

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.

【02】 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?

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.

Further Details:

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

Click here for photos:

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no26.pdf

【03】 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

【04】 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

Click here for the article:

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no26.pdf

【05】 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

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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 in Osaka

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 a 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.

【06】 OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ "Wow Richard, you like cooking?"

Hi everyone, Richard here again!

This month I want to tackle the fascinating subject of differing gender roles and characteristics in Japan. In the UK long standing ideas of sexual equality both at home and in the work place have led to a slight grey area where gender roles are concerned, however in Japan these roles are comparatively clear cut. Indeed, things that would be considered politically incorrect in the UK are relatively common in Japan.

Whereas in the UK being "girly" is not a top priority for many women, in Japan this is still the norm. The key word here is "kawaii", literally meaning cute. Many women in Japan will stop at nothing in the pursuit of cuteness. Out shopping in Japan I guarantee the word you will hear most is "kawaii", mostly shouted in unison by girls out shopping for clothes together. If something is deemed "kawaii", it will sell.

Eating out in Japan you will also notice something strange. I like eating out, and if I find a new nice looking place I'll give it a go. If it happens to be a slightly trendy café or restaurant more often than not I'll be the only male in the entire place! I know there are all female carriages in Japan, but all female restaurants? Surely not! Where are all the men I hear you ask? Well, they are most likely eating udon or curry at a more traditional restaurant next door.

In Japan there are still very much set ideas of where men go to relax, and where women go. Men will go to the more traditional bars and coffee shops, whereas women are more likely to try somewhere new, and where food is concerned be slightly more adventurous and try different foreign foods. The only time men will venture into the more trendy places will be on dates! Restaurants will also often have "Ladies Sets", which consist of a slightly smaller portion, and a dessert (not given to the men). In the UK I have a feeling there would be too many complaints of sexism from both men AND women to offer such a set!

It always seems to me that men in Japan have somewhat of an easy life actually. I know that they work terribly long hours, but on the flipside they are not expected to do too much around the house. Most men my age in the UK are more than happy cooking at home, and those with kids will more likely than not play a large

part in bringing them up. The gasps of amazement I get when I tell female Japanese friends that I love cooking always surprise me. Is cooking pasta really that difficult? And I can't help thinking that this reaction is part of the problem. If men are not expected to cook and encouraged to do so, they won't!

However, there are interesting differences in what is deemed to be "masculine" in the UK and Japan. Men in Japan can get away with doing things that in the UK would be deemed rather effeminate. Cooking and looking after the kids is the sign of a new "modern" man in the UK, but for the most part guys have to conform to stereotypes of masculinity such as drinking beer, watching football, and being interested in fast cars. If I was to go to a pub and order a fuzzy navel cocktail I'd probably be laughed out and told not to come back! Yet in Japan, a guy is pretty much free to act however he pleases with no fear of his so-called masculinity being called into question.

I think it would be silly to underestimate the effect of the media and marketing in enforcing gender roles in both Japan and the UK. But even so, without the initial cultural trends the marketing men wouldn't have anything to base their ideas on. When it comes to Japan, whilst things like the pursuit of all things "kawaii" are fairly innocent, there is scope to bring male and female roles at the work place and at home more into synch. Seeing as my secret plan is to become a house husband perhaps I can act as a pioneer in this area!

★Osaka Prefectural Government E-Newsletter★

『GEO (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_no26.pdf

≫≫ Back Numbers

⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber.html>

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