



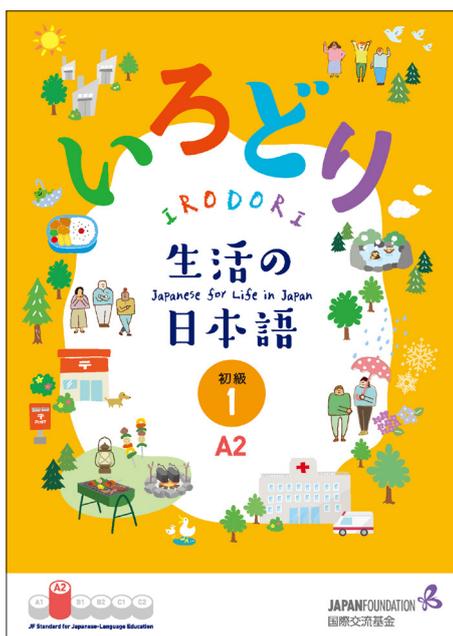
JAPAN FOUNDATION

Nihongojin Connect!

Issue No. 1, July 2020

coined from NIHONGO (Japanese language) and JIN (person)
- refers to native/non-native individuals involved in Japanese Language Education

INTRODUCING THE NIHONGO COURSEBOOK IRODORI: JAPANESE FOR LIFE IN JAPAN



The Nihongo coursebook *Irodori Japanese for life in Japan* is a learning material for non-native Nihongo speakers to acquire the basic communication skills necessary for living and working in Japan. One will learn Nihongo from various aspects of Japanese life: working, shopping, going out, eating, interacting with others, and more.

In Irodori, emphasis is given to listening input. Since it is important to listen to a lot of Nihongo in order to be able to use it in actual situations, numerous audio files are made available for download. Moreover, the coursebooks include reading and writing exercises, learning materials similar to those found in Realia; or materials found in real life, so that one is able to practice through settings similar to actual situations in Japan. As a result, one can learn practical Japanese quickly

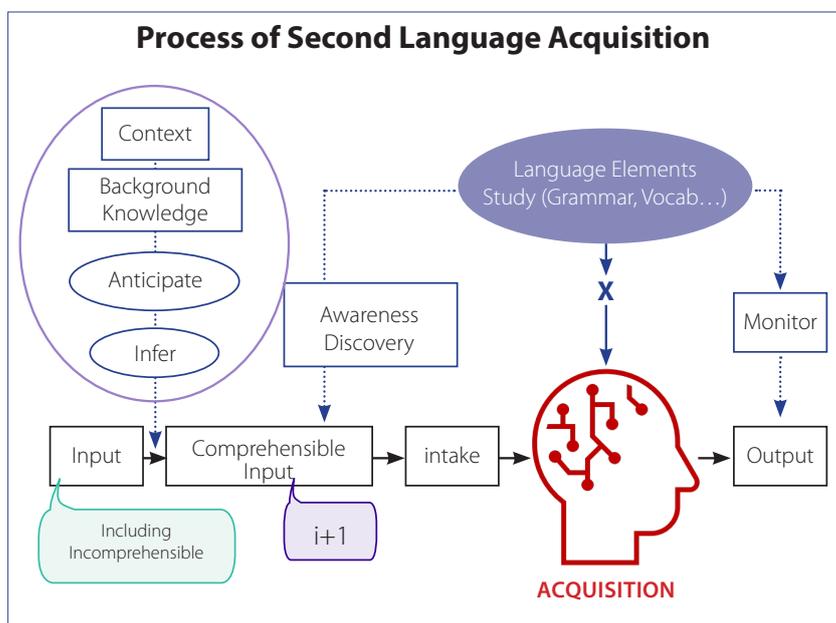
In addition, as Irodori has set its learning objectives based on *JF Can-do for Life in Japan*, it can also be used in preparation for “JFT-Basic”, a test which measures practical everyday Nihongo skills.

Irodori can be downloaded for free. For more details, please visit the official Irodori website: <https://www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/en/index.html> (English)



THE 31ST PHILIPPINE NIHONGO TEACHERS' FORUM

The 31st Philippines Nihongo Teachers' Forum, entitled “Reflecting on Effective Input in the Japanese Classroom 日本語の授業に効果的なインプットを！” was successfully held last May 30, 2020 (Saturday). It was the first Teachers' Forum held online as a precaution against the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of the forum focused on understanding effective Nihongo input in Second Language Acquisition (SLA). Despite the difficult situation, more than 100 Nihongo teachers from various institutions gathered and reflected on comprehensible input by experiencing various activities like lecture, discussions and model lesson focusing on a reading comprehension activity.



