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(1) Event Report ①**■ Overnight "Hinanjo" Training for Foreign Residents**

This event was held on the 18th-19th December by OFIX in collaboration with the International House Osaka and Kinki CLAIR. The aim was to inform foreign residents about evacuation shelters which are used at times of natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons, through an overnight stay in a mock shelter.

A total of 39 foreign residents from 13 different countries took part, alongside 15 volunteer interpreters. With the assistance of Mr. Taro Tamura from the Center for Multicultural Information and Assistance, and local government as well as Kinki CLAIR staff, a mock Multilingual Emergency and Disaster Support Center was set-up. From this center volunteers undertook tasks such as the translation of government information, and periodical visits to the foreign residents in the next-door "hinanjo" in order to enquire about their well being. Through these activities the volunteers gained a feel for the types of things they would be expected to do in the case of an actual disaster.

It was a very educational experience for the foreign residents too as they ate emergency food for dinner and breakfast, and experienced life in a "hinanjo". As part of our commitment to the support of foreign residents, we hope to hold similar events in the future.

**~OFIX Volunteer Comments~****Overnight Stay Training**

The training gave me the opportunity to practice conversing with foreign residents from many different countries. The event was attended by local government officials as well as volunteers, which I thought was a really good idea, and it was great being given guidance by those with real experience of such activities during times of emergency.

Translating from Home

I took part in the event as an at-home translator. It was difficult at first to grasp my role, and it was sometimes hard to keep in contact with those at the mock center. However, I was able to complete the tasks given to me, and I gained an real idea of the type of remote assistance that can be offered at times of emergency.

«Are you interested in helping out too?»

We are looking for volunteers in the Kinki area interested in helping out as interpreters or translators for foreign residents during times of natural disasters. How about helping out?

Further details: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index6.html>

(2) Notices/Upcoming Events

■ One World Festival

The One World Festival will be held at the Osaka International House on the 5th and 6th 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 **International Students Forum**. Please come along!



Date/Time Saturday 5th February 2010 10:00 ~ 17:00
Sunday 6th 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>

★OFIX Programme: International Students Forum

Date/Time: Sat 5th February 15 : 00 ~ 17:00

Place: Osaka International House

Outline: A number of international students will give presentations on life in Japan, the importance of an

international outlook, and their hopes for an international Osaka. There will also be a chance to chat with the students in small groups. We look forward to seeing you there.

■ Medical Interpreters Training (March 2011)

Details for this training, run by OFIX, are as follows. Those interested in taking part please get in touch with us.

Date/Time: Weds 2nd March 9:45-15:50

Sunday 6th March 10:00-16:00

Place: 3rd Floor Lecture Room

Osaka General Medical Centre

Organizers: Osaka Prefectural Hospital Organization, OFIX, AMDA

Support: Osaka Prefecture

Contents: Lectures, workshops, roleplays, and discussions on various related topics. In principle those able to participate limited to the following:

-Those already registered as medical interpreters at a prefectural hospital, or with an international organization.

-Administrative staff at a prefectural hospital involved in matters related to medical interpreting. (able to participate in the afternoon workshop held on the 2nd March)

Number of places: 50

Application deadline: Friday 18th February

Please see the OFIX homepage for further details:

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

(3) Event Report ②

■ Job Fair for International Students

This event was held on Saturday 15th January (10:00-17:00) at My Dome Osaka. The aim of the event was to give international students a chance to meet with companies interested in hiring, and give them advice on working in Japan. Despite it being cold on the day, a total of 1,136 students came along to speak with the 61 companies taking part.

The students were from a great many different countries, and from universities not only in the

Kansai region but from all over Japan. OFIX volunteers took part as interpreters, and thanks to their support and the support of all of the organizers the event was a great success. OFIX hopes to hold similar events over the next year too.



(3) OFIX Network

■ The Daiyukyo Foundation of International Exchange, Resistance & Research

The aim of the Foundation is to support international exchange students during their time in Japan, through the following programs:

Scholarship Program for International Students

Students are not required to repay scholarship

Application Requirements

1. Applicants must live in Osaka Prefecture, be a first year student enrolled in a university (not a short term college or specialized training college), or postgraduate student.

1. Applicants must provide letter of recommendation from their university.
2. Applicants must not be already receiving a scholarship from another organization within Japan.

Number of Scholarships Available/ Period/ Amount

15 scholarships are awarded per year. 50,000 is paid per month to undergraduate students, and 70,000 to postgraduate students. The scholarship is offered to second year students until they graduate.

How to apply

Please consult with your host university.

Since the scholarships inception 248 students from a total of 18 different countries and regions and from 34 universities have received it.

Advice Service for International Students and Foreign Residents

~Available on weekdays from 10am-3pm~

Information on life in Osaka offered to international students and foreign residents. Those seeking advice are welcome to call, email,

or visit directly. We are waiting to hear from you.

Crime Prevention Assistance for Foreign Residents

We have produced a yearly schedule notebook full of crime prevention information and emergency numbers. We also have a radio show on air every Monday and Tuesday on FM Cocolo (76.5Hz) from 8:20pm offering safety information in Chinese, Korean, and English.

