



Information Note

Virtual Japanese Club 2023 Training on Development of Reading Comprehension Teaching Materials

A. Background

One of the essential skills in foreign language communication is the ability to comprehend written information (reading skill). The significance of this skill is reflected in various foreign language proficiency tests, where reading ability is considered as one of the assessment aspects. A good reading skill encompasses various elements, including the ability to recognize words efficiently through linguistic knowledge, activation of grammar understanding, choosing appropriate reading strategies based on reading goals, and utilising prior knowledge to enhance comprehension of the text.¹

To equip students with such abilities, the approach employed should involve familiarising them with a diverse range of reading texts. Students should be exposed to various types of texts, tailored to their proficiency level and goals they aim to achieve. These exposures can be facilitated through well-designed reading exercises. At the beginner level (A1-A2), the reading exercise materials should meet specific criteria. The materials should focus on concrete topics commonly encountered in daily life, such as emails, announcements, instructions, etc. Furthermore, the materials should be concise and employ simple vocabulary and sentence patterns.^{2 3}

In the process of developing appropriate reading materials, teachers need to equip themselves with various knowledge and skills. They need to possess a deep understanding on how to search for and select relevant reading materials that align with the intended learning objectives. Furthermore, teachers should be adept at improving students' reading skills through the provided learning activities/exercises. Additionally, to ensure optimal student engagement, teachers also need to know how to present activities/exercises in an appealing and captivating manner.

To assist teachers in this regard, SEAMEO QITEP in Language (SEAQIL) will conduct the Virtual Japanese Club (VJC): Development of Reading Exercise Materials in 2023. This topic was selected based on the feedback received from the participants of VJC in 2022. Through this training initiative, teachers will enhance their ability to create reading exercises suitable for A1 level learners. These exercises will primarily serve as formative assessments to gauge students' comprehension of the learning materials, rather than being intended for grading purposes. Additionally, teachers will improve their digital skill by transforming the exercises into interactive digital formats using the Lumi Education App. Lastly, they will enhance their Japanese language proficiency and expand their network through interactions with fellow participants, facilitators, and instructors.

¹ Dina Tsagari et al., *Handbook of Assessment for Language Teacher* (Cyprus: Erasmus+, 2015).

² OECD, *PISA 2025 Foreign Language Assessment Framework* (Paris: OECD Publishing, 2021).

³ The Japan Foundation, 'JF Standard for Japanese-Language Education: Guidebook for Users (New Edition)' (The Japan Foundation, 2017).





B. Objective

The objectives of this training are as follows:

1. To enhance Japanese language teachers competency in developing reading exercise materials.
2. To improve teachers' Japanese language skills through interactions during the training.
3. To enhance digital competencies by converting reading exercise materials into interactive digital format.
4. To expand the network among Japanese language teachers.

C. Targeted Participants

This training targets the participation of **30 Japanese language teachers** from upper secondary schools in Southeast Asia.

D. Expected Output

At the end of the training, each participant is expected to produce a reading exercise material in docx format and in h5p format (Lumi Education App).

E. Training Period and Mode

The online training will be held from 12 September to 3 November 2023, every Tuesday, 3.00—5.15 pm and Friday, 4.00—5.30 pm (GMT+7/Jakarta Time). The training consists of 15 online meetings through Zoom.

F. Requirements

Registration will be open to Japanese language teachers in upper secondary school level from SEAMEO member countries, with the following criteria:

1. Preferably have Japanese language proficiency at N3 level or above, or A2-B1 level according to JF standards.
2. Proficient in both Japanese and English for communication purposes.
3. Interested in developing learning materials for students.
4. Interested in learning ICT applications to support language learning.
5. Committed to follow the training schedule.
6. Have access to a computer/laptop with a minimum of 4GB RAM and a reliable internet connection.
7. Able to use Zoom and Google Workspace applications (Google Form, Google Drive, etc.).
8. Be adaptable to digital devices or applications that will be used during the training.

G. Registration Procedure

Prospective participants required to complete registration form through <https://qiteplanguage.org/form/RegVJC23>. There are two types of questions in the registration form: a) questions on plan for reading exercise material and b) questions for administrative purposes. The initial plan does not have to be perfect as it will be developed and finalised during the training.





H. Important Dates

21 August 2023	Registration deadline
25 August 2023	Announcement of the selected participants. The selection criteria and results are determined by SEAQIL and cannot be contested. Selected participants are required to confirm their participation.
1 September 2023	Participation confirmation deadline
12 September 2023	Opening ceremony
12 September to 3 November 2023	Training session
3 November 2023	Closing ceremony

I. Contact Person

For more information, please contact us through training@qiteplanguage.org with **"Virtual Japanese Club 2023"** as the email subject.

