



# **JAPANESE STUDIES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

## **8th Japanese Studies Research Development Competition**

# **3RD JAPANESE STUDIES WRITING WORKSHOP**

17 – 18 OCTOBER 2025 9 : 00 AM – 5 : 00 PM  
Seminar Room, 2nd Floor, GT-Toyota Asian Center,  
University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City



# WORKSHOP DAY 1

OCTOBER 17, 2027 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome Remarks

**Dr. Noel Christian A. Moratilla**

*Dean, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

9:10 Introduction to the Japanese Studies Research Development Competition and the Japanese Studies Research Workshop

**Dr. Jocelyn O. Celero**

*Professor, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

9:30 Introduction of Participants

**Dr. Karl Ian Cheng Chua**

*Asst. Professor, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

10:00 LECTURE 1  
Japanese Proletarian Literature in Filipino:  
Takiji Kobayashi's Kanikosen in Filipino

**Dr. Gonzalo A. Campoamor II**

*Professor, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

10:20 Question and Answer

10:35 Coffee Break



# WORKSHOP DAY 1

OCTOBER 17, 2027 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

10:50 Workshop Proper (Part 1)

Group 1: Dr. Jocelyn Celero

Group 2: Dr. Karl Ian Cheng Chua

Group 3: Dr. Narut Charoensri / Dr. Gonzalo Campoamor II

*Each Student has 15–20 minutes to present, and 10 minutes of feedback in the group*

11:50 Lunch

13:20 Workshop Proper (Part 2)

Group 1: Dr. Jocelyn Celero

Dr. Karen Connie Abalos-Orendain

Group 2: Dr. Karl Ian Cheng Chua

Group 3: Dr. Narut Charoensri / Dr. Gonzalo Campoamor II

*Each Student has 15–20 minutes to present, and 10 minutes of feedback in the group*

14:20 LECTURE 2

Doing Research on Japan by a Non-Japanese Speaker in Japan

**Dr. Narut Charoensri**

*Professor, Chiang Mai University, Thailand*

Introduction by: Dr. Karl Ian Uy Cheng Chua, Asian Center, UP Diliman

14:50 Question and Answer

15:05 Coffee Break



# WORKSHOP DAY 1

OCTOBER 17, 2027 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

15:05 Workshop Proper (Part 3)

Group 1: Dr. Jocelyn Celero

Group 2: Dr. Karl Ian Cheng Chua

Group 3: Dr. Narut Charoensri / Dr. Gonzalo Campoamor II

*Each Student has 15–20 minutes to present, and 10 minutes of feedback in the group*

16:05 LECTURE 3

A Thousand Winds and A Thousand Versions: Examining the  
Appropriative Power of Arai Mitsuru's *Sen no Kaze ni Natten*

**Dr. Matthew Constancio M. Santamaria**

*Professor and UP Artist, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

16:25 Question and Answer

16:40 Closing Remarks and Reminders for Workshop Day 2

18:00 Dinner



# WORKSHOP DAY 2

OCTOBER 18, 2027 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome Remarks and Announcements

**Dr. Jocelyn O. Celero**

*Professor, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

9:10 Plenary Feedback from the Attendees

*Reflections on the comments and their research so far*

9:30 LECTURE 4

Researching as a Southeast Asian Academic / Student

**Dr. Karl Ian Cheng Chua**

*Asst. Professor, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

09:50 Question and Answer

10:10 Coffee Break

10:20 LECTURE 5

Japan-Assisted Flood Control Projects in the Philippines:  
Lessons from Ex-Post Audits

**Dr. Alexander Michael G. Palma**

*Asst. Professor, Asian Center, UP Diliman*



# WORKSHOP DAY 2

OCTOBER 18, 2027 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

10:40 Question and Answer

10:45 Coffee Break

11:00 Workshop Proper (Part 4)

Group 1: Dr. Jocelyn Celero

Group 2: Dr. Karl Ian Cheng Chua

Group 3: Dr. Narut Charoensri / Dr. Gonzalo Campoamor II

Each Student has 15–20 minutes to present, and 10 minutes of feedback in the group

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Workshop Proper (Part 5)

