



General of the Peoples Republic of China, and the Honorary Consulate of Mongolia. We were also delighted to welcome over 50 people from 18 countries, participants in the Asian International Network Seminar, including one former participant from the 2003 Ando Program to the reception.

All of the trainees headed home with fond memories of their time in Osaka, and a deep affection for the place and its people. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all that assisted us during the running of the program.

★Interview with Ms. Cynthia Chun-Yu Hsieh (Taiwan)  
For the interview and photo please click here:

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no27.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no27.pdf)

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## 【02】 Notices

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### ■Tea Ceremony Event for International Students

Do you fancy wearing a kimono and experiencing a traditional Japanese tea ceremony?

Date: Sunday 21st November

Time: First Group 10:30am-12:30pm  
Second Group 1pm-3pm

Place: Orion International House  
(400m from Uenoshiba Station on JR Hanwa Line)

Tours of the International House will also be held.

Those interested please get in touch with OFIX at 06-6966-2400.

### ■African Film Festival in Osaka

This event is being held for the second time after last years great success. There will also be a talk given by a youth volunteer who worked in Ethiopia after the film showing on the 13th November. For the 19th December film the director will be on hand for a special talk. Please come along!!

The flyer can be seen here:

[http://www.jica.go.jp/osaka/event/docs/101016\\_01.pdf](http://www.jica.go.jp/osaka/event/docs/101016_01.pdf)

Saturday 13th November

13:30~ Film: Black Gold

15:15~16:15 Talk about Ethiopia by JICA volunteer

【Special Event】 Sunday 19th December

13:30~ Film: Abuba and Yaaba

15:30~16:30 Special talk with director

【Entry fee】 Free

【Number】 Max 200

【Venue】 I-House (small hall)

<http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp/i.house/900/map.html>

【Applications・Enquiries】

I-House Information and Planning Dept

8-2-6 Uehonmachi, Tennoji-ku, Osaka-shi,

〒543-0001

TEL : 06-6773-8989

URL: <http://www.ih-osaka.or.jp>

Please give your name, contact details, and number of tickets you require.

### ■Supporting the Survey into Information Dissemination to Foreign Residents in Osaka

This survey is being 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.

Please get in touch if you have any information with regards to key people, and information dissemination in Osaka. We are also looking for people to assist us in interpreting and translating during interviews with foreign residents.

(Tel: 06-6966-2400, ask for Someya or Yanagisaki)

### ■ International Exchange Festival!

The International Exchange Festival is an event organised by the Participants Support Council of the Japanese Language Institute, Kansai, and takes place at the Institute. It is an opportunity for students studying at the Institute and local residents to meet and take part in international exchange. Students will introduce their country's culture, and there will be introductions to Japanese culture such as calligraphy and origami. In the main hall there will be an ethnic clothing fashion show, as well as musical performances. Please come along!

Date/Time : Sunday 23rd November, 13:00~16:00

Place : Japan Foundation, Japanese Language Institute, Kansai  
(Tajiri Town)

Directions: Shuttle bus from Rinku Town Station (Nankai/JR Lines)

Participation Fee : Free

Enquiries : Secretariat

TEL 072-443-3800 (Weds/Fri)

At all other times please email: kokusai@mk.city.kishiwada.osaka.jp

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## 【03】 OFIX Network

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### ■ The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia

The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia was first established in Kobe in 1954. Due to the Hanshin earthquake which hit Kobe in 1995, it was moved to its current site in Shinsaibashi area, Osaka. Having located in Osaka, the Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia covers 3 areas namely Kansai, Chugoku and Shikoku, which consists of 17 Prefectures in western part of Japan. The current serving Consul General is Mr. Ibnu Hadi, who began his term of office in January this year.

While political matters are covered by the Embassy in Tokyo, the Consulate General largely deals with economic, consular, information and socio cultural issues. Since the Consulate General is located in Kansai area, home to Japan's big companies and industries, it pays great importance on the enhancement of economic relations in trade and investment between Indonesia and West Japan, particularly Kansai.

To attract investment to Indonesia, the Consulate General provides information on Indonesia's economic condition, as well as business and investment opportunities in Indonesia, while at the same time maintaining good relations with Japanese counterparts who have been operating in Indonesia. It also assists Indonesian businessmen to be able to enter Japanese market.

