

2024

Activity Report

JACOP



Stichting Japanese Communities Platform

Ouderkerkerlaan 15, 1185AB Amstelveen, The Netherlands
KVK registration number: 8185474
jacopholland.nl
jacopholland@gmail.com

1. Activity Overview 2024

Our main activities during 2024 were as follows:

1. Children's Center ("Jidokan")
2. ABBA Dance
3. Adult Study Salon ("Otonano Manabiba")
4. Supporting Japanese Non-Profit Organizations
5. Japanese Style Festival ("Bunkasai")
6. Community Lounge: NEMO Sabo
7. Online Activities (Website and Facebook)
8. Other (International) Activities

In the next section, we describe each activity.

2. Activity Details 2024

2.1 Children's Center ("Jidokan")



Jidokan is a children's center where Japanese children up to around 10 years old can play. The children are accompanied by their mothers. Most of the visitors to Jidokan are expat children and their mothers who have recently arrived in the Netherlands. Therefore, Jidokan also serves as a community place for mothers, where they can exchange information about living in the Netherlands. We believe that Jidokan is an important place not only for children but also for mothers.

Our volunteers provide various activities, such as book reading, drawing, and seasonal events. Jidokan is gradually becoming one of our major and well-known activities. In order to ensure the stable operation, we increased the number of volunteers: we have an average of 4 volunteers through 2024. In 2024, we held 42 Jidokan. It opens every Wednesday from 10:00 to 12:00.

The average number of participants per month in 2024 was 16.5 (2023 was 16).
Entrance fee is EUR 2.

2.2 ABBA Dance

After Jidokan, it is a time for elderly people. ABBA Dance is a group of elderly people, who want to enjoy doing physical exercise with ABBA music. It is held every Wednesday from 13:00 to 12:00. The average number of participants per month in 2024 was 6 (2023 was also 5)

2.3 Adult Study Salon (“Otonano Manabiba”)



Otonano Manabiba is a monthly event for adults who want to meet/communicate with new people. We invite a guest lecturer and explore a different theme, such as Buddhism, art business, fashion and modern art, with an average of 11 participants (2023 was 10).

2.4 Supporting Japanese Non-Profit Organizations

We are encouraging Japanese non-profit organizations to utilize the rental space at SAKB/OntmoetingLokaal for their activities by covering the room rental cost entirely or partially. These non-profit organisations use the room for its internal activities and/or external activities.

Furthermore, we provide extra support for their activities if these are for the public interest and/or promote cultural exchange or contribute to Dutch society. If non-profit organisations organize some event, we promote their activities on JACOP's social media.

Mainly the following Japanese non-profits organization use at SAKB/OntmoetingLokaal

- Stichting Nalc Holland (<http://nalcnederland.nl/>):
- Kamome no Kai (<https://sites.google.com/view/kamomenokai/home>)
- Stichting Furusato Huis Project (<https://www.furusatohuis.nl/>)
- Stichting Nichiran Net (<https://www.nichiran-silvernet.site/english>)
- Chorus Sora (<https://sorashorus.wixsite.com/my-site>).
- Japan Women's Club in Nederland (<https://jwcnederland.wordpress.com/>).

These organisations also provide social activities. For instance, Stichting Nalc Holland provided several events/workshop at Zonnehuis Bovenkerk. Chorus Sora held chorus concerts at various locations in Amstelveen, like at het Apostolisch Genootschap and Noorddamcentrum. Japan Women's Club held music concert at Zonnehuis Bovenkerk. Also, since last year, this club provided Japanese conversation classes for foreigners twice a month at Nemo Sabo.



Lastly, as Japanese community, we participated 60 Jaar Amstelveen held on 29 September 2024 with the aim to let people know about the activities of the Japanese community. Many people showed interest and asked a lot of questions.

2.5 Japanese Style Festival (“BUNKA-SAI”)

The 2024 BUNKA-SAI, a Japanese style festival held on October 5, 2024, welcomed approximately 650 visitors. Although this was a decrease from 2023, the number of attendees was well-suited to the capacity of the venue, and visitors enjoyed the various activities held in each room. Notably, there was an increase in non-Japanese visitors compared to 2023, with about half of the attendees being non-Japanese, reflecting a strong interest in Japanese culture.