This figure is based from “Kikukoto O Oshieru” by N. Yokoyama (2008) page 8 Figure 1, The Japan Foundation.

▶ About Nihongojin Support Team

Under JFM's Japanese Language Education (JLE) section, the Nihongojin Support Team spearheads the preparation and execution of the JFM Language Courses and Teacher Training Courses.

These courses are targeted towards Nihongo learners and teachers respectively. Language Courses are intended for learners who wish to study Japanese, with or without prior knowledge, and are centered on using the Marugoto Coursebooks, which are based on the JF Standard for Japanese Language Education. Learners can avail of a range of courses from the beginner level A1 up to the intermediate level B1. Meanwhile, Teacher Training

Courses aim to present insightful pedagogical methods in teaching Nihongo to update the local Nihongo teachers. Some of the course offerings are the Practice Teaching Course and the Minna no Nihongo Brush-up Course.

Events such as the Sensei no Wa also provides a venue for teachers to share their ideas.

The Nihongojin Support Team is also in charge of the annual Nihongo Speech Contest under the Nihongo Fiesta, and the semi-annual publication of JLE section's newsletter - Nihongojin Connect! (previously known as the Merienda newsletter).

NIHONGO FIESTA 2020



The Japan Foundation, Manila (JFM) held Nihongo Fiesta 2020 at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City last 22 February. Marking the start of the event was the 47th Nihongo Speech Contest. The Awarding Ceremony of the 1st Nihongo Video Contest (NiViCon) for Nihongojin, a newly launched contest for Filipino high school students, was held in the afternoon. This day-long event gave the general public a chance to experience various events related to the Japanese language, arts and culture.



47th Speech Contest Finalists

47TH SPEECH CONTEST RESULTS

Grand Champion Award / Open Division

1st Place

Ms. Rovie Gen S. Crescencio

(Accenture, Inc. /
Philippines - CEBU)
ゲームチャレンジ
Game Challenge

Outstanding Performance Award / Non-Student Division

1st Place

Mr. Dan Billy G. Calunsag

(Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School - DAVAO)
世界で一番嫌いな職業
My Most Hated Opportunity in This World

Student Division

1st PLACE

Mr. Darwin Kent O. Sarte

(Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School - DAVAO)
僕のカルチャーショック従弟
My Culture Shocking Cousin

Non-Student Division

2nd PLACE

Mr. Richie Roy U. Jayme

(Advanced World Systems, Inc. CEBU)
生きがいを見つける
Finding Ikigai

Open Division

2nd PLACE

Ms. Michelle N. Sarsalejo

(Cebu Mitsumi, Inc. – CEBU)
贈りたい言葉
Words that I want to Say

Special Jury Award

Mr. Wilbert James C. Futralan

(UP Diliman - MANILA)
なんだ、このくさいプレゼント？
What a smelly present!



NiViCon 1st Place - Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School (Davao)

1ST NIVICON FOR NIHONGOJIN RESULTS:

1st PLACE

Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School

2nd Place

Davao City National High School

3rd Place

Lourdes National High School

Special Award

Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School

You can watch the video entries through the url (<https://bit.ly/NiViCon2020>) or the following QR code



THE 31ST PHILIPPINE NIHONGO TEACHERS' FORUM (ONLINE)

