GODZILLA has been loved for more than half a century all over the world as one of Japanese pop culture icons. The Kaijiuu (monster) was originally created as an anti-nuclear metaphor.

This guide introduces everything about GODZILLA from the original GODZILLA in 1954 to SHIN GODZILLA with fascinating information and stunning materials like film posters and memorable scenes, including American films.”” You can enjoy such trivia as, “GOJIRA or GODZILLA?” and interesting stories about actor Haruo Nakajima who played Godzilla in the suit, the iconic and recognizable Godzilla theme and more!

## BOOK WEEK PROMOTION!!

## 26 October - 9 November 2024

\*\* Join a JFKL Membership  
and check out your  
favorite books from the library! \*\*

FREE annual fee for  
NEW MEMBERSHIP  
registrations at the library counter

SAVE  
RM10!





# THE GATHERING OF JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATORS: J-CAMP 2024 & ICJLEM 2024

Reported by Nur Diyana binti Abd Rahman (JFKL)

October this year marked a great opportunity for JFKL and our collaborators to gather Japanese language educators in Kuala Lumpur. Supported by our long-standing partner in promoting Japanese language education and international exchange – the Kamenori Foundation, we were pleased to offer these two programmes:

## TRAINING CAMP FOR JAPANESE-LANGUAGE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS 2024

### 2024 年度 中等教育日本語教師キャンプ (J-CAMP 2024)

Date : 9 – 11 October 2024 (Wednesday – Friday)

Venue : Cititel Mid Valley Hotel, Kuala Lumpur

Participants : 55 teachers

As a continuation of our regional training over the past two years (J-RETRA 2022 & 2023), we conducted a centralised training in Kuala Lumpur this year. The content revolved around tips and tricks in teaching, including composition, conversation practice and evaluation process.



It was also attended by a few officers from the Ministry of Education Malaysia as observers, and its Curriculum Development Division also conducted a session on the last day to share about the new curriculum which is scheduled to be launched by 2027.

## THE 21ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION IN MALAYSIA 2024

### 2024 年度 第 21 回マレーシア日本語教育国際研究発表会 (ICJLEM 2024)

Date : 12 October 2024 (Saturday)

Venue : Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT)  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) Kuala Lumpur

Participants : 83 Japanese language educators residing in Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia, etc

Entering its 21st year, this annual conference embarked on a new beginning with JFKL handing over the conference to Malaysia Japanese Language Instructors Society (MAJLIS) as the main organiser and MJIT as the host institution. The opening was done by the former Dean of MJIT who is currently the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UTM – Prof. Ts. Dr. Ali bin Selamat and followed by the Director of JFKL – Mr. TSUKAMOTO Norihisa. Before we began with the keynote lecture, the Executive Director of the Kamenori Foundation – Ms. NISHIDA delivered her speech as well. In the afternoon, there were a total of 14 teaching innovation presentations and 11 oral presentations with each category being conducted at three different venues concurrently.

### Sessions by Guest Lecturer Prof. Dr. TOHSAKU Yasu-Hiko

The Kamenori Foundation as our sponsor made it possible for us to present Tohsaku-sensei from the University of California in both programmes. His lectures focused mainly on future-ready Japanese language education, where he triggered some questions on why, what and how the education field can help cultivate learners that can cope well with the fast-paced changes in today's world through the acquisition of such skills as high adaptability and flexibility.

Both J-CAMP and ICJLEM have been great platforms to connect the people in the field, as well as revisiting the current needs of Japanese language education development especially in Malaysia. JFKL hopes to continue supporting such initiatives, so see you again next year!



# The Japanese Speakers' Forum 2024

Reported by Chan Yee Han (JFKL)

## The Program

The Japanese Speakers' Forum (Nihongo-jin Forum) is a program for secondary school Japanese language teachers and students, co-organised by the Japan Foundation and the Kamenori Foundation, an organisation that supports youth exchanges between Japan and other countries. This forum aims at developing a new model in foreign language education to meet the future needs of the younger generations required by the society; developing a "Japanese Speaker" network among secondary school teachers and students; and promoting mutual understanding among youths and global human resources.

This year, the program was held at The Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute in Urawa, Japan, from 18 August 2024 to 26 August 2024. The program is divided into two parts: the Teacher Program and the Student Program, involving 10 secondary school teachers and 20 secondary school students from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. Additionally, 4 students from selected Japanese high schools were invited to join the Student Program as well.

The two teachers representing Malaysia were Ms. Chin Siew Siew from Sekolah Sultan Alam Shah, Putrajaya, and Mr. Muhammad Syahmi bin Ahmad Kamil from Sekolah Menengah Sains Sultan Iskandar, Johor. They each brought along two of their students to participate in the program.