This year featured two new initiatives: live performances and the use of the main building for workshops. True to the spirit of BUNKA-SAI festivals, the live performances brought great energy to

the event. The three performing groups were delighted to have the opportunity to showcase their music. The workshops included traditional Japanese papermaking and indigo printmaking, figure drawing, and gyoza making. The figure drawing workshop was led by the art teacher from SAKB, and the gyoza workshop was organized in cooperation with IPCF, a Chinese group. These collaborations reflected JACOP's aim to promote international exchange.



Other highlights included Japanese conversation sessions by JWC, a flea market and matcha café hosted by Nichiran Net, a health-themed presentation, and events by middle and high school students—all of which were well-received. At Odin,

six vendors participated in a market area that remained bustling throughout the day. Additionally, there was a booth supporting the reconstruction efforts for Wajima City, which was affected by the earthquake in January 2024. The cultural festival is made possible thanks to the support of JACOP's partner and supporting organizations, such as JWC and Nichiran Net. Their contributions and collaboration added great value to the event.

We were also honoured to welcome the Ambassador of Japan and representatives from the Japan Chamber of Commerce (JCC), who visited the festival again this year. Furthermore, Mr. Han from the Amstelveen Police Department, who is in charge of the Asian community and regularly runs a community outreach post at NEMO Sabo, attended the event as well. His participation gave the Ambassador a meaningful opportunity to learn about the local police presence that helps support and protect the Japanese and broader Asian communities.

Unlike other Japan-focused festivals, BUNKA-SAI stands out by not being exclusively centered on Japanese culture. Instead, it encourages participants to do what they're passionate about and offers visitors a chance to experience a wide variety of activities. With increasing public awareness, the name "BUNKA-SAI" is becoming more widely recognized.

2.6 Community Lounge NEMO Sabo

NEMO Sabo is a community lounge for Japanese individuals and anyone interested in Japan. It offers a variety of small Japanese meals and snacks. Students attending classes at SAKB visit NEMO Sabo after their classes as well. NEMO Sabo operates Monday to Friday from 12:00 to 17:00. The management of NEMO Sabo is outsourced to a third party and supported by volunteers. JACOP receives a share of the profits generated by NEMO Sabo.

In addition, various groups use NEMO Sabo for their activities, such as:

- Handcraft club, every Thursday (Handcraft Club participated to Kunstmarkt Amstelveen held on 9 June 2024)
- Chat group for elderly people called "Mokuyo-kai", every Thursday (In May 2024, we visited the City of Amstelveen to discuss the possibility of collaborating on initiatives for elderly people, particularly those affected by dementia).
- Monthly consultations by the Amstelveen Police for Japanese residents.



2.7 Online Activities

We have consistently maintained our website, as well as our Facebook page and Facebook group, 'Information Exchange Space for Japanese living in the Netherlands.' As of December 31, 2024, this Facebook group has reached 3,472 registered members. It serves various purposes, including seeking advice and sharing/finding information related to the Netherlands. The number of members continues to grow, with registration requests received daily. This Facebook group has become one of the most well-known information sources in the Netherlands for the Japanese community.

- JACOP Website : jacopholland.nl/
- JACOP Facebook : www.facebook.com/japanesecommunitiesplatform.nl/
- Facebook "Information Exchange Space for Japanese living in the Netherlands": www.facebook.com/groups/226714334145180/

2.8 Other (International) Activities

In addition to the above, we organized /supported the following activities in 2024.

- 3 March 2024: Charity Event for Noto Peninsula Earthquake organized by Hokuriku association club.
- 29June: Japanese Dance Workshop organized by JACOP
- 29June: Tsugaru Syamisen (Japanese three-stringed instrument) Concert organized by JACOP



3 Final Remarks

Looking back at 2024, our activities are flourishing and involve more people and organisations. We have been trying to expand our network for more (international) activities by participating for instance, Amstelveen Connect, East Asian Community Meeting organized by the Amstelveen Police, Community meeting organized by IN Amsterdam and ACCESS.

Needless to say, we continue our collaboration with OntmoetingLokaal/SAKB. We often have meetings and discuss how we can develop OntmoetingLokaal for more international activities. We are sincerely thankful for OntmoetingLokaal support.