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(1) Notices**■ Careers Information Day for Foreign Students****~Participating Companies Confirmed~**

OFIX will hold this event on Monday 30th November in order to assist foreign students and foreign residents to find work. Participating companies have been confirmed, so please check our website for further details. We urge all those seeking work in Japan to come along.

(Participation is free, and no application is needed)

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

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

Number of companies: 30

Enquiries: OFIX TEL:06-6966-2400

*Further details and list of participating companies (Japanese only)

* <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

(2) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents**■ FAQ: Looking for Work**

As the economic downturn continues, it goes without saying that there has been a rise in the number of foreign residents having trouble finding work. Permanent and long term residents as well as those with spouse visas are entitled to work in any field, which means the usual first port of call when seeking work is to their local Hello Work Job Centre. (Interpreters are available at the Osaka Employment Service Center for Foreigners, and at Hello Work Sakai). After discussing their options, visitors can send resumes to companies, and take part in interviews. There are also those that gain job information from friends, and look in newspapers, magazines and the internet. Most positions require a basic knowledge of Japanese, but of course a grasp of business Japanese is best. Some people with the funds

and knowhow start their own businesses. Please be aware that those with visas for specialized work are only allowed to do the type of work their visa specifies.

◎ Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

Mon-Fri (closed 29th Dec ~ 3rd Jan and on national holidays)

Direct Tel: 06-6941-2297 (Hours 9:00 ~ 17:45)

Languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese



(3) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Cheers!!

Hi everyone, Richard here again.

We are coming up to the festive season, a time full of work parties, get-togethers, not to mention excessive alcohol consumption in both the UK and Japan. So I thought it would be fitting to write a bit about the different ways people let their hair down in each.

First of all let me say that as well as being an hard working nation, the Japanese also know how to enjoy themselves outside of the workplace. First port of call for an office drinks party is an izakaya, a drinking establishment pitched somewhere between a bar and a restaurant. A variety of dishes including yakitori, sushi, edamame are usually served, alongside drinks of all such as beer, cocktails, shochu, and sake.

One interesting custom at these is that you must never pour your own drink, but instead wait for a workmate to do it for you. Sometimes I forget this and go to fill up my own glass only to have half the table desperately try and grab the bottle off me! After this initial izakaya there will more often than not be a "nijikai" (second party), which can be held at any number of places. A different bar, a karaoke box, and maybe even a Snack Bar. But be warned, you won't get any snacks there! These are rather pricey small bars where



Japanese Izakaya

Japanese salarymen go to unwind.



Pub lunch

salarymen go to unwind.

A night out in the UK is fairly tame by comparison. Rather than eating, the focus is predominantly on

drinking as much beer as possible in the two or three pubs likely to be visited in one evening. And what if you don't like beer? Well, tough luck, because there is very little else available! Although there is no pouring etiquette in the UK, we do have the tradition of buying rounds. Each person takes it in turn to buy a round of drinks for every member of the group. Be sure to remember your turn though, or you'll get some very dirty looks!

Since most drinking is done on an empty stomach, an evening will more often than not end with a visit to a kebab or fish and chip shop (how healthy!). Pubs are great places to unwind, and the atmosphere has got even better since a smoking ban was put in place a few years back. It is now illegal to smoke in all public facilities in the UK including restaurants and pubs. Something I wish would be introduced in Japan, although I am not holding my breath!

Anyway, no matter where you are this time of year is one for celebration and fun, so I would like to wish all of our readers a wonderful holiday season!

(4) OFIX Programme Reports

■2009 Ando Program/ Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts

Every year OFIX welcomes a group of about 10 young architects from around Asia to Osaka to take part in this program. The program began thanks to generous funding offered by the world renowned architect from Osaka, Tadao Ando. The program also receives the support of a number of architectural firms who provide training for the participants during their time here. It is hoped that the knowledge of both architecture and Japanese culture that the students gain will help to promote exchange and development in their home countries.

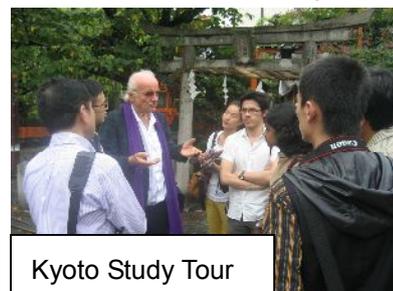
The program began in 1993, making this its 17th year. In total we have welcomed 159 people from 19 different countries and regions. This year the program was held from the 29th September to 28th October, with 10 participants from 8 different countries and regions. They took part in training at four companies, Takenaka Corporation, Obayashi Corporation, Zenitaka Corporation, and Daiwa House Industries, where they visited project sites, and learnt about the most up to date technologies. The students also took part in a discussion day with Professor Gunther Nitschke of the Institute for

East Asia Architecture. They also participated in the Asian Youth Symposium held jointly with students from the Kobe Design University and held at the Awaji Yumebutai complex.

On the 14th October the group paid a courtesy visit to the Governor of Osaka Prefecture, and to Tadao Ando at his office. The students were lucky enough to have a tour of the Chasaka Chayamchi project currently being undertaken by Mr. Ando. After this the students took part in a home-stay with Japanese families, and on a tour of architectural sites of interest in Osaka.

