

Nihongojin Connect!

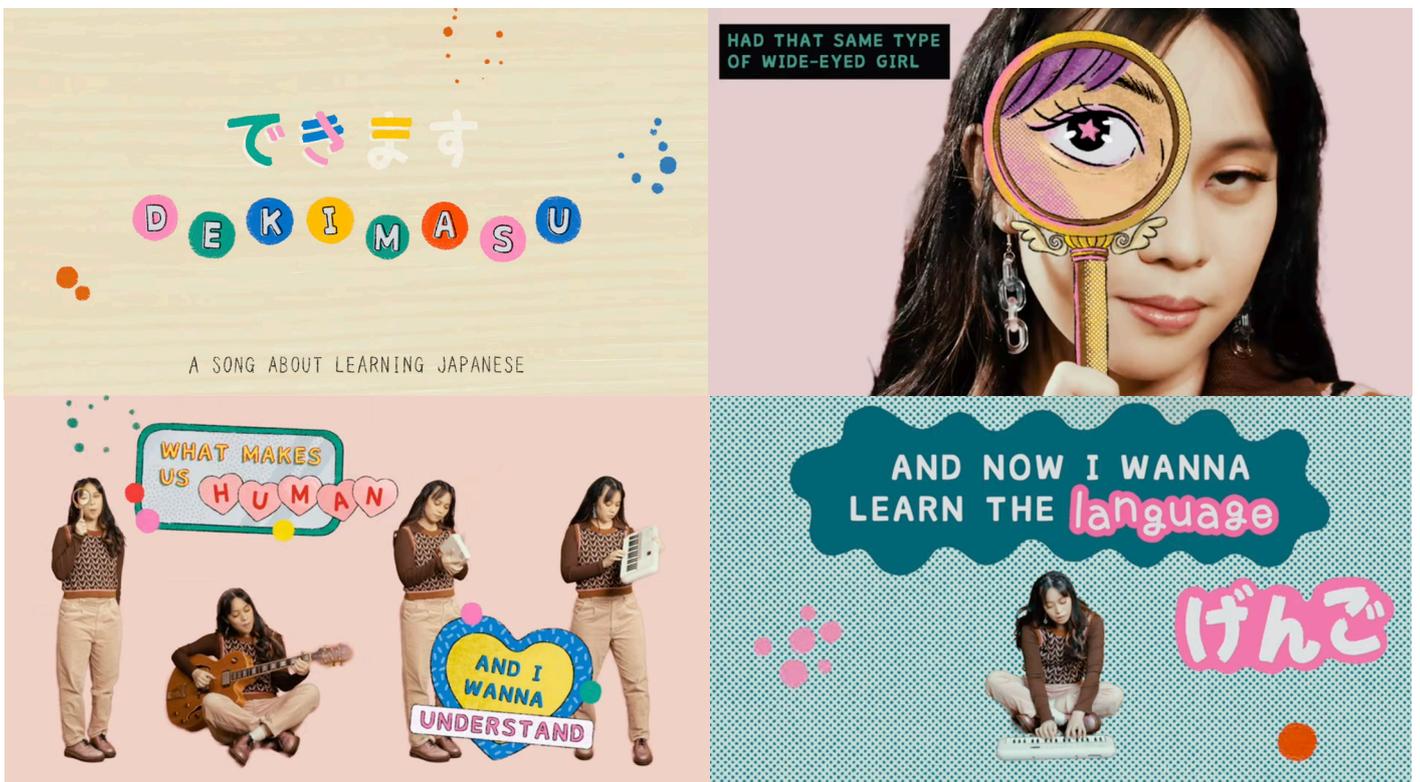
Issue No.3, March 2022

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

Dekimasu!

Official Music Video by Reese Lansangan

Scan to watch the music video!



The Japan Foundation, Manila (JFM) announces the release of the theme song for Japanese Learners written and performed by Ms. Reese Lansangan. Entitled “DEKIMASU”, which means “I CAN DO IT”. The song with a cheerful tone is tailored for those who are studying Japanese and those who are aspiring to study Japanese. Also, it perfectly reflects Ms. Lansangan’s experience in learning Japanese, her struggle with the challenging nature of the language, and her love for the language and the culture.

The objectives of the theme song are to promote the Japanese language to people in the Philippines and to encourage Japanese learners to achieve their goals such as passing Japanese tests to work or study in Japan and to enjoy learning the language. Additionally, the song is a great invitation to a wonderful experience of learning Japanese for those who have not started studying the language.

The theme song’s music video is available to the public on the JFM’s YouTube channel. Please check it out now!



I’m in the official music video. Look for me there!
みつけてね!

CAN YOU FIND THESE JAPANESE WORDS IN THE SONG?

ありがとう Thank you | ごめんなさい Sorry | だいじょうぶ There’s nothing to worry about | おねがいします Please? | できるかな Can you do it? | しつれいします Excuse me
おひさしぶり Long time, No see | じゃまた/またね See you again | もっとべんぎようしよう Let’s study more | がんばります I will do my best!

THE JFT-BASIC TEAM LOOKING BACK AT 2021

The JFT-Basic (Japan Foundation Test for Basic Japanese) team supports Japanese-language education for those who wish to work in Japan under the “Specified Skilled Worker (i)” visa and disseminates information regarding the JFT-Basic and its corresponding teaching material, Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan.