Group 1: Dr. Jocelyn Celero

Dr. Karen Connie Abalos–Orendain

Group 2: Dr. Karl Ian Cheng Chua

Group 3: Dr. Narut Charoensri / Dr. Gonzalo Campoamor II

Each Student has 15–20 minutes to present, and 10 minutes of feedback in the group

14:30 Plenary Feedback from the Attendees

*Reflections on the comments and their research so far*



# WORKSHOP DAY 2

OCTOBER 18, 2027 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

15:00 LECTURE 6  
Machizukuri in Japan: Lessons for Chiang Mai

**Dr. Narut Charoensri**  
*Professor, Chiang Mai University, Thailand*

15:20 Question and Answer

15:35 JSRDC Competition Reminders

**Dr. Jocelyn O. Celero**  
*Professor, Asian Center, UP Diliman*

16:00 Closing Remarks and Awarding of Certificates  
Survey of Participants

**Dir. Tsutomu “Ben” Suzuki**  
*Director, Japan Foundation Manila*

17:00 Merienda Cena / End of Program



# ABOUT THE KEYNOTE LECTURER

**NARUT CHAROENSRI** is an Assistant Professor of International Relations at the School of International Affairs, Faculty of Political Science and Public Administration, Chiang Mai University (CMU), Thailand. He earned his BA in International Affairs from Thammasat University, an MA in International Relations from Chulalongkorn University, and a PhD in Japanese and Southeast Asian Studies from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom, with his PhD thesis entitled “Regional Intellectual Hegemony and Regional Connectivity: Japan's Norms of Development, International Research Organisations and Network-Building in Southeast Asia.” His research focuses on the geopolitics of East Asia, with particular emphasis on the Mekong Subregion, including economic corridors and Southeast Asian regionalism. Narut teaches courses such as Mekong Subregion Studies, International Relations Theory, Comparative Regionalism, East Asian Studies, and Cities in Global Politics.



He was also in an interdisciplinary research project titled ‘Upgrading the University–City Model through the Research and Academic Services for City/Town Development and Social Innovation Creation under Machizukuri Mechanism,’ which he worked with professors from the Faculty of Architecture at CMU. Currently, Narut is working on a research project titled ‘Comparing the Political Views and Positions of Japanese Political Parties on the Japan’s Security Policy.’ Furthermore, he contributes to journals in Thailand, such as the Monograph of Security Studies, International Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of European Studies, Political Science and Public Administration Journal, Journal of Social Sciences, and Journal of Japanese Studies. He delivers lectures at Chiang Mai University (CMU), Thammasat University (TU), Silpakorn University (SU), and Srinakharinwirot University (SWU). Narut is also a featured speaker at various government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office of National Security, the National Intelligence Agency, and the Command and General Staff College.



# DOING RESEARCH ON JAPAN BY A NON-JAPANESE SPEAKER IN JAPAN

Narut CHAROENSRI  
Chiang Mai University

My proficiency in Japanese is elementary. I can order food, ask for directions, and hold a very basic conversation; however, my research focuses on Japan's foreign policy towards Southeast Asia. Some people criticise my language skills, saying that this could prevent me from acquiring information in Japan and might hinder me from developing strong research integrity.

I was in Japan for my PhD research project between February and March 2016. I interviewed people there. As my academic background is in International Relations, however, my interviewees are English-speaking people and they do have a great understanding of cross-cultural communication.

In this talk, I will share my personal experience on my research field trip. How I survived by not having an AI back then, and how to finish my project. I propose that with the current technological advancement and AI application, one can utilise applications to help gather information and data. It helps prepare people for field research. This talk will help you have ideas to prepare yourself more.



## 日本語を母語としない研究者による日本研究

ナルット・ジャロンスリ  
チェンマイ大学

私の日本語能力は初級レベルにとどまっています。食事の注文、道を尋ねること、ごく基本的な会話は可能ですが、私の研究テーマは日本の対東南アジア外交政策です。私の日本語力について、現地で十分な情報を得ることが難しく、研究の信頼性に影響が出るのではないかと批判されることもあります。

私は2016年2月から3月にかけて博士課程の研究のため日本に滞在し、現地でインタビュー調査を行いました。しかし、私の学術的背景は国際関係論であり、インタビューの対象者は英語を話す方々であり、異文化コミュニケーションについても十分な理解を持っていました。

