

New Zealand Japanese Education Seminar Wellington

Date: July 27, 2019 (Saturday)

Time: 9:00-15:20

Venue: Victoria University of Wellington, School of Languages and Cultures
Room: VZ606, Von Zedlitz Bldg, Kelburn Parade, Kelburn, Wellington NZ

Presenters: **Mami Saito**, Senior Language Consultant,
The Japan Foundation, Sydney
Dr. Kyoko Mikami, National Japanese Adviser,
Future Learning Solutions - Centre for Languages

Admission: Free; registrations essential

Time	For all levels teachers of Japanese	mins
9:00-9:20	Registration	20
9:20-9:30	Opening & Welcome	10
9:30-11:00	Developing Key Competencies in Language Classes Using Thinking Tools	90
11:00-11:30	Morning Tea	30
11:30-12:30	Japanese proverbs in the classroom: A platform for intercultural comparison and reflection	60
12:30-13:20	Lunch Time	50
13:20-14:00	Classroom activities - What's new in Japan?	40
14:10-15:00	Discussion and Sharing Session	50
15:00-15:20	Evaluation & Closing	20

- * The schedule is subject to change.
- * Please bring your own lunch
- * Participants will receive certificate as attendance of 4 hours Professional Learning Seminar for Japanese Language Teachers.

Session Abstracts

● Developing Key Competencies in Language Classes Using Thinking Tools – by Mami Saito

In this session, participants will be introduced to examples of student activities using thinking tools to develop their key competencies.

In New Zealand, the focus on producing confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners is reflected in the curriculum at all levels of education. For this purpose, it is necessary to develop key competencies. The five key competencies for the Y1-13 curriculum are: thinking; using language, symbols, and text; managing self; relating to others; and participating and contributing. At the tertiary level, four key competencies are identified: thinking; using tools interactively; acting autonomously; and operating in social groups.

In this session, how the aforementioned key competencies can be cultivated in language classes is explored, with a focus on intercultural understanding and critical and creative thinking. It is important for students to learn to think for themselves, and Thinking Tools can be used to help encourage this. This session will provide an opportunity to try and use these tools for the 'Processization of thinking' and 'Visualization of thinking'. Furthermore, examples of how teachers can put these tools into practice in their own classrooms will be discussed. This session will be delivered in simple Japanese.

● Japanese proverbs in the classroom: A platform for intercultural comparison and reflection – by Kyoko Mikami

Proverbs are used in daily conversation amongst Japanese people. Understanding Japanese proverbs enables learners to more deeply understand Japanese people and their culture. The study and use of proverbs is an effective platform for intercultural comparison and reflection and therefore promotes intercultural understanding and competence. Traditional Japanese proverbs impart wisdom and life skills such as resilience, patience, aligning words with action.

In this workshop, we will discuss the meaning and cultural understandings behind the most commonly used Japanese proverbs. We will also compare these proverbs with some well-known Māori whakataukii and proverbs in other languages. Using these discussions we will workshop together how proverbs might be best integrated into our teaching of Japanese language and culture. This session will be delivered in simple Japanese.

● Classroom activities – What's new in Japan? – by Mami Saito

In this session, participants will learn about some of the latest trends in Japan and discuss how they can be incorporated into classroom activities.

Learning a language is the key to understanding the culture behind it. In the New Zealand Curriculum, it is mentioned that "Languages are inseparably linked to the social and cultural contexts in which they are used. Languages and cultures play a key role in developing our personal, group, national, and human identities." Many commercials being broadcasted in Japan reflect aspects of Japanese culture. In this session, we examine how commercials can be used as teaching resources, and how various concepts can be explored. It will be delivered in simple Japanese

● Discussion and Sharing Session facilitated by Mami Saito

We would like to bring together teachers' voices from a range of sectors and levels to explore possible activities that could draw students together and promote Japanese learning in the Wellington area. We also encourage teachers to share any concerns they have or problems or challenges they face in the workplace, so we can open discussion regarding possible solutions.

We hope you will take this opportunity to have your say, and also develop and strengthen ties with other teachers.

Presenter's Bio

Mami Saito

Mami Saito has been a Senior Language Consultant, Japanese Language Department, the Japan Foundation, Sydney since June 2017 and has extensive experience teaching Japanese and conducting teachers training/ ICT programs in Indonesia, Japan and Canada. Her teaching experience covers a wide range of levels from language schools to high school and university. In addition to her role as a Senior Language Consultant, she is also involved in Japanese language education support across Australia.

Dr. Kyoko Mikami

Dr Kyoko Mikami is the National Language Adviser for Japanese. She arrived in New Zealand in January 2017 and is a member of the Future Learning Solutions, Centre for Languages team. Kyoko has close working relations with the Japanese Embassy and Consulate-General.

Kyoko has worked for many years not only as a language teacher but also as a teacher trainer in Japan, Czech Republic and Indonesia. She has written several textbooks for students as well as a guidebook for language teachers. She has been sharing her expertise and knowledge of Japanese language, culture and education with teachers in New Zealand.