The “Irodori A1 Teacher Training Course” was conducted from September to December 2021 with the goal of assisting Japanese language teachers in using Irodori for their classes.

In the same month of September 2021, the JFM published the Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan: Filipino

Edition (Elementary 1) and released a music video entitled “Dekimasu” featuring Filipino singer Reese Lansangan. In the video, she sings about her Japanese language learning journey through colorful self-expression and playful visuals. The music video debuted in the seminar entitled “Case-Based Learning for Business Japanese Communication” by Professor Dr. Hyogyung Kim, Ph.D.(October, 2021).

This year, the JFT-Basic team hopes to be able to visit various organizations in the Philippines and is planning to hold an Irodori Teacher Training seminar in Davao in March 2022.

IRODORI ELEMENTARY 1: FILIPINO (TAGALOG) EDITION RELEASED!

Several months after the release of the three Irodori Coursebooks (Starter, Elementary 1, and Elementary 2), the Japan Foundation Manila published the Irodori Elementary 1 in Filipino (Tagalog) last September 2021. Everything from the Can-Do’s instructions to the detailed and lengthy Grammar Notes and Culture Tips have been fully translated. Irodori covers several topics and social situations found in daily life in Japan, from the mundane to more formal encounters. Learning a language not only means memorizing words and phrases, but also understanding culture and being able to express oneself in that language. Filipinos who wish to learn practical Japanese will hopefully be able to apply what they learn from this coursebook in Japan.



The translation proved to be a very difficult challenge when considering the various nuances and differences between the two languages. This led to many interesting discussions and exchanges about Japanese and Filipino culture which allowed us to further appreciate the intricacies of the Filipino languages. The Japan Foundation, Manila would like to express their deepest gratitude for Junilo Espiritu’s invaluable role as supervisor for the translation of Irodori. We hope that those who read this translation will also have similar discoveries and realizations, and that this resource will be of assistance to language learners who wish to learn Japanese using Filipino (Tagalog).



Irodori can be downloaded for free. Scan the code or visit the official Irodori website: <https://www.irodori.jpf.go.jp/en/>

Case-Based Learning for Business Japanese Communication

Online Seminar on Japanese Language Education

Dr. Hyogyung KIM
Professor
Reitaku University

8 November, 2021 (Mon)
10:00 AM to 12:30 NN (PST)



JAPAN FOUNDATION



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CASE-BASED LEARNING FOR BUSINESS JAPANESE COMMUNICATION

ONLINE SEMINAR ON JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

“What is the best way to teach students about Japanese business communication?” If you ever had this question, you are not alone.

Nihongo teachers from all over the Philippines participated in the Online Seminar on Japanese Language Education entitled “Case-Based Learning for Business Japanese Communication” on November 8th, 2021. In the seminar, Dr. Hyogyung Kim of Reitaku University gave a lecture on the communication issues non-Japanese workers commonly face in the Japanese workplace and shared useful resources to learn more about the topic, such as “Easy Japanese For Work” by NHK World.

(<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/ondemand/program/video/easyjapaneseforwork/?type=tvEpisode&>)

The lecture was very informative and helpful, but the fun did not end there.

After the lecture, Dr. Kim, who is an expert in intercultural communication, facilitated the group work for participants to discuss a case study depicting a miscommunication between a non-Japanese worker and a Japanese supervisor. It was a great opportunity for the participants to learn a wide variety of perspectives from each other. Additionally, it must have been a breath of fresh air for the participants, since they have not had enough opportunity to talk with fellow Nihongo teachers since the beginning of the pandemic.

Thanks to Dr. Kim and all the participants, this seminar ended successfully.

JFT-Basic

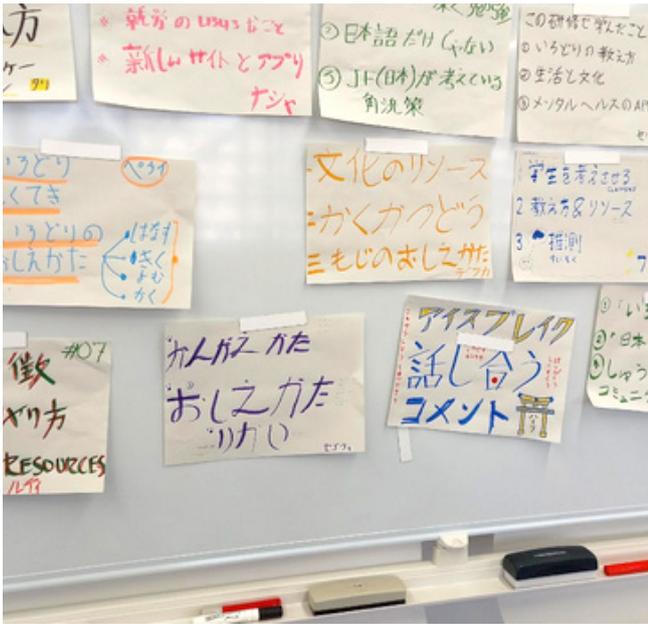
国際交流基金 日本語基礎テスト

TAKE THE TEST WORK IN JAPAN

- Accepted Japanese Language Certificate
- Multiple chances to take the test!
- Japan Working Visa

Visit the main website
www.jpf.go.jp/jft-basic/e/

Registration currently ongoing!



JAPANESE TEACHING METHODS PROGRAM, FACE-TO-FACE ONCE AGAIN!