本発表では、現地調査における私自身の体験、当時AIの助けを得ずにどのように研究を進めたのか、そしてプロジェクトを完了させるまでの過程を紹介します。現在は技術やAIの進化により、さまざまなアプリケーションを活用して情報やデータを収集でき、現地調査の準備がより容易になっています。本発表が、皆さんが調査準備を進める上で参考となれば幸いです。



# MACHIZUKURI IN JAPAN: LESSONS FOR CHIANG MAI

Narut CHAROENSRI  
Chiang Mai University

Machizukuri, or “town-making”, is a prominent topic among those interested in the study of urbanisation in Japan. I participated in a collaborative project with the Faculty of Architecture at Chiang Mai University, which involved a comparative study of Machizukuri experiences in Saga, a city located in the south of Japan. My role in the project team, which was led by the Faculty of Architecture, meant that the research questions and areas of interest differed from those typical of the School of International Affairs, to which I belong. The differing worldviews between the disciplines of Political Science and Architecture led to distinct approaches in conceptualising, identifying, and prioritising issues related to Machizukuri.

In this talk, I will present the research findings, my fieldwork experiences, and my observations from the perspective of a scholar of International Relations engaging in interdisciplinary research with another faculty.



## 日本におけるまちづくり：チェンマイへの示唆

ナルット・ジャロンスリ  
チェンマイ大学

まちづくり（Machizukuri）は、日本の都市化研究に関心を持つ者たちの間で重要なテーマとなっています。私は、チェンマイ大学建築学部との共同研究プロジェクトに参加し、日本南部の佐賀市におけるまちづくりの経験を比較研究しました。本プロジェクトは建築学部主導で進められたため、私が所属する国際関係学部の一般的な研究課題や関心領域とは異なる視点から研究が進められました。政治学と建築学という異なる学問分野の世界観の違いは、まちづくりに関わる問題の概念化、認識、そして優先順位の付け方に対するアプローチの差異を生み出しました。

本発表では、研究成果、現地調査での経験、そして他学部との学際的な研究に取り組む国際関係論研究者の視点から得られた知見についてご紹介いたします。



# ABSTRACT OF LECTURES

## JAPANESE PROLETARIAN LITERATURE IN FILIPINO: TAKIJI KOBAYASHI'S KANIKOSEN IN FILIPINO

Gonzalo A. Campoamor II, Ph.D.  
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The paper relates my experience in translating to Filipino (from Japanese) Takiji Kobayashi's 1933 proletarian novel *Kanikōsen*. Japanese proletarian literature during the time, particularly the interwar period (1920s to 1930s), is analyzed in this paper and is compared with the same period's literary and class struggles in the prewar Philippines. The paper thus draws influence from the transverse practice, in the anthropological sense, by situating imperial Japan upon the Southeast Asian critic's gaze. While translating the Japanese novel into the language of a Southeast Asian nation (Philippines) can already be considered as a major de/centering act, such translation also makes the theoretical connection between literature and society complete.

Kobayashi's body of works, translated to at least seven languages (all Western, excluding Chinese), has indeed been studied by historians and literary critics like Heather Bowen-Struyk, Benjamin Robert Burton, and Norma Field. They, however, fail to situate these in the context of literary and class struggles in Asia and Southeast Asia, the very region that was to take a major role in the regional and global conflict beginning in the mid-1930s. The paper thus aims to provide such political-economic context while also relating the experiences of Filipino proletarian writers of the same period. On a more contemporary take, the surge in interest on Kobayashi within Japan is generally attributed to the dissatisfaction among the country's working-class population brought about by the global financial crisis. It is of interest how Kobayashi's works can be appreciated in developing countries like the Philippines.



# A THOUSAND WINDS AND A THOUSAND VERSIONS: EXAMINING THE APPROPRIATIVE POWER OF ARAI MITSURU'S *SEN NO KAZE NI NATTE*

MCM (Matthew Constancio Maglana) Santamaria, Ph.D.  
Professor and UP Artist, Asian Center, University of the Philippines  
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Is it possible for a derived text to outshine an original? In 2006, a Japanese song proved this possibility to be true. In that year, Akikawa Masufumi's rendition of Arai Mitsuru's (aka Arai Man) *Sen no Kaze ni Natte* topped the charts in Japan's music industry. It continued to remain as the best-selling single in 2007, reaching 1,115,499 copies in sales. This statistical accomplishment is not only remarkable for the fact that it was Akikawa's debut recording for what followed could only be called an artistic spawning of various musical covers by other artists, instrumental renditions, and choral arrangements. The artistic inflorescence or blooming of *Sen no Kaze ni Natte* illustrates the power of cultural appropriation. The lyrics of the song was based on a popular elegiac poem written by Clare Harner, which was published in 1934.