REFLECTING ON EFFECTIVE INPUT IN THE JAPANESE CLASSROOM

日本語の授業に効果的なインプットを！

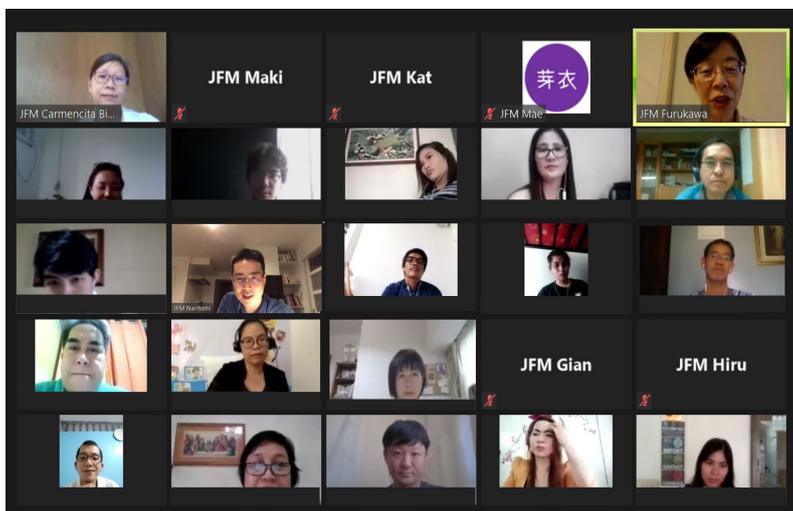
May 30, 2020 (Saturday) | via Zoom

This forum was carried out with the objective of presenting basic concepts in Second Language Acquisition, the core of recent Nihongo teaching materials, to teachers from various educational settings so that they may be able to incorporate these approaches in their class activities.

TIPS FOR INPUT ACTIVITIES

★ Encourage learners to skip unfamiliar vocabulary if it does not affect comprehension of content

- 1 Give input with context clues
- 2 Activate learners' background knowledge by letting them guess and predict
- 3 Let learners know the purpose of listening/reading the text
- 4 Before a task, introduce only the minimum vocabulary needed to accomplish the task
- 5 Let learners react to show their comprehension (ex. by choosing, pointing, etc.)
- 6 Ask learners to give personally relevant reactions
- 7 Let learners pay attention to the language form while confirming the understanding of the input content (make +1 part noticeable)
- 8 Do not force output when confirming understanding of input



FROM THE PARTICIPANT



Ms. Farah C. Cunanan

News regarding the 31st Philippine Nihongo Teachers Forum was a welcome #WFH event for me while I struggled (and still am) with anxiety and guilt from being unproductive this entire time.

While the forum topic was not new to me, remotely attending the forum made me reflect on some things. The forum, along with the participants' comments through chat, brought me back to when

I started out my academic career. 初心忘るべからず*. I was restricted then by the frames of my own learning experience, but seminars like the PNTF expanded my teaching repertoire. I do hope, in one way or another, that my participation in past PNTFs have also contributed to other people's experiences as they did mine.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to change the way we live. As it forces us to stay indoors, it prompts us to (re)connect with old friends and with more people, those with access to technology, at least. As more and more aspects of our lives are conducted virtually, we are, at the same time, presented with various opportunities. The remote conduct of this year's PNTF is just the beginning of the many more possibilities for Japanese language education as we are freer in terms of physical distance and space. No need for long waits at airport and bus terminals. No need to brave Metro Manila traffic.

*初心忘るべからず (しよしんわするべからず)

- (1) Don't lose the humble and tense feeling you had when you started learning.
- (2) Don't forget your original intention for doing something.

Ms. Cunanan is from the UP Diliman Department of Linguistics. Learning Japanese opened up a lot of doors for her, including the path she is in right now.

▶ About JFT-Basic Team

The JFT-Basic (Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese) team is appointed with the mission to support Japanese-language education mainly for those who are aiming to obtain the residency status of “Specified Skilled Workers” and to disseminate information regarding the JFT-Basic and its corresponding teaching material, “Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan”.

Their tasks are networking with organizations involved in Japanese-language education and providing necessary support. Since November 2019, team members Mr. TAKEI Yasujiro (Japanese Language Education Adviser), Ms. MATSUSHITA Kayo (“Japanese for life in Japan” coordinator), and Ms. KIMURA Megumi (“Japanese for life in Japan” coordinator) have visited over 30 organizations in 10

cities nationwide. Various encounters with enthusiastic Japanese-language lecturers and highly motivated students greatly inspired and allowed the team to deeply consider ways of supporting Japanese-language education in the Philippines.

The team also conducts seminars for those who are interested in the JFT-Basic and the coursebook “Irodori”. Since 2019, the JFT-Basic Team has already held (3) JFT-Basic seminars and (3) “Irodori” introduction seminars in Metro Manila, Cebu, and Davao and is very pleased to see a keen interest in these topics.

This year, the JFT-Basic Team has started holding seminars online due to the Public Health Emergency. Keep safe, keep well. We hope to see everyone face-to-face soon.



