

Prefecture established the "Osaka Internationalization Strategy" to "strengthen the global competitiveness of Osaka", which is needed for Osaka's growth. This strategy, which aims to improve the global competitiveness of the skills of human resources of Osaka while calling in people/products/capital from Asia and the World, clarifies the explicit plans and direction of the internationalization policy Osaka Prefecture will undertake.

Together with this, Osaka will be implementing its activities, bundling its concrete policies for the internationalization of Osaka for the next 5 years into the "Osaka Prefecture internationalization strategy work schedule".

Based on this strategy, Osaka will develop activities for strengthening the global competitiveness of Osaka as it cooperates with related institutions.

For details, please visit
http://www.pref.osaka.jp/kanko/i_senryaku/result.html

Osaka Prefectural Government Department of Civic and Cultural Affairs Osaka Promotion Bureau International Relations and Tourism Section

■ OFIX Program/Activity Outline for 2011-2012

A new fiscal year has begun. This 2011, based on the newly planned strategy of Osaka Prefecture, OFIX will concentrate on developing activities that will strengthen the global competitiveness of Osaka while attempting to strengthen coordination with government and other private organizations.

Specifically, we plan to develop activities based on 3 pillars: "Developing Global Human Resources", "Transmission of international exchange information", and the "Promotion of the Admission of Foreigners and Provision of an Environment for Activities of Foreigners".

The main activity for developing global human resources will be the promotion of International Understanding Education. Foreign supporters will be sent to Elementary, Junior High School and Senior High Schools to introduce their countries, provide an opportunity to students to communicate in English, or be facilitators in a workshop that would build people who would play a role in the global setting.

For "Promotion of the Admission of Foreigners and Provision of an Environment for Activities of Foreigners", our efforts will be focused on multilingual support through the operation of the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents and the promotion of the activities of language volunteers. We will strengthen the training of interpreter supporters and give them more opportunities to use their interpreting skills.

The transmission and provision of various international exchange information is being done through the OFIX Homepage and OFIX News.

We would like to ask the cooperation and participation of everyone.

[03] Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ When a Child is Born

When a baby is born to a non-Japanese married couple in Japan, like Japanese married couples, they have to register at City Hall the birth and birth place of the child within 14 days after it was born. You will need to bring the birth certificate from the hospital, the maternity book from city hall and insurance for the registration. Citizenship in Japan is not like America or Canada, which goes by the rule of Jus Solis, or citizenship by place of birth. Japan goes by the rule of Jus Sanguinis or citizenship determined by the parents' nationality. For this reason, the baby has to undergo Alien Registration procedures within 60 days after birth. Furthermore, if the child is going to be in Japan for more than 60 days, an application for acquisition of resident status must be made at the Bureau of Immigration within 30 days after birth. In this case, a certification of birth is needed. At this stage, if you have not gotten a passport for your child from your embassy, a certificate of resident status will be issued. When you receive the passport of your baby, bring it to the Bureau of Immigration to apply for a "transfer of endorsement". When applying for the passport, the parents have to report the birth of their child to their Embassy in Japan. Please inquire at your Embassies for the requirements and application procedures.

©Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents
(Mon ~ Fri, not open on weekends and national holidays) (Hours 9:00~17:30)
Tel (direct line) 06-6941-2297
Languages : English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese,
Filipino, Thai, Japanese

■OFIX Measures to the Great East Japan Earthquake

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathies to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

OFIX is giving the following support to foreigners who have suffered from this disaster.

1 Provision of Multilingual Information

At the Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents, multilingual information is being provided. Also, websites that offer multilingual information related to the earthquake disaster can also be found on the OFIX homepage. Please utilize it.

2 Accommodation Support

OFIX offers temporary and short-term accommodation at Sakai International Hall (Orion International House) and at the home of an OFIX Home-stay family volunteer to foreigners affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake, who are processing their travel overseas or moving into other facilities.

For details, please inquire at the Planning and Promotion Group of OFIX.

For admission into residences managed by Osaka Prefecture, please visit the Osaka Prefecture homepage.

⇒http://www.pref.osaka.jp/koho/tohoku_jishin/ukeire.html

3 Translation of Disaster Information

OFIX is assisting in translating information provided by the Tohoku area Pacific Offshore Earthquake Multilingual Support Center (in-charge of Chinese translations in collaboration with international associations in Osaka).

We are also asking the continued support of all volunteers and host families.

■Multilingual Support for the Great East Japan Earthquake—As an OFIX Disaster Support Translator— Peng Qionglin

Right after the Great East Japan earthquake on March 11, to be able to provide foreigners with reliable disaster information, the NPO National Conference of Multicultural Managers established The Multilingual Support Center for the Tohoku Earthquake out at Pacific Ocean. 5 organizations in Osaka, OFIX, International House Osaka, Suita Interpeople Friendship Association, Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center and Minoh Association for Global Awareness, were asked to translate documents into Chinese. The process is Japanese documents are translated, checked and then returned. The organizations decide on what days each one will be in charge and take turns in translating. As of April 15, 115 were translated.

