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【01】 OFIX Programme Report

Korea-Japan High School Students Exchange Programme

From the 31st May~3rd June we welcomed 10 high school students from Busan in Korea to take part in this exchange programme. The programme was organized to commemorate the start of flights from Busan (Korea) to Kansai International Airport (Osaka) this programme was held in conjunction with Air Busan, Kansai International Airport, Osaka Convention & Tourist Bureau. Accompanying the students were two of their teachers, as well as two journalists from newspapers in Busan. The party numbered 15 in total.

Activities during the first full day of the programme included an origami lesson led by OFIX volunteers, and a welcome reception attended by the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Osaka, the Director of International Exchange for Osaka Prefecture, and the host families. After the reception the students went off to their respective host families homes, where they stayed overnight and experienced Japanese culture and home life. During the afternoon of the third day the students visited Osaka City Higashi High School, where they took part in English lessons with the Japanese students, and had fun at the school tea ceremony club.

During the last day of the programme the students visited Osaka Castle where they went right to the top, and had a great time trying on traditional hats and costumes. After this the group had lunch at the top of the WTC Cosmo Tower, the tallest building in western Japan, and visited the Osaka Aquarium. It was then time to head back to Korea, but everyone seemed to have had a lovely time in Osaka, expressing wishes to come back to Osaka either to study or for a holiday in the future. Through this programme we hope that we were able to contribute to mutual understanding and exchange between young Korean and Japanese students, and hope to hold similar events to this in the future.

For photos click here

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no23.pdf

【02】 Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

Information and Advice Day for Foreign Residents

Free information and counseling services will be offered to foreign residents at International House, Osaka to help with difficulties experienced in everyday life, and offer advice on how to live comfortably in Osaka. Specialist advice will be available regarding many common difficulties experienced by foreign residents such as legal advice, visa issues, work, insurance, and child-rearing. Volunteers will provide interpretation in 10 languages, and all advice is offered free of charge.

Date/Time: Sun 11th July 2010, 11:00 ~ 17:00

Venue: 2nd Floor Meeting Room, International House, Osaka

Admission Free

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

Further Details: OFIX TEL: 06-6966-2400

Homepage:

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

International Education Seminar!

On the 30th-31st July this seminar will be held by JICA in collaboration with OFIX to promote the development of international understanding education in Osaka Prefecture. The seminar will comprise of workshops and case studies focusing on numerous different areas of international education.

OFIX will hold a seminar on the 31st July in conjunction with the Kawachinagano City Education Media Centre, in which we will promote our International Understanding Education Foreign Supporters programme, and also introduce a distance learning lesson using the internet.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Date/Time: Friday 30th July (13:00 ~ 17:00)

Saturday 31st July (10:00 ~ 16:30)

Venue: JICA Osaka

(Map (Japanese only): <http://www.jica.go.jp/osaka/office/index.html#map>)

Eligible to attend: Teachers, General Public

Participation Fee: None

Applying to attend: Download the form from the link below and fax/email it to JICA

<http://www.ofix.or.jp/jigyuu/seminar.pdf> (Japanese only)

Application deadline: Friday 16th July

Enquiries: JICA Osaka Tel: 072-641-6904 Fax: 072-641-6910

Email: osictpp@jica.go.jp

【03】 Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

Essentials for Living in Osaka Updated

The Essentials for Living in Osaka guide is available online in 10 different languages such as Thai, Vietnamese, Filipino, Indonesian, and Japanese (with kana written alongside the Chinese characters). It offers information such as emergency procedures when typhoons or earthquakes hit, information about libraries with foreign language books, procedures after childbirth and so on, all with the aim of making life for foreign residents in Osaka as trouble free as possible. The guide has recently been updated, and is available on the OFIX website for viewing. It can also be easily downloaded and printed. A new FAQ section can also be found on the same site, in

English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. Included in this FAQ is information about important issues for foreign residents such as residential status, marriage, nationality, and labour issues. Please click on the link below to access the information.

http://www.ofix.or.jp/life/index_e.html

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

【04】 OFIX Network

The British Council

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations and is active in over 100 countries around the world. It was established in 1934, and celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2009. Since opening its first office in Japan in 1953, the British Council has acted as a bridge between Japan and the UK in a great variety of areas such as English language, environment, science, education, and the arts.

Last year saw a vast array of activities in the Kansai area. As part of our arts programme we welcomed a British art charity which uses music as a tool to help people who have experienced homelessness move forward. Workshops and seminars were held in Kamagasaki, Osaka in collaboration with a Japanese NPO. Also in Osaka, science lectures featuring lively experiments and demonstrations were delivered by a top class speaker from the UK for primary and middle school students. Furthermore, over 50 schools from the Kansai area took part in our schools exchange programme, and a group of British school teachers visited schools in Kyoto to further develop exchange between the two countries.