This haunting poem became the basis for Arai's most uplifting composition, which in turn was appropriated by various artists of various genres, languages and cultures. Of particular note is Haley Westenra's version titled *A Thousand Winds*. What are the sources of *Sen no Kaze ni Natte*'s appropriative power? What inspires better the *uta* (唄) that is the song or the *uta* (詩) that is the poem? Does the power rest in the double entendre that is the *uta* (歌) that is both the song and the poem? Is it the translatable nature of both textual composition of the poem and the musical composition of the song that allows for various interpretations and versions to emerge. Using methods gleaned from cyber ethnography, this research presents some answers found in the commentary sections of forums, blogs and chatrooms found in the Internet.

Key Words: Cultural Appropriation, Elegiac Poem, Composition, Translation,  
Cyber Ethnography



# JAPAN-ASSISTED FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES: LESSONS FROM EX-POST AUDITS

Alexander Michael Palma, Ph.D.

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Recent developments that caused a political stir in infrastructure projects administered by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), particularly in flood control posed an inquiry on the resilience of transactional processes that govern big-ticket flagship projects.

Foreign-assisted projects in the past years also covered flood control projects in identified cities and provinces in the country, with DPWH as counterpart implementing agency. Japan's official development assistance through the Japan International Cooperation Agency was another pathway of funding flood control projects, before these were allocated program funds under the General Appropriations Act (GAA), otherwise known as the annual budget.

The ex-ante and ex-post audits conducted in Japan-assisted flood control projects deserve a revisit to draw lessons from in ensuring transparency from the procurement, supply and implementation of designed flood control plans. The differences in the two pathways of funding, along with the accompanying processes from the budget, procurement supply chain and management may open yet another Japan ex-post audit practice that deserve greater attention and further study.

Keywords: flood control, infrastructure, projects, audit



# THE PARTICIPANTS

## GROUP 1: DR. JOCELYN CELERO AND DR. KAREN CONNIE ABALOS-ORENDAIN

### MARGARET MAE ACERO

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The Impact of Machizukuri in Shaping  
Sustainable Urban Development in Japan

### LARA FAMERONAG

*University of the Philippines Diliman*

Historical ABErrations: An Analysis of Late  
Shinzo Abe's Historical Revisionist Policies in  
Shaping Japan's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Nationalism

### KEN EMMANUEL MERLUZA

*Ateneo de Manila University*

Transportation and Mobility under Sakoku:  
Dr. Engelbert Kaempfer's Journey to the  
Shogun's Court

### CHARLES PEROLINO

*Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology*

Reimagining Learning in Japan: A Freirean  
Approach to Problem-Posing Pedagogy

### PRINCESS TULOP

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Sweet, Soft, and Slightly Sinister:  
Unpacking Kawaii Culture in Japan

### VINCENT JHUN DURIAS

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Kyōjo and Bayanihan in Disaster  
Communication: An Ecolinguistic Analysis of  
Collective Solidarity in Japan and the  
Philippines

### MAVERICK LANCE MALNEGRO

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Foreign Aid and Japan's Quest for Ontological  
Security: Japanese Identity Construction in  
the Mindanao Peacebuilding Discourse

### JEVINLEE PEÑARANDA

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Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Masculinity,  
Work, Identity Media Portrayals of Japanese  
Salarymen and Filipino OFWs

### ZANDARA MAE PETRONIO

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Comparing Public Transportation in Japan  
and the Philippines: Impacts on Labor and  
Economic Productivity

### MA. KAMILLE UNTALAN

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Healing Across Borders: An Ethnographic  
Study of Transmission and Adaptation of  
Reiki in the Philippines