As for consular activities, it is the duty of the Consulate General

to protect and to serve its citizens residing in its areas. Thus the Consulate General provides assistance to Indonesian citizens regarding their passport and other legal documents, as well as information and assistance on legal matters. Consular activities also include issuing visas and other documents for Japanese and foreign nationals who wish to go to Indonesia.

In the socio cultural and tourism sphere, the Consulate General is continuously working to promote greater relations between the two countries through various activities. Cooperating with Japanese organizations, friendship associations, art and cultural clubs, friends of Indonesia, and other related institutions, many activities have been conducted, such as art and cultural performances, exhibitions, cultural classes, cooking classes, as well as familiarization trips to Indonesia. One of the biggest cultural events was held in 2008, showing a collaboration of Indonesian and Japanese performance to commemorate the 50th diplomatic relations between the two countries.

During the month of November, there will be a training for Indonesia trainees on banking and entrepreneurship, seminar on the Indonesia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement co-hosted by the Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the International Business Promotion Center Osaka, seminar on the protection of women, and Indonesian film viewing.

For further details, please contact us at:  
Resona Semba Building 6th Fl.  
4-4-21, Minami Semba, Chuo-ku, Osaka 542-0081  
Tel.: 06-6252-9825 - 31, Fax.: 06-6252-9872  
Website: [www.indonesia-osaka.org](http://www.indonesia-osaka.org)

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#### **[04] Osaka International Club News**

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##### **■ Letter from the Shanghai Expo**

Chen Jinxin (China), a student at the Osaka City University wrote to us recently about his time at the Shanghai Expo.

Click here for the article:

[http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail\\_english\\_no27.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no27.pdf)

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#### **[05] OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report**

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##### **■ The Cost of Smoking**

Hi everyone, Richard here again.  
This month was somewhat of a painful one for smokers in Japan. October 1st saw the biggest tax increases on cigarettes the country has ever seen. The price of an average packet of cigarettes went from 300 yen to 410 yen. The aim of the government (aside from the obvious rise in tax revenue) is to encourage smokers to quit. Japan has always seemed to me to be an extremely smoker-friendly place, so I was rather surprised when I first heard about this rather large price hike. As a non-smoker the change doesn't affect me directly, but I am interested to see how much of an effect it has on the number of smokers in Japan.

With convenience stores open 24 hours a day, and cigarette vending machines on nearly every corner, getting hold of a pack is never a problem. Indeed, up until very recently there was nothing to stop kids buying from the machines. Thankfully a system called TASPO

(an acronym for "tobacco passport" ) was introduced in 2008 whereby only those with an ID card are able to use the machines. There is no similar system for the thousands of beer vending machines yet though which still amazes me!

To many smokers the nearly 40% jump in price may seem a tad harsh, but compared with the UK where a single pack costs in the region of 1000 yen (5 pounds), smokers in Japan still have it easy! Indeed, things were made even more difficult for smokers in the UK few years ago when smoking was made illegal in all public buildings (offices, restaurants, bars etc). Of course it goes without saying that the ban was put in place to protect both customers and staff from the effects of second-hand smoke. The only problem with the ban is that people now tend to gather to smoke directly outside the entrances to bars and restaurants, meaning you have to pass through a cloud of smoke to get inside!

In Japan there is a very different approach to banning smoking in public places. Although recent years have seen an increase in the number of restaurants with non-smoking areas, entirely smoke free establishments are rather hard to come by. The focus in Japan seems to be on banning smoking in outdoor areas, such as on the Midosuji Road, the main shopping street in Osaka. Here it would seem that the priority is not protecting people from second-hand smoke, but to stop people littering the streets with their cigarette butts, or burning small children who may be walking nearby a smoker. Although valid points, this has always seemed to me to be missing the point. Indoor restrictions are definitely more important in my opinion.

With any restrictions put in place there are those that feel hard done by, and of course I understand this. However, I can only see positive things in a smoke-free society. At the end of the day smoking is optional, but breathing is not.

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

※The Japan Times now available to read at OFIX Plaza.

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≫≫ 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\\_no27.pdf](http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber/mail_english_no27.pdf)

≫≫ Back Numbers

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

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