

## Completion Report

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We first explored the commonly used *iinarawashi* by Japanese expatriates in Malaysia in their communications. A total of 80 expatriates were interviewed, with 34 via online. Most of the respondents are currently serving big Japanese companies in Malaysia. From these interviews, a total of 103 *Iinarawashi* were gathered. During the research, I believe the most appropriate word to describe *iinarawashi* in this context is 座右の銘. Thus, the questions I asked to the respondents were 「あなたが、マレーシアでの生活や業務で、座右の銘にしている日本の言葉・諺は何ですか」。Our next objective is to interview Japanese academicians and young generations in Japan to gain information about the history, feelings and understandings in using *iinarawashi* in daily life. We found that, a few *iinarawashi* given by the respondents in Malaysia are quite new to them. Elderly people in Japan, 50 years old and above, as expected, know a lot more *iinarawashi* compared to younger generation. The youngest group are early 20s, and most of them do not really know how to apply *iinarawashi* in their daily life. A randomized regional data from the interview sessions in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, Gifu and Tochigi from 15 July to 24 July 2022 were obtained. I had a through meeting with language researcher. Prof. Dr. Maki Hideki of Gifu University and an 86-year-old Mrs. Yoshie Yokotsuka from Tochigi during the visit. Our third objective is to discuss Japanese values and wisdoms through *iinarawashi* with Malaysians and to acquire Malaysians' responses in a workshop which was held on July 23, 2022. About 70 participants, who are currently a Japanese teachers and students participated in this workshop, online. Among the values gathered from the interviews of Japanese expatriates are the philosophy of 「あきらめない」、「考えすぎずにやる」、「最初は苦勞するが、後に報われる」、「大げさに見せないという美德」、「準備を怠らない」、「何に対しても、優しく」 and finally 「良くまとめる」. Participants were asked to work in a group to match each *kotowaza/iinarawashi* to its values. They found this a bit difficult as they needed to understand the interpretation of each *kotowaza* and not only the literal meaning. In the end, I received very good feedback from the participants. Then, we also managed to present our findings at the “Celebration of Friendship Between Japan and Malaysia in Conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of the Look Each Policy” on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Japanese Language Education in Malaysia 2022. We have drafted a book entitled ‘100 most used Japanese proverbs by the expatriates’ on *iinarawashi* in English to introduce to the world on how Japanese companies used *iinarawashi* to motivate and manage the human resources. It is going to be translated into Malay, in order to make more Malaysians aware of Japanese values and wisdoms.

### Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

1. 23 July 2022, Online Webinar, Malaysia Japanese Language Instructors Society (MAJLIS), Let's use Japanese Proverbs. Nazrul Anuar Nayan.
2. 11 Sept 2022, Kuala Lumpur, Celebration of Friendship Between Japan & Malaysia in Conjunction with 40th Anniversary of Look East Policy. Normalis Amzah.
3. 1 Oct 2022, Kuala Lumpur, 19th International Conference on Japanese Language & Education 2022, Using Kotowaza in Teaching Japanese Language & Culture.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

None.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

1. UKM Press, In Press. 100 Frequently Used Japanese Proverbs By The Expatriates. Schedule to be published in October 2022.