## ことばの歳時記 ーはらはらー

このような語は文法的には擬態語といい、日本語にはこの擬態語が他の言語と比べて、とても多いそうです。このコーナーようす じょうだい おと かんかくてき ひょうげん ぎたいこ せかい しょうかい ぜ ひ ひょうげんゆた では、ものの様と では、ものの様と では、ものの様と では、ものの様と では、ものの様と にほんご つか にほんご した も かな日本語を使って、日本語へ親しみを持ってください。

## A Calendar of Words

## Hara hara ("Flutter down")

Enjoying the view of cherry blossoms at ohanami is one of Japan's spring traditions. Many people go to look at the stunning view of blossoms when the flowers are in full bloom, but the sight of the petals falling as if being courted by the spring wind is also a beautiful one. In Japanese, the term hara hara is used to describe small light things like cherry blossoms fluttering down from above. In actual fact no sound is made, but the inclusion of hara hara in phrases like "hara hara to hanabira ga chiru" ("petals flutter down") and "hara hara to namida wo otosu" ("tears stream down") makes it seem as if we actually hear a sound, giving more feeling to the expression. Hara hara can also be used as "hara hara suru," to describe a feeling of worry or tension.

In grammar, expressions of this type are called gitaigo ("mimetic expressions"), and there are a lot of them in Japanese compared to other languages. This new section will introduce you to the world of these gitaigo, which express the states or conditions of things in sensuous terms by means of sounds. We hope that your Japanese will become rich in these expressions, bringing you closer to the language.