

Shochiku NIHONBUYO Lab., krage, and AKATSUKI to Perform in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam ～Delivering Japan's Appeal to Next Generations～

The Japan Foundation (JF) will implement the Partnership to Co-create a Future with the Next Generation: WA Project 2.0 as comprehensive people-to-people exchange programs aimed at promoting exchanges between the future generations of Japan and ASEAN countries and cultivating human resources. The WA Project 2.0 will constructively continue the work of the WA Project: Toward Interactive Asia through Fusion and Harmony, the cultural exchange programs with Asia that are commonly known as Japan Foundation Asia Center projects, which JF carried out from 2014-2023.

As one part of the WA Project 2.0, JF will send Shochiku NIHONBUYO Lab., which creates pieces and performances that promote the appeal of NIHONBUYO (Japanese traditional dance) to an international audience, to Cambodia; krage, a female singer widening her sphere of activities by utilizing a serene singing voice while drawing fully on her multilingualism, to Laos; and AKATSUKI, a Japanese music ensemble made up of spirited performing musicians who are active on the front lines, to Vietnam, in order to hold performance projects showcasing Japan's diverse culture to the younger generations in each country.

In these countries, these artists will convey their distinctive artform to the local communities via a range of activities, including participation in local Japan festivals; promoting understanding of Japanese culture via visits to schools where the NIHONGO Partners Program (<https://asiawa.jpf.go.jp/en/partners/>) is active and interacting with their students; and by holding exchanges with local artists.



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■ Description of Projects

Phnom Penh, Cambodia:

Performance Title: Phnom Penh KIZUNA ODORI

Performance Schedule: 2:00p.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2025

Venue: Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center, Angkor-Kizuna Hall

Production: Shochiku NIHONBUYO Lab.

Artists: Hanayagi Tokijyukyo, Azuma Yoshiyasu, Nakamura Umejyu, Hanayagi Kiina, Matsumoto Kosa

Workshop: Experience Traditional Japanese ODORI!

Press inquiries :

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Workshop Schedule: ① 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2025
② 10:00a.m. on Sunday, February 16, 2025 (tentative)

Venue: Cambodia-Japan Cooperation Center

Vientiane, Laos:

Performance Title: Songs Beyond Borders: Japan & Laos Together

Performance Schedule: 7:00p.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2025

Venue: Lao National Culture Hall

Artists: krage, Tanu Vannasin (Guest)

Tickets: FREE admission

*For more details, please refer to: <https://www.facebook.com/jfacvt>



Related Event: Japan Festival 2025

Event Schedule: 3:00p.m on Friday, February 14, 2025 * krage appearance around 4 p.m.

Venue: Parkson Laos

Tickets: FREE admission

*For more details, please refer to:

https://www.facebook.com/embassyofjapaninlaos/?ref=embed_page

Hue, Vietnam:

Performance Title: Echoes Across Cultures: Akatsuki Live in Hue

Performance Schedule: 7:30p.m. on Saturday, March 8, 2025

Venue: HUE ACADEMY OF MUSIC Song Huong Theater

Artist: AKATSUKI (Koto: YOSHIZAWA Nobutaka and KANEKO Nobuhiro, Shakuhachi: OKOCHI Junya, Taiko: KANAZASHI Yuta)

Workshops :

Workshop Schedule: Wednesday, March 5 to Friday, March 7, 2025

Venue : Secondary and High schools in Hue, Vietnam (tentative)

*Tickets: Further details will be announced on [our website](#) shortly.

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■ Artist Profiles

【Shochiku NIHONBUYO Lab.】

NIHONBUYO is a Japanese traditional dance originating from Kabuki but unique for the contributions made by female artists in furthering its development. It is characterized by three elements: Odori, Mai, and Shigusa. The "Shochiku NIHONBUYO Lab." creates pieces and performances that promote the appeal of NIHONBUYO to an international audience.

In Cambodia, Shochiku NIHONBUYO Lab. will take the stage to interweave music from all ages and countries, including not only classical NIHONBUYO compositions but also music from 'In the Life of Music,' a film set in Cambodia, as well as anime songs and classical music, to deliver a show that allows audiences to readily enjoy NIHONBUYO's various expressions. We hope you will look forward to this performance by these up-and-coming young NIHONBUYO performers.



【krage】



Born in Hokkaido to a Japanese father and a Chinese mother, she grew up surrounded by music from different cultures, which naturally drew her to the charm of music. She started singing seriously in middle school and has since performed ending themes for titles such as the drama The Hunter on the Lonely Hill, the anime Raven of the Inner Palace, Solo Leveling, and Heaven Official's Blessing: Season 2 (Japanese dub). With a focus on ballads, rock, and R&B, she

sings in Japanese, Chinese, and English, expressing delicate yet intense emotions through her lyrics, all brought to life by her clear and ethereal voice.

【Tanu Vannasin】 Laos Guest Artist

Born and raised in Vientiane, Laos. First appears in 2019 to Lao music industry with the first official track "Tear." He is a well-known solo artist and a song writer. His music falls into genres of Indie & Alternative Pop.



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【AKATSUKI】

AKATSUKI is an ensemble of four spirited artists who are currently active on the frontlines, coming together for this project with the hope of becoming a foundation for cultural exchange with Asia through Japan's traditional music and instruments. The name "AKATSUKI" means the early, predawn hours in Japanese, as well as the striking red color that the moon takes on as it approaches the horizon.

During their visit to Vietnam, they are aiming have this project become the dawn of genuine cultural exchange between the two countries.



The members (Koto: YOSHIZAWA Nobutaka and KANEKO Nobuhiro, Shakuhachi: OKOCHI Junya, Taiko: KANAZASHI Yuta) possess a high level of performance technique and musicianship and are proactively developing a broad range of performance activities, ranging from collaborations that cover wide range of genres, to activities aimed at making inroads with younger generations. These young musicians are garnering a strong reputation both in Japan and internationally.

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