

Contents**(1) Activity Report 1****■ Training for Translator Volunteers in times of Disaster****■ Community Interpreter Volunteer Training****(2) Activity Report 2****■ Job Fair and Job interview for International Students****(3) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents****■ Resident Tax****(4) Network****■ [Introduction of JICA Volunteer Activities] Volunteer Kazushi Uneme****(5) Orion News****■ Welcome Party****(6) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report****■ The Dentist****(1) Activity Report 1****■ Training for Translator Volunteers in times of Disaster**

On May 17 (Tuesday) the 2011 Training for Translator Volunteers in times of Disaster was held at OFIX.

Given the experience of the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake, this training was implemented with the



objective of deepening the knowledge and experience of registered disaster translator/interpreter volunteers to bear part of the multilingual support

needed by foreigners who are victims of the disaster, and at the same time, secure new translators/interpreters by training translators who can immediately provide back-up support in times of disaster.

In the morning, a lecture was held on the mechanism of disaster volunteer activities, things to take care of when conducting volunteer activities and the support activities and multilingual information service provided by OFIX during the latest crisis. After that, Chief Senior Staff Mr. Matsumoto of the Osaka Prefectural Government, International Relations and Tourism Division Osaka

Promotion Bureau talked about Osaka Prefecture's support system for the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Osaka's disaster prevention plan.

In the afternoon, Tondabayashi Intercultural Communication Center Secretary-General Mr. Maekawa, who acted as the coordinator of the multilingual support for the latest disaster, talked about the mechanism of the multilingual disaster information support activities. After that, the trainees were divided into language groups and a multilingual disaster information work was conducted after listening to the experience of a disaster support translator. Actual Japanese disaster information taken from the "The Multilingual Support Center for the Tohoku Earthquake Out at Pacific Ocean" and was translated according to each language group. There was also an exchange of opinions and comparison of sample translations, after which a representative from each group reported on what was discussed among them. In the presentation of each representative, the difficulty of technical terms, the usage of the terminology list and the need for information sharing were brought up.

In the questionnaire given after the training, important points in coordinating volunteer activities, such as establishing an easy-to-understand disaster volunteer activity structure and the introduction of specific ways of volunteer activities. From these opinions, OFIX intends to plan a more practical training and establish a clear system for interpreter and translator volunteers in times of disaster.

■ Community Interpreter Volunteer Training

An interpreter training was held at OFIX with the objective of developing interpreters who will act as a communication bridge between City Hall and foreigners living in Osaka. The training was held for 3 days, May 16 (Monday), 23 (Monday) and 27 (Friday) and attended by 25 volunteer interpreters of English, Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese, French, Thai, etc.

Aside from lectures on the manners and attitude of a community interpreter, experts from the fields of immigration

status and administrative systems were also invited to give lectures to deepen the knowledge of interpreter volunteers necessary during actual interpretation.

The trainees were divided according to the languages they interpret and a workshop was conducted. The participants were asked to act out a certain situation and later talk about their experiences on the difficulties of living in Japan and how to solve those difficulties.

The training was very meaningful to the trainees. In the questionnaire taken after the training, opinions such as "It was good to experience actual interpretation" and "we were

able to analyze the actual situation through the workshop and it could prove useful.”

We hope to be able to provide knowledge and skills to more people in the future, so we are now planning the 2nd Interpreter Volunteer Training. We will put out an announcement once the details have been decided.



Day	Topic
1 st Day	The Attitude and Manner of an Interpreter, the Obligation to Secrecy and Morals: A Case Study Basic Knowledge on Immigration Status
2 nd Day	National Health Insurance • Living Assistance Role Play • Workshop
3 rd Day	Mother and Child Welfare System and DV Victim Support System Role Play • Workshop

(2) Activity Report 2

■ Job Fair and Job interview for International Students

June 9, 2011 (Thursday), June 10, 2011 (Friday) 11:00-16:30

The first Job Fair and Job interview for International Students for this year was held at the 2nd floor Hall of the Osaka Prefectural Government Sakishima Building Cosmo Tower (formerly WTC) focusing mainly on students graduating in March 2012, including those who have already graduated.

On June 9, there were 22 companies and on June 10, there were also 22 companies who participated, giving a total of 44 companies who participated in the event. Each company had a booth where they held not only briefings about their companies, but also interviews with the international students. It was a Job Fair that proved to be more useful and practical in helping international students look for a job.

Despite the rainy weather, there were 394 international students who attended the first day and 367 on the second day, giving a total of 761 attendees for the 2-day event. This is the fourth year of holding an event that supports international students who wish to work in Japan by providing a venue for international students and companies who actively hire international students to come together, and to provide information necessary for job-hunting to international students.

Students who participated were of various nationalities. Everyone looked serious, aggressively asking questions and listening to the

explanation of the company representatives.

A Global Rookies Café was also opened where Career Counseling in Japanese, Chinese, and English were conducted. There was also a materials library and consultation regarding visa status was also done. Also, during the two days, 46 internship students participated, helping out in each of the company booths and reception areas. They were able to gain a deeper experience in job-hunting as they were also able to work from the viewpoint of the companies they assisted and later were able to visit the booths and participate in the company briefing and interviews of other companies they were interested in.

The next job fair will be held in January 2012.