As an employee of OFIX, my routine work until mid-April was translating and checking documents twice a week, on Monday and Thursday, together with OFIX's Chinese Language Disaster Volunteer. After mid-April, the multilingual support for the disaster stricken areas had started to stabilize and the amount of documents to be translated decreased. Consequentially, I now handle only the checking of documents on Thursday mornings.

I was continually confused because the translation work asked of me was sudden and entailed translation of technical terms, place names that are only in Hiragana, and words using characters that are natively Japanese. When I translate and check the documents, I make use of the dictionary and the internet in my fervent desire to come out with a translation that would be easy to understand for the foreigners (in my case, the readers of my translation would be Chinese) who were victims of the disaster.

This is my first experience to translate such documents and I was able to learn many things from it. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the disaster volunteers who willingly cooperated.

«Won't you join in transmitting information to foreigners who are disaster victims?»

Support base centers to be created in afflicted areas will be accepting volunteers who would help with translation. Won't you think of how we can together support the foreigners affected by the disaster?

For details, please refer to: <http://www.ofix.or.jp/boran/index6.html>

[05] Introduction of OFIX Activity

■Ando Program

In May 1992, Mr. Tadao Ando, a world-class architect from Osaka, was awarded the Carlsberg Architectural Prize and received a prize money of 30 million yen. Mr. Ando donated all of the prize money to the Osaka Prefectural government with the intention of making it useful for furthering international exchange between Osaka and other countries. OFIX received this donation through the Osaka Prefectural government and, in accordance with the wish of Mr. Ando, established the "Osaka Invitational Program for Short-Term Overseas Trainees in Architecture and Arts" as a Memorial Program of Tadao Ando winning the Carlsberg Architectural Prize. Also there are companies who support with the objective of inviting about 10 students from various Asian countries who are majoring in architecture and art. This program is held every autumn for period of one month.

This year is the 20th year since the program started in 1993, has had more than 159 participants from 19 countries.

During this program all trainees experience about 10-days of practical on-the-job training at the representative construction companies in Osaka. During the job training, trainees are taken to on-site review of buildings which are under constructions and are lectured about updated technology in the architecture field.

Furthermore trainees have a discussion time with Japanese students who are majoring in architecture and art. There is also a one-day study tour in Kyoto and Osaka when some buildings designed by Tadao Ando are also visited. Aside from the training, all trainees will experience home-stay with a Japanese family for two-days, so the trainees can deepen exchange with Japanese people. Every year, this event is popular among all trainees because they can experience international exchange with a "REAL" Japanese family.

OFIX is also now accepting applications of this program.
For further information please visit:

http://www.ofix.or.jp/english/ofix/index3_4.html

[06] OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■Karaoke and the Filipino

Hello! This is your International Relations Coordinator, Alvin!
The other day, I had this big urge to go to a Karaoke. I guess it's the Filipino within me wanting to get out.

Filipinos love singing. They sing in the shower, they sing while they walk, and even while they work. When I go to the department store, at times I will hear sales ladies singing while waiting for customers. Noon time television shows have had singing contests ever since I can remember. So it wouldn't come as a surprise to know that many people in the Philippines frequently go to a Karaoke box or even own their own Karaoke machine.

In Japan, Karaoke is one of the most popular pastimes for the young and old. I don't think there is any other country that has as much Karaoke shops and bars as Japan has. But how did Karaoke come about? When was it invented? It's supposedly invented by the Japanese, but there are Filipinos who claim that it was a Filipino who invented the Karaoke. I decided to do some research on it. Who really invented the Karaoke?

Brief History of Karaoke

According to my research, it is claimed that a Japanese singer, Daisuke Inoue, invented the Karaoke machine in Kobe in 1971. At that time, many Filipino musicians and entertainers were already immigrating to Japan. To reduce the cost of having a musical band, Filipinos came up with the minus one music, which was a tape that contained both music with and without the singer. The minus one became prevalent in the Philippines from the late 1960s to the early 1980s. In 1975, a Filipino inventor developed a sing along system in 1975 called his sing-along system "Minus-One". Who invented the karaoke first? That shouldn't matter. What matters is that both the Japanese and Filipino love to sing and they wanted the same thing. Don't you think so?

Karaoke in the Philippines

In the Philippines, there are many Karaoke boxes and bars, but they are not as advanced as those in Japan. There are no karaoke companies like DAM or UGA, and most of the Karaoke in the Philippines still use Laser discs if not DVDs or video CDs. Aside from your regular Karaoke boxes, you will also find karaoke machines in game centers in malls, in your outdoor pub, and even inside the wet market. This just shows that the Filipino will sing anywhere and without shame, even if they are out of tune. There are also special karaoke cubicles in the mall where you can record your singing and sometimes a video of you singing, either for posterity or for auditioning at a recording studio. That's just how much Filipinos love