The Japanese Teaching Methods Program is a program for those who teach Japanese language to Specified Skilled Workers. This program helps deepen their understanding of the Japan Foundation Standard and helps improve their teaching of Japanese for daily life and work in Japan.

In 2021 the program was conducted online so that participants could participate from the safety of their house due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the third out of the four annual sessions (November 15–December 15, 2021) was conducted face-to-face at The Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa. Among the 13 teachers from various countries, two Japanese language teachers from the Philippines participated in this session, deepening their knowledge of Japanese language teaching methods.

“I was fortunate to have been part of this program in spite of the pandemic. During the quarantine period, our training sessions were conducted online then the rest of the training period was a hybrid of face-to-face and online sessions. The program covered topics such as: JFT-Basic, CEFR, Irodori, Mental Health, and Workplace Communication.

For online sessions, we used various communication software and the Face-to-face classes consisted of lectures and group discussion, each ending with a wrap-up session. Trainees focused on conducting mock classes for two days using the Irodori. Two of us conducted our sessions online, while others opted for face-to-face demos. Some demos had teaching aids such as origami balls or writing messages to be more interactive.

We exchanged notes after our Interview-a-Worker assignment and came to understand the accepting side’s perspective, fostering mutual understanding. The module was not just for foreign interns; but also, for Japanese nationals to elaborate on differences in expectations, habits, and mindsets.

The staffs’ hands-on approach and attention to detail made us feel at home. It was a blessing in disguise to have experienced both online and face-to-face modes of instruction during this program.”

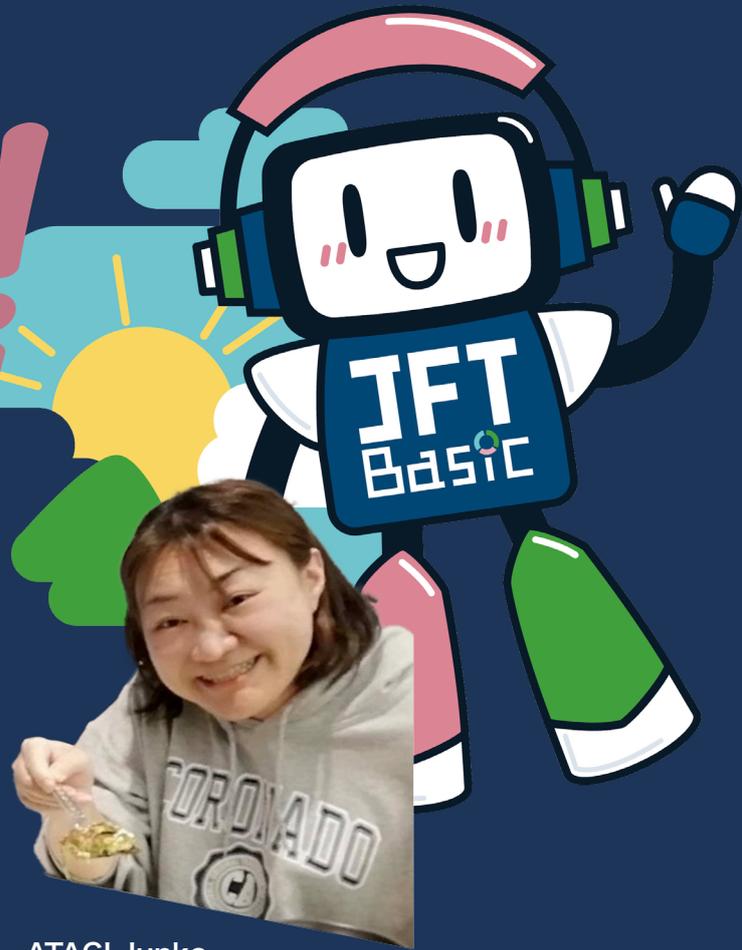
Priscilla F. Hallare
(最上国際研修センター, INC / Saijou International Training Center, INC)

Hello! Hello!



FUJIMITSU Yuko

みなさん、こんにちは！ 藤光由子(ふじみつ ゆうこ)といいます。わたしは、2003年から2006年まで、JF Manila Officeで働いていました。Balikbayang アドバイザーです。また、このような機会をいただいたことが本当にうれしくてなつかしい先生方との再会や新しい出会いに毎日ワクワクしています。どうぞよろしくお願ひします。



ATAGI Junko

みなさん、はじめまして。2022年3月にフィリピンに到着したばかりの安宅 純子(あたぎ じゅんこ)と申します。フィリピンの美しい自然や文化にふれられるのを楽しみにしています。旅行が大好きなので、みなさんのおすすめの場所や食べ物をぜひ教えてください！どうぞよろしくお願ひします。

Goodbye! Goodbye!



FURUKAWA Yoshiko

みなさん、大好きなフィリピンを去るのはつらいです。パンデミックの中でも先生たちや生徒・学生たちと出会えたり、話せたりしたことは何よりの思い出です。どうぞお元気で！Hanggang sa muli!



TAKEI Yasujiro

みなさん、5年半の長い間、大変お世話になりました。最後の2年間は、コロナの影響でとても大変でしたが、フィリピンのみなさんの助けがあって、乗り切ることができました。またどこかで会いましょう！

THE IRODORI A1 PILOT COURSE: SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED!