Students listening to the company briefing

(3) Osaka Information Service for Foreign Residents

■ Resident Tax

Foreigners residing in Osaka Prefecture from January 1 are obligated to pay Resident Tax. Since the Resident Tax is calculated based on the income tax of the previous year, the foreign residents do not have to pay it on the first year of their stay. On the second year, the Resident Tax will be paid by either salary deduction or by direct payment after receiving a tax notice. The income

rate is the total taxable income multiplied by 10% (6% City Tax+4% Prefectural Tax). Add to this the per capita rate of ¥3000 (City Tax)+¥1000 (Prefectural Tax) and you get the basic individual Resident Tax. The City Tax and Prefectural Tax are paid together directly to City Hall. In the case of foreign residents, there are cases where payment of Resident Tax and certification of tax payments are necessary when renewing the visa, so

please pay your tax obligations. However, if you are a victim of a disaster, receiving Living Support, or if you do not have a job or have a reduced salary so that your total income is below a certain amount, you may be exempted from paying taxes. Please consult with the City Hall Office.

◎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
E-mail:jouhou-c@ofix.or.jp
Languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese, Filipino, Thai, Japanese

(4) Network

■【Introduction of JICA Volunteer Activities】Volunteer Kazushi Uneme (Country dispatched: Nepal. Work type: Youth Activities)

When I was in Nepal, I was assigned to an orphanage in Kathmandu managed by an NGO, called “Balmandir”. At Balmandir, there are about 200 boys and girls aged 0-18 who live there. All the children eat and sleep and go to school together at Balmandir.

My activities at Balmandir consisted mainly of “infant care” and “playing together with children”. I give milk to the babies, change their diapers, carry and cuddle them. I read picture books to the children, played games and sang songs, taught them origami and played ball games. I also bring the children to school as part of my daily routine.

The children always look forward to my bring them to and back from school. Holding hands as we walk together, we talked about the things that happened in school.

There are different kinds of activities Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers are involved in. I think my activity is an “activity that will remain in

the hearts” of children. I want children to feel that



“I am loved. I’m happy.” And it is my wish that they grow up with a rich heart.

I would like to pray for those who have passed away during the Great East Japan Earthquake.

I would also like to give my deepest sympathies to the victims of the earthquake. Nepal is placed as one of the poorest countries in Asia and there are many people living difficult lives. In such harsh living, the Nepalese help and support each other to live. Because of the earthquake, there are Japanese, especially those living in the northeastern area of Japan, who are forced to live a painful and hard life. I think it is important at this time that everyone help and support each other to live.

(5) Orion News

■ Welcome Party

On May 21 (Saturday), resident students of the OFIX –managed “Sakai International Hall” planned and held an Exchange Event (Welcome Party) to welcome the new international students who will become dorm residents and at the same time provide a venue for mutual exchange and deepen communication between international students and the local community.



The Kita Sakai Police taught the students safety measures and how to live safely in Japan. People from the local community taught calligraphy and merrily sang Japanese children’s songs with everyone.

The French international students danced hip-hop, which really heated up the party!!

Lastly, there was a bingo game where everyone competed for the prizes at stake.

This year, the staff from the International Relations and Tourism Division, wearing a hachimaki on their heads, cooked takoyaki for everyone. International students gave takoyaki cooking a try and seemed to have fun turning over the takoyaki while they ate it with delight.



International Students cooking Takoyaki

It was a fun and meaningful event. The next exchange event is planned to be held in December.

●“Sakai International Hall” (Orion House) is now accepting tenants!

※ For details, please visit
⇒ <http://www.ofix.or.jp/shien/index.html>

(6) OFIX Coordinator for International Relations Report

■ The Dentist

Hello to the readers of OFIX News!! This is your International Coordinator Alvin!! It's getting warmer and we've started cool biz at OFIX this month. Wherever I go, I see that summer items



are being sold already. Summer is near. This time, I will talk about a place where most people would rather avoid: the dentist. Some people would probably say, "Huh?" That's right, the dentist. Actually, I've had my braces done in the Philippines and I need to go home every two to

three months to have them adjusted. But in two months time, my teeth get dirty and have tartar build-up. So recently, I've been going to a dentist near where I live right now. The dentist I'm going to right now is really different from any other dentist I've gone to.

First of all, the interior of the clinic. From the outside, it looks like your ordinary clinic. But when you step inside and it looks like a small hotel or an expensive store. There is a reception counter and it and the walls are illuminated lavishly with yellow lights. I don't know about developing countries, but in the Philippines, we don't have counters with receptionists. Some clinics would have a desk and a secretary to be the receptionist, but there are many without receptionists. In Japan, wherever you go, you have a counter and a receptionist. Aside from the receptionist, there are also nurses and dental hygienists. In America, I was told that there are only "assistants". In the Philippines, it's the dentist who does all of the work.

Another difference is the equipment. All the dental equipment in Japan is very modern. Now, you can have your teeth x-rayed and get the results on a computer screen in a matter of minutes. That's what happened when I went to my new

dentist. No more x-ray films. 5 minutes after my x-ray was taken, I was sitting in the dentist chair watching my x-ray on an LCD screen in front of me. The dentist made use of the image to explain the condition of my teeth, enlarging parts of the image, encircling areas with a pen tool as what you would do in a power point presentation. In the Philippines, I had to go to a laboratory to have my x-ray and wait for a few days for the results. To top it off, I had to pay more for it in the Philippines than in Japan.



Finally, I will talk about the service. I go for teeth cleaning and it's always the pretty hygienist who does the cleaning. The dentist never attends to me. Then, after I made to recline, the hygienist covers my eyes and surrounding my mouth with a towel. In all my years of going to the dentist, that is the first time I've experienced it. I don't know why they do it. Possibly to keep the face dry from water spraying out of the dentist tool,



or possibly to keep the patient relaxed. Seeing someone peering down your mouth at close range can be very embarrassing, especially if you're a guy and the hygienist is a pretty lady.

It seems Japan is taking dental service to the next level. I wonder what they would think of next...an after massage?

- ◎ Comments and suggestions for OFIX News: info@ofix.or.jp
- ◎ Osaka International Club Reports: clubnews@ofix.or.jp
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