## The Teacher Program: Emphasising 21st Century Skills

The Teacher Program focused on discussions about 21st-century skills, particularly critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, etc. The discussions among the teachers revolved around methods for integrating these skills into Japanese language education, where they shared approaches to designing classroom activities that encourage active learning and student engagement. They also reflected on the classroom activities they had planned and gathered ideas on how to refine them to meet modern educational goals.

## The Student Program: "Sustainability"

The Student Program centred around the theme "Sustainability." Malaysian students, alongside their peers from other countries, participated in a series of activities aimed at increasing awareness of sustainability while practicing Japanese. The final project involved producing a short video on the theme, requiring students to collaborate and apply their language skills creatively.

As part of their preparation, students engaged in fieldwork, including visits to Asakusa, Panasonic Center Tokyo, and Sona Area Tokyo (Disaster Prevention Experience Learning Facility), where they observed sustainable practices in both traditional and modern Japanese settings. Despite having limited proficiency in Japanese, the students demonstrated remarkable creativity and collaborative skills. They communicated their ideas through a combination of gestures, drawings, and basic Japanese phrases, overcoming language barriers to collaborate with their peers from other countries. As a result, they managed to create short videos that were unique and insightful.

## The Vision

The Japanese Speakers' Forum 2024 provided both teachers and students with valuable opportunities to develop their Japanese language skills, exchange cultural insights, and engage in discussions on key educational and global themes. Looking ahead, we hope to see the realisation of the key goal of the program, which is the cultivation of a "Nihongo-jin" (Japanese speakers) community, where individuals use the language to contribute meaningfully to society.



The Malaysian representatives: 2 teachers and 4 students



Teacher Program: Group discussion



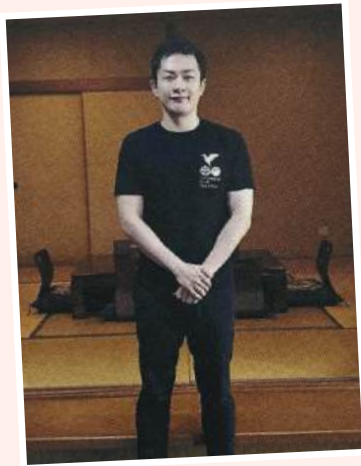
Student Program: Fieldwork at Sona Area Tokyo



The group photo



## Greetings & Farewell



Hello everyone,

I remember when I first came to Malaysia, it was during the Covid-19 pandemic. The plane was almost empty, and many of our events were held online. After the pandemic, when we could have physical events again, I was very impressed by how Malaysians worked. That was when I started to learn more about Malaysian culture and its people. I was also lucky to try many delicious local foods!

I really enjoyed my time here, especially working with the Cultural Affairs Department. We organized many film screenings, art exhibitions, and musical performances. I also had the chance to work with local organizations, and I am grateful for all of the people I had the opportunity to meet.

As I return to Japan, I will take with me all of the memories and experiences from my time in Malaysia. Thank you to everyone at The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur. Terima Kasih dan Selamat Tinggal,

TOMOKAWA Kodai  
(Former Head of Cultural Affairs Department)



Hello Everyone,

I am Rina Furubayashi, and I am thrilled to be a new member of JFKL! I started my new life here in Malaysia from 20th August, and there have been new, exciting discoveries every day.

To briefly introduce myself, I joined Japan Foundation (Head Quarters) in 2020, first working at the personnel division, and then at the Film and Broadcast Media Department before coming to JFKL. Because I had been in charge of the Japanese Film Festival (which is held in 10 countries every year) at my previous department, I was thrilled to be part of the Japanese Film Festival Malaysia as soon as I arrived, and to continue being a part of it.

As I am new to Malaysia, please give any kind of recommendations to me, as I am seeking to know and experience the diverse, rich culture you have here, and to deepen my understanding as well. I hope to conduct impactful projects that strengthen the relationship between Malaysia and Japan throughout my term and am also excited to meet and work together with many of you soon! Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!

FURUBAYASHI Rina  
(Head of Cultural Affairs Department)

Hajimemashite mina-san, o genki desuka?

Julien Chen-desu~! I am the new Programme Officer for the Cultural Affairs Department at Japan Foundation Kuala Lumpur. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to join the team.

Currently, I am pursuing my MA in Film Practice remotely at Arts University Bournemouth while working at JFKL. I have been working in the local film industry ever since I graduated from the University of South Wales, Cardiff with a BA in Performance and Media.

Having played the roles of a producer, writer and director over the past 7 years in documentary, commercial and shorts, I hope to be able to contribute to the team with my skills and experiences. I've also been involved in the local arts community, engaging and networking with artists and creatives alike.

