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- "Wow Richard, you like cooking?"

(1) Notices**■ Becoming a JICA Volunteer**

The JICA Volunteer programme is run by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Volunteers spend one or two years in a developing country utilizing their expertise and knowledge in various fields to benefit mutual understanding and promote development.

Application Details

· Overseas Cooperation Youth Volunteers, Communities of Japanese Descent Youth Volunteers
Applicants must be aged between 20-39 and hold Japanese citizenship. Further details:

<http://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/application/seinen/>

· Overseas Cooperation Senior Volunteers, Communities of Japanese Descent Senior Volunteers
Applicants must be aged between 40-69 and hold Japanese citizenship. Further details

<http://www.jica.go.jp/volunteer/application/senior/>

Application Period

October 1st-November 8th 2010

Introductory seminars will be taking place in Osaka. Click here for further details (Japanese only)

http://www.jica.go.jp/osaka/enterprise/volunteer/h22autumn_setsumei.html

Enquiries: JICA Osaka

TEL 072-641-6904

JICA Coordinator for International Cooperation (based at OFIX) TEL 06-6966-2400

JICA Homepage: <http://www.jica.go.jp/>

■ JICA Festival 2010

This annual festival will be held this year on Saturday 23rd October. Every year visitors have a great time leaving with comments such as "The world cuisine was great!", "I got to speak with some foreigners!", and "It was so much fun trying on different traditional clothing from around the world". The day will be full of fun things such as hot and spicy ethnic cooking, a chance to meet with trainees from abroad, accessory making programme, a traditional clothing fashion show, and music performances!

There will also be an Africa and Latin America photo exhibition, and talks by former volunteers active in these areas. Have fun, eat, laugh, dance, learn about the world! Come along and bring your family too!

Date/Time Saturday 23rd October 12pm-4pm (café open from 11:30am-3pm)

Venue JICA Osaka Centre

< Access by train >

A JICA shuttle bus is in operation from JR Ibaraki Station and Toyokawa Station (Monorail). Extra buses will be running on the day. (※The bus does not stop at Handai Byoin mae. Those coming by monorail please alight at Toyokawa for the bus.)

< Access by car >

Spaces are limited in the JICA car park, with even fewer spaces available than last year. There are car parks around Toyokawa Station, but not that many. We ask that you try and come by public transport.

Enquiries: JICA Osaka

TEL: 072-641-6904

JICA Osaka Homepage:

<http://www.jica.go.jp/osaka/index.html>

■ Survey into Information Dissemination to Foreign Residents in Osaka

This survey is to be undertaken by OFIX in conjunction with the Minoh Association for Global Awareness, and the Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Centre.

The survey will focus on assessing how information is disseminated amongst foreign communities in Osaka, as well as aim to seek out the key people and

organisations acting as focal points in this. Through this it is hoped that effective methods of communication can be developed.

We look forward to your kind support (interpreting/translation etc) to enable to us to effectively carry out this survey.

(2) OFIX Sakai International Student Hall News

■ Introduction to Sakai International Student Hall

Four students from China resident at the Sakai International Student Hall (also known as Orion International House) recently told us about life in the house.

Q: Is Orion an easy place to live?



The students sitting in the Orion kitchen

Yes, very easy indeed. We'd love to be able to live here forever! When cooking in the communal kitchen a resident from Germany came in and started cooking a potato and meat dish, and next to him was a French resident

enjoying some cheese and wine. There are people from all over the world living in Orion which makes it so much fun.

Q: Do residents get on well?

Yes, first of all people from the same country and those that are going to the same university get on. There are big parties in spring and winter giving

those from different countries and at different schools a chance to get to know everyone. It's a great chance to make friends! Most of the time residents speak in Japanese, but sometimes in English too. We also exchange information about places to see in Osaka, and looking for work. We look forward to welcoming new residents to the house!



Seeking Residents!

Applications should be made via the individual international student offices at each university.

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

(3) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ High School Fees

To create a society in which all high school children can focus on their studies irrespective of household income, from this April tuition fees at all state high schools across Japan have been scrapped. Furthermore, a High School Enrolment Support Fund has been established to assist students at private high schools. Under this system a sum of 9900 Yen will be paid each month directly to schools irrespective of the students age or family income. (Additional subsidy may be approved depending on income of guardians). A certain number of schools for foreign children (such as international schools) classified as "miscellaneous schools" are also eligible for this support.

The Osaka Prefectural Government has set up the "Tuition Support Subsidy System" to ensure virtually free tuition for students at designated private high schools in Osaka, if the students are from families with an annual household income of less than 3.5 million yen.

