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(1) Notices**■ Seeking International Understanding Education Supporters!**

~ Interested in introducing your country at schools?~

With the aim of promoting international exchange and understanding OFIX runs a school visits programme, where foreign residents in Osaka visit schools in the prefecture to introduce their countries to the school kids in Japanese. Themes include culture (clothing, food, language etc), history, games, dance and music. We are currently seeking new volunteers to take part in these lessons, and will be holding training for all new participants.

Application Period: November 2nd-24th

Application Requirements:

Foreign residents (foreign student etc), living in or around Osaka Prefecture

Those interested in introducing their home country at schools

Those able to communicate proficiently in Japanese

Training Dates:

A Group Friday 4th December (13:30 ~ 16:30)

B Group Saturday 5th December (13:30 ~ 16:30)

Please choose preferred date.

Should there be a lot of applications training schedule will be revised. The limit is 30 people per training session.

Training Location: 8th Floor Meeting Room, My Dome Osaka

Training Outline:

- Hints and Tips for visits
- Advice on writing presentations
- Activity outline

Participation Cost: Free

Application Method: Fill in application form and send to OFIX

Deadline: Tuesday 24th November

See homepage for further details and application form (Japanese only)

http: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#supporter>

■ International Understanding Education School Visit Report

Richard Kelner, Coordinator for International Relations, OFIX

On the 14th September I visited Mitejima Elementary School as part of our International Understanding Education programme. I spoke to two groups of children and told them all about the UK and taught them some simple English phrases which they picked up straight away!

I ended the talk with a true/false quiz which the kids seemed to enjoy. They were surprised to learn that nobody plays baseball in the UK, and that "Bye Bye", used by everyone in Japan, actually comes from English! These visits are always great fun, and the kids never fail to ask loads of questions which shows there is a real interest in learning about foreign countries and cultures. Oh, and as always they all said I looked like Harry Potter! Well, he is from the UK too I suppose, but unfortunately I'm not as good a magician as him!

A few days after the visit I received some lovely feedback from the school, saying it was a great experience that the kids would not forget. I urge anyone interested in taking part in these school visits to apply to become one of our guest speakers. It is a really rewarding and enriching experience, not to mention a very fun way to spend a few hours!



■Disaster Prevention and Emergency Training Day for Foreign Students ~Applications Still Being Accepted!~

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
{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 or email**

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#bousai>

■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 30th 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 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>

■19th Kansai Foreign Students Music Festival in Osaka!

This event is held annually to promote exchange between foreign students and the people of Osaka. Details are as follows:

Date: Sunday 13th December 2009

Time: 2pm ~

Venue: Sakai Citizens Hall

Application Procedure:

Send a self-addressed postcard with your name, address, tel. number, required number of tickets to the following address: Min-On Concert Association, 4-1 Sanadayama-cho, Tennoji-ku, Osaka-shi, 543-0015

Exchange Party:

An exchange party will be held after the concert from 4:30pm. Participation is 2,000 Yen

Seeking performers:

We are also seeking performers for the music festival. All genres okay (traditional music, pop, jazz, classical etc.) Groups also accepted.

○ Application period: until late November

○ Enquiries: Min-On Concert Association TEL 06 6761 0289

Further Details on OFIX homepage

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



(2) Activity Report

■ Participation in Japanese Youth Visit to China

Hello, my name is Keisuke Ouchi, and I work for the Planning and Promotion Group at OFIX.



As part of its scheme to promote youth exchange in East Asia, the Chinese government invited

a group of youth representatives from Japan to take part in its Japanese Youth Visit programme. The group consisted of 500 people, including university students as well as graduates and I was lucky enough to be invited also.

I was part of a group consisting of people involved in international exchange work, and visited the cities of Beijing, Kunming, and Guangzhou alongside university students, young entrepreneurs, and volunteer workers. We met with Chinese contemporaries, and took part in a plethora of exchange activities and meetings.

Although the visit only lasted for 7 days it was very rewarding and I learnt many things. In particular, many of my perceptions of China prior to the visit were proved wrong, and this was fairly embarrassing. For example, I imagined that the majority of people still got around using bicycles. However, the roads were full of cars and electric bikes the like of which I have never seen in Japan. The

bikes looked like Japanese bikes, but with bicycle pedals attached. Many people had also added extra seats, and attachments to enable them to carry extra people and shopping. This kind of customization is something you never see in Japan.