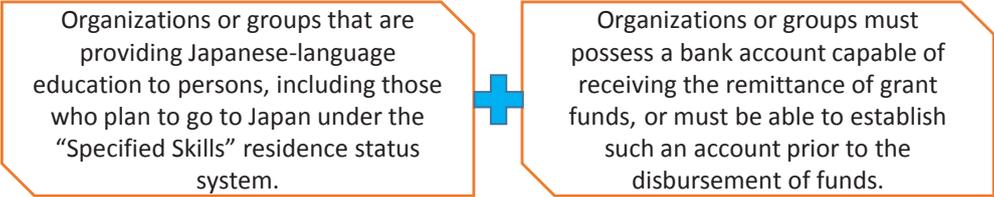
Support Program for Organizations Providing Japanese-Language Education for Living and Working Grant Program



Application Period
October 2019
~ March 2021

 Teaching Material Purchase Grant	This grant partially covers the cost of purchasing teaching materials, supplementary materials that can be used in Japanese-language education for purpose of living and working in Japan.
 Conference Grant	This grant partially covers the cost involved in holding meetings such as seminars, workshops, symposia, training sessions and meeting for Japanese language teachers who are scheduled to engage in Japanese-language teaching for purpose of living and working in Japan.
 Publication Grant	This grant partially covers the cost involved in preparing and publishing the necessary curriculum and teaching materials required for JFT-Basic or for Japanese-language education for purpose of living and working in Japan.
 Other Original Proposal	This grant partially covers the cost involved in implementing projects planned by the applicant that aim to promote Japanese-language education for purpose of living and working in Japan or boost interest in such Japanese-language education, and also projects required to train Japanese language teachers.

Eligible Applicants



JFT Basic 国際交流基金 日本語基礎テスト

What is the JFT-BASIC?

The Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese test aims to measure test takers' Japanese proficiency to certify that they have fulfilled the Japanese language requirement for the Specified Skilled Worker (i) visa. This test is conducted via Computer Based Testing and held every two months.



The JFT-Basic test will be held **every 2 months!**

*for specific dates, please refer to <https://www.jpf.go.jp/jft-basic/e/schedule/index.html>

Home	About the JFT-Basic	Test Schedule and Application	Hint for Learning and Support
Test Schedule	Test Implementation in Each Country	Steps from Application to Testing	

MANILA PHJ01	2/F Ateneo de Manila University, 130 HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
MANILA PHJ02	MD BUNCIO UPSKILLS OPC. 4th floor PhilDaf Building, 407 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave, Makati, Metro Manila.
CEBU PHJ03	TRAIN, EDUC & DEV CONS INC. SUITE 308 Centro Maximo D Jakosalem St.
DAVAO PHJ04	Horizon Psychological and Testing Center, Inc Att Commercial Complex, D-4B Avancena, St., Cor J Camus Ext, Barangay 9-A



REGISTER Register and get an ID at the Prometric website	SCHEDULE Choose your schedule and test center	PAYMENT Testing Fee: PHP1,500 Payment Methods: - Pay in cash at testing center - Credit card payment at the website	RESERVE You will receive a voucher code to input online and reserve your test date. Check Prometric Center for accepted IDs to bring on test day
--	---	---	---

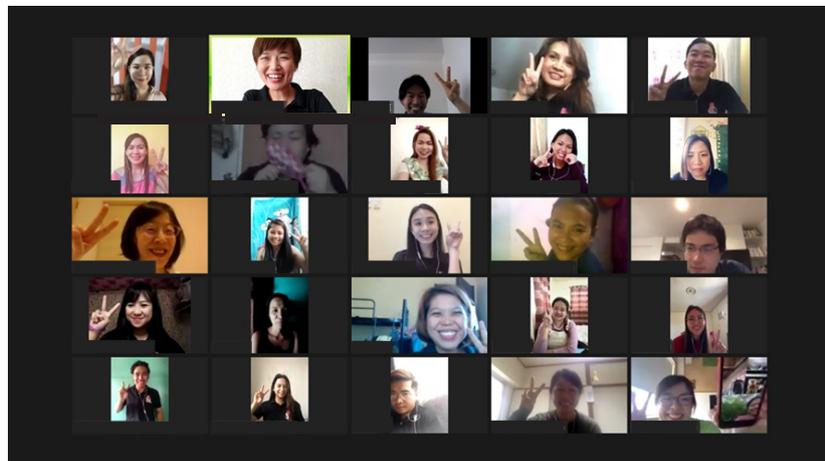
Prometric Center http://ac.prometric-jp.com/testlist/jfe/index.html	Frequently Asked Questions: https://www.jpf.go.jp/jft-basic/e/faq/index.html	Hints for Learning Find resources such as sample questions or textbooks you can study to pass the test! https://www.jpf.go.jp/jft-basic/e/support/index.html
--	---	--