The Irodori A1 Pilot Course was based on the “Irodori Marathon,” a study session for teachers to learn about Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan that took place from April 2020 to April 2021. In the “Irodori Marathon,” since A1 had not yet been released to the public at that time, a mock class was conducted with the A2-1 textbook for one hour each day, and participants exchanged opinions about the content after the class. On the grounds that grammar might not be firmly established if solely the textbook were to be used, it was recommended to bolster grammatical understanding when conducting actual classes to make the conversation smooth.

The Pilot Course was held online from 10:00-11:30 a.m. every week from Monday to Thursday. In addition to the classes, there was a test after every six lessons and a final exam after all the 18 lessons. Individual sessions were conducted with each student after each test and before the final exam. Participants commented that the class content was so informative that they were able to learn basic Japanese skills such as speaking and reading, and that they enjoyed the speaking activities.

THE FIRST TEACHER TRAINING FOR “IRODORI” HAS BEEN CONDUCTED ONLINE.

The training was conducted with the aim of learning the background of Irodori’s concept and to develop teachers who can understand teaching methods, organize teaching plans and curriculum, manage classes, and prepare and implement evaluations. It was held ten times every Saturday morning for three hours from September to December 2021. The instructors were Filipino Japanese teachers from Baguio, Manila, Cebu, and Davao. The purpose of this training was to enable the participants to conduct the “Irodori Teacher Training” in each region of the Philippines after they complete the training sessions. Eight Filipino Japanese teachers (JLPT N3 or higher) had participated in this training. The content of the training was based on the “Irodori A1 Pilot Course”, conducted from May to August 2021.

The training required more time and effort than in-person training for both instructors and participants, as there were many pre and post-training tasks and communication difficulties unique to online training. In particular, the online mock classes were difficult to prepare

and teach. However, thanks to the enthusiasm of both parties, they were able to finish without any problems. On the bright side, online training allowed participants and instructors living in provinces to join the training—which was an advantage. What happens in the future will depend on the COVID situation, but based on this training, we would like to progress to training sessions being conducted in each region.





"I'm grateful to be part of the Irodori course. We learned from the best teachers, our classes were engaging, and the Irodori course inspired me to learn more about Japanese culture."

- Ms. Monica Borlain Sunga
Irodori A1 Pilot Course

"Joining the Irodori A1 Teacher Training Course, opens a lot of opportunities for Japanese language teachers/instructors to learn and share various teaching techniques, not only for those who use Irodori in their class but also for those who use other textbooks. This training encourages us 'teachers' to make our class more fun, and interesting for our students, by letting them develop their own study habits, and build confidence to communicate more, which is essential in learning other foreign languages. It also equips us to prepare our students for their next journey."

- Ms. Jennifer G. Diones
Irodori A1 Teacher Training Course

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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Marugoto courses are currently held online via Zoom and utilize the self-study courses available at the JF Japanese e-Learning Minato website. The highest

course level being offered so far is the MARUGOTO Conversational Japanese for Everyone A2-1 Module 2 Online Course. Meanwhile, Teacher Training Courses aim to present insightful pedagogical methods in teaching *Marugoto* and *Irodori: Japanese for Life in Japan* to apprise the local Nihongo teachers on up-to-date teaching materials. The Nihongojin Support Team also conducts related events such as the "Philippine Nihongo Teachers' Forum" and the "Sensei no Wa", which provide a venue for teachers to share their ideas and learn about current trends in Nihongo teaching. Last but not the least, it is also in charge of the annual Nihongo Speech Contest under the Nihongo Fiesta.

NIHONGO FIESTA ONLINE 2022

Since its inception 15 years ago, the Nihongo Fiesta has been conducted annually to locally promote Japanese language and culture. Various events and presentations are held to showcase the talents of Japanese learners in the Philippines.

As in the previous year, it went online and all the components of the event were live streamed on Facebook on February 19. For the 49th Nihongo Speech Contest, nine contestants who were selected from 54 applicants from all over the Philippines joined the final round. Their speeches clearly showed their passion and great effort to put to use the Japanese that they have learned. Audiences were impressed and inspired with their stories which included their personal struggles, and their learnings and resolutions through these difficult times. Ms. Marilene Perez (UP Diliman & ISI Language School), who made a speech titled "うつ病薬に学んだこと (What I Learned from Antidepressants)", won the Grand Champion Award.

At the 3rd Nihongo Video Contest (NiViCon), the videos of 12 finalists of high school students were showcased with the theme "My favorite food". In the afternoon, there was an online performance by the renowned Japanese taiko drum ensemble YAMATO. The archive of the event, which includes the SpeCon and NiViCon, is available on [JFM's YouTube account](#). The YAMATO performance is also available for viewing on [online](#).



JAPAN FOUNDATION
**NIHONGO
FIESTA ONLINE
2022**

49th Nihongo Speech Contest + 3rd Nihongo Video Contest + YAMATO DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

19 February 2022 Saturday
10:00AM - 2:30PM
Livestreaming on The Japan Foundation, Manila Facebook

こんにちは JLE: JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

49TH NIHONGO SPEECH CONTEST RESULTS



1 MR. MARK ANTHONY S. OBAOB
BULACAN STATE UNIVERSITY / NAVOTAS CITY

Student Division 1st Place

Mr. Mark Anthony S. Obaob
(Bulacan State University / Navotas City)
What do I know?
何を知っているのか?



