

Welcome to the first edition of 「OFIX News」! We have joined together our previous two publications 「OFIX Report」 and 「Osaka International Club News」 to bring you this new and exciting e-newsletter in English and Japanese. Every month we will bring you up to date information about programmes being run by OFIX and the Osaka Prefectural Government, as well as news about international exchange activities.

This is the print out version of OFIX News, with fuller articles and photos for you to enjoy.

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Seeking participants for Medical Interpreting Training Seminar

In order to assist foreign residents unable to understand Japanese when visiting clinics and hospitals, a seminar will be held to train medical interpreting volunteers.

Date: 5th November (Weds)-3rd December (Weds)

(Once a week, every Weds, 10am-3pm)

Requirements for participation:

1. Experience of volunteer work supporting foreign residents
2. Able to read and write Japanese, communicate effectively in Japanese
3. Able to communicate in one of the following languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese.
4. Must be able to participate in all sessions
5. Must be registered as a volunteer with either the AMDA International Medical Information Centre or the

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Rinku General Medical Centre.

Application Period: Sept 1st (Mon)-26th (Fri)

Number of places: 20 places for each of the following languages: English, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese

Cost: Free

How to apply: Download the application form from the OFIX homepage (<http://www.ofix.or.jp>)

OFIX Coordinator for International Relations, and Scholarship Students available for school visits

OFIX is happy to send its CIR and Scholarship Students to take part in international understanding education lessons at primary, middle, and high schools across Osaka Prefecture. For more information see the OFIX homepage:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/jigyuu/index.html>

Support for NGO/NGO International Understanding

Education Programmes

OFIX offers financial support (up to 7,000 Yen per person per visit) to NPO`s and NGO`s involved in international exchange, and international understanding education programmes in schools, For further details see the OFIX homepage:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyuu/index5.html>

Seeking residents for the Sakai International Hall (Orion International House)

The Orion International House is a friendly, safe and fun hall of residence for foreign students in Osaka. Each room comes equipped with an en-suite bathroom, air-con, and fridge. Many fun exchange

(2) Event Calendar

For a roundup of international exchange related events taking place over the coming months please see the Event Calendar on the OFIX homepage (Japanese only)

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/cgi-bin/calender.cgi>

To upload an event please use the event form on the OFIX homepage:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/cgi-bin/event.cgi>



(3) OFIX Network (Letters from Abroad)

Yoon Ju Eun (Korea), former foreign student in Osaka

Yoon Ju Eun was an OFIX Scholarship student from April 2003 ~ March 2006. She recently received the prestigious Joo Hong Lee Literature Prize, and wrote to tell us all about it!

Hello, my name is Yoon Ju Eun. I am from South Korea, but studied as a foreign student in Osaka from April 2003-March 2006. At the present time I am working at the Japanese literature departments of two universities in Korea.

In Korea there is a famous author called Joo Hong Lee. As well as writing children's books, this author also writes short stories, poems, and is an artist of some note. To commemorate his work the 「Joo Hong Lee Literature

Prize」 was inaugurated.

Thanks to this author I was introduced to the Baika Women's University in Osaka. And thanks to that I was given the Joo Hong Lee Literature Prize for research in May of this year.

I was so happy to receive this prize, and it even made the papers!

events also take place at the house. For more details see the OFIX homepage:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/jigyuu/index4.html>

Request for articles from Osaka International Club members

We are currently looking for members of the Osaka International Club to write to us with updates from their country, for use in future issues of OFIX News and on our homepage. We'd love you to write to us with reports on anything from tourist spots, food, fashion etc, alongside some photos!

For further details see the OFIX Homepage:

www.ofix.or.jp

This was the 28th year of the prize, and prizes for children's literature and short story were also given out.

Since receiving the prize I have been asked to give talks at my old secondary school which I have been so delighted to do.

Mrinal Rammohan (India), Participant on the 2007 Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts (Ando Program)

Mrinal wrote to tell us all about the exciting preparations being undertaken for the 2010 Commonwealth Games, which will be held in New Delhi.