▶ About CJH Team

The Course on Japan for High School (CJH) program was created by the Japan Foundation, Manila in response to the Department of Education, Bureau of Secondary Education Memorandum No. 560, s. 2008, for the implementation of the Special Program in Foreign Language (SPFL), where Nihongo is one of the languages being offered in the program. The CJH program has two distinct features which are the various teacher trainings for high school teachers and creation of enTREE, "Halina Be a Nihongojin", a set of teaching materials exclusively designed for Filipino High School students. There are currently 57 high schools offering Nihongo all over the Philippines.



Special Online Visitor Session with Nihongo Partners Batch 6



Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Batch 5 teachers' completion for the Online Nihongo Course 2020

CJH ONLINE NIHONGO COURSE 2020

The CJH Online Nihongo course 2020 is an alternative self-based learning system for all CJH teachers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao with the support of the Japan Foundation, Manila's CJH advisers. This aims to continue the learning process of each teacher regarding the Japanese language by navigating through the course online.

The course lasted from April 15 to May 28, 2020 via video meetings and has been completed by the active participation of 24 teachers from Luzon and 20 teachers from Visayas and Mindanao.

A daily task was given by accessing the learning materials in the Google site. These learning materials were composed of Marugoto lessons 3-18, and the daily listening exercises that were personally recorded by the CJH advisers.

Everyone joined the Online Homeroom session as well where they did a mini grammar lecture to review all lessons. There was also a special Online Visitor session, where the teachers were given a chance to utilize their knowledge and practice by applying it in starting a conversation with the special invited guests from Japan.

The active support of the CJH teachers is highly appreciated to bring about improvements and progress in the implementation of Japanese language in the education system.



1st day's Fellowship hour fashion show with their national costumes

JAPANESE SPEAKERS' FORUM PHILIPPINES 2020

The Japanese Speakers' Forum (JS Forum) is an initiative by the Japan Foundation and the Kamenori Foundation in order to create a model of the Japanese language education, to develop a network of Japanese Speakers in secondary education and to promote mutual understanding among youths in Asia. The JS Forum provides both learners and teachers a platform to interact and share each other's experiences in studying the Japanese-language and to further enhance 21st century skills – abilities to learn and grow independently, to think independently, and to achieve collaborative presentation skills.

In echoing with the objectives, the JS Forum Philippines 2020 provided the opportunity for students and teachers to interact and discuss local as well as global issues and to communicate using their common languages - Filipino, English and Japanese. With this year's theme of the student program focusing on the "plastic reduction", the participants brainstormed ideas to think of a solution by using a problem-solving method based on the lectures and fieldwork conducted in the said event. At the end of the forum, they were given time for the skit presentation on their suggested solutions for the problems and issues they have found out.

This year, the said event was held last January 29-31, 2020 at Eurotel Hotel North Edsa in Quezon City. There were 30 Filipino high school students from different regions in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao who belong to the SPFL-Nihongo class that studies the Japanese language. They were also joined by 12 Japanese high school students who took their time to visit in the Philippines.

In line with the program, four Philippine representatives from Davao City National High School, Abellana National School, Valenzuela School of Mathematics and Science, and Compostela National High School were selected among the students to participate in the Japanese Speakers' International Forum 2020 in Bangkok, Thailand. Unfortunately, due to travel restrictions imposed as a countermeasure against COVID-19, this event has been cancelled for this year.



THE BLOSSOMING OF NIHONGOJIN WITH THE *NIHONGO PARTNERS* PROGRAM!

Established in 2014, the Japan Foundation Asia Center has been dispatching Nihongo Partners to 10 Southeast Asian countries for six years as of date. Since its foundation, a total of 67 Nihongo Partners have been dispatched to the Philippines. The Nihongo Partners live in the Philippines for about nine months as teaching assistants for SPFL-Nihongo classes at public high schools and universities.