6 MS. MARILENE PEREZ
UP DILIMAN & ISI LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Non-Student Division 1st Place / Grand Champion

Ms. Marilene Perez
(UP Diliman & ISI Language School)
What I Learned from Antidepressants
うつ病薬に学んだこと



9 MS. RICCI LOISE R. LAPONG
MINDANAO KOKUSAI DAIGAKU

Open Division

1st Place / Outstanding Performance Award

Ms. Ricci Loise R. Lapong
(Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku)
Hardships of Multilinguals
マルチリンガルの苦勞

2nd Place

Mr. Aldrin G. Juaneza II
(Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School)
Summer is the best!
サマーは最高!

3rd Place

Ms. Daniella L. Estelloso
(Cebu Technological University - Danao Campus)
The Season After Winter
冬の次の季節

2nd Place

Ms. Jenny Vee F. Villaver
(Unosphere Laboratory Specialists, Inc.)
What Odette Left Behind
オデットが残したこと

3rd Place / Special Jury Award

Ms. Danna A. Sescon
(D-Rawrite Inc.)
What is outside your window?
窓の外に何がありますか

2nd Place

Mr. Wilbert James C. Futralan
(Accenture Philippines)
3 Things I Learned from an Old Recorder
古いレコーダーが教えてくれた3つのこと

3rd Place

Ms. Jesse Leigh G. Morales
(University of the Philippines Diliman)
Man was Born for Reading
人間は読書のために生れて来たのだ

YAMATO: FROM JAPAN TO PHILIPPINES

A SPECIAL TAIKO PERFORMANCE DEDICATED TO THEIR FILIPINO FANS



Kamusta! Nasisiyahan ka ba sa YAMATO?



YAMATO'S NIHONGO FIESTA PERFORMANCE IS AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON THE [JFM YOUTUBE](#).
LEARN MORE ABOUT YAMATO: DRUMMERS OF JAPAN! VISIT THEIR WEBSITE WWW.YAMATODRUMMERS.COM



Ms. Bernadette Jen Hieida
President
Association of Filipino Nihongo Teachers



34TH PHILIPPINE NIHONGO TEACHERS' FORUM



SHARING IS CARING



Speaker

Kenjiro Ogata



「真面目な日本人、おらかなフィリピン人」
 (Serious Japanese, Relaxed Filipinos)
 Philippine Institute of Japanese Language
 and Culture
 Nihongo Center Foundation Manila



Speaker

Lanie Garcia

Reflections on Teaching:
 From Surviving to Thriving
 Polytechnic University of the Philippines



Break Out Session:

Teachers Exchange Ideas on Teaching Japanese Language and Culture



STRUGGLING TO SEEK SUSTAINABLE JAPANESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC
THE 34TH PHILIPPINE NIHONGO TEACHERS' FORUM (INTERNATIONAL)
第34回フィリピン日本語教師フォーラム

The 34th Philippine Nihongo Teachers' Forum was successfully held on November 13, 2021. It was hosted by the Association of Filipino Nihongo Teachers (AFINITE) and sponsored by JFM. Similar to last year, the forum was held again via Zoom. More than 150 Japanese language teachers, not only from all over the Philippines, but from many other countries, joined in this event. In the morning session, Mr. Kenjiro Ogata, Academic Adviser of the Nihongo Center

Foundation, Inc. and the Philippine Institute of Japanese Language and Culture, gave a significant lecture on Japanese expressions including the background cultural differences between the Philippines and Japan. In the afternoon, after an introductory lecture on the teacher's reflection by Ms. Lanie Garcia, presentations by 15 teachers from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines were conducted in breakout sessions.

THE 34TH PHILIPPINE NIHONGO TEACHERS' FORUM (INTERNATIONAL)

PROGRAM - 13 NOVEMBER 2021 (SATURDAY) VIA ZOOM

AM Session: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Lecture 1 Serious Japanese, Relaxed Filipinos 真面目な日本人、おおらかなフィリピン人

尾形健二郎氏 (Academic Adviser, Nihongo Center Foundation; Philippine Institute of Japanese Language and Culture)

PM Session: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lecture 2 Reflections on Teaching: From Surviving to Thriving

Ms. Lanie Garcia (CEO, LVG Institute for Foreign Languages)

Presentations in 5 breakout sessions

<ASEAN countries>

- **Leakmy, Loch** (Cambodia, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Vice Dean of Foreign Languages Institute, NC研修参加者) 「コミュニケーションアプロッチ法の授業例 (Kizuna Talk by online)」
- **Santiar, Lea** (Indonesia, Universitas Indonesia, Faculty of Humanities, Japanese Studies Program Lecturer) 「Teaching Kana to Freshmen - an online collaboration course with senior students-」
- **Noor, Aizah Abas** (Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Senior Lecturer Japanese) 「Language ODL Using TAMANEKI Teaching Kit 401 through Telegram」
- **Chuu, Me Me Khanig** (Myanmar, Chuu's Japanese Class, CEO and Japanese Language Teacher) 「オンライン授業でコミュニケーションの取り方」
- **Nguyen, Hong Anh** (Vietnam, Hanoi University, Lecturer) 「パーソナルコーチング型アプロッチ」
- **Thirat, Lomsri** (Thailand, Yupparaj Wittayalai School, Chiangmai, Thailand, Professional Level Teachers (K 2 Teachers) 「日本事情と観光日本語のクラスにおけるPUTS + モデルでコースデザインを開発した結果」

