

Dear Friends,

The DVDs are produced by the members of KUFUS: BUNKA WO ARUKU – “Walk Within & Beyond Cultures (WWBC)” Project, in which teachers, students and staff at Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Kyoto, Japan and colleagues elsewhere, collaborated to produce multi-lingual DVDs on Japanese culture. First of all, we would like to offer our gratitude to all the willing members who have collaborated in this project. It was in keeping with the pedagogical aims of the WWBC project itself that people from a variety of cultural backgrounds, native speakers of many different languages, collaborated in this project to seek an alternative approach to second language education.

The KUFUS mission is expressed in its motto, *PAX MUNDI PER LINGUAS* – World Peace through Languages. The university consists of departments, which include the department of Japanese studies and Japanese language programs for Japanese and foreign students and the department to promote global understandings. In addition to courses in 20 foreign languages, it has the human resources for this kind of multi-lingual project. Although the project’s cultural resources come from nation-wide sources, the university’s location in the cultural heart of Japan, Kyoto, is an advantage. A great number of projects have been conducted to put the school motto into action throughout the university’s history, and the WWBC is one of them.

The WWBC Project was founded in 2012 to provide a series of multilingual DVDs in order to encourage both learners’ and teachers’ educational engagements in second language learning and teaching. WWBC will serve as a resource for the exploration of cross- cultural human relations, the development of a sense of global moral values, and an awareness of humanism which may lead to an understanding of self that enables harmonious interaction among people who hold different world views.

The WWBC teaching materials are intended for learners whose Japanese language proficiency is at the intermediate level, a level at which they may be eager to become engaged with more meaning-based contexts. We hope that they can also enjoy the scenes on the DVD while listening to the narration in their first language at a level intended for native speakers. Furthermore, after learners have made progress from the beginning levels they may be ready and willing to take charge of their own learning processes, and engage in autonomous learning.

Through the DVDs certain fundamental aspects of the Japanese culture are presented in the hope that viewers can enjoy seeing photographs of Japan while listening to the text narration in their native language, and in Japanese as well. By touching upon different key cultural scenes and themes, we hope viewers will have a chance to see and enjoy Japanese culture in terms of its complex diversity rather than in simple stereotypes, and to find something common to all the cultures beyond those differences in individual cultures.

In addition to the photographs and multi-lingual narrations licensed for use during the DVD production, multi-lingual scripts and a variety of translations in Japanese are components of the written materials provided separately. We recommend that JSL learners and teachers make use of all these materials as creatively and constructively as they can; for example, by note - taking while listening and reconstruction of the texts after listening, translating the texts, making text summaries, paraphrasing the text expressions, writing original compositions on the themes, discussing cultural similarities, and making written and oral presentations on the themes. These learning tasks can be conducted in the learner’s native language or in their second language.

It is our sincere hope that both learners and teachers will try to develop their own materials, based upon the WWBC materials, to suit their own particular circumstances. Should you want to adapt the content of this product please contact us:

《wwbc@kufs.ac.jp》and be sure to give credit by stating our project name, “*KUFUS: Walk Within & Beyond Cultures Project*, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Japan.”

Sincerely,

KUFUS:WWBC Project - Organizing Committee