During the Nihongo classes, Nihongo Partners teach not only the Japanese language but also share about Japanese culture, history, and more. Besides being able to reflect on their own roots to rediscover the good things about Japan, at the

same time they also learn about Filipino culture from their counterpart teachers. Through this exchange, Filipino students may also rediscover their traditional Filipino culture through their communication with the Nihongo Partners.

By deepening the interaction between the Filipino learners and the Japanese Nihongo Partners, they both learn about each other's countries. It therefore becomes an opportunity for both groups to understand their own identities. The program not only teaches the language - it also connects the learners and the partners together and helps them see each other's good points. Through the Nihongo Partner program, we connect Filipino

students and teachers with the Partners, creating relationships that respect one another's country.

The Filipino high school students who learned Nihongo with the first batch of Nihongo Partners dispatched to the Philippines are now about to graduate high school and start their next journey in life. We are pleased to know that they carry fruitful memories brought about by the Nihongo Partners' awareness of the students' global career path. Many seeds planted by this program during these six years are gradually coming into fruition. We cannot be happier to witness the blossoming of the Global Youth Nihongojin with the Nihongo Partners Program!



Joint Training for Counterpart CJH teachers and Nihongo Partners Batch 6



A memorable birthday celebration of a Nihongo Partner with Nihongojin students



Nihongojin students trying Japanese tea ceremony

OSHABERI SALON おしゃべりサロン

“Oshaberi Salon” is a free event for Nihon enthusiasts held at the Japan Foundation, Manila. During each session the participants try to complete a task on their own or collaborate with others using Nihongo. The participants not only discover something new about Nihon or Nihongo, but they can also try their Nihongo, get a lot of inspiration, and form a new network. If you know someone who is a Nihon enthusiast, “Oshaberi Salon” might be ideal! For more information, please visit the JFM website.

Participants presenting their theme for year 2020 through Japanese calligraphy ‘Shodou’



Title: 書道 Calligraphy
Date: 10 January 2020 (Friday)
Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Venue: The Japan Foundation, Manila



Mr. Ide starting the session with a question for the participants

Title: How to Write Japanese Characters Neatly
「きれいな字の書き方、教え方」

Date: 24 January 2020 (Friday)

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Venue: The Japan Foundation, Manila

Speaker: Mr. IDE Gohei (Japanese Language Education Adviser, JFM)

SENSEI NO WA 先生の輪

先生の輪は日本語教師の交流の場です。もっと楽しく、もっと面白く一緒に日本語教育について勉強しましょう!

“Sensei no Wa” is open to both experienced and neophyte Japanese-language teachers, and offers a platform for information exchange with one’s peers. It is for the further encouragement of Japanese Language Education and aims to support professional enrichment and network expansion through interactive learning.

Let’s join Sensei no Wa!

SEMINAR/WORKSHOP NIHON BUNKA-BU X THE JAPAN FOUNDATION MANILA

Title: Introduction to the Japanese Language (Seminar + Workshop)

Date: 6 March 2020 (Friday)

Time: 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Venue: De La Salle College of Saint Benilde

Speakers: Ms. FURUKAWA Yoshiko (Senior Japanese Language Education Adviser, JFM)

Ms. Carmencita Biscarra (Program Coordinator, JFM)



Ms. Furukawa and Ms. Biscarra receiving their certificates from Nihon Bunka-bu representatives (photo © 2020 Nihon Bunka-bu)

HELLO!

**MATSUDA Ryoko**

みなさん、はじめまして。松田涼子(まつだりょうこ)です。フィリピンでたくさんの人に会えることを楽しみにしています。私を見かけたら、気軽に声をかけてください。よろしくお願いします。

OBINATA Haruna

みなさん、はじめまして！大日方春菜(おびなた はるな)です。マニラに行くのをとても楽しみにしています。フィリピンの文化や言葉を勉強したいと思っています。みなさん、いろいろ教えてください。どうぞ、よろしくお願いします。

SASAGAWA Fumie

はじめまして。笹川史絵(ささがわふみえ)です。フィリピンで日本語をいっしょうけんめい勉強しているみなさんを手伝いたいと思っています。いっしょにがんばりましょう！旅行が好きなので、フィリピンのいろいろなところに行きたいです。おすすめの場所を教えてください。どうぞよろしくお願いします。