This year we are continuing to hold various events in and around Osaka, such as get-togethers for our UK Alumni Network. This May, the Director of the British Council, Japan, gave a series of lectures at schools and universities in Kobe, and in October we are planning on holding a Study Abroad Fair in Osaka. Of course, our staff are always on hand to answer enquiries about study in the UK, visas, and life in the UK in general. We also run an English training course in which we dispatch teachers to companies, organisations, and schools, offering customized English programmes to suit all needs.

Up to date information can be found on our website and Twitter.

- [Address] 1-2, Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0825 Japan
- [Tel] 03-3235-8031 Tues-Sat, 9:30-17:30
- [Website] <http://www.britishcouncil.or.jp>
- [Email] enquiries@britishcouncil.or.jp

For photos click here

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no23.pdf

【05】 JICA Desk News

Introduction to Osaka Coordinator for International Cooperation

Hello everyone, my name is Tomoko Nakagawa and since May of this year I have been based at OFIX working as a JICA Osaka Coordinator for International Cooperation. From June 2008 to March 2010 I was a JICA Youth Overseas Cooperation Volunteer. I was based in Gabon, and worked in the field of AIDs treatment awareness. I worked alongside local AIDs awareness staff at an AIDs treatment centre.

I assisted in AIDs testing and prevention awareness activities, and cared for patients with the HIV virus.

I originally hail from a small country town in Okayama Prefecture, but worked in Osaka for 4 years prior to heading to Gabon, and love this city very much. I am so happy to have been placed in Osaka, and at OFIX. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any enquiries about international cooperation or JICA. I look forward to hearing from you!

Enquiries:

JICA Coordinator for International Cooperation (JICA Desk South Osaka)
5F My Dome Osaka, 2-5 Honmachi-bashi, Chuuou-ku, Osaka-shi, 540-0029
Tel : 06-6966-2400 Fax : 06-6966-2401
e-mail: jicadpd-desk-osakafu@jica.go.jp

For photo click here

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no23.pdf

【06】 OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

Boom Culture

Hi everyone, Richard here again. One thing that I always find fascinating in Japan is the wonderful mix of the old and the new in every day life. Traditions are upheld, yet the country is one of modernity and technological advancement. Japan is full of the most wonderful traditions, and I doubt there is another country in the world with as many festivals! However, I get the impression that for the younger generation in particular, love of the new is the main priority.

It is the “boom culture” prevalent in Japan that particularly interests me. There always seems to be some new product that everyone suddenly wants. When I first came to Japan there was a huge ramen boom. I m not exactly sure why, since ramen isn t a new product! I presume the media has its part to play here, with celebrities soon latching on to things and promoting them on television.

Related to television again was the Korean boom, which seems to have died down a bit in recent years. This started thanks to a Korean drama called “Winter Sonata” and it s main star Yon-sama (I m still not sure what he did to warrant a “sama”, the super polite word for “san”!). Anything and everything Korean became popular overnight, from its food and pop stars, to weekend breaks to Seoul.

Other recent booms have included such random things as high-balls (whisky and soda), and any food containing collagen (for its apparent health benefits), not forgetting a new doughnut shop that recently opened in Osaka to queues of over 3 hours! Surely a doughnut can t be worth that amount of wasted time! The British have a reputation for loving a good queue, but I m not sure even we d wait that long for a fried snack!

New buildings and shops also pop up on what seems like a daily basis. In the UK rather than knock a building down entirely, many buildings are renovated on the inside leaving the outside intact. This goes for homes as well, with the value of a home going up rather than down over time if it is kept in good shape. It surprised me when I first heard that the value of Japanese houses decreases over time, and most people build their own homes from scratch rather than buy a previously owned house. Of course, the traditional building materials used in Japan differ to that of the West, which could be a reason behind the different way of thinking.

There is a love of the transient in Japanese culture, which I for one believe may have something to do with all this constant changing. Take the cherry blossom season for example. These

beautiful trees blossom for two weeks a year and are then gone. For those two weeks the excitement is huge, with everyone enjoying picnics under the trees. However, this excitement is also tinged with a slight sadness, knowing that the blossom won't be around for very long. Of course this is a long way from pining for a new doughnut, or a bowl of ramen, but just as the cherry blossom is forgotten as soon as it hits the ground, so the aforementioned snacks are forgotten as soon as they hit the stomach.

Osaka Prefectural Government E-Newsletter

『G E O (Global E-net Osaka) 』

Full of information about events in Osaka, and fun facts about the area.

<http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kokusai/geo/index.html>

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.

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

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no23.pdf

Back Numbers

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