

「OFIX News」 Issue 18 (January 2010)  
~E-Newsletter distributed by the Osaka Foundation of International  
Exchange~

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### 【01】 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 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#iryuu>

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!

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 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! ~

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 Programme". 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!

- 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](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)

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.

Monthly Rent: : 26,000 Yen (includes communal fees, no deposit required)  
Further details <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/shien/index.html>

## 【02】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!

Further details and photo:

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no18.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no18.pdf)

### 【03】 OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

#### Careers Information Day for Foreign Students/Residents

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 am 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!

### 【04】 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/jigyuu/index2.html>

Supporter profiles (Japanese only)  
[http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyuu/index2\\_2.html](http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyuu/index2_2.html)

**【Enquiries】** Planning and Promotion Group  
06-6966-2400 E-mail: [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)

~ School Visit Report ~  
Click here for a report on a recent school visit

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no18.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no18.pdf)

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.

Click here for photos and further details:

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no18.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no18.pdf)

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](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/ofix/index3_1.html)

The Japan Times now available to read at OFIX Plaza.

Comments/Suggestions: [info@ofix.or.jp](mailto:info@ofix.or.jp)

Please send Osaka International Club reports to the following address:

[clubnews@ofix.or.jp](mailto: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

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no18.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no18.pdf)

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