<The Philippines>

- **Cruz, Camille** (SHIN Japanese Language and Training Center Head Representative/Founder) 「Teaching Japanese Language to Corporate Employees」
- **Dona, Marites** (Nihongo Kyoiku, Manager) 「Understanding Vocabulary Words」
- **Minas, Priscilla** (De la Salle University - Dasmariñas, Part-time Faculty) 「Using Role Play as a Homework」
- **Rafael, Ria** (University of the Philippines Diliman, Assistant Professor) 「Logging Your Reading: Exploring Tadoku」
- **Sarmiento, Charry** (Pitogo High School, DepEd City Schools Division of Makati, Teacher) 「Use of Video Lesson in Junior High School's New Normal Class」
- **Zordilla, Mary Carl** (Department of Education - SDO Baguio, Irisan National High School Nihongo Teacher) 「Use of Digitized Learning Material for High School」
- **Aguilar, Zashi** (LVG Institute of Foreign Languages, Nihongo Teacher) 「Kanji Interactive designs for Japanese Learners」
- **Gabines, Noemi** (2012NC研修参加、Rockbridge Language Center, Inc., Japanese Language Teacher) 「Employing Keyboard Shortcut Keys and Zoom Annotation Tools in Online Teaching」
- **Chua, Josie Mae & Calunsag, Dan Billy** (Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School in Davao, Nihongo Teacher) 「Using Zoom Breakout Rooms in class to encourage students to speak in Nihongo」

VIRTUAL EVENT

Association of Filipino Nihongo Teachers Inc.

教

フィリピン人日本語教師会

JAPAN FOUNDATION

13 NOV. 2021
10 AM - 4 PM
VIA ZOOM

34TH PHILIPPINE
NIHONGO
TEACHERS' FORUM

REGISTER TODAY!

TO REGISTER, SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT
HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/CXPKZGZAJAXDLZTLA
Register until October 25, 2021
For inquiries, Please contact
afinite.officers@gmail.com

SCAN ME

The main theme of the forum was **Sharing is Caring: Teachers Exchange Ideas on Teaching Japanese Language**, reflecting on the challenging times for Japanese language teachers in conducting lessons during the pandemic. More than 150 participants actively joined the forum. The forum was concluded successfully by the closing remarks of the outgoing president of AFINITE, Ms. Bernadette Hieida. The comments from participants such as “everything was worth listening” and “very informative and a great reminder to be resilient and creative in dealing with our classes online” proves the efficacy of the forum for all the Japanese language teachers in the COVID era.

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.



JAPANESE SPEAKERS' FORUM ONLINE IN THE PHILIPPINES 2022 STRENGTHENING COLLABORATIVE POSITIVITY: LET'S MOVE FORWARD

あかるい 未来を つくろう

The Japanese Speakers' Forum in the Philippines (JSFP) is a mutual exchange event for “Nihongojin” who aim to “use Japanese to achieve something”. It has been held every year since 2013 with the Kamenori Foundation to encourage Japanese language learning. Due to the effects of the pandemic from 2020, it is no longer possible to conduct face-to-face JSFP. In May 2021, the first online JSFP was held in order to provide an opportunity for students who were studying at home and teachers who supported them to connect with each other. And based on that experience, a 2nd online forum was conducted in January 2022. JSFP 2022 was held with the participation of five Japanese secondary school students from Japan, with the aim of connecting even more Nihongojin.

The theme for JSFP 2022, “Strengthening Collaborative Positivity: Let's Move Forward”, was suggested by the core member teachers. It means that even in the new normal situation, we should try new things and move forward into the future with a positive attitude.

18 Filipino students and 5 Japanese students

were divided into small groups and led by a Filipino core teacher, they shared their thoughts on “Positivity” using English and Japanese. Then they made their own slogans and hashtags# and presented them in Japanese and English. They collaborated online to create posters or slides for their presentations.

At first the students were a little nervous, but began to speak and discuss actively under the lead of the core teachers. It was difficult to communicate in Japanese and English online, but everyone was able to actively engage.

As the teachers observed the students' activities, they wondered if there were any ideas they could apply to their own classes. The teachers also made their own reflection sheet for students to reflect on their activities.

The event was highly successful. The participants collaborated with their group mates and made wonderful presentations as a final output. We were surprised at how much they learned through this event and we hope they will continue to study positively and work on their own goals and targets.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD? -NIVICON 2022-

Nihongo Video Contest for Nihongojin, or NiViCon for short, is a competition that aims to encourage Filipino students to continue learning Nihongo, to develop and practice their Information and Communications Technology skills, and to demonstrate their creativity.

This competition, which started in 2020, is in its third year. Every year, there is a unique theme. For 2022, the theme was “好きな食べ物” or My Favorite Food. We asked the applicants to show us their favorite foods, dishes or snacks they like to eat and what it is made of. The JFM received 88 entries from students all over the Philippines. And from those 88 submissions, the entries were trimmed

down to 12 finalists, and then after the final screening, the 3 winners were finally selected.

The third place winner, Gabrielle san, made baked sushi with crab, mango, and cucumber etc. The second place winner, Cassandra san, introduced “Creamy Mushroom Torikatsu (fried chicken cutlet)”, a combination of Japanese and Western food. And the first place winner, Edith san, made and introduced “Tuna Mayo Onigiri (rice ball)” and “Furikake (seasoning) Onigiri”.

