

「OFIX News」 Issue 14 (September 2009)
~E-Newsletter distributed by the Osaka Foundation of International
Exchange~

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【01】 Notices

Careers Information Day for Foreign Students

This event is held for the second time this year, and is an opportunity for foreign students to meet with companies looking to hire, and to gain career counseling and visa advice also.

Date and Time: Monday 20th November 2009 13:00 ~ 17:30

Venue: 3rd Floor , Osaka Central Public Hall
(1-1-27 Nakanoshima, Kita-ku, Osaka-shi)

Eligible to attend:

Foreign students due to graduate in spring 2011, or those already graduated looking to change jobs and interested in working for a company in Japan.

Companies looking to hire foreign students

Schedule:

{Company booths}

- Around 30 companies will have their own booths promoting their activities.

{Individual Consultation Corners}

- General information corner run by the Osaka Employment Service for Foreign Residents etc

- Career Counseling

- Status of residence/visa advice

{Seminars}

- Status of residence

- Job-hunting tips

- HR staff advice etc

Fee: Participation for students and companies is free of charge

~~We look forward to welcoming you~~

Further details: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/shien/index2.html>

Seeking Emergency (Natural Disaster) Volunteer Interpreters and Translators!

We are currently seeking to recruit volunteer interpreters and translators to help out during emergencies in areas hit by natural disasters. Volunteers will be based at support facilities close to the areas affected. This new system is scheduled to take the place of the existing Osaka Prefecture Emergency Volunteer System. We ask that all those currently registered please register for this new system also.

Details and description of duties:

1. Volunteer application process and general maintenance is run by the Kinki block of CLAIR (Council of Local Authorities for International Relations), as part of the Network for Natural Disaster Foreigner Support
2. Volunteers will be based at volunteer centres and other such support facilities close to the areas affected.
3. When natural disasters occur outside of Osaka Prefecture, volunteers will receive a request for support from CLAIR, and will be expected to assist.
4. Insurance and travel expenses will be provided by the organizers (CLAIR, OFIX etc)
5. Volunteers must take part in annual training

Application requirements:

1. Applicants must currently reside in Osaka Prefecture, and be proficient in Japanese and a foreign language.

*Minors must gain approval from guardian before applying.

*Applicants may be unsuccessful should foreign language ability not be of an appropriate level.

2. Applicants must be willing and able to assist in disaster stricken areas.
3. Applicants must be willing to take part in annual training
4. All nationalities welcome to apply

How to apply

*Download the application form from the OFIX homepage (Japanese only)
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index6.html>

We continue to accept applications to become standard OFIX volunteers.
Further details (Japanese only):

http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index3_2.html

Disaster Prevention and Emergency Training Day for Foreign Students

Part of OFIX's ongoing activities is to promote international exchange between local residents and international students, with the OFIX run Sakai International Hall (Orion International House) being a focus for these activities. With this in mind OFIX is organising a Disaster Prevention and Emergency Drill Training Day for foreign students, who perhaps have no experience of earthquakes and typhoons, in order to better prepare them for when such a disaster occurs, and to illustrate the vital cooperation that takes place between rescue services and local residents.

Date/Time: Sunday 15th November 10:00 ~ 17:40

Place: Orion International House and Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Centre

Event Outline:

{AM}: Fire and disaster prevention, and emergency training, CPR and AED practice etc

{Lunch} Lunch will be a chance to try emergency food

{PM} Visit to the Abeno Life Safety Learning Centre, where the course will consist of many activities such as disaster and earthquake safety training, fire extinguisher practice etc

Fee: Free (free gift included)

Support : Sakai City Fire Dept, Osaka City Abeno Life Safety Learning Centre

Number of participants: 40 Foreign residents (foreign students etc),

10 Emergency volunteer interpreters

Application Method:

- * Download application form from the OFIX Homepage, and send back by FAX/email
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#bousai>

Seeking Performers for 19th Kansai Foreign Students Music Festival
in Osaka!

This event is held annually to promote exchange between foreign students and the people of Osaka. We are currently looking for foreign students willing to perform at the event!