As I have been exposed to East Asian culture from a young age, including Japanese pop culture such as films, TV dramas, video games, anime and manga, I decided to focus on Asian cinema in my studies. This has exposed me to lots of different aspects of Japanese culture beyond the mainstream, including niches such as indie films, contemporary literature, traditional artworks, modern theatres and even research works into historical ties between Japan and Malaysia. This has given me the chance to look at ways of helping the local art and film scene.

If you must know, my top Japanese films are *Kikujiro* by Kitano Takeshi and *Paprika* by Kon Satoshi while my favourite Japanese food is tonkatsu (pork cutlet). The most memorable experience I had in Japan was climbing Fuji-san overnight with my best friend, but my favourite Japanese activity is using the public onsen with friends or family after a long day... it makes you go “(´^`) ahhhh... kimochi ii~” .

I joined JFKL in the hopes of not only gaining experience working with the local arts community and organising programs such as festivals and workshops but to also strengthen my networking and foster cross-cultural ties between Japan and Malaysian creatives. I look forward to working with you all! Yoroshiku onegaishimasu~!

Warm regards,  
Julien Chen Lip Syn  
Programme Officer



# HQ Staff Report

Reported by ONO Satoko

Hello! I am Satoko Ono from the JF headquarters in Tokyo. I had the opportunity to experience job training at JFKL for three weeks from the end of August to mid-September. It was my first time in Malaysia, and the country's openness welcomed me immediately. I was able to embrace that atmosphere, making it a wonderful training period.



The most memorable part of my experience was definitely JFF! I work in a department related to JFF at headquarters, but my usual tasks involve a lot of time in front of the computer dealing with contracts and accounting procedures. So, I was thrilled to interact with Malaysian audiences, see them enjoying Japanese films, and hear their impressions. Additionally, during the filmmaking workshop, a fringe event of JFF, I watched Malaysian and Japanese teenagers quickly become friends, sharing ideas and creating a film together in a friendly atmosphere. This experience reminded me of the warmth of human interactions, and I was excited to help out.

During my stay, I also enjoyed various aspects of Malaysian culture, including its rich food, beautiful nature, and vibrant art. It was fascinating to see how Malaysia has developed a multi-layered culture over time while embracing various foreign influences. The openness I felt in Malaysia seems to stem from its multi-ethnic heritage, with different cultures and values respected and coexisting harmoniously.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues at JFKL and to all the kind people I met in Malaysia. When I return, I hope to visit more regions and learn even more about Malaysia. Terima kasih and see you again soon!

## EVENT LISTING

OCT 26 - NOV 9	<b>Book Week 2024 Promotion</b> FREE Membership(Save RM10) and a secret freebie for NEW members   Registration: JFKL Library counter
NOV 1 - FEB 1	<b>JFF Theater</b> Watch 8 films for FREE Online anytime, anywhere! Stay tuned for more updates our SNS and JFKL website!
NOV 14 & 28	<b>JFKL Workshop for Japanese language teachers</b> Nov 14 (Thurs, 19:00-21:00): Let's think about Japanese "ko, so, a" – Part 2 Nov 28(Thu, 19:00-21:00): Title How to teach "way of writing email"?
NOV 16	<b>The Next Generation Symposium on Japan Studies</b> Venue: Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University Malaya   Time: 9:15AM - 4:00PM
NOV 23	<b>The Japanese Skit Contest 2024 Final Screening</b> Live Streaming on Youtube and Facebook 2PM onwards.
DEC 3	<b>The Japan Foundation's Program Guideline for FY 2025</b> Application deadline: December 3, 2024
DEC 7	<b>Placemaking Exchange: Japan + Singapore + Malaysia</b> Venue: The Campus, Ampang
DEC 21	<b>The Weekend Japanese Film Show</b> Title: Samurai Cat   Venue: GSC Mid Valley
DEC 21-22	<b>Comic Fiesta 2024 (Suzuki Konomi and MYTH &amp;ROID's Special Live Performance)</b> Venue: Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Event listings will be updated from time to time. Stay tuned for updates on our website and official channels.

### JFKL Holiday Notice:

#### JFKL Office Holiday

25 December – Christmas

30 December – 31 December – Year-End Holiday

#### JFKL Library Holiday

24 December – 3 January – Year-End & New Year Holidays



JAPAN FOUNDATION 国際交流基金

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

### The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur (JFKL)

18th Floor, Northpoint, Block B, Mid-Valley City, No. 1, Medan Syed Putra, 59200 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: (03) 2284 6228 Fax: (03) 2287 5859

Homepage: <http://www.jfkl.org.my> E-mail: [kl\\_info@jpf.go.jp](mailto:kl_info@jpf.go.jp) [www.facebook.com/theJapanFoundationKL](https://www.facebook.com/theJapanFoundationKL)