I had sushi and sashimi for lunch yesterday. Nowhere close to as good as the ones I had in Osaka last year, but it just proves that the hangover isn't over. My time in Osaka has left me with such wonderful memories of Japan, the temples, the buildings, the people, the food, the bright red maple trees, everything was perfect. I've been back in India for quite a while now, winter turned to spring and then to an unusually wet summer here, the rainy season is almost upon us now and we have hardly had a glimpse of the summer sun. Life in my city of New Delhi is frenetic. The city is due to host the commonwealth games in the year 2010, and the preparations for it are in full swing. The entire



city seems to be getting a facelift, and that means more work for us architects (lucky me!). The games seem to be a boon for the citizens of the New Delhi, since because of the games, we seem to be getting better roads, a spanking new subway system and lots more. Although the city looks like a war zone right now with unfinished constructions at every corner, I am sure it will be a treat come 2010. In fact, our subway system is being constructed in conjunction with the Japanese government, so we must say to you, '*arigato gozaimasu!*'

In the midst of all this, I have been contributing in my own way in getting the city ready to receive a whole lot of tourists once the games begin. The city of new Delhi is steeped in history, and is dotted with thousands of historical

monuments. Therefore, we have been designing and installing 'Audio Guide' systems across many historical monuments in the city in order to help people from different countries, speaking different languages, experience our wonderful heritage.

I had a wonderful opportunity to experience a part of the Japanese culture and heritage during the OFIX Ando Program. I have many wonderful memories of Japan. So many that it would be impossible to fit it into this small article. I want to thank everyone involved once more, and hope that I can visit Japan again sometime soon. I would also like to invite all of you to come to New Delhi during the Commonwealth games in 2010, I am sure you will have an awesome experience.

(4) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

Hi everyone! My name is Richard Kelner, and I work as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) at OFIX. I am from the UK.

As a CIR I feel it is an important part of my job to promote the development of exchange and understanding between Japan and the UK. I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about common stereotypes held by people in both countries. When I ask you to think about the UK what comes to mind? Let me guess: football, tea, gentlemen perhaps? Well, when British people think about Japan I'll bet the following things come to mind: sushi, geisha, samurai, hi-tech electrical goods etc.

When friends back in the UK ask me what Japan is like they always expect answers along the lines of the stereotypes outlined above. Therefore I try and steer away from such things when I reply! For example, I will say things such as

"no, there are very few geisha left in Kyoto, but you can often see tourists paying to dress up like one", and "Japanese people don't eat sushi every day. In fact they eat a lot of curry and pasta!"

In the same way, when I am asked by Japanese people about the UK, rather than rely on stereotypes I try and tell them about the multicultural nature of British society, and the fact that it is mostly only tourists that go for posh afternoon tea!

I think it is an important part of my work here to help people see past these stereotypes. I will be writing every now and then in OFIX News about the real UK, as well as my thoughts on life in Japan



Tower Bridge, London



London Metropolitan Police on horseback!

(5) OFIX Programme/Event Reports

Careers Information Day for Foreign Students

On 3rd June a Careers Information Day for Foreign Students was held by OFIX in conjunction with the organisations such as the Osaka Prefectural Government and the Kansai Bureau of Economy, Trade, and Industry in Osaka. About 1200 students came to the event, and in the survey which was handed out nearly 90% stated that they were glad they took part in the event. OFIX is looking into the possibility of holding a similar event this autumn. Details will be available in the coming months. Survey results (Japanese only):

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyuu/index7.html>



Company Booth

Artwork Exchange between Osaka and Asian Elementary Schools

Last year elementary schools in Osaka and a number of Asia countries exchange artwork in an event connected to the Asia Metropolis Summit held in Osaka in October. It is hoped that through this exchange the children will further their understanding of life and culture in foreign countries. One Singapore school which took part in the exchange is keen to look into ways of furthering exchange in the future through a possible visit to Japan. Further details:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/jigyuu/index5.html#2>



Artwork on display in Hong Kong

(6) Seeking new OFIX Supporting Members

We are currently seeking new Supporting Members at OFIX. If you are interested in international exchange programmes run by OFIX, and would like to lend financial support to the Foundation please see the following page (Japanese only)

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/sanjyo/index.html>

(7) From the Editor

We hope you enjoyed the first edition of OFIX News. From next month we will also include a section introducing some of the various organisations in and around Osaka involved in international exchange and cooperation.

Please contact us with any comments or suggestions you may have for future issues.

Comments/Suggestions: info@ofix.or.jp

Osaka International Club reports: clubnews@ofix.or.jp

To cancel your registration or change your registered email address:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/>

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