Details are as follows:

Date: Sunday 13th December 2009

Time: 2pm ~

Venue: Sakai Citizens Hall

Performers needed:

Dance (traditional, jazz, modern etc)

Singing (solo, chorus etc),

Musical instrument: (traditional, piano, string, percussion etc)

Application period: until mid November (auditions on 15th Nov)

Enquiries: Min-On Concert Association TEL 06 6761 0289

Further Details on OFIX homepage

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

【02】 Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

FAQ ~ Reentry Permits ~

When foreign residents in Japan return to their home countries for short periods they must remember to have a "Reentry Permit" prior to departure. If they leave Japan without this, on returning to Japan they will need to go through the visa application process again, which takes a lot of time and energy. Even if the person holds permanent resident status he/she needs to have a reentry permit. Re-entry Permits are valid for a maximum of 3 years (4 years for special permanent residents), although the period will not exceed the length of stay in Japan. There are two types of permit, a single use and multiple use one. In principle applications can be made at the immigration office which holds jurisdiction over the area in which the applicant is registered as a resident.

However, this year a partial amendment to the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act was passed, which will mean a change to the system within the next 3 years. The changes will include the introduction of a permit-free re-entry system. Residents holding a valid passport and the new Residence Card, will not be required to have a re-entry permit if they are going to be outside of Japan for a period of less than a year (the period is 2 years for special permanent residents).

Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents
(Mon~Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays)
Tel (direct line) 06 6941 2297 (Hours 9:00~17:45)
Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish,
Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

【03】 OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

Aqua Metropolis Osaka 2009

Last month I was lucky enough to visit the Aqua Metropolis Osaka

Festival, being held in Osaka from August 22nd-October 12th in and around the Nakanoshima area of the city. The Nakanoshima area is actually an island right in the middle of Osaka, home to park areas as well as buildings such as Osaka City Hall and the Osaka International Convention Centre.

Since ancient times Osaka (then known as Naniwa), was a hub for trade, both foreign and domestic. From the 16th-18th centuries numerous canals were excavated in the city, with the Nakanoshima area being the main thoroughfare for trading boats. Unfortunately after the Second World War many of these canals were filled to make way for new roads, with less and less emphasis placed on utilizing the waterways, and celebrating this history. The month long "Osaka Aqua Metropolis 2009" is a new initiative supported by both the Osaka Prefectural and City Governments, the aim being to act as a catalyst in the revitalization of Osaka as an "Aqua Metropolis".

The month long series of events focuses on the Nakanoshima area, with art exhibitions, workshops, food stalls, seminars, evening illuminations etc. It is hoped that the events will bring visitors from far and wide and promote active public participation in the development of the area.

I visited along with two of our scholarship students just a few days after the event began. The first thing that impressed us was the sheer scale of the event. Lots of different exhibition and workshop huts were lined up all over what is normally a park area. We first visited the Kaeru Lab, one of many workshop areas focusing on recycling and reusing, at which participants create ornaments and lanterns out of plastic bottles, coat hangers, and old plastic bags. The huge dragon made out of plastic bottles was truly impressive!

We then took a walk through the beautiful rose garden, took in a rather wonderful sculpture made from junk collected from the banks of the Yodogawa River, and on towards Osaka City Hall where a huge robot was waiting for us! The robot was part of the series of artworks on display at various different riverside buildings during the festival. It felt like we had stumbled onto the set of a sci-fi movie!

It was a great afternoon out, and I for one came away with a greater appreciation of the history of Osaka, and the importance of maintaining and preserving the waterways for future generations. I highly recommend a visit to Osaka Aqua Metropolis 2009. I am sure you will see Osaka in a whole new light. And don't forget to check out the plastic dragon!

For further information see the official homepage:
<http://www.suito-osaka2009.jp/en/index.html>

For photos click here:

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no14.pdf

【04】 Osaka International Club News

International Exchange Event for Kids

Hyunju Won from Korea, a resident at the Orion International House run by OFIX, wrote to us about a recent international event she took part in.

Article and photo <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/club/won.pdf>

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Information for foreign residents in Osaka

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

Event Calendar (Japanese only)

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

Seeking residents for the Orion International Hall

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/shien/index.html>
Seeking New OFIX Supporting Members
http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/ofix/index3_1.html
The Japan Times now available to read at OFIX Plaza.

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Comments/Suggestions: info@ofix.or.jp
Please send Osaka International Club reports to the following
address:

clubnews@ofix.or.jp
To cancel your registration or change your registered email
address

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/index.html>
Print-out version (PDF) of OFIX News with photos
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