Support for International Exchange

The Foundation both runs its own exchange events, and supports events run by other groups and organizations. The photo below is of a recent visit to Nijo Castle in Kyoto.



For further details please get in touch:

Tel: 06-6710-0180 FAX: 06-6710-0170

E-mail: info@daiyukyo-kokusaikoryu.or.jp

(5) International Hall News

■ Sakai International House Winter Party!

On December 11, a "Winter Party" was held at Sakai International Hall (Orion International House) to deepen exchange between the dorm residents and local community residents. It was a large, lively party with about 100 participants composed



of members from the local neighborhood, the Senior Society, and Japanese university students.

Everyone eagerly listened to the instruction on crime prevention by the North Sakai Police Station Security Division and instruction on disaster prevention by the Sakai City International Division, giving notes on where to take refuge and how to live safely during a disaster.

After enjoying the delicious food and drinks,

the Senior Society members led everyone in singing Japanese nursery songs and giving international students the chance to experience Calligraphy writing. Each international student wrote the character of their choice and it was surprising to see that everyone was very good! The climax of the party was a mini live performance by a special guest.

Everyone had a moody, intoxicating time singing Christmas songs and the theme song of Korea's famous drama, "Winter Sonata". Holding the prizes from the big Bingo game, everyone left the International Hall smiling and saying "we really had a great time."

For the dorm residents, the event will surely be a fun Orion International House memory they will remember. To all international students who have come to Japan, would you like to be part of the Orion dormitory? Room applications are at any time at your school's Student Office. We will be waiting for your application.

(6) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ Farewell for now!

I am doing my best to hold back the tears as I say for the last time...Hi everyone, Richard here again! Yes, some readers may already have heard, but after nearly 3 and a half amazing years at OFIX, I will be leaving for pastures new at the end of January. They say that time flies when you're having fun, and that must be the case since September 2007 (when I started work at OFIX), seems like only yesterday. I was a young and fresh faced 27 year old, excited to be finally living in Osaka, a place I had longed to be for a good many years. I still love Osaka, but unfortunately I'm not so young or fresh faced anymore!

My time at OFIX has been rewarding in so many ways, and I doubt a single article could do it justice, but I'll do my best! OFIX saw a number of changes in the 3 years I have been here. Location wise, the office was originally based in Rinku Town, near to Kansai Airport. The view from the 17th floor was fantastic, but I have to be honest, watching all the planes fly off every day just made me long for a holiday!! We moved into Osaka city in March 2009, and although the current office is a good bit smaller than the previous one, the location is that bit more exciting. Being near Namba after work has been a bit detrimental to my finances though!

Over the years I have been involved with so many great programs and projects, but first and foremost the program I have gained most from is the International Understanding Education Program. Through this program I have been able to visit so many schools and international exchange organizations throughout Osaka. It has been a pleasure to tell people a little bit about the UK, and learn much about Japan and Osaka at the same time. I have been all over Osaka Prefecture, from Hirakata, Suita, and Nose in north, to Kishiwada, Izumisano, and Hannan in the south. No matter where it is one thing remains the same, the warmth and hospitality of the people of Osaka, and the interest and enthusiasm for learning about different cultures and ways of life. Of course, being in charge of OFIX News, and having free reign to write random diatribes

every month has been rather fun as well!

OFIX places great emphasis on grassroots internationalization, the importance of which is something that my time here has really brought home. True international exchange is not something to be left to politicians and diplomats, it should be undertaken at a local level, by local citizens and volunteers seeking no payment but taking part out of true enthusiasm for international exchange and understanding. OFIX is in a prime position to coordinate such activities, and as such I have felt honored to work here for the past 3 years.



There were times over the last 3 years when the very existence of OFIX was in doubt. The kind of work undertaken by organizations such as OFIX does not provide clear cut tangible results, we can't put the things we do into easy to understand graphs and charts. When pressed for results, we are limited to things such as "well, after a school visit students *might* decide to travel abroad in the future", or "we *hope* international students will promote Osaka on returning to their home countries". These things may sound rather wishy-washy and vague, but to me these *mights* and *hopes* are vital and exciting things to work towards. I truly hope that the coming years will see an increase in those that appreciate this fact.

Meeting and working with so many people dedicated to international exchange has been truly inspirational, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone I have had the pleasure to work with. February will see me moving to Tokyo where I will continue to work in the field of international exchange. I hate saying goodbyes, but on this occasion I feel that there is no need. I *know* I will be back in Osaka often, and am *certain* I will see a great many of my Osaka friends again. Where these things are concerned no *mights* are required!

★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>

★Other Notices★

- Information for foreign residents in Osaka <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/life/index.html>

- ◎ Comments and suggestions for OFIX News: info@ofix.or.jp
- ◎ Osaka International Club Reports: clubnews@ofix.or.jp
- ◎ Register to OFIX News: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/index.html>
- ◎ OFIX News Back Numbers:
<http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/mail/backnumber.html>

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Distributed by Osaka Foundation of International Exchange

5th Floor, MyDome Osaka, 2-5 Hommachi-bashi, Chuo-ku, Osaka-shi,
540-0029

TEL:06-6966-2400 FAX:06-6966-2401