GOODBYE

**IKEZU Joji**

3年間大変お世話になりました。JPEPAでの仕事は私にとっては大きなチャレンジで、たくさん勉強しなければならなかったことがありました。でも、大勢の仲間といい仕事をする事ができて大変よかったと思っています。また皆さんとどこかで会えるといいなと思います。皆様お元気で。

OGAWA Yasuko

3年間、本当にお世話になりました。JPEPA、マニラ日本文化センターでは、素敵なチームの中でたくさんのことを学びました。どうもありがとうございます。そしてフィリピンの明るい太陽と緑、たくさん笑顔に囲まれてのあっという間の3年間でした。また世界のどこかでお会いしましょう！Maraming salamat sa lahat.

JPEPA

JPEPA is an acronym for the Economic Partnership Agreement between the Philippines and Japan. This is a program where Filipino nurses and care-givers study for state examinations while working in Japan and become fully employed in Japanese medical and care-giving institutions.

In JPEPA's Pre-Arrival Japanese-Language Training which takes place at the TESDA, candidates learn basic Japanese communication skills, details about Japanese society and Japanese culture, so that they can easily adjust to studying Japanese and daily life in Japan.

Moreover, after undergoing further Japanese language training in Japan, candidates are assigned to various



Group Recitation: The candidates performed "The Fall of Freddie, the Leaf" and "The Cat that Lived a Million Times" on the stage as a class. They practiced hard for the performance.

institutions and are required to study for state examinations by themselves. Therefore, learning how to study autonomously and establishing a studying routine are also part of the objectives.

This year, 340 candidates have been

part of the program since November of last year, but only half of the program has been completed due to the COVID-19 situation. It is hoped that the candidates can depart for Japan safely, pass the exam and do well at their assigned institutions.

JAPANESE TEACHING METHODS PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS OF SPECIFIED SKILLED WORKER CANDIDATES 2019-2020

海外日本語教師 特定技能制度による来日希望者のための日本語教授法研修

1ST BATCH

November 19 ~ December 18, 2019

Vianca Ramirez

Nihongo Center Foundation Inc.

Jay Galvez

Phil Nippon Technical College

Edmon Hernandez

Manila Kokusai Academy

Ma. Angela Santos Reynante

Personal Ability Development Foundation, Inc.

(did not join)

2ND BATCH

January 7 ~ February 6, 2020

Joel Emilia

Power Foundation, Inc.

Corazon Shobiri

Saijyou International Training Center



During the Completion Ceremony of the 2nd Batch

Arnel Gadlan Fabellar

Frontline Nihongo Studio

Lanie Garcia

JET Japanese English Language Tutorial Service

Eisuke Kojima

One World Japanese Language Center INC.

Monica Fabro

PJ Link Language Center Inc.

Junilo Espiritu

Department of Linguistics
University of the Philippines Diliman

Edgar Romero

Sakura Japanese Language School Inc.

Rowena Okabe

The Blue Files Language and Training Center

BASIC TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS OF THE JAPANESE-LANGUAGE

海外日本語教師 基礎研修 · September 3, 2019 – February 28, 2020

基礎研修:

A JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

by Almaluna C. Lumapac

Possessing a limited knowledge in the field of teaching Nihongo bounded my capacity and confidence as Nihongo teacher. This challenge pushed me to endeavor for growth in the said field. Through the bridging assistance of the Japan Foundation, Manila, I was given the chance to participate in the 2019-2020 Basic Training Program for Teachers of Japanese Language sponsored by the Japan Foundation, Japanese Language Institute – Urawa.

I participated in the training with the sole purpose and that was to equip myself with enough knowledge in Japanese language. However, the training formed me beyond the intellectual aspects.



Ms. Lumapac (left) doing 書道 (Shodou) or Japanese Calligraphy

The courses 文法 (Bunpou), 読解 (Dokkai), 総合日本語 (Sougou Nihongo), 映像視聴 (Eizoushichou), 実用文 (Jitsuyoubun) and 自立学習 (Jiritsugakushuu) dressed me with substantial understanding of the language in both structural and practical Nihongo. Apart from the academics, appreciation of Japanese culture and society had been deepened through firsthand experiences from different exposures such as 文化紹介 (Bunkashoukai), ホームステイ (Homestay), 交流会 (Kouryuukai) and 地方研修

(Chihou kenshuu). Moreover, my views and understanding towards the Japanese Education had been redefined by the learning opportunities I had during the **Senior High School and Elementary School Visit**. My pedagogical understanding was being polished in the **Teaching Methodology** class wherein I gained priceless insights particularly in the concept of Second Language Acquisition. I came across different teaching strategies particularly in teaching vocabulary, communication and culture.