# THE PARTICIPANTS

## GROUP 2: DR. KARL IAN CHENG CHUA

### MICHIKO ANN ACAYLAR

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Investigating “Japaneseness” Across Generations: An Autoethnographic Study of the Kusakabe Family

### MARK JOSEPH BORJA

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A Sexual History on Japanese Homosexuality and Homoeroticism as Depicted in Nanshoku Paintings of Tokugawa Period (1603–1863) and Yaoi (Boys’ Love) Manga (1970’s–Present)

### FRANDELL KARL DELA CRUZ

*University of the Philippines Tacloban Campus*

Is Japan and Philippines Irrational?  
A Comparative Analysis of Japan Inc. and Philippine Development Bureaucracy

### MARK BERNARD FALCO

*University of Sto. Tomas*

Ecocritical Analysis of Mokumokuren’s “The Summer Hikaru Died” (2021) using Queer Ecology Lens

### CHRISTIAN JAMES GUTIEREZ

*Polytechnic University of the Philippines*

Ang Pagtuturo ng Nihongo sa Laiya Integrated National High School, 2019–2025: Ilang Repleksyon mula sa mga Guro at Mag-aaral

### ALTHEA BERNABE

*Mindanao State University-General Santos*

Lanterns Toward the Crescent: Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the Illumination of Peacebuilding in the Bangsamoro Region

### BRAYAN PAUL BUTEN

*Polytechnic University of the Philippines*

Trans-spatial Identities and Hybridity: Locating Japan as Settings in Philippine Contemporary Cinema

### FILZ PATRICK DUREZA

*Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman*

Six Coins to the Shogun: Cultural Depictions of Sanada Nobushige (Yukimura) as an Anti-Tokugawa Symbol in Edo Period Entertainment

### THERESA MAE GALLARDO

*University of the Philippines Mindanao*

From Colonial Margin to Liberation: Navigating Political Power and armed struggle among Muslim Filipinos under Japanese Rule (1941 – 1945)

### AKRIA-ZEN MENESES

*University of the Philippines Diliman*

Rethinking Development for Women in Japan: A Feminist Scoping Review of Women and Gender Policies in Japan post-Beijing Platform for Action in 1995 and Construction of Composite Profiles of Contemporary Women in Japan



# THE PARTICIPANTS

## GROUP 3: DR. NARUT CHAROENSRI AND DR. GONZALO CAMPOAMOR II

**ELIJAH JOSHUA BENJAMIN ABAN**

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Hybrid and Parallactic Nihonjinron:  
Analyzing the Nationalist Transgressions in  
Selected Campaign Posters of Sanseitō

**ANGELA BEATRICE BALEÑA**

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The Mythical Narrative of Harmonious  
Interdependence: The Role of Collectivist  
Culture in the Emergence of Aum Shinrikyo and  
Other East Asian Cults

**RHEA MAE GANAL**

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Yamato Nadeshiko, Picture Brides to Sex  
Workers: Migration of Japanese Women to  
Hawai'i in the Early 20th Century

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*Mindanao State University-General Santos*

Changemakers in Action:  
Evaluating Japan's Asia KAKEHASHI Project  
and Its Impact on Filipino Youth Leadership  
and Community Engagement

**SHEILLA PAMITTAN**

*Asian Center, University of the Philippines Diliman*

Exploring 'Izumi no Yu' and the  
Commodification of Japanese Bathing  
Culture and its Implications on Diamond  
Princess: An Autoethnographic Sketch

**PATRICIA BELLE ADOLFO**

*University of the Philippines Diliman*

The Commodification of Sex, Fetishism of  
Religion, and the Racial Minorities:  
The Role of Content Creators in Obscuring  
and Revealing the Realities in Contemporary  
Japan

**MERIAN DAPHNE DAPON**

*University of the Philippines Mindanao*

Memories of the Japanese Occupation:  
The Bagobo-Klata-Japanese Relationship  
Before and After the Second World War

**JUNEL JAN CHRYSLER LAVARES**

*Philippine Women's University*

Code-Switching Between Japanese  
(Nihongo) and English (Eigo) Among Bilingual  
Speakers of Contemporary Japan

**WINONA FAY OBERA**

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Navigating a Demographic Crisis:  
The Role of the Specified Skilled Worker  
Program in Japan's Labor Market Stabilization







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