◎ Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

(Mon ~ Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays)

Tel (direct line) 06-6941-2297 (Hours 9:00 ~ 17:30)

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

(4) Event Report

■ Kansai International Exchange Volunteer Network (KIVNET) 15th AGM

OFIX is acting as secretariat for KIVNET for this fiscal year, and as such organised this years AGM which was held on the 24th August at the Nara



International Foundation. A total of 26 people took part in the meeting representing 16 organisations. The meeting consisted of a report on last years activities, and the approval of the plan for this years activities.

This was followed by four organisations introducing their work. After this there was brief introduction to a new JICA Project, and a free discussion at which the representative from Age

Concern Japan gave a short talk in English. Hopes were also expressed that OFIX would take on more of a leadership role for international exchange related groups in Osaka. After the meeting some participants took part in a optional tour of the 1300th Anniversary of Nara Heijo-kyo Capital site.

What is KIVNET?

KIV-NET was established in March 1996 following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference held in Osaka in 1995. The aim of KIV-NET is to facilitate exchange of information between international exchange organisations in Kansai, and to promote volunteer activities in the region. The group continues to provide volunteer support to large international events, and at the current time membership totals 78 groups.

(5) OFIX Network

■ Introduction to the Consulate General of the Netherlands

The Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Osaka-Kobe, as its officially called, has a long history within the Kansai area. It was in fact established in the first year of Meiji in Kobe where it would be located until the Hanshin earthquake of 1995. Since then it has been based in the MID Twin Towers in the Osaka Business Park.

With the Embassy located in Tokyo, the Consulate General is responsible for maintaining and strengthening Dutch relations with the western part of Japan, in particular with the Kansai area. Dutch-Japanese relations go back more than 400 years and throughout our shared history mutual economic interests have been at the heart of our relations. However, in the wake of these economic connections a broad spectrum of other ties has always followed. As a consequence the relations the Netherlands enjoys with west Japan now cover every field thinkable and continue to develop.

Last year the depth and scope of our relations were underscored by a broad array of economic and cultural activities that took place to commemorate 400 years of official trade relations between our two countries. Highlight of the celebration was of course the visit of the Prime Minister who decided to let his program start in the Kansai region.

The Consulate General constantly seeks to expand its network and activities in both economic and cultural fields. The economic

cluster actively assists Dutch companies looking for opportunities in the Japanese market and at the same time offers guidance to Japanese companies that are interested in expanding their activities to the Netherlands. Currently the Netherlands is host to approximately 400 Japanese companies of which half are in fact established as European headquarters.

The cultural department for its part strives to facilitate cooperation between Dutch and Japanese organizations that are active in the cultural field, and to promote Dutch cultural activities within (west) Japan. Every year a great many cultural activities, ranging from art exhibitions to music performances to school exchanges, take place throughout west Japan.

During the so-called sakoku-jidai the Netherlands functioned as Japan's window to the West. These days have past but the Netherlands, as gateway to Europe, still plays an important role for many Japanese companies and cultural organizations in facilitating contact that goes beyond just one country.

The Consulate General is here to help establish such contacts and we are looking forward to help you find the right partnership in the Netherlands

■ Contact Details:

Address: Twin 21 MID Tower 33 Fl., 2-1-61 Shiromi, Chuo-ku, Osaka, Japan 540-6133

Tel. +81-6-6944-7272

Fax. +81-6-6944-7275

www.oranda-cg.or.jp

■ Request for Donations for Flood Victims in Pakistan from the Consulate General of Pakistan

Impact of Floods as of 11 August 2010

- More than 13.5 million people affected
- More than 4 million people displaced from homes
- More than 1,600 people dead
- 288,170 houses destroyed
- 1.5 million hectares of farmland destroyed
- Billions of dollars lost due to damaged houses, bridges, roads, hospitals, schools, irrigation systems, power transmission and communication lines
- Total affected area 150,000 sq km
- More details on <http://ndma.gov.pk>

How to help the Flood Affectees in Pakistan

Cash Contribution through Post Office

1. Minami-Azabu-Go Branch Tokyo
"Prime Minister of Pakistan Flood Relief Fund 2010": Account No. 00120-3-274876

For Bank /Online Donation

Account details and transactions procedure are as follows:

1. Kindly send your donations by bank transfer to TOZA Account no.0000930
Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi-UFJ Shimbashi Branch Tokyo

Account name: National Bank of Pakistan Tokyo

2. For Receipt,

Kindly send banks transfer receipt to National Bank of Pakistan Tokyo, FAX No. 03-35020359 with your name, telephone number and address. Kindly clearly write "DONATION" on your transaction order.

The bank will send receipt to your address next day.

Donation of Items: Please contact the Embassy directly for details of required items and procedures.

Contact Persons at the Pakistan Embassy for coordination (both in cash and items)

Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad, Minister/Head of Chancery
Mob: 080-3519-5307

Tel: 03-5421-3601 Fax: 03-5421-3610

Ms. Hiroko Toyoda

Social Secretary to Ambassador

Tel: 03-5789-0258

We are waiting for your kind help and support.