All these had paved the way not only to acquisition of knowledge, but also to the development skills, not only the skill of teaching but also the skill of understanding and adapting to the culture and society not only of the host country but as well, to the 43 diverse cultures of the participating countries across the globe.

The camaraderie I established among friends was untradeable, the literacy and the life skills I gained were invaluable, and the experiences I bagged were priceless. It was indeed, a journey of a lifetime.

Ms. Lumapac is currently connected with the Department of Education as Filipino and Nihongo teacher of the Junior High School Department and presently stationed at Abellana National School. Prior to her government service, she was connected with The Sisters of Mary – Girlstown (Cebu) as a classroom teacher. She attended this training program with **Ms. Mary Rose B. Antonio** from Nihongo Center Foundation Inc.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

There is a serious impact in our daily lives and works due to the long Community Quarantine caused by COVID-19. Our flexible response is needed in accordance with the situation since we are also facing some challenges in Japanese-Language Education (JLE).

Despite this situation, I am pleased to announce that JFM has come up with a new newsletter, the "NIHONGOJIN CONNECT!". I hope that this serves as a big assistance in enhancing your teaching skills and receiving updated information on JLE.

The Japan Foundation, Manila works to create and enhance JLE through various activities such as 1) Teacher Training and Language Courses, 2) CJH (Course on Japan for High School), 3) JFT-Basic (Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese), 4) Japanese Language Training in JPEPA (Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement), and 5) NP (NIHONGO Partners Program). In addition, we have the Grant Programs, and conduct the JLPT, etc. In this newsletter, we will provide you with information about our activities and updates on the latest JLE situation. Thus, as the newsletter title "NIHONGOJIN CONNECT!" conveys, we hope to see our growth together with the Japanese-language teachers in the Philippines.

Let us work together toward a better mutual understanding and friendship between the Philippines and Japan.

ALL NIHONGOJIN, LET'S CONNECT!

UESUGI Hiroaki

Director

The Japan Foundation, Manila

JF E-LEARNING SITES AND APPS

As face-to-face classes are put on hold due to the threat of COVID-19, JFM recently featured the Japan Foundation's free e-learning websites and applications in a series of Facebook posts. Japanese language learners, with or without prior knowledge, can access these references intended for various purposes.



To see the complete list of JF J-learning websites and applications, please go to:

<https://www.jpf.go.jp/e/project/japanese/education/resource/>
or scan the QR code.

JLPT & JFM COURSES AND WORKSHOPS

For updates on JLPT and JFM courses & workshops please visit the JFM website: <https://jfmo.org.ph/>

PHILIPPINES-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP MONTH

Japan Film Week is back **ONLINE** this July 22-26, 2020 featuring 6 unique Japanese films for free!

The Japan Foundation, Manila, in partnership with Solar Pictures, Inc., Sinag Maynila and the Film Development Council of the Philippines, is launching an **online edition** of the Japan Film Week for the first time.

This online film screening is on a **FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED** basis, subject to limited slot availability. Viewers may access the films through the following link: https://bit.ly/Japan_Film_Week

JFM would also like to announce that the 23rd Japanese Film Festival (JFF) will be postponed to a later date due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For further announcements, please refer to our official website (www.jfmo.org.ph) & social media pages (<https://www.facebook.com/jfmanila>) & <https://www.facebook.com/eigasaiPH>.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Angela Legaspi
FURUKAWA Yoshiko
Keli Biscarra
IMAMURA Michiko
C.E.J. AQUINO
NARITOMI Taro



JAPANFOUNDATION

Published by The Japan Foundation, Manila (JFM)
Located at the 23rd floor Pacific Star Building, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Cor. Makati Ave., Makati City 1226 with telephone numbers (632) 8811-6155 to 58, FAX number (632) 8811-6153 and email address is email@jfmo.org.ph • www.jfmo.org.ph