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(1) Notices**■ Seeking Participants for Medical Interpreting Skills Improvement Training!**

Following on from the initial training that took place last year, we will be holding this skill improvement session in March. The training will include workshops led by doctors, and volunteer coordinators, as well as discussion sessions.

Date/Time: Sunday 7th March 10:00-16:00

Place: Pia NPO (200m walk from Exit 4 of Osakako Station on the Subway Chuo Line)

Eligible to Attend:

- Those that took part in the 2008 training
- Those who have completed any other medical interpreting volunteer course.
- Those already involved in medical interpreting

One World Festival!

The One World Festival will be held at the Osaka International House on the 6th and 7th February. Organizations engaged in international cooperation mainly in the Kansai region, such as NGO/NPOs, international organizations, government organizations and companies, gather together to promote better understanding among citizens of Osaka of the importance of international cooperation through introduction of their activities, exhibitions, symposiums and panel discussions. OFIX will run a booth, as well as an **Asian International Students Forum**. Please come along!

activities.

Places: 80

Contents:

-Seminars: Current Trends in Medical Interpreting, Medical Systems, etc

-Workshops

Applications: Download the application form from the OFIX homepage, and send it back by email or FAX.

Application Period 1st-17th Feb

See the OFIX homepage for further details (Japanese only)

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

Date/Time Saturday 6th February 2010 10:00 ~ 17:00

Sunday 7th February 2010 10:00 ~ 16:00

Place: Osaka International House

Entrance Fee: Free

Enquiries: One World Festival Secretariat

For further details see the following website:

<http://www.interpeople.or.jp/owf/index.php>

Asian International Students Forum

Date/Time: Sat 6th February 15:00 ~ 17:00

Place: Osaka International House 3rd Floor, Meeting Room 4

Contents:

This year will see the World Exposition being held in

Shanghai under the title "Better City Better Life". This forum aims to bring together international students from around Asia to compare and contrast their home towns with Osaka, and ways to create a "Better City Better Life". There will also be an introduction to the Osaka

■ Seeking Donations: Goods From Your Country!

The Osaka Foundation of International Exchange (OFIX) is currently collecting educational goods from countries over the world, as part of our "International Understanding Education Program". We hope to use these goods to introduce countries at schools around Osaka, and give the children a chance to learn about cultures and lifestyles from around the world. If there is anything you are able to donate please get in touch!

Seeking Residents at the Sakai International Hall

The Sakai International Hall is a safe and comfortable residence for international students. We are currently seeking new residents to move in from April 2010. Each room is fitted with bath, toilet, air-conditioner, fridge, desk, bed etc. There is a friendly caretaker, and support officer on site. There are also many fun events throughout the year. Applications should be made through the relevant international office at the applicants university.

Pavilion which will be open at the Shanghai Expo.

Participating Countries/Regions China, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, Korea, Japan

~ We look forward to seeing you there ! ~

- Textbooks, newspapers, magazines etc.
- Traditional items, clothes etc
- Toys, games, everyday items
- Stamps, coins, notes etc

[Enquiries] Planning and Promotion Group

06-6966-2400 E-mail: info@ofix.or.jp

Monthly Rent: : 26,000 Yen (includes communal fees, no deposit required)

Further details

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



(2) Osaka International Club News

Warming Winter Recipe

Nothing beats some warming food in winter. But if you don't watch out it can be easy to put on weight at this time of year. This month Feng Lin, one of our OFIX Scholarship Students, has written to us with a recipe for a delicious Chinese soup dish. Low on calories, and easy to make, please have a go!

Ingredients (for 4 people)

Taro Potatoes	4	Tofu	1 block
Chicken meat	2 pieces	Peas	1 spoon
Shiitake mushrooms	2	Leek	1
Ginger	1 pinch	Chicken soup stock	6 cups
Sesame oil	2 large spoons	Pinch of salt, pepper	

How to cook

- (1) Peel potatoes, cut into small pieces and boil.
- (2) Cut tofu into squares
- (3) Cut chicken and mushrooms into small pieces.
- (4) Finely chop leek and ginger.
- (5) Heat oil in pan and fry leek and ginger.
- (6) Add chicken soup and bring to boil with potatoes
- (7) Add peas, salt, pepper, tofu, chicken and mushrooms.



(3) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Crazy Katakana

Hi everyone, Richard here yet again!