At the closing ceremony we were honored to welcome representatives of the Thai, Indonesian, and Nepalese Consulate Generals based in Osaka. All of the students left Japan with a love for Osaka having had a wonderful time on the program.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all that assisted us in the running of this program.



Kyoto Study Tour

Participants

Name	Hometown/Region
Kai-hsiang Liang	Taipei, Taiwan
Kwak Byung Jun	Busan, Korea
I Gusti Novi Yutami	Bali, Indonesia
Eka Swadiansa	East Java, Indonesia
Fathima Azrah Azhar Muhsin	Madampe, Sri Lanka
Sorawit Klaimark	Bangkok, Thailand
Pham Dinh Hiep	Hanoi, Vietnam
Yam Prasad Rai	Lalitpur, Nepal
Yang Zhuo Yi	Shanghai, China
Bing Chen	Suzhou Province, China



Visit to the Governor of Osaka Prefecture



Visit to Tadao Ando

★ Interview with Ms. Yang Zhuo Yi (China), 2009 Ando Programme participant

1. What got you interested in architecture?

At first I liked drawing buildings, still life and so on. I liked the beautiful appearance of buildings. Then I gained further interest from study of things such as light, space, and structure. I realized that architecture involves many things such as art, technology, the humanities, psychology, history and so on. Now as an architect I have the responsibility to do my best for the city and the environment.

2. Is this your first time in Osaka? What do you make of the city?

Yes, this is my first time. Osaka is an attractive city, with modern life coexisting with history.

3. How is Osaka different from your hometown of Shanghai?

Shanghai is bigger, with higher buildings than Osaka. It is also more crowded. Osaka has many cars and less bicycles. The sky is blue unlike Shanghai. Drink vending machines are all over the place. Rubbish is divided and sorted clearly. More people live in private homes than in Shanghai. Shops close earlier than Shanghai, and things cost more here!

4. What have you gained from taking part in this programme?

I have been able to learn about different cultures from different areas, as well as study advanced technology.

5. What are your impressions of Tadao Ando's work?

I have the impression that his early work was influenced by Luis Barragan. The organisation of space, light design, and use of flowing water and concrete left a lasting impression on me. In recent years he has used

different materials for some of his work, such as glass walls, open spaces etc. But the soul of his design has not changed.

6. Tell us a bit about the training you have been taking part in at Takenaka Corporation?

I have worked on two projects here. One was for the design of a shared space at a religious building in Tenri, and the other was for a local care facility. These were very interesting and very different to my projects in Shanghai. I was able to gain much knowledge about Japanese culture from my colleagues who took me to many different sites. For example, Yakushiji and Toshidaiji temples in Nara, Shu Gakuin Rinkyu in Kyoto, and the Church of Light designed by Ando.

7. How have you been spending your free time in Osaka? What sights/food have you enjoyed?

I enjoyed visiting many places such as Shinsaibashi, Namba Parks, Tennoji, Osaka Castle, Umeda Sky Building etc. Food I enjoyed include sushi, okonomiyaki, and tempura.

8. Tell us about your future plans on returning to Shanghai.

I will report on my trip to my colleagues, and prepare for future examinations to become a registered architect. I hope to use what I have learnt in Osaka to contribute towards my own and my colleagues development as designers.



Yang and Richard in Awaji

■Disaster Prevention and Emergency Training Day for Foreign Students

On Sunday 15th November OFIX held a Disaster Prevention and Emergency Training Day for Foreign Students at the Orion International House, the international student residence that OFIX manages. The aim was to educate foreign residents about the dangers of earthquakes, and the necessary safety measures that need to be taken both prior to and during a natural disaster such as this.

Over 30 people took part in the event, including foreign students from a number of countries such as China, Germany, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Nepal, as well as some of our emergency volunteer interpreters. Members of the local Sakai Kita Fire Department came along in the morning to lead the training.

The morning programme consisted of a talk on earthquake safety, which included advice on making an emergency check list and map (with details such as evacuation areas, local hospitals, supermarkets etc). After this there were 3 activity corners: 1. AED/CPR Practice 2. First Aid Practice 3. Emergency Call Practice. The participants paid close attention to all that was said taking notes as they went along. Lunch was a chance to try emergency food, which went down surprisingly well.

In the afternoon the group hopped on a bus and headed to the Abeno Life Safety Learning Center, where they learned more about safety during emergency situations, and how to best assist those around you at such times. They also took part in an earthquake

reenactment, and activities such as using a fire extinguishers and escaping through a smoke-filled room. Everyone agreed that the day was a success, with much valuable information gained.

In tandem with this event, OFIX took the opportunity to set-up an AED at the Orion International House, to be used by local residents as well as the foreign students living there.



Emergency training



CPR practice



Eating emergency food!



Disaster Area Mock-up



Fire extinguisher practice



AED at Orion !

- 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!

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Distributed by Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX)

5th Floor, MyDome Osaka, 2-5 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi, 540-0029

TEL:06-6966-2400 FAX:06-6966-2401

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