Their videos are not only tasteful but also full of ideas. They will surely whet your appetite! Please check them out! <https://bit.ly/jfm-nivicon-2022>

1st Place Edith Ibrahim-Uy (Lourdes National High School)
Tuna Mayo & Furikake Onigiri



2nd Place Cassandra Yamamoto (FEU High School)
Creamy Mushroom Torikatsu



3rd Place Gabrielle Abad
(Lyceum of the Philippines University - Laguna International School)
Baked Kani Sushi



3RD NIHONGO VIDEO CONTEST



Special Jury Awardees

- Mary Frando (Paradise Farms National High School)
- Noreen Saluntao (Abellana National High School)
- Generous Fernandez (Buanoy National High School)
- Matthew Natano (Valenzuela City School of Mathematics & Science)
- Thea Avila (MSU-Gen San City Senior High School)
- Juliana Rodenas (LPU-Laguna International School)
- Audrey Alcaraz (Valenzuela City School of Mathematics & Science)
- Carla Rebujo (Cordillera Regional Science High School)

CJH TEACHERS KEEP ON STUDYING HOW TO TEACH NIHONGO!

We conduct a biannual seminar on teaching methods for all CJH Japanese language teachers (July and November) to improve their Japanese language and teaching skills. In 2021, as in the previous year, we conducted online seminars, including the May seminar to promote the enTree Language Session, which focused on the language aspect of the traditional enTree, and how to use it in conjunction with the new curriculum released by DepEd in 2020.

The November seminar focused on assessment and test creation, analyzing the patterns of questions from the Nihongo Review Quiz and applying the patterns to create an original quiz.



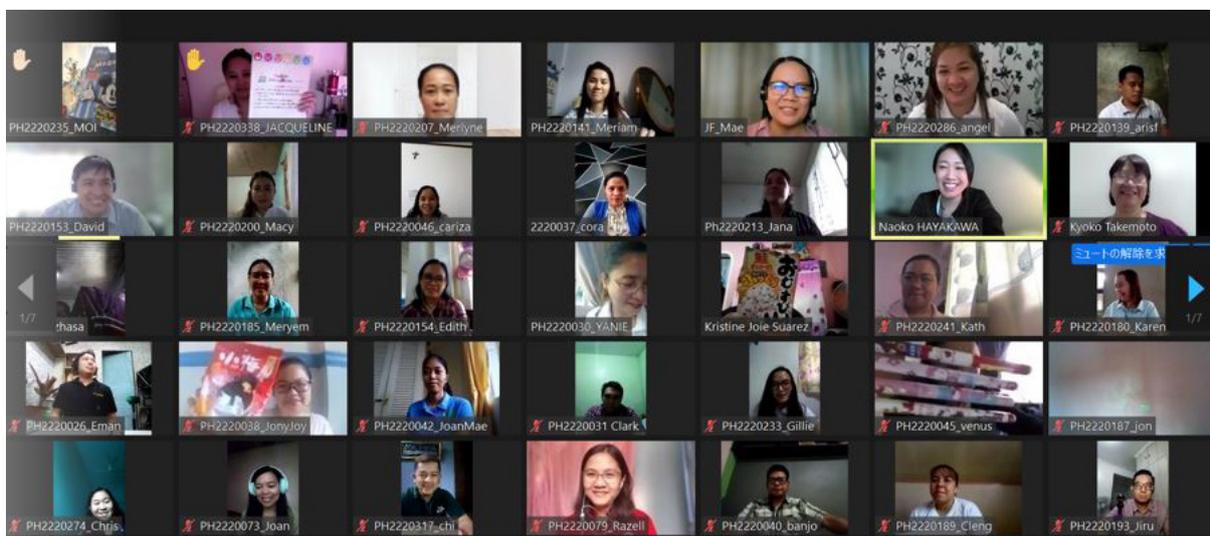
夢に向かって JPEPA

ABOUT EPA TEAM

The Japan Foundation, Manila handles a 6-month special intensive Japanese language course for nurse and care worker candidates who will work in Japan and aim to pass national examinations there as professionals under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA). It has been designed especially for the purpose of enabling the learners to use Japanese language at their workplaces such as hospitals and care giving facilities in Japan, and also for them to learn how to adapt to new culture and society which is different from their own. To teach and

support 250 candidates for this batch, approximately 50 staff, e.g. Japanese language advisors, Japanese lecturers, Filipino lecturers, and coordinators, are involved.

Since 2021, this course has been shifted to online mode due to the pandemic of COVID-19. For candidates and lecturers, it is difficult to communicate with peers since everything is done via online. To encourage them to make connections, we hold online conversation sessions for the candidates and create a virtual teacher's room for the lecturers.



夢に向かって JPEPA

PREPARATORY JAPANESE LANGUAGE TRAINING UNDER EPA

MESSAGE FROM FILIPINO LECTURERS

What's the current situation in the 14th batch JPEPA program?

Many candidates were affected by typhoon "Odette" last December, making it difficult to take online classes. Even in such a difficult situation, they continue to study very hard. We have 9 Filipino lectures who support, encourage, and motivate candidates. Here are messages from two Filipino Full-time lecturers working as members of the JPEPA Team.