Prior to the visit I also had the perception that some people in China may have anti-Japanese sentiment. However, mixing with our contemporaries in China I didn't get this impression at all. There were many people that had majored in Japanese at university, as well as people that were fans of Japanese anime, and incorporating elements of this into their businesses. The Chinese people we met were very interested in Japan, and actively asked us lots of questions.

Although I only saw a very small part of China, my impressions greatly changed as a result of this visit.

It goes without saying, but what we pick up from newspapers, TV, and the internet is very often to be taken with a pinch of salt. In order to understand a country it is important to actually visit to see it with your own eyes. To meet and talk with the local people is the key to developing mutual understanding and international exchange.



(3) Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Multiculturalism in Action

Hi everyone, Richard here again.

Last month we were lucky enough to have a few national holidays here in Japan, and I took the opportunity to visit Singapore for a week or so. It was a lovely relaxing break (despite the heat!), with highlights including stroking a pink dolphin, afternoon tea at Raffles Hotel, and an array of delicious curries in Little India.



The most eye-opening aspect of my visit was seeing a multicultural and multiethnic society working so well. The seemingly high level of integration by people of all ethnic backgrounds, whilst maintaining their respective

cultures and traditions was wonderful to see, and got me

thinking about the comparative situations in the UK and Japan.

With a long history of immigration, the UK is undoubtedly a multiethnic society. In my primary school class alone there were kids of Chinese, Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani, African, and Japanese descent. However, I have to say that the level of integration in society as a whole could be a lot better. The 7th July 2005 terrorist attacks in London really brought home the failings of the social cohesion and integration, being as they were committed by young men born and raised in the UK.

The word "multiculturalism" has been used in Japan for the past few years as something for to aim towards, but without the history of immigration I feel the use of this word is a little misleading. Immigration in Japan is likely to increase in the future, but for the present most foreign residents in Japan are of the short-term variety.



Therefore many local services for foreign residents focus on the offering of information in foreign languages. Of course this is vital to new residents, but does not

necessarily aid integration in the long term.

In the UK rather than providing foreign language information the focus is on having immigrants pick up English as soon as possible so that they may better

integrate into society. In fact very few local government homepages in the UK offer information in foreign languages.

It will be interesting to see how things develop in Japan. At the moment to some extent local government efforts centre mostly on surface level cultural exchange. However, should immigration increase in the future, the more complicated issue of effective and harmonious integration will become an important issue for local authorities to tackle. In this respect there will be things to learn from the UK, not to mention Singapore!

(4) Osaka International Club News

■Letter from Abroad Jessica Hogue (America)

Hello Everyone! My name is Jessica Hogue and I am from the United States; my hometown is San Diego, California. From August 2005 to August 2008, I worked in the International Affairs Office of the Osaka Prefectural Government as a participant in the JET Programme (Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme). During those three years, I worked as a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR); part of my job involved helping to plan Japanese culture events, participating in international exchange events and translating prefectural government documents into English. Overall, it was a very rewarding and memorable experience.

Once my work contract ended, I returned to America and immediately began hunting for a job. After much searching, I was hired by a Japanese corporation located in San Diego. I work in customer service and marketing; I enjoy my job a lot because it enables me to

use my Japanese language skills and it is challenging. In my free time, I like to take pictures around San Diego and look for delicious restaurants with friends (Unfortunately, I have yet to find an okonomiyaki restaurant!).

Even though a year has passed since I have returned to America, I still think of Osaka fondly, especially my co-workers at the Prefectural Government office, the Osaka dialect and the region's delicious cuisine. Osaka



has become like a second hometown to me, and I would love to visit it again in the near future.

Jessica at Lego Land, California

- Donations for Osaka exhibition at 2010 Shanghai Expo: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/news.html#syanghai>
- Information for foreign residents in Osaka <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/life/index.html>
- Seeking residents for the Orion International Hall <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/shien/index.html>
- Become a supporting member of OFIX http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/ofix/index3_1.html
- Japan Times (English language newspaper) now available to read at OFIX Plaza!

Comments and suggestions for OFIX News: info@ofix.or.jp

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

Register to OFIX News: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/index.html>

OFIX News Back Numbers:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber.html>

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