When I first started learning Japanese many moons ago, one of the things I found most difficult was learning Katakana, the phonetic alphabet used mainly for loan words. Many of the characters look similar so it was a real pain trying to remember them! Once I got the hang of it however, I came to really enjoy learning the many amusing katakana words in existence. Many come from English originally, but have ended up having totally different meanings. For example, for some reason the word "smart" in Japanese means "thin". Whenever people tell me I look smart I still find it hard not to reply with "Nope, I am neither clever nor stylish!" Another amusing word used often is "Viking", which in Japanese means "buffet" or "all you can eat". When I first saw this written I wondered what a buffet had to do with age-old Scandinavian marauders! After a while I came to the conclusion that it must come from the Swedish word for "buffet", which is "smorgasbord".

Another phrase often used of late is "Tension ga takai", literally meaning "high tension". However, the actual meaning in Japanese is "full of energy" or "excited". If I get told I am "high tension" in Japanese I still find it hard not to say "nope, I'm not especially nervous or stressed thank you very much!". Use of the word "service" is also strikingly different in Japan. Here it is used to mean a "free" or "complimentary" service in a shop. "Time Service" is a phrase often used here to mean a special deal only on offer at a particular time. Some Japanese

shopkeepers wanting to practice their English will come up to me and just say "It's time service", which still leaves me perplexed to begin with! My final example of "crazy katakana" is the use of "my" tagged on to nouns to indicate the possession of something. Examples being "mydarts", "mycar", "myhouse". These become nouns in themselves, for example, "Wow, is that mycar?", which would mean "Is that your own car?". I still like to answer questions like this with "Hey, that's my car, not yours, you cheeky so and so!"

Of course there are many loan words in English too. For example, "kindergarten" from German, and "restaurant" from French. There are also some Japanese words also used in everyday conversation. The difference with loan words in katakana, is that the majority are used in English with the same meaning as they are in Japanese. For example, "typhoon", "rickshaw", "karaoke", "tsunami", and "karate". One rather funny example is "satsuma", the word used in the UK for "mikan", small oranges. Despite the Satsuma region not being particularly well known for these fruit! Perhaps this was the region that the fruit was first exported to the West from.

Well, I for one am looking forward to seeing what new words pop up in Japanese. If anyone has any fun examples please get in touch!

(4) OFIX Programme Reports

OFIX Support for International Understanding Education Programme

OFIX runs this programme whereby foreign residents in Osaka visit schools to introduce the children to their home countries. This includes introductions to culture, history, dance, music etc, all aimed to promote international exchange and understanding.

A total of 38 foreign residents from 12 different countries and regions are registered with OFIX as International Understanding Education Supporters. They have all taken part in training, and are able to introduce their home countries using Japanese. There are some differences in language ability, but all are very

enthusiastic about taking part in the programme and promoting international understanding. You can view profiles for all the supporters on our homepage.

Further details:

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyou/index2.html>

Supporter profiles (Japanese only)

http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyou/index2_2.html

[Enquiries] Planning and Promotion Group

06-6966-2400 E-mail: info@ofix.or.jp

~ School Visit Report ~

Richard here, Coordinator for International Relations at OFIX. I currently take part in school visits where I introduce the UK to the kids. On the 18th January I visit the Shijo Middle School along with 6 of our Supporters (from China, Mongolia, Germany, Canada, and Taiwan).

It was the first visit for many of our supporters, so they were a tad nervous, but the visit was a great

OFIX Support for International Understanding Education Forum

On the 23rd January OFIX held this forum to promote our International Understanding Education Programme. Around 30 people took part, including school teachers, international exchange association staff, as well as some of our supporters.

After running through the programme outline, one of our supporters from Mongolia got up on stage to give an example presentation.

There was then an introduction to the distance learning system, with a connection made in real time to Sweden, as well as a brief chat in English between forum participants and a teacher from the UK. Staff from JICA and UNICEF then introduced the types of educational

success. Each supporter entered a different class where they introduced their home countries and also learnt about Japanese culture from the kids. In my class I played a fun "Fruit Basket" game! Other classes played card games and learnt origami. It was a great opportunity for the kids to get to know foreign residents, and learn about life abroad.

programmes they run, and participants took notes eagerly during the JICA example presentation.

Finally there was a discussion session at which participants exchanged ideas on how to run successful programmes at schools. School teachers said it was important to run lessons which involved not just listening, but all senses. Our supporters said that it was vital to have a good relationship with the teacher when running a lesson. In the questionnaire handed out at the end many people expressed interest in the programme.



Introduction to Mongolia



Discussion Session

- 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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