Working with EPA I learned a lot from the methods and approaches to how to manage student assignments. I also learn a lot from the human aspect. This Batch 14 is the second time the training is done online, and you can see everyone pitching in and helping each other out. There are not so techie people and those struggling with the new environment. We support each other and share resources that we can. This spirit of helping is also alive among the candidates where you will also find people struggling with their online lessons. They support each other in any way that they can. I salute the candidates and the teachers who are giving their best and supporting each other to make this the best possible training.

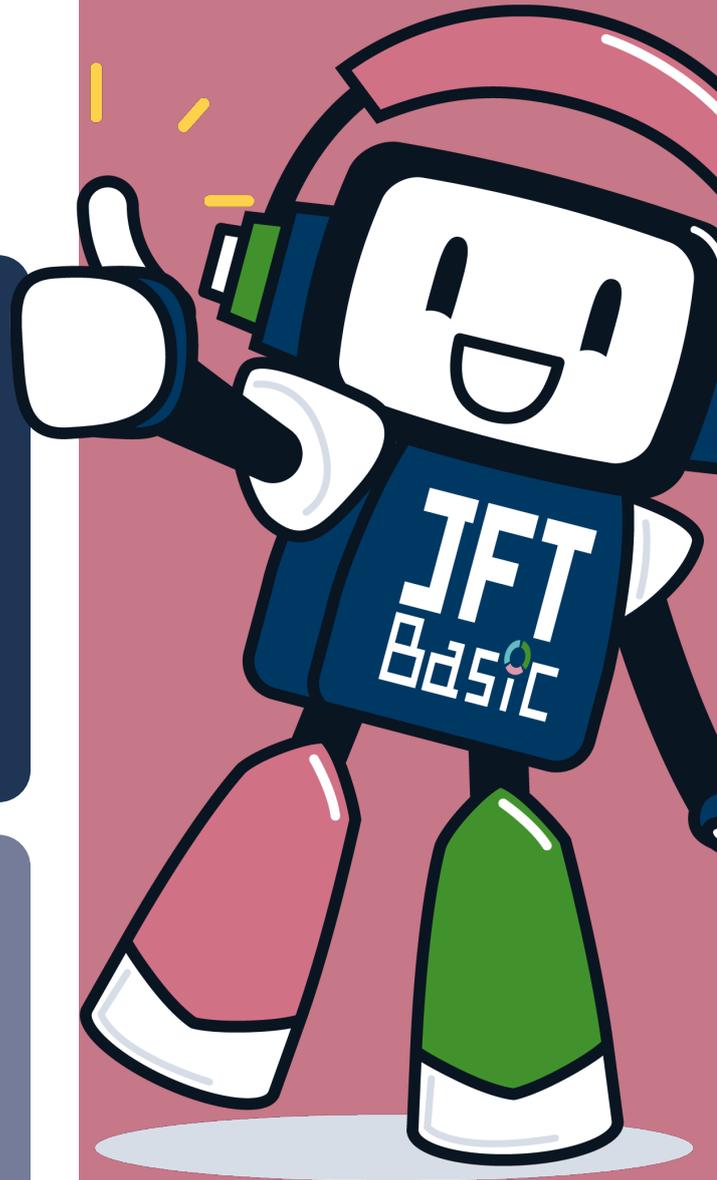
- Charisma Pimentel Coloma

If you are interested in Japan and love teaching, working in JPEPA will surely be an exciting and rewarding experience. Being a Japanese lecturer for the JPEPA program has given me plenty of opportunities to not only be part of the community but also to be able to develop and expand my general knowledge about Japanese culture and language.

Currently because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all JPEPA Candidates are taking their lessons online using Zoom. At first, there were a lot of challenges like adjustment to E-learning and poor internet connection that was experienced by many of the candidates, but they managed to overcome and still challenged themselves to enhance their Japanese efficiency. Each candidate acts as a role model that cares about his or her fellow candidates and wants them to do well academically, physically, and emotionally. Filipino values of helping others and being passionate about their dreams are always felt.

- Kristofer Masahito B. Katsumata

Thanks for reading
Nihongojin Connect!
ありがとうございます!



See you soon!
またね!

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR



After the long tunnel with the strict behavioral restrictions, the exit is finally in view and coming to light. We are now entering an era of coexistence with uncertainty by an unseen enemy. But I believe that we can overcome it. We conducted various experiments in Japanese language education during the pandemic. Based on these valuable experiences, we will continue our challenges to pave the way for further development of Japanese language education in the Philippines and to walk along with those who are dedicating their lives as Nihongo-Jin.

SUZUKI Ben
Director
The Japan Foundation, Manila



JAPANFOUNDATION

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JFM COURSES AND EVENTS



日本語オンラインコース
MARUGOTO JAPANESE ONLINE COURSE

MARUGOTO ONLINE COURSE

For application details, please check our Facebook and homepage one month before the class.

Marugoto A1 Module 2 (Katsudoo & Rikai)
May 24 - August 5, 2022
Tuesdays & Fridays 6:00 - 7:00 pm (20 hrs.)
Tuition fee: P 3,800

Marugoto A2-1 Module 2 (Katsudoo & Rikai)
June 7 - August 30, 2022
Every Tuesday 6:00 - 8:00 pm (25 hrs.)
Tuition fee: P 4,400

THE 35TH PHILIPPINE NIHONGO TEACHERS' FORUM

May 21, 2022 (tentative